Brisbane Public School
September 2019 Newsletter

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Principal: Reena Anand Office Coordinator: Dawn Dolson
www.ugdsb.on.ca/brisbane @Brisbane_PS

Principal's Message

We hope everyone had a wonderful and enjoyable summer holiday ! We are very excited to welcome back our Brisbane families and our new families. We are excited to be part of the Brisbane community again and look forward to welcoming back all of our students! Welcome to our new teaching staff including Mme Rathbone who will be teaching Kindergarten. We'd like to welcome back Mlle Vosper and Mlle Johnson who will be teaching planning time. We also welcome our new ECE, Chantelle Arseneau who is working with Mme Klepic, EA, Katie Piitz, and CYC Gayton Fairfield. We know you will love our incredible students at Brisbane. Our staff has been busy over the summer preparing their classrooms for our students to have a fantastic school year! We always appreciate their commitment to creating engaging learning environments where our students will reach their best potential. Please see the final page for staffing assignments for this school year. Many thanks also to the custodial team for their wonderful work over the summer to clean the school and get it ready for the start of the school year. A special thank you to our office staff for getting us ready for another exciting year ahead! A few reminders from the office: Encourage students to ride the bus as the parking lot is very congested. If you must drive, please drive up on the right side and quickly drop off your child. At pick up time, please pick up quickly as other parents are seeking a parking spot. Do not park in the designated handicap spaces unless you have a permit. The following forms must be returned to your classroom teacher:

- Freedom of Information Form
- Student Verification Forms (updating your phone number, address, etc.)
- Student Accident Insurance forms (if you are participating in this program)

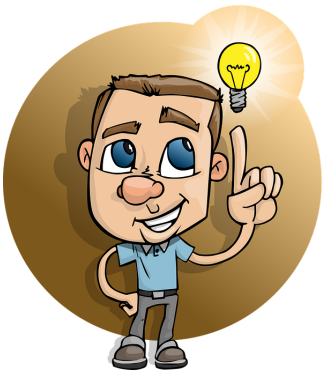
R. Anand

Upcoming events ...	
Sept. 17 Parent Council Meeting & Elections	Sept. 26 Meet the Teacher Night BBQ
Sept. 26 Terry Fox Run	Sept. 27 PD Day

Our Staff for 2019-20

Grade	E/F	Staff
Kindergarten	F	Aimee Rathbone & Mary Lemieux
Kindergarten	F	Rebecca Ferguson & Joanna Reynolds
Kindergarten	F	Marina Klepic & Chantelle Arseneau
Kindergarten	E	April Tozer & Kim Davidson
Grade 1	F	Katie Stansfield
Grade 1/2	F	Krista Kloosterboer
Grade 1/2	F	Emma Squire Smith
Grade 1	E	Karen Anderson
Grade 2/3	F	Merrilla Gagnon
Grade 2/3	E	Christy Geddes
Grade 3/4	F	Roger Siegel
Grade 4/5	F	Jesse Dyke
Grade 4	E	Ryan Carter
Grade 4/5	E	Alison Ray
Grade 5/6	F	Diana Halpin
Grade 5/6	F	Rena Stuart
Grade 6	E	Rachael Umpleby
Library/Planning	E	George Koch
Planning	F	Meera Dyer, Alanna Vosper, Sarah Johnson
Core French & Resource	F	Heidi Siegel
Resource	F	Melissa Schefter
EA		Katie Piitz
Office Coordinator		Dawn Dolson
Office Assistant		Elaine Furzecott
CYC		Gayton Fairfield
Custodian		Catherine Pell
Principal		Reena Anand

Sign Up for our Weekly CASL Blasts!!



If you wish to receive communications from us, please visit our CASL registration website at: www.ugdsb.on.ca/CASL. By registering your email on this webpage you will receive electronic communication from the school. If you have any questions or want to withdraw your consent at anytime, please visit the same site and click on "unsubscribe" to remove your name from the contact list. We are an Eco-Gold school and send all newsletters electronically. If you require a hard copy of the newsletter, please contact the office.

Messenger App

We are pleased to announce that the Upper Grand DSB is introducing a new parent communication tool for your smartphone. Designed to streamline communication between schools and the communities they serve, the Upper Grand Mobile app provides parents with a simple interface with up to date information including news, calendars and social media feeds. As an Eco-Gold certified school, we continue to try to save trees by posting our newsletters electronically. The Upper Grand Mobile App is available today for free at either the Google Play Store or at iTunes. Use the search term "Upper Grand" to find the app. We encourage you to sign up for this app which will allow for improved communication at no cost.

Twitter

Brisbane PS is now on twitter-follow us for the latest information @Brisbane_PS to get updates on school events and activities and to see the great learning!

Volunteers

Brisbane P.S. parent volunteers enrich the lives of students and assist teachers and support staff in a wide variety of ways. Volunteers are always welcome to help improve our school community. Please take the time to consider the many opportunities for you to become involved with the school. The efforts of our parent volunteers are greatly appreciated at Brisbane P.S.

If you are interested in volunteering, please go to our website at www.ugdsb.on.ca/brisbane and click on School Council, Volunteers, to fill out a form. You may also contact the school if you prefer. Volunteers always sign in at the office and wear Volunteer Badges so that they are easily identified as special guests. Merci pour votre bénévolat! Please also complete our Volunteer form to ensure confidentiality. We appreciate our amazing volunteers!

Noon Hour Supervisors Needed

If you love working with wonderful children, who are enthusiastic, fun and engaging, Brisbane PS wants you as a Lunchroom Supervisor. We are currently hiring for this position. We require individuals who are caring, energetic, ensures the safety and security of our students and loves working with children. The position requires a commitment of approximately one hour during eating time and outdoors. This is a paid position, $14.00/hour. Your responsibilities include monitoring lunchrooms and outside recess from 12:50-1:50. Lunchroom supervisors are required to have a criminal record background check. If you want to be part of a great school community with wonderful students, please visit the school for more information or call at 519 833-9621.

Helping Your Child Succeed

START OF THE YEAR PARENT QUIZ

Give yourself points: 0 for “never”, up to 5 for “often”

1. I encourage my child to eat regular meals/healthy snacks, and to get at least 8 hours of sleep at night.
2. I communicate regularly with my child’s teachers.
3. I set a regular daily homework time and am available for support or guidance.
4. I encourage my child to read for pleasure, and set an example by doing so myself.
5. I set aside time for just my child and me.

- ➔ 20 + points: You are giving your child a solid foundation for a successful year.
- ➔ 15-19 points: Average.
- ➔ Below 15 points: Try some of the ideas in the quiz to help your child have a positive year

School Hours

Supervision starts:	8:30 am
Start Time:	8:50 am
Nutrition Break #1:	10:30 - 10:50 am
Outside:	10:50 - 11:15 am
Nutrition Break 2:	12:55 - 1:15 pm
Outside:	1:15 - 1:40 pm
Dismissal:	3:20 pm

Starting off on the right foot ...

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time so they don’t miss important instructions and disrupt learning. We want to set students up for success by encouraging independence and having them walk to their class independently. This will help build good routines and start on the right path for success. Please also call in student illnesses, lates and absences at **519-833-9621**. We are required to reach you by telephone if your child is absent so please update the school with any phone number changes.

Agendas

All students in grades 1-6 at Brisbane Public School will receive school agendas. The subsidized cost is $5.00 this year and it can be purchased through school cash-online. Contributions help offset the cost and are greatly appreciated. The agenda serves as an excellent educational tool, allowing parents to monitor homework assignments, as well as to communicate with teachers. It also helps students organize their time. Please check agendas daily for homework assignments, notes from teachers, and special events happening at the school. Please review the important information located in the front of the agenda.

Medical Concerns

If your child has a serious medical condition, please contact the child's teacher and the office. We need to be provided with up-to-date information and medication. UGDSB Policy 518: Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions, outlines the roles and responsibilities for all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders. If your child has one of these, or any other life-threatening medical conditions, please visit: www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy (and look for Policy 518) or contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a Plan of Care to support your child.

Parents should administer medication at home whenever possible. When oral medication is administered by school personnel it will be kept in the office. Non- prescription oral medication as well as prescription medication requires the completion of an authorization form before medication can be administered. This form is available at the school office. The bus company also requires a copy of life-threatening forms.

Life Threatening Allergies

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies (called anaphylaxis) to various foods and other materials. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you are aware that we aim to create an allergy safe environment at our school. If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, or your child has anaphylaxis, you will be informed by your classroom teacher. Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.

Peanut & Nut Allergies

We have several students with life threatening allergic reactions to peanut butter and other nuts. The safety of all our students is very important to us. Please be aware that, due to legislation requiring every school to reduce risk of exposure of anaphylactic causative agents, we are restricting the presence of nuts at Brisbane P.S. Please DO NOT send nut products to school for snack or lunch with your child, this **includes** imitation nut products such as Wow butter. If touched, eaten or even inhaled, foods containing even small amounts of peanuts or nuts may be life threatening to those students with allergies. Please remind your child not to share food or drinks with other students.

Asthma Friendly Schools Policy

Asthma is a very common chronic lung disease that can make it hard to breathe. The Upper Grand District School Board has a policy to provide support for students with asthma. If your child has asthma, the policy requires an Asthma Management Plan (AMP) to be completed by parents, a child's doctor and the principal of the school. A copy of this plan is available on the Board's website under Policy 516. Parents are requested to complete the AMP and return it to the school as soon as possible at the beginning of the school year.

Smoke and Vape-Free Environment

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke and vape-free environment for its students, staff and others while on Board property, in accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and Board policy 208. This policy refers to all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed, including e-cigarettes.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of the indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents will be informed using the school's usual forms of communication when smudging is going to occur in our school. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the principal.

Student Information Form

Please return an updated Upper Grand District School Board Student Admission and Information form to the school as soon as possible. This is very important as we require accurate family contact information.

Student Accident Insurance

Reminder for parents/guardians: Accidents happen – be prepared with Student Accident Insurance

Parents/guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial Health Care or employer group insurance plans. The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under The Education Act to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students. Information will be sent home with respect to Student Accident Insurance offered by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. **You should receive**:

1. The Director's letter and an Acknowledgment to be signed by parents/guardians and returned to school. Attached to the Director's letter is a translation sheet for your reference.
2. An Insure My Kids application form

Old Republic offers a variety of options, including family rates and multi-year plans, at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by parents/guardians. Subscription is directly through Old Republic by mail or online. Questions should be directed to Old Republic at 1-800-463-5437 or www.insuremykids.com.

For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable. Parents are required to sign the pink Acknowledgment form on the back of the Director's letter and return it to their teachers. Please sign and return the Acknowledgment Forms. Please do not send completed application forms and cheques to the Board Office. Parents are to mail application forms and cheques directly to the Old Republic in the envelope provided in the application. Coverage starts only when Old Republic receives the application and money.

Freedom of Information

Please read the enclosed letter regarding Freedom of Information. Contact the office if, and only if, you have objections to the "use and disclosure of your child's personal information" in the ways explained in the letter.

Consent for Photos

Please read the enclosed letter regarding consent to share information. We often like to take pictures of students to share school success with the community on our website, twitter account or in the local paper. We require your consent for this to happen. Please return the consent form to your classroom teacher.

Ministry Class Size Limits

The tentative staffing assignments at this time are listed in this newsletter. Please be aware that the Ministry has stipulated specific parameters to promote smaller class sizes. We will be submitting our latest enrolment figures to the Board this week and it is possible that the Board will make changes to class organizations in order to be compliant with the parameters. Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee. This means that your child may be moved to a

different class with a different teacher in the first few weeks of September. We will keep you informed if changes are necessary and try to make transitions as smooth as possible.

Milk/Pizza/Sub Orders

Orders for pizza and milk will soon be available on school cash-online for purchase. Information and details on how to order using School Cash Online are below. School council will also be offering subs weekly as a fundraiser this year.

School Cash On-Line Program

For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school.

School related expenses such as pizza days, field trips, spirit wear etc. will be available for purchase online. Please take a few minutes to register so you can enjoy the convenience of shopping on-line.

Here's how to register:

- Step 1: Go to ugdsb.schoolcashonline.com
- Step 2: Register by selecting : "Get started now" and follow the steps.
- Step 3: Respond to the confirmation email, select the 'click here' option and sign in and add each of your children to your household account.

Clothing and Footwear

Dress for the weather forecast. Unless there is heavy rain, or extreme weather conditions, students will be outside. Students should also bring sweaters/jackets for occasions when the weather becomes unseasonably cold. The school dress code can be found in your child's agenda. Two sets of footwear are also required. One for indoor use with non- marking soles(which can double as gym shoes) and a second pair for outdoor. Running shoes are the safest choices for footwear, and are a requirement for participation in Physical Education classes. Flip flops and other unsupportive shoes may limit the activities in which your child can participate.

Please remember to label everything!

School Routine Drills

The safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. Although we hope that an incident that requires response from emergency personnel will never occur in our school, we must be prepared to respond quickly and effectively in case it does. Each year our school must conduct drills to ensure staff and students are prepared in the event of a real emergency.

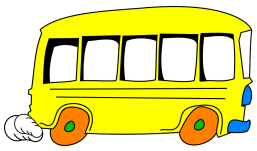
The following number of drills are required each school year:

- Three (3) fire drills in the fall and three (3) fire drills in the spring
- Two (2) lockdown drills
- One (1) tornado drill
- One (1) bomb threat drill

For each of these drills, there is an education component to explain why they are necessary. All drills are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of students. If you have any questions, contact the office.

School Buses

Thank you to our bus drivers for keeping our children safe and for communicating well with the staff regarding safety issues and student behaviour on the busses. See the newsletter from transportation attached. There are some new routes this year for more direct routes. Please review the Bus Safety Rules with your child:



- Be at your bus stop at least 5 minutes early
- Stay seated while the bus is in motion
- Do not use inappropriate language and use an indoor voice
- Follow the directions of the driver
- At the end of the school day go directly to the gym and sit in your line until your bus number is called.
- Please be on time if you are meeting your child at the bus stop at the end of the day.

Dufferin Student Transportation Services

http://www.stwdsts.ca/

This site is designed to help you to find bus information and to answer common transportation questions. For students in SK and up please visit our student login website: www.findmybus.ca after August 21nd, 2019 for all busing information. Sign up for email notifications for all delays/cancellations during the school year. Please follow us on Twitter @STWDSTS. If your child will not be riding the bus for the school year please call 519-824-4119 to let us know.

Attendance & Safe Arrival Program

Please call the office (519-833-9621) before 8:30 am. If your child is going to be absent or late. The voice mail can take your messages 24 hours a day. Please supply us with the student name(s), class(es) and reason(s) for absence/lateness. The Ministry's Safe Arrival Program mandates that we call parents of absent students if we have not been informed, by a parent, of the reason for the absence.

- If we cannot reach you at home or at work, we will attempt to call your emergency contact person.
- Late students must report to the office for a late slip before going to class, so the attendance register can be amended.

- To avoid disruption to classes in progress, late students will walk on their own from the office to class. If they require support, a staff member will be happy to assist.
- If you drive your child to school, please remember to park in the front parking area or on the road (not in the bus area.)
- Supervision begins at 8:30 am. Please do not drop your child off prior to this time.

Board Policy on Safe Arrival reads: It is the responsibility of parents to:

- provide current telephone contacts such as: home phone number, work number of both parents, number of caregiver, number of safe arrival contact, and emergency contact numbers on the student admission form;
- update the information during the school year and inform teachers of changes;
- communicate with the school, prior to the start of school in the morning or afternoon, when the child will be absent or late for any reason;
- provide written permission for their child to leave the school during the day; and
- inform the school when their child will be returning after an absence of more than 1 day.

Safe Departure

- Please send authorization in writing if someone other than the legal guardian is going to pick your child up from school.
- If it is necessary for a child to leave early, or to leave for a period during the day for an appointment, a note must be sent to the teacher. For the safety of your child, we request that you come into the school to sign him/her out at the office.
- Also, please send written authorization if your child is going to be picked up, otherwise, it is our practice to send the child home as per usual arrangements. Under urgent circumstances, a telephone call may be made to the office before 3 p.m.
- We appreciate your efforts to make all foreseen arrangements ahead of time with your child and/or accompanied with a note.
- Children will be dismissed by classroom teachers and can be picked up at the main office. Please sign your child out here and wait for them to come to you. Please do not go to the classroom or playground to pick up your child. Your support to ensure safe and seamless transitions during such a busy time of day is greatly appreciated.

Our board has a wonderful resource for all of our students that can be accessed 24/7 from school or from home. It's called UG2GO and includes Learn360 (educational video streaming), Student Link (a site children use at school that gives them access to websites that are kid friendly and relate directly to their current units of study), Tumblebooks (a site that has hundreds of books children can click on and have read to them), Overdrive (eBooks and audiobooks), and much more. When students are at home they can go to this site: https://www/ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go. They will be prompted to enter the same Windows username and password that they use at school to get onto the school network. Once they enter their Windows username/password they will enter the site and they can then click on any of the resources and be taken directly to the individual resource without the need for any additional passwords. Please take a few minutes to explore the site with your child. It is an important tool that will aid them in their education, and may make your life easier when it comes to homework and projects. We are excited that students will be able to access information from anywhere and at any time in this information age!

Brisbane School Council Information

Welcome Brisbane Parents!! We have a very active School Council here at BPS! Council serves as an advisory board to the principal on various issues such as playground improvements, busing and financially supporting several academic initiatives such as Scientists in School. Our School Council is made up of an Executive Team consisting of Chair (or co-chair), Vice Chair (if necessary), Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition, there is a maximum 11 voting parent representatives. Our principal and staff are also represented on school council. Election for new members will be held on Sept 17th in our school library. All are welcome! If you are interested in participating you may nominate yourself or someone else (as long as they agree!) Members are required to attend all 9 meetings which are held the second Tuesday of each month with the exception of December. Council member duties are outlined in our Council by-laws. Non-elected members can stay connected with Council news by joining our "Interested Parents List" and receiving our agenda and minutes of each meeting by email. Our Council meetings are conducted in an open forum and we welcome input from parents and members of the school community. Please consider joining and becoming involved in your child's school community. School Council is a great way to be involved in the school community and make a positive contribution to your child's education. Save the date for our Meet the Staff and BBQ on Sept 26th!

Back to School Blues?

Although for many there is excitement and anticipation about going back to school, for some children transitioning back in September can be tough. Moving into a new classroom, having new teachers, new friends and classmates, and new schedules can all bring about a feeling of stress. The angst children feel, questions they ask, and worries they express about these changes are normal. Sometimes it can be the smallest detail that can be the most worrisome for children. As a parent, you may not know what to do about these butterflies, stomach aches or tears. For some of us, it may intensify our own stress. Here are a few things you

might try the first few weeks into the new school year. 1. Listen carefully to your children and hear their concerns. 2. Remind them of previous times when they felt anxious, and discuss the strategies they used that helped make the situation better. 3. Review the daily routines they are experiencing at school, and what after school time and weekends look like. 4. Make a list of the things they like about school. 5. Remind them of all the things they are good at. 6. Ask about their friends. 7. Be patient and positive. You may need to have these conversations daily. As a parent in our school, please know that you can always contact us if your child's worries persist. We are here to support your child's wellbeing and achievement, and getting off to a great start in September will help us all achieve just that! Please contact us so we can support a positive start to school and assist with any concerns. Open communication with your child's teachers is important for success.
We wish everyone a great start to a wonderful school year! Your classroom teachers will inform you of school supplies that may be needed.

Talking About Mental Health – Heading Back to School

Hope that you had a wonderful summer! Transitioning back into school as summer ends can be exciting but also can be stressful for some children and families. As the children and youth head back to school, here are a few suggestions on how to make this a mentally healthy school year for all.

1. Take care of your body

   Mental and physical health are linked. Make sure to get enough sleep, drink water, and eat well.

2. Talk to your child/ren

   What did they like and enjoy about last year? What are they looking forward to this year? Have children name one thing they are looking forward to and one thing they are not looking forward to as much.

3. Identify strengths and challenges

   Have them name 2 things they are good at in school and two things that they think might be more difficult. Strategize some ways to deal with challenges. At the end of the day reflect any strategies used and encourage them to try new strategies to build their coping tool kit.

4. Problem solve with your child/ren

   Provide your child opportunities to make their own decisions and to come up with solutions for their concerns. Remember to keep your expectations realistic and age appropriate.

5. Remain calm, and show your child trust, support and love when they are feeling stressed, anxious and worried.

Have a wonderful and mentally healthy school year!

2019-2020 Brisbane Fundraising

Dear Families & Brisbane School Community,

First, we hope everyone has had a wonderful summer and you are ready to jump into a new school year! The School Council's goal is always to support our students by providing tools and resources to help them grow and succeed. Programs like Silver Birch Reading and Scientists in School, which cost approximately $8,500 per year, along with Healthy Snack and the Playground Project, are areas where we have focused our fundraising efforts.

We recognize that rebuilding the playground has been an important priority, and that you might be tired of hearing about it! The good news is that we are almost done, and the great news is that the students LOVE what has been built so far! The past year, we scaled back a little to give everyone a break from this topic, but moving into this new school year, we are planning for a big push, to take us over the finish line.

In order to purchase and install a climber in Primary, we need to raise **$40,000**. We understand the frustration you may feel when continuously asked to support fundraisers throughout the year. As such, the Parent Council has voted to continue with the two events that the students really enjoy (Moveathon & Movie Night), but forego a big fundraiser where you are asked to sell items to your friends and neighbours, or the many smaller fundraising events. Instead, we kindly request a donation to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation, designated for Brisbane School. If a donation of **$100** is made for **every child**, then we will reach our goal!

We understand that this suggested amount may be challenging. We wanted to share this goal with you, so that you could choose a convenient time to donate. Perhaps smaller monthly donations are easier than one lump sum? With this fundraising strategy, you are in control. Please also know that we are grateful for any amount that you are able to contribute.

To make a donation, please visit www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com/give-today/
Please be sure to indicate that the donation is for **Brisbane School**.
Donations to UGLF of $20 or greater are issued a tax receipt.
We will assess our progress towards the goal of $40,000 on **December 31st** and decide at that time if we need to add fundraising activities back into the plan. With your help, we are determined to install the new climber in the Spring of 2020!

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at ***brisbanefundraising@gmail.com***
Our goal is to be fully transparent and to work together with you. We also hope that you can join us at the School Council meeting in September - everyone is welcome! Thank you again for your ongoing support. We are looking forward to another incredible year!

Lori Wright	Dayna Armstrong-Haw	Claire Upton
Council Chair	Fundraising Chair	Playground Chair

September, 2019

Message from the Human Resources Department

Re: School Organizations

Schools have built class lists based on their tentative organizations. Changes may be necessary at your child(ren)'s school in order that our Board remain compliant with Ministry parameters (see below). Any changes would be implemented by Monday, September 16th. Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed by the school.

Ministry of Education Parameters

*Full Day Kindergarten Class Size Average for the Board is 26 students

*90% of Full Day Kindergarten classes with 29 or fewer students

*10% of Full Day Kindergarten classes up to a maximum of 32 students under certain circumstances

*90% of the Board's primary classes with 20 or fewer students

*10% of the Board's primary classes up to a maximum of 23 students

*Grade 3/4 classes have a cap of 23 students

*Junior/Intermediate Class Size Average for the Board is 24.5 students to 1 teacher

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