

# The Darwell Dragon Digest

## PowerSchool

This is the program that parents use to see their child's progress in school as well as attendance information. If you have not logged into PowerSchool, there is a link located on our school website on the right of the homepage. The first time you login you will need to do it from a laptop or computer, after that, you can access the information on other devices. If you have lost your username or password please contact the office and we can send that information to you. New students to our school will be receiving an information letter as well as username and password information shortly.

## Reporting Student Absences

Please report if your child will be absent from school the morning of the absence. There are a few ways you can contact the school. Go to our website ([www.darwellschool.ca](http://www.darwellschool.ca)) scroll down the homepage "Attendance Notification", you will simply choose Darwell School or Mrs. Stark (Secretary) as the contact, enter the absence information and submit. You can send an email directly to Mrs. Stark at [terri.stark@ngps.ca](mailto:terri.stark@ngps.ca) or at any time you can call the school 780-892-2478 and leave a detailed message if you call after office hours.

## Transportation

All students will be picked up and dropped off at the home address identified on the registration/validation form. Should you require an alternate seat on another bus, contact the school and we will give you instructions on how to do it online. No bus changes can be made at the school level.

## Validation Forms

During the first week of school, students who attended Darwell School last year will come home with a Validation Form. This form replaces the registration form for the 2024-25 school year. Please read the information letter that will go home with the forms.

## School Council & Betterment Association

The first Darwell School Council and Betterment meeting of this school year will be held at the school on Tuesday, September 17th from 3:30pm-4:30pm. Please arrive after 3:25pm so that the buses will be out of the parking lot so you will have room to park.

## Meet the Staff

Please come and join us for a free hotdog barbecue on Thursday, September 5th from 4:30pm-6:30pm in the playground. You will also have an opportunity to go to your child's classroom during this event. The Darwell Centennial Hall is hosting an Information Night from 5:30-7:30pm to share information with you about clubs and groups that students and parents can join in our community. Please feel free to join them after our Meet the Staff event.

## Terry Fox Run

Students and staff will be participating in the Terry Fox Run on Thursday, September 19th at 1pm. Detailed information will be going home shortly.



**September 2024**

### Important Dates:

3rd: First day of School  
Grades 1-7 &  
Kindergarten Staggered  
Start

5th: Kindergarten  
Staggered Start & Meet  
the Staff BBQ  
4:30-6:30pm

17th: School  
Council/Betterment  
Meeting @ 3:30pm

19th: Terry Fox Run @  
1pm

25th: Gr.4-7 Cross  
Country Run in  
Whitecourt

### No School Dates:

30th: National Day for  
Truth and  
Reconciliation



Northern Gateway  
Public Schools

### **Lunch by the Bunch**

School Council and Betterment will be starting their lunch program in October. These dates will be scheduled on Thursdays and will be put on the calendar.

### **Hot Dog Day**

The grade 7 class uses this as the primary fundraiser for their year-end trip. They will be selling hot dogs for \$2 each on Thursdays, starting in October. These dates will be put on the monthly calendar. Your child will still require snacks and their water bottles on these hot dog days.

### **Learning Commons Information**

Hi, my name is Mrs. J Stark and I am the librarian at Darwell school. I am so excited for this school year! Students will be coming down to the Learning Commons for a combination of literacy instruction, and STEM and STEAM activities. (makerspace)

Students in grades K-3 will be given a book bag, please ensure the book bag and the books are returned on their library days.

### **Library Days (days to take out books)**

Kindergarten- Every Thursday

Grades 1,2,3,4,5,6,7- Mondays and Fridays

### **Makerspace Days (STEM AND STEAM Activities)**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays (Students receive two periods of Makerspace over these three days.)

### **Schedule**

We have made some adjustments to our bell schedule that we would like to share with you.

- 8:30am - Student Drop Off
- 8:40am - Unload Buses
- Classes start 8:50am
- First Recess 10:04am - 10:19am
- Lunch Recess 12:01pm - 12:21pm
- Lunch Period 12:21 - 12:40pm
- Last Recess 1:48pm - 2:03pm
- End of Day 3:13pm

### **Spirit Wear**

We will be wearing our Darwell School spirit wear on Thursdays. If you are new to our school, we will do our best to get you a t-shirt as soon as possible. Please wear red and black if you do not have your spirit wear t-shirt.