

The Cobra Compass

Caistor Central Public School
1794 Caistor Centre Rd, Caistor Centre L0R 1E0
<https://caistor.dsbns.org>



SEPTEMBER
2023

Welcome Back, Cobras!

On behalf of the staff at Caistor Central, I would like to welcome back all our returning students and families. For our students and families new to Caistor Central, we are excited that you have joined our Cobra family this year. A new year is always filled with possibilities. At Caistor Central, we know that this year will be full of new learnings, new experiences, new opportunities, new friendships and loads of fun!

I encourage our families to visit the '[DSBN Welcome Back to school – Elementary Students](#)' webpage. You will find resources and answers to some questions you may have as you prepare for your child's return to school, including:

- a link to "[Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions](#)"
- information about transportation
- a link to [Frequently Asked Questions and a 'Contact Us' page](#)

The first day of school brings life back to the building, such as seeing smiling students eager to share their summer tales and hearing excitement in the air as students settle into their new classrooms. Thank you to Mrs. Crooks for the excellent job she has done this summer getting the school ready to greet our students. Caistor is bright and sparkling! What a wonderful environment in which to live, play, learn and grow together!

I am looking forward to learning and growing with the Caistor Community again this year! Our amazing team of educators and support staff are here to keep our students learning and loving school in a safe and happy environment as we begin our 2023-2024 learning Journey #Ignitethelearning

Here is a link to our [School Year Calendar](#).

T. Chilcott



School Office Opens.....	Aug. 28
Labour Day.....	Sept. 4
First Day of School.....	Sept. 5
Terry Fox Day.....	Sept. 15
Book Fair.....	Sept. 18-21
Caistor Open House.....	Sept. 20
School Council Meeting.....	Sept. 26
Rowan's Law Day – Wear Purple	Sept. 27
Orange Shirt Day.....	Sept. 29

DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE

[Click here](#) for more information about the DSBN Days of Significance calendar.



Prevalent Medical Conditions

If you have a child with a prevalent medical condition (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes, and/or Epilepsy or others) we want to make sure we have a current Plan of Care to support your child. All parents of children with prevalent medical conditions are asked to fill out the new Plan of Care and submit to the school. You can download the forms here [dsbn.org/prevalent-medical-conditions](https://www.dsbnschools.org/prevalent-medical-conditions). **Students must have EpiPens, inhalers and any other emergency medications at school upon their first day of attendance.**

For more information, please contact the school.

Mental Health Family Supports

As the return to school approaches, most students typically experience a variety of emotions; some may be excited, others may be nervous or worried, and most will have mixed feelings. There are many ways that parents and caregivers can help prepare students for a mentally healthy return to school. The DSBN has compiled some high-quality, current resources, which are available on our website at www.dsbnschools.org/programs-services/well-being/. We encourage our families to visit the Parent Resources page frequently throughout the school year to access updated information.

Caistor Central Staff

Meet the Caistor Central Staff!

Mrs. T. Chilcott Principal Mrs. J. Hine Administrative Assistant Mrs. A. Crooks Head Caretaker	
Kindergarten	Ms. Misener, Mrs. McPherson-Easey
Kindergarten	Mrs. Killins, Ms. Soutos
Grade 1	Mrs. Donders
Grade 1/2	Mrs. Sohi
Grade 2/3	Mrs. Bleich
Grade 3/4	Mrs. VanDriel, Mrs. Gamble
Grade 4/5	Mrs. Dosa
Grade 5	Mrs. Whitfield
Grade 6/7	Mr. Nawrocki
Grade 7/8	Mr. Wellman
Int French & Prep	Mme. Gravelle
Jr French & Prep	Mme. Norman
LRT & Library	Mrs. Jackson
Prep	Mrs. Gamble
Educational Assistant	Mrs. Foster
Lunch Hour Supervisor	Mrs. LeBlanc
Lunch Hour Supervisor	Mrs. VanZeben
Lunch Hour Supervisor	Ms. Hendersen

School Bell Times

8:50 a.m.	Bus arrival
9:05 a.m.	School entry for all students
9:05 a.m.	Period 1
9:55 a.m.	Period 2
10:45 a.m.	Nutrition/Fitness Break
11:25 a.m.	Period 3
12:15 p.m.	Period 4
1:05 p.m.	Nutrition/Fitness Break
1:45 p.m.	Period 5
2:35 p.m.	Period 6
3:25 p.m.	Dismissal for all students

The playground is closed at arrival and dismissal and there is no supervision on the school yard after school.

Students must return home immediately.

Please note that should our student enrolment increase or decrease during the first week of school, we may need to reorganize our classrooms to meet the primary class size cap of 20 students per classroom. It may be possible that your child may (or may not be) in the same classroom that was originally posted. I will keep you informed if student enrolment changes will result in a reorganization. I understand that this can cause some disruption and is a difficult process, but we will do our best to make the transition as smooth as possible. **Changes in class placements will only occur should a reorganization be necessary.**

Open House and Meet the Teacher – September 20th

We are planning an Open House & Meet the Teacher Event for September 20th. Details will be communicated when they are finalized. This is an opportunity tour the school and meet your child's teacher. Please remember that this is an informal event. If you would like to discuss specific concerns, please schedule an appointment with the teacher to ensure your privacy and the teacher's undivided attention.

Student Bus Arrival – NSTS Information

Most of our Cobras arrive at school using transportation provided by Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS). For updates, visit nsts.ca. Students who are eligible for the bus and did not ride last year, are required to notify NSTS if they intend to ride the bus this year to ensure they have a seat assigned. Visit nsts.ca and sign-in to the Parent Portal to view your Opt-In to Transportation status

- Complete the Opt-In to Transportation Form if you need to change your status
- Consider signing up under "My Subscriptions" in the parent portal to be notified through email of any delays in your child's transportation
- If you haven't already done so, please download the BusPlanner Delay app for easy access to your child's transportation updates. Download the app on the [Apple App Store](https://www.apple.com/app-store) or [Google Play Store!](https://www.google.com/play-store)
- Only riders authorized by NSTS are allowed to ride the bus. Bus drivers are authorized to transport only students listed by NSTS on their passenger manifest and seating plan to ride their bus.

To view preliminary transportation arrangements, visit nsts.ca and sign-in to the Parent Portal. For questions about transportation, visit nsts.ca, email general@nsts.ca or call 905-357-6787.

Must Be Met at Stop Tag Program

At the start of the school year, each kindergarten student who rides the bus will have a "Must be Met at Stop" tag attached to his/her backpack. The Must Be Met at Stop tag program is mandatory for Kindergarten students. Parents with students in any grade may opt-in to the tag program upon notification to the school to equip the student with a tag, and the school needs to notify NSTS to reflect this request on the bus route manifest for the driver.

General Morning Arrival Routines

For the safety and security of all students within our school, supervision staff are on duty at 8:50am – please do not arrive earlier than this. Parents can say goodbye to their children at the school designated drop off area. Please note that only students are permitted on the school playground areas. We thank parents for always escorting their children through the parking lot until they are at the fenced area and then say good-bye.

- **All teachers will be greeting their classes outside at their class' designated area**
- On the first day, once children arrive at the school yard, they will be greeted by staff members who will guide them to their class line up area and support with routines until it becomes more automatic
- **Bus students** will be greeted upon arrival by a staff member. Students will disembark and make their way to their class community area with guidance from staff.

Consent to Walk & Ride Bikes

Most of our students ride the bus to and from school and that is our expectation unless the school receives notification from parents. There are some instances when students may wish to walk or ride bikes to school and to ensure student safety, we ask that parents please send a note of formal consent to your child's teacher and the main office by email. This will help us monitor and care for these students upon arrival and dismissal. Bicycles must be walked onto the property and appropriately stored, using the bike rack at the front of the school and securely

locked. Students must wear helmets when riding a bicycle to school and are prohibited from riding through the parking lot because it is very dangerous to do so.

We always recommend that younger students ride the bus.

Student Safety

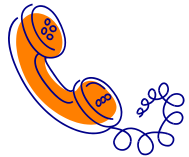
Your child's safety is very important to the staff of Caistor Central Public School. All visitors and guests of Caistor Central Public School are asked to only access the school through the front door, check in at the office, and sign in using the "Visitor Sign In" book located at the main office. Our students have been reminded that they are not to open the door for anyone, as access into the school will only occur through the front main entrance door. Our visitors will be required to ring the bell for entry approved by staff, and then proceed to the office. All students will be expected to enter and exit through their assigned doors during regular entry and dismissal times. Students arriving late or leaving early must report to the office.

Visiting the School - What if I Need to Get Something to My Child?

When attending the school, we welcome you to step into the foyer once your entry is approved by the main office. Please remain in the foyer and wait for the administrative assistant to greet you. If your child has forgotten something that they cannot do without, we will have you leave it with us at the office. Then staff will take care of delivery for you. We will make sure that your child receives it. It is our goal to minimize classroom disruptions to ensure we maximize our learning time. For this reason, parents are asked to remain at the front doors or in the foyer when visiting. If you would like to speak with a teacher, please make an appointment in advance.

Absences, Lates and Attendance Calls

Attendance is taken twice daily. Please help us to ensure the safety of our students by calling Safe Arrival when your child will be absent or late to school. Use automated phone system or use your mobile device by downloading the SchoolMessenger app.



1. Call toll-free before bell time: 1-866-606-5567
2. Logging on to the web portal (<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/account/login>). Using this website, you can set up your account to report and schedule absences.
3. Using your smart phone or tablet, simply download the SchoolMessenger app. The app is compatible with both Apple and Android devices. Select **Attendance** then **Report and Absence**.

We always need to know the whereabouts of each and every student. Your co-operation in using Safe Arrival will assist our office staff immensely! If you haven't called us, we'll be calling you. We will call your home first, followed by your place of business, and if necessary the numbers you have listed as emergency contacts. Also, all students who arrive late to school (any time during the school day) must report to the office to receive an admit slip. In addition, students leaving at any time during the school day will be required to sign-out at the office.

Office hours are 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. You may call the school to speak with the secretary in case of unforeseen circumstances or to update the school on matters.

Custody, Agreements and Documents

Please inform the school if there are special arrangements, agreements or custody orders for your child(ren). Any relevant custody orders **MUST** be kept on file at the office. Please ensure that the school always has the most recent custody orders for your child(ren).

School Cash Online

We know that you have many different priorities competing for your attention each day. To respect your valuable time, we'd like to make it a little easier and less time consuming for you to connect with our school. With [School Cash Online](#), you will be able to approve permission forms and make payments for any of these items online. Understanding that we're quickly becoming a cashless society, we know it can sometimes be a challenge to find exact change for items and then send it to school through your child's backpack. Using [School Cash Online](#), you'll be able to use your debit, credit card or cheque to make quick and easy payments online. It will also allow you to track payments made and receive an invoice for your purchases. As we are trying to minimize papers travelling between school and home, we encourage all families to register for [School Cash Online](#). We will be using this platform to send out important beginning of the year information that you can approve with the click of a button!

[School Cash Online](#) is a safe, reliable portal that will ensure the security of your information. The system is already active. You are able to gain access through the [School Cash](#) button which has been placed on our [school website](#). We are asking that you click on the button and follow the simple instructions to register. Registration should take less than five minutes. If you registered last year, you do not need to register again! If you require some assistance registering for [School Cash Online](#), please visit the office and we will be happy to help get you set-up and ready to go!

Important Forms to Sign

Most of our very important back to school forms will be available through [School Cash Online](#) during the first week of school. With a click of a button, these items can be quickly approved. If you would prefer a paper copy, please let the school know and we will send a paper copy home the first week of school. The back to school forms that are required to be returned include:

- ✓ Student Verification Report

Days of Significance

The Niagara Region is growing more diverse in creed and/or religious beliefs and practices. The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) is committed to fostering diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning and working environments that promote acceptance and protect individuals from discrimination and harassment based on the protected grounds under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Creed and/or religion is one of the grounds that is both an individual right and a collective responsibility. The DSBN recognizes and embraces the creed diversity represented in its students, staff, and community members.

As we start our school year, I invite you to share with me your family's most significant creed-based holiday(s). We will work together through the accommodation request process as Caistor Central Public School recognizes the importance of families celebrating their creed and/or religious beliefs and practices.

The DSBN has created a [Family Guide: Recognizing and Respecting Creed Diversity](#) to support families in requesting accommodations. This guide has also been translated into the following languages; Arabic, French, Hungarian, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese, which can be viewed on the [DSBN Equity webpage](#). For a list of Days of Significance, please refer to the [Days of Significance Calendar](#).

Responsible Use of Personal Electronics at School

The District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) has Policies (D-01: Digital Technology Use by Students and G26: Use of Mobile Devices by Students) that support the appropriate use of electronics in the classroom. To enhance the learning and empowerment of our students and maintain an effective and safe electronic learning environment, the DSBN requires that all students follow the rules for responsible use of technology as stated in the DSBN Digital

Citizenship Agreement and Information Technology Consent.

In addition, if a student wishes to use their personal electronic devices, such as a phone or ipad, in the school setting, we ask that parents confirm arrangements with the teacher and review the following expectations with your child:

- If the device is to be present in the classroom, the purpose is solely educational and with teacher's direction and permission.
- The use of this device must not interfere with anyone's learning.
- To protect the privacy and safety of students and staff, personal electronics CANNOT be used to take photographs or videotape, unless under the direct supervision of a teacher for academic purposes.
- Students should not be using their personal phones to call or text without teacher knowledge. Contact with parents must always happen through the teacher or office to ensure adequate care and student safety.
- Devices are never to be used in private areas such as change rooms and washrooms.
- When devices are not in use, they must be turned off and stored in a secure location (i.e., locker, backpack)

DSBN schools and staff will not be held responsible for damage, loss, or theft of personal electronic devices.

How to Communicate with Your Teacher

Teachers will use electronic communication such as email, D2L (Student Portfolios) and Google Classroom to stay connected and share information. In addition, a baggy system, phone call or other means may be organized. Your child's teacher will communicate their preferred form of communication with you. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, parents are welcome to call the school to arrange a time to connect with the classroom teacher.

We are Nut and Scent Aware

Please DO NOT send food to school that contains nuts. We have students with life-threatening allergies. It is our policy that students do not exchange or share food for the safety of all. In addition, we have students with sensitivities and allergies to artificial scents (perfumes, deodorants, colognes, body sprays, etc.). Kindly choose odorless options when possible for hand creams, sanitizers and deodorants to allow every child to enjoy a comfortable learning environment.

Dressing for Success

Everyone has their own unique style and aesthetic. We celebrate students' individuality and respect their ability to express themselves. Our only expectation is that all students come to school dressed appropriately for a learning environment.

When deciding on clothing, we ask that all members of our school community are mindful of:

- Health and safety concerns,
- The dignity and well-being of all students and staff (i.e. clothing that is free of inappropriate or discriminatory imagery or wording).

Spirit Days, Building Character and Celebrations

The Caistor community is excited to continue building our school spirit. We will have friendly competitions between homerooms by participating in spirit days and challenges. This will continue to strengthen our Caistor community. We will also have a monthly character trait focus and celebrate students' unique accomplishments at end of each month.

School Advisory Council

If you are interested in becoming more actively involved in your child's education and the inner workings of Caistor Central Public School, we encourage you to join our **School Council!** This group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. to discuss educational trends, school issues and supports, fundraising and the future of our school. We welcome new members!

Please consider joining us at our first meeting on **Tuesday, September 26th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.** We will be electing our executive and establishing our general membership during this meeting.

Please let us know your interest by submitting the form which will come to you by email later in the first week.

Scholastic Book Fair – September 18 to 21

Reading for pleasure unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here's what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:

- Set the example. Let children see you read.
- Have a collection of books in your home. Update this collection routinely to keep up with changing tastes and reading skills.
- Support our school's Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.

Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It's a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child's reading habits.

Book Fair dates: Monday, September 18 to Thursday, September 21

Shopping hours: Each class will have times assigned throughout the Scholastic Book Fair dates to come to the book fair to preview, make wish lists, and purchase books. Class schedules will come home closer to the date of the book fair.

Special activities: Open to families on Wednesday, September 20 during the Open House

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

Coaches' and Clubs' Corner

The school year kicks off with Cross Country Running Club and Junior/Intermediate Soccer. Students should stay tuned for announcements in the coming days.

Rowan's Law Day on September 27th

Rowan's Law was named for Rowan Stringer, a high school rugby player from Ottawa, who died in the spring of 2013 from a condition known as second impact syndrome (swelling of the brain caused by a subsequent injury that occurred before a previous injury healed). Rowan is believed to have experienced three concussions over six days while playing rugby. She had a concussion but didn't know her brain needed time to heal. Neither did her parents, teachers, or coaches.

Rowan's Law and Rowan's Law Day were established to honour her memory and bring awareness to concussions and concussion safety. We wear purple on this day as this was Rowan's favourite colour.

Orange Shirt Day on September 29th

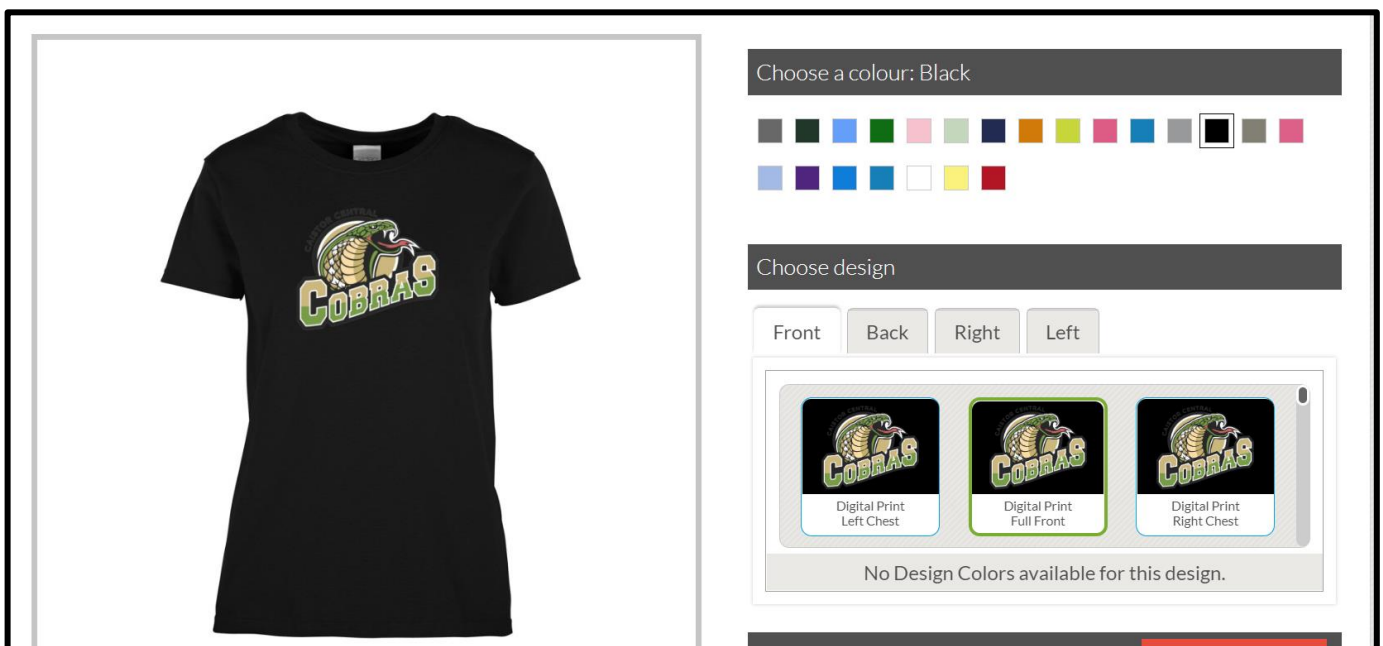
National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, or Orange Shirt Day, is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Residential School survivor Phyllis Webstad's account of having her new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The initiative calls for every Canadian to wear an orange shirt in the spirit of healing and reconciliation. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes and placed in residential schools, and because it provides an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year.

This year, DSBN will be recognizing this day on Thursday, September 30. Please join our school staff in wearing an orange shirt on September 30. We hope to see all of our students and many community members wearing orange on September 30.

Cobra Spirit Wear! Order Away!

Spirit wear is now available for order! Official Cobra colours are black and dark green. There are lots of items to choose from – Ts, hoodies, hats and toques, bags, jackets and more! You can [order here!](#) Note that you can select the size and location of the Cobra logo and add text for an additional fee.

You can also find an updated ordering link on our school website!



Pizza Days, Special Lunches and Served

Pizza Days, special lunches and Served will begin mid-September or so, once our routines are set. Please look for email notices through School Cash Online.