



Dr. George Hall Public School

Home of the Huskies

STUDENTS WALKING TO TOWN DURING SECOND NUTRITIONAL BREAK

September 5th, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As has been the practice in past years, students are allowed to sign out at the second nutrition break/recess and go to local Little Britain stores/restaurants or their own homes for lunch. I would like parents/students to be aware of some important information to help ensure the safety of students and the smooth running of the school. To this point, the issues have been relatively minor and the purpose of this letter is to provide clarification.

- **students will be permitted to sign out to go to the stores/restaurants or their own home for the 2nd Nutrition Break/Recess only.**
- **students should NOT be travelling any further than the 4 “corners” (unless to their own home) as there are no stores or restaurants beyond this point. In NO case should students be playing by the river or playing around the bridge as this represents a serious safety concern. As well, the area around the arena is also out of bounds.**

The safety of our students is our first priority. Having numerous students signing out and in at the 2nd Nutrition Break/Recess makes it more difficult to keep track of all students. For this reason, the school asks that:

- **if your son/daughter is going to be allowed to sign out and visit the stores/restaurants or their own home on a regular basis (e.g., any day of the week), please provide a note stating that they will be allowed to do so.** Please include your child’s name, your name, and the date in neat and legible handwriting. A list will be compiled from these notes and kept at the office.

Principal
Darin Parish

Vice-Principal
Liana James

Head Secretary
Tracy Taylor

Secretary
Connie Starr

Superintendent
Katherine MacIver

Trustee
Don Alton

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• **if your son/daughter is only going to be allowed to sign out once in a while, please write a note and indicate that it is only for that day that he/she may sign out.** Your son/daughter should bring the note to the office for Ms. Taylor or Ms. Starr.

As well, I would ask that:

- **students are asked to leave and return** through the front doors of the school by the office.
- **students quietly and respectfully sign in/out at the office.** For example, being loud or arguing with another student will result in the student(s) losing the privilege of signing out. The office is a place of business (with others in the office working and making/taking phone calls) and it is difficult to do so when student behaviour is disruptive.
- **students are to cross** with a crossing guard at the designated locations. There have been issues in the past, with the crossing guards letting the school know that students were crossing without waiting for permission to cross.
- **students are NOT to loiter in the community.** Students should be going to the store and then returning immediately. Students are ambassadors of the school and need to conduct themselves accordingly (using the same behaviour that is acceptable at school). Students who are unable to act properly while off of school property will lose the privilege of signing out. Students should also recognize that the school has the ability to consequence for actions outside of the school if these actions affect the school's moral tone.
- **students should not be going to homes other than their own** (e.g., students should not be going to a friends' house).
- **students immediately sign in upon returning to the school.** It is extremely important that we can account for and know where all of our students are at all times (e.g., should the fire alarm go off the school uses the sign in/out book to determine who should be at the school). Students should not be waiting until the end of recess to sign in.
- **students should not be giving up responsibilities that they have signed up for earlier in the year.** For example, classroom helpers at Nutrition Break should not be missing these jobs. The school highly values efforts of helpers (they do wonderful things at DGH!), but the importance of these jobs means that they must be regularly and consistently completed. Students should not be asking other students to complete their job simply so they may sign out and go to the store.
- **students who are required by a teacher to be in at the Nutritional Break/Recess to complete unfinished work, to receive extra help or who have a consequence (e.g., have a detention with a teacher or the office) will not be permitted to sign out.**
- **students should not be eating the food/drinking the drinks that they purchase at the store when they return to the school.** The DGH school policy is that food is not to be eaten on the yard (it is messy and attracts bugs and animals).
- **students should not be "cutting across" other peoples' lawns and property or leaving garbage on others' property.**

It is certainly our hope that all students will follow the above procedures and conduct themselves accordingly while leaving school property. **While individual(s) who do not follow the above procedures will be dealt with on a per student basis, I do want it known that should the privilege of signing out become overly problematic (e.g., several/many students involved in issues while signed out) the privilege for all students signing out at the 2nd Nutrition/Break Recess will be cancelled entirely.**

I would stress that student behaviour has generally been quite good. The vast majority of our Huskies are excellent ambassadors for the school! Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office at the number to the right on the first page.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darin Parish". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Darin Parish
Principal