

Boo Hoo Party/New Parent Orientation 2024

Welcome to Darwell School!

Your kids are back in school! What questions do you have? Want to meet some of the other parents in our community-minded school? Want to join the council and be a part of the community projects and learn how the council helps the students and community? We need you!

Resources:

- School website: <https://www.darwellschool.ca>
 - Bus status
 - Student information
 - PowerSchool Link (online student reporting)
 - Fees & payments, registration, etc.
 - Sports team/extracurricular activities offered
- NGPS Facebook Page (Bus updates, snow days, etc.): <https://www.facebook.com/northerngatewaypublicschools>
- Darwell School facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Darwell-School-1836079153273561/>
- Darwell Betterment/Council Email: darwellbetterment@gmail.com
- Watch for a copy of the monthly event calendar that comes home every month!
- You can sync the school google calendar with yours! Ask us how!

School Buses & Parent Parking

You should have contact information for your school bus driver. Keep their driver's contact information, it is helpful for texting in the event of snow days, mechanical issues, etc.

There is parking in front of the school for parents. Please note that you **CANNOT** drive into the school bus zone when buses are loading/unloading. Vehicles that do not respect the safety of the students during these times will be reported.

SIGN-IN/OUT Sheets, Early drop-off, Pickup and Bus Notes

Parents and visitors must report to the office and sign in. Forms are kept on the desk in the office. Students that are dropped off get signed in, students that are picked up are signed out. Volunteers/parent helpers are signed in and out as well. Please also fill out a **bus note** if needed to let drivers know students will not be on the bus.

Early drop off: School doors open at 8:30 a.m. and students dropped off before the buses arrive will head to their classroom.

Drop off & Pickup: Students can be dropped off and picked up at the front door and vehicles can turn around and leave from the same entrance they entered. There is a **fire lane (parking spot)** in front of the main doors usually painted red, this is a no parking area please. As mentioned above, **do NOT drive into the bus area when students are loading/offloading.**

SICK/Absent/Snow Days - Please call the school before 9am if your child will be absent.

If your child will be absent from school, please contact the school. You can call 780-892-2478 and feel free to leave a message after hours, you can send a notification from our school website or you can email terri.stark@ngps.ca to let them know your child will be absent. If you do not call, the school will call you. If your child is usually on the bus, please also let your bus driver know they don't need to pick up in the morning. Afternoon bus changes need to go through the school and they will then let the drivers know of any changes.

Getting to know your Teachers

Keep an eye on the handouts that come home each day/week. The teachers will send home communications, and notes in the agendas/remind/etc. Parents can read and write messages in the agendas for the teachers, or contact them directly by phone/email.

School events

The school will provide updates as the year progresses to see if we can get the following events/programs running again! Please note that not all of these events may occur in a given school year.

MONTHLY ASSEMBLIES

Typically Darwell has a monthly assembly and parents are encouraged to attend. Students are celebrated for their outstanding achievements and attitudes, and there is much fun to be had in team building events, and class recognition.

HALLOWEEN PARADE

Each Halloween Darwell Celebrates with a Halloween Parade and Classroom events! Students and parents are invited to the Halloween Parade - and participate in costume with the students!

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND BAKE SALE

Each Christmas Darwell has their traditional Christmas concert & bake sale! Parents donate baked goods to the bake sale and all proceeds go to community members in need. There is also a raffle to win prizes donated by the community.

STUDENT MARKETS

At the end of the 2023/2024 school year the school hosted the first ever Student Market. Students made and sold their crafts and handiwork at the market, held in the school gym and open to parents and close community. The market was a wild success with positive feedback and the school looks forward to hosting more Student Markets this year!

STONE SOUP/PANCAKE DAY/COMMUNITY BBQ

We normally have various school/community events throughout the year. In the fall we harvest the community garden and invite students to contribute to Stone Soup Day - making soup for the school! It is an amazing tradition and a great community builder.

We also have various pancake and BBQ events. Parents volunteers, organized through the school council, come to the school and set-up, cook, and clean.

CHOIR

The choir is open to students in grades 3 to 7. The Darwell choir performs all through the year, they have opportunities to sing the National Anthem during special events, and they are a huge part of our Christmas concert.

If you love to sing, this is a great group to be in.

HOT DOG DAYS (Grade 7 fundraiser for graduation events)

A bi-weekly school lunch program, students can purchase hot dogs for lunch. They bring and submit money the morning of, and get a hotdog for lunch!