

# ALEXANDER PUBLIC SCHOOL

## GATOR GAZETTE

### SEPTEMBER 2020

#### **WELCOME TO ANOTHER GREAT SCHOOL YEAR AT ALEXANDER PUBLIC SCHOOL!**

WE HOPE YOU HAD RESTFUL SUMMER AND YOU ARE READY TO TACKLE WHAT PROMISES TO BE AN OUTSTANDING YEAR! WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL OF OUR NEW FAMILIES TO THE GATOR COMMUNITY.

The Rainbow District School Board's "Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians for 2020-2021" will be available at the following link [Guide for Students and Parents 2020-2021](#). This handbook contains a wealth of information regarding programs and services offered, as well as a board directory with contact numbers and Board policies. Please bookmark these links for easy online access. School Year card calendars were previously distributed in paper form. However this year, families can access the calendar through this link [School Year Calendar](#).

To access these documents, please visit <https://www.rainbowschools.ca/>. Paper copies of the 2020-2021 Consent Forms, for students for promotional purposes, will be sent with home with your child. If your child is attending online, the form will be sent to you via email or Canada Post. School Council nomination forms will be shared with parents/guardians over this upcoming week. The board will also issue a news release inviting parents/guardians to join a [School Council](#). Additionally, a link to the nomination form can be found on the School Council page in the Guide for Students and Parents/Guardians. We thank you in advance for ensuring you return the enclosed parent/guardian consent forms to the school..

#### **DISTANCE OR IN-CLASS LEARNING**

At this point, all families have confirmed their choice of either distance learning or in-class instruction. We have received your confirmation based on the survey that you completed earlier this month. Thank you so much for all of your responses! For families who have chosen Distance Learning for their Gator, you should be receiving communication shortly.

#### **NEW TEAM LEADER**

I would like to welcome Principal Lynn MacDonell to Alexander P.S. while I am away for an extended period of time. Please help me in welcoming Principal MacDonell to our beautiful school!

#### **HAPPY RETIREMENT!**

We would like to wish Mme Léanne DiMarco all the best as she enters into the world of retirement. Thank-you Mme DiMarco for your many years of commitment with our Alexander Gators. We would also like to wish all the best to Mme Jaime Balson and Mme Melinda Carrocci as they move on to new positions with other Rainbow Schools.

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to the Alexander Team! Mme Céleste Ovens-Lamothe will join us in our Kindergarten Program and Mme Ashley Walker as our new grade 5 teacher. We are so lucky to have them join our team!

#### **COVID**

Due to the current pandemic, our board's top priority remains the safety of students and staff in our schools. As per our Reopening Plan, families will notice some changes to this new school year. This includes:

- **No food orders at this time**
- **No field trips requiring bussing**
- **No volunteers required**

The situation is continuously evolving, and as time passes, we will keep our families up-to-date with any more changes that may arise. We appreciate your understanding. Thank you.

#### **STAGGERED START DATES**

**Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

JK to Grade 3

**Wednesday, September 9, 2020**

JK to Grade 6

**Thursday, September 10, 2020**

JK to Grade 8

**Friday, September 11, 2020**

JK to Grade 8

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#### PUFFERS EPI PENS AND MEDS

For the Safety of all children in the school, it is required that parents inform the school if their child has an allergy or suffers from asthma.

If your child needs to take medication, please contact the school to receive the appropriate forms that give the school authorization to administer medication to your child. Please note, some forms will require a signature from your Primary Care Provider.

When sending your child to school with any over the counter medication, please contact the school to receive the proper forms that must be completed prior to sending the medication to school. A note from home authorizing its use is not sufficient. Our RDSB forms allow parents to provide the school with detailed information indicating the dose and time the child needs to take the medication. RDSB Forms are mandatory.

If your child has any life threatening allergies, asthma, diabetes or epilepsy, it is important to meet with the principal to create a **Plan of Care** to ensure the safety of your child.

Working together will help us ensure the safety of all children in the school.

#### STUDENT ABSENCES

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should call the school or email Mme Diane at [piazad@rainbowschools.ca](mailto:piazad@rainbowschools.ca) when your child will be late or absent. You may also leave a message on the answering machine by calling the school at 705-675-5961.

#### THE GATOR GAZETTE

A monthly newsletter will be posted on the school website and electronically through your child's classroom teacher. . Our Newsletter is available on-line at: <http://www.rainbow.edu.on.ca/ele/alexander>.

All families are welcome to view the school website for newsletters, school policies and to access your child's classroom website.

Please save this site to your favorites and check the first week of every month.

#### VISITORS

Due to COVID-19, the RDSB's Reopening Plan states that visitors to the school will be limited to essential services (supply teachers, occasional teachers, regulated health professionals, paraprofessionals as well as custodians and cleaners). Essential visitors are required to self screen and to wear a mask while on school premises.

#### ALLERGEN SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT "NUT SAFE SCHOOLS"

We have a number of students who have a life threatening allergy to peanuts and all types of nuts. We ask that you keep our students safe by **not sending food with peanuts/nuts or warnings "may contain nuts"** on the labels. Thank you for helping our students safe.

Parents with students with anaphylactic reactions please make sure you notify the classroom teacher and set up an appointment to meet with the principal to arrange a Plan of Care.

#### BIRTHDAYS

As per the RDSB Reopening Plan (p.16), we ask that you refrain from sending anything to school with your child to share with their classmates. Please note that we enjoy recognizing our Gators' birthdays and will continue to announce birthdays during morning announcements.

#### ALEXANDER PS SCHOOL COUNCIL WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

Looking for a connection to the school?

A chance to meet other parents and work together to make a positive difference?

Do you have ideas for school improvements?

Join the school council when we meet in the staff room on the main floor, room 17, from 6:00 pm -7:00 pm.

Please join us for our first meeting September 21st at 6pm. Due to elections, this meeting will be held in person at Alexander PS (subject to change). Masks are mandatory. The meeting space will be chosen to safely accommodate interested attendants. If more than 50 express interest in attending, the meeting will be virtual. We will be looking for members to take on the roles of school council while promoting positivity within the school community.

**2020-2021 ALEXANDER STAFF**

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|                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| K1                  | Mme Mastroianni/Mme Jess      |
| K2                  | Mme Ovens-Lamothe/Mme Lisette |
| K3                  | Mme Beaudry/Mme Josee         |
| Grade 1             | Mme St. Pierre                |
| Grade 1             | Mme Preen                     |
| Grade 2             | Mme Beaulieu-Quenneville      |
| Grade 3             | Mme Pepin-Seccaspina          |
| Grade 4             | Mme Bassis-Lazure             |
| Grade 4             | Mme Laframboise               |
| Grade 5             | Mme Walker                    |
| Grade 6             | Mme Gianfrancesco             |
| Grade 7-8 FI        | Mme Spadafore                 |
| Grade 7-8 English   | Mr. Leblanc                   |
| Prep Primary Junior | Mme Hanson                    |
| Music               | Mme Gemmell                   |
| Distance Learning   | Mme O'Hara                    |
| Prep primary        | Mme Horton                    |
| Spec Ed/Library     | Mme Koskela                   |
| EA                  | Mme Lalonde-Robichaud         |
| Custodian           | Mme Hadner                    |
| Library Clerk       | Mme Heikkila                  |
| Admin. Assistant    | Mme Piazza                    |
| Principal           | Mme Carr /Mme MacDonell       |

#### **ASTHMA- FRIENDLY SCHOOLS**

##### **Many children have asthma.**

Some asthma attacks can be life threatening. Rainbow District School Board staff receive asthma education and training on recognizing triggers and symptoms.

**Please contact your school Principal as soon as possible**, if you are a parent/guardian of a child with asthma. We need your cooperation in providing the school with current medical information and in developing a plan with your child's Principal.

##### **Please also contact the Sudbury Student Services Consortium at 705-521-1234 and inform your child's bus driver of your child's condition.**

Students under 16 years of age who have parental permission are permitted to carry their own asthma medication with them at school.

Students 16 years of age and older do not require parental permission.

#### **PIANO LESSONS**

Please be advised that in-school piano lessons are temporarily on-hold. You may contact Joanne Leblanc at (705) 929-7422 to discuss the interim option of in-home lessons and the safety measures discussed with the Health Unit. Thank you for your patience

#### **B-I-N-G-O!!!**

Alexander Public School has been fortunate for holding a permit with OLG's Delta Bingo and Gaming! The funds received from our bingos are used to help offset costs associated with replenishing expired technology, school yard improvements, participate in various extra curricular activities, and more! We truly appreciate the support we have received from our parent volunteers who have taken their personal time to make our bingos happen. THANK YOU!

Due to COVID-19 and the current pandemic, currently volunteers are not required in the centre. At the moment, the earliest they would be required is in mid-October. Based on some early discussions, this will likely change and be pushed out further. Unfortunately these aren't normal times.

GOOD NEWS! You can still help support Alexander P.S. by planning an evening out with friends or family at Delta Bingo and Gaming on one of our Bingo nights.

#### **The Bingo dates for Alexander P.S. are:**

Sunday October 4, 2020 at 6:30 PM  
 Saturday October 10, 2020 at 10:30 PM  
 Sunday October 11, 2020 at 6:30 PM  
 Sunday October 18, 2020 at 6:30 PM  
 Sunday October 25, 2020 at 6:30 PM  
 Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 6:30 PM  
 Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM  
 Sunday February 21, 2021 at 6:30 PM  
 Sunday February 28, 2021 at 6:30 PM

#### **WHAT TO SEND WITH YOUR CHILD**

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K to 8 students should bring: an extra mask in a container/envelope, paper bag, a **labelled** water bottle, a washable placemat in their lunch bag and indoor shoes. Please remember: Masks and containers **MUST** be labelled. **All** students in grades 1-8 are required to wear masks .Kindergarten students are required to wear a mask or a shield .

If sending hand sanitizer it must be **unscented**.

Students may bring an outdoor activity such as a frisbee or skipping rope for recess time but it must stay in the backpack.

Recycling items must go back home with the student as there will be no recycling offered at this time.

#### **PICKING UP AND DROPPING OF YOUR CHILD DROP OFF PROCEDURES:**

When dropping off your child to school after the school day has started, please note the new changes.

Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) will not enter the main building of the school. After buzzing at the entrance, the school will unlock doors to allow access to the school from the main entrance which leads to the atrium. Once you sign in your child at the entrance, you will leave the school as your child proceeds (independently) to the main part of the building. We have a camera installed in the atrium and are able to monitor your child as they come up the stairs.

#### **PICK UP PROCEDURES:**

When picking up your child before the end of the school day, please call the office in advance so that we can have your child ready for you. Once arrived at the school, you will buzz the office from the main entrance and be granted access to the Atrium. Do not enter the main part of the building. You will sign out your child on a clipboard in the atrium.

#### **STUDENT COHORTS (classes)**

Students will spend each school day with their classmates and classroom educators in their designated classroom or outside in the schoolyard. All subjects will be taught in their home rooms. Please visit the RDSB's [Reopening Guide](#) for more information.

#### **DRINKING FOUNTAINS**

Drinking fountains have been covered and use of them will not be permitted. Water filling stations are still available for use. Students are required to bring their own water bottle to school each day. Please ensure your child's water bottle has their name on it.

#### **DAILY SCREENING FOR SYMPTOMS**

Safety is a shared responsibility between the school, the home and the community, and families play a critical role in limiting the spread of COVID-19.

Parents/guardians will be required to screen their children daily for any COVID-19 symptoms using the [Pre-screening Questionnaire](#) and keep them home from school if they or anyone in the household are sick or have had close contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19. Families, including children, are required to self-isolate for 14 days if there has been travel outside of Canada. Parents/guardians can support their children's education by encouraging them to follow health and safety protocols at school, at home, on the bus, and in the community. This includes keeping a safe distance, washing or sanitizing hands, coughing or sneezing into an elbow, and wearing a mask, as required. Students, teachers and school staff must self-screen for symptoms of COVID-19 before leaving home. ***Do not send any paper copy of the pre-screening questionnaire to the school.*** Students and staff who are unwell must stay home from school, should seek testing and appropriate medical attention, and remain at home while waiting for test results.

**\* If a student has a pre-existing medical condition, parents are advised to talk to the family's health provider [before returning to school](#).**

#### **RAINBOW DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD REOPENING PLAN**

Please visit the link to the school board's [Reopening Guide](#) to learn more.