

Aberdeen Public School
580 Grey Street, London, ON
N6B 1H8 (519) 452-8010
<https://aberdeen.tvdsb.ca/en/index.aspx>
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Dyana Squire, Principal
Emma DeVooght, Vice-Principal
Trina Livingstone, Secretary
Sheila Builder, Superintendent
J. Bennett, J. Skinner, Trustees

Message from the Principal

We have successfully completed our first two weeks of school for the 2021-2022 school year!

My name is Mrs. Dyana Squire, and I am the principal of Aberdeen P.S. I started at the school this past January and am looking forward to a wonderful year with our staff, students, and parents! Welcome to our new Vice-Principal, Mrs. Emma DeVooght, who is joining the "Deen Team" this year.



Mrs. Squire



Mrs. DeVooght



Currently, we have 9 in-person classes from JK-Grade 8 at our school. New this year, we are also hosting 2 virtual classes of students from other schools who are attending school on-line with us. Welcome to all of our new virtual students who are attending our grade 1 online classes taught by Ms. Arnold and Ms. Shyu. Please feel free to reach out to us if we can help you with anything during this school year.

We have a number of new staff joining us this year. Please welcome the following new staff:

Ms. Jackman- Early Childhood Educator
Ms. Shyu- Virtual Grade 1
Ms. Arnold- Virtual Grade 1
Mr. Maharaj- Grade. 4/5
Ms. Antone- Oneida 4-8
Ms. Sargent- Educational Assistant
Ms. Hannon-Ladouceur- Noon Hour Supervisor
Ms. Lerikos- Speech and Language Pathologist
Ms. Doyle- Attendance Counsellor/Social Worker
And welcome back to Ms. Short- Specialty Teacher

This year we will be focusing a lot on creating a positive school environment for everyone. We want our students to feel comfortable, safe and included at our school.

We are also introducing a couple of new student recognition programs. We have started our "Feather Ticket" program where students can earn feather tickets for doing something positive. In Oneida tradition, feathers are given to another in honour. They are to be worn or given with dignity and pride. Students can earn feathers for helping others, being a good friend or doing other positive things!



We are also going to be awarding monthly “Soaring Eagle” awards. Teachers will select one or two students to recognize each month who have demonstrated exemplary behaviour, work, and/or actions.

Our focus academically will be on learning recovery in the areas of math and language. We know these past couple of years have been hard on the students and there have been many interruptions to their learning. We will be collecting some diagnostic information on the students to see where their learning levels are at and will be working together to help them reach their academic milestones.

We are looking forward to a terrific year together!

Parking Lot and Bus Parking



As our school population continues to grow, we have run into some parking challenges. Parents are encouraged to walk their students to school (if possible) so that we can have enough parking spaces for our staff. Also, new this year we have students with specialized transportation through the school board and they require a place to drop off and pick up from the bus loading zone. We have recently painted a space in the loading zone that needs to be kept specifically for this special education vehicle. Please do not park in that area.

Health Concerns



If your child has a special health concern, please alert school staff to ensure we have updated information on file. Children with life-threatening conditions (e.g., Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Epilepsy) require an IPOC (Individual Plan of Care). IPOCs are completed by the parent in the parent portal. The IPOC will outline the action that needs to be taken for your child’s condition and any medication that may be required. **IPOCs must be reviewed, updated, and re-submitted each school**

year in September. Any medication that needs to be administered must have a current Administration of Medication form signed by your family doctor. Medication forms are available at the office. Please ensure that your child’s inhalers and epi-pens are not expired prior to sending them to school. If you require any assistance with completing an IPOC or medication form, please contact the school.

Aberdeen School Council

A School Council is a place for parents and the school community to have meaningful input and an ability to influence decisions that affect their children and local schools. Council members act in an advisory role to principals. All parents and community members are welcome to attend meetings. Meetings can be held during the school day or in the evening. For the beginning of the year, we will be hosting our council meetings virtually through Microsoft TEAMS. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 30 at 6:30. All parents are welcome to attend. The join link is here:

https://teams.microsoft.com/#/pre-join-calling/19:meeting_ZidjMDhiYTMtZjk5MS00YTBJLThhYmYtZTBINjg2NzMzMjJh@thread.v2

If you would like a meeting invite emailed to you directly, please send us an email indicating this request to aberdeen@tvdsb.ca.



If you are interested in holding an executive position on the council, we will explain this process at the September meeting. We are looking for a chairperson, secretary, and treasurer. Should more than one person want to stand for a particular position, it may require an election.

Noon Hour Supervisors

We are looking for parents, grandparents or community members who might be interested in working as a noon-hour supervisor on a casual basis. Noon hour supervisors must have a current (within the last 6 months) police check for employment purposes and complete an employment application package for the school board. If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact Mrs. DeVooght at the school for more information.



Cell Phones, Cameras, iPods



We encourage all students to leave their cell phones at home during the school day. Handheld audio and visual devices (e.g., cell phones, iPods, cameras) are not to be used at school or at school events (unless there is teacher permission). Should these items be seen or heard they may be taken away and returned at a later time. If you need to contact your child during the school day in an emergency, please call the office. ***Please do not text your child while they are at school. Please remind them that they should not be texting you from school.***

Photographs, videos and recordings cannot be taken at school without permission.

Student Information Forms

Please ensure that your child's student information form has been completed for this school year. These forms can be found on the parent portal or paper copies are available from the office. These forms are important as they contain emergency contact information and various consent information that must be updated annually.

Permission to Leave Property at Lunch

Students must have parental permission to leave school property at lunchtime. Permission can be granted on the child's student information sheet. If a parent indicates that their child will be going home for lunch on a regular basis, then the student will need to leave school property at the beginning of the nutrition break and be supervised at home by the parent. The student would then return to the school at the end of the lunch break. Students without permission need to remain on property during the lunch break. Temporary permission can be granted with a phone call or note to the main office. Please ensure that you have completed this section of the student information form and have submitted it to the school.

Access to School

Only staff, students and approved visitors are allowed into the building this year due to COVID protocols. The doors will remain locked to the public. If you wish to chat with the office or your child's teacher, it is best to call to set up an appointment time. Parents can also come to the front door and ring the bell for assistance. Please let Mrs. Livingstone, the secretary, know how she can assist you.



Student Accident Insurance

For the 2021-22 school year we are pleased to offer families the option of two student accident insurance providers to choose from if they wish to purchase insurance for their children. Please see the links below for more information:

<https://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com/>

<https://insuremykids.com>

Chromebooks and iPads

If your child has returned to in-person learning at Aberdeen, then he/she now needs to ensure that all borrowed Chromebooks and iPads have been returned to the school. We are needing these devices in our classrooms now for student learning. We are hopeful that we won't be switching to online learning again this year, but if we need to, there will be another opportunity to borrow devices again at that time.



No Nuts Please

This is just a reminder that students cannot bring food items to school that contain nuts. We have people within the school with life-threatening nut allergies and we need our school to be a safe place for everyone.

COVID Screening

Parents are required to complete the online COVID assessment screening tool for their children every day before coming to school. The assessment tool can be found here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. Children should not be coming to school if they have possible symptoms of COVID-19. If your child tests positive for COVID, please contact the school as soon as possible.



COVID Protocols

All students in JK-Grade 8 are required to wear a mask while indoors at school. Masks may be removed for lunchtime while eating and during some music or physical education activities. Students are not required to wear masks outdoors this year unless they are within 6 ft of others. Regular sanitizing and social distancing will also be strongly encouraged.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at Aberdeen

The Middlesex-London Health Unit will be holding a Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic at Aberdeen on Thursday, September 23 in our school gym. Eligible students (aged 12 by Dec. 31 and over) who have not yet been vaccinated are able to receive the vaccine at this time. Consent forms will be sent home and the student must return the form in order to be vaccinated. The clinic will also be open to parents and other community members from 4:00-6:30 on that date. Access to the clinic will be at the back of the school near the gym.

Oneida Program

We are thrilled to offer an Oneida language program at our school for students in grades 4-8. We'd like to welcome Ms. Antone, as our new Oneida teacher this year. Students may attend Oneida as a Second Language class in place of French instruction.

Water Bottles

Thank you to our School Council for their purchase of water bottles for all of our in-person students. Our water fountains remain closed, but the water filling stations are open. This is a great way for our students to be able to have a drink during the school day! We thank you for your generous gift for our students.



Ice Cream Treat Day

A special thank you also goes out to The London Ice Cream Company and Classic Rock 98.1 for their gift of ice cream to celebrate the end of the



first week of school! We appreciate their kindness in thinking about the staff and in-person students at Aberdeen!

Here we are on Ice Cream Day!



Playground Painting

We have had some of the paintings on our tarmac area refreshed for this school year. We hope the students enjoy these new paintings!



Indigo Adopt a School Program



Each year, Chapters-Indigo offers the “Love of Reading” program where specific store locations adopt schools and fundraise to provide more books to their school. Our application was approved and

we have been adopted by the Cambridge location Indigo Book Store. Between now and October 3, funds will be raised online and in their store. These funds will come directly to us at the school to purchase new books for our library. We are looking to purchase more stories about children from different cultures (particularly books with an FNMI focus), as well as children with special education needs. We would love to get more books that focus on mental wellness, being kind to each other, and ways to be a good friend to help build these skills within our students too. We appreciate all of the donations that will help us make this possible for our school! Please share our fundraising link with your family and friends!

<https://indigoloveofreadingfoundation.givecloud.co/fundraisers/aberdeen-public-school-london-ontario>



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