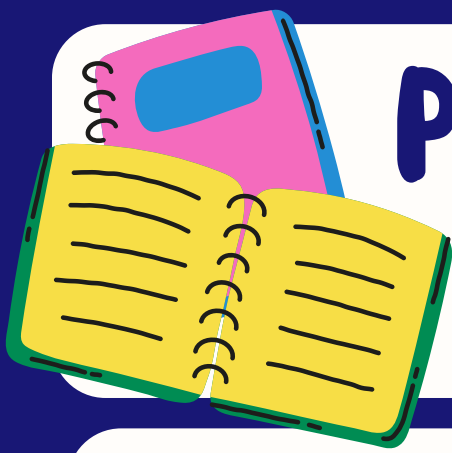
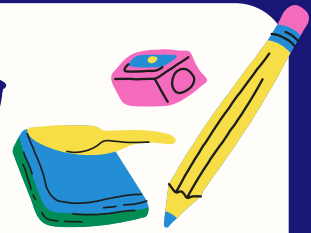




Phillips Weekly

September 19, 2025



Thank you to those who came to our Curriculum Night last night. It was great to see so many families and enjoy a true community vibe!

September

Sept 25 -Terry Fox Run and House Colour Spirit day

Sept 26 Picture Day

Sept 30 -Orange Shirt Day

October

Oct 13 - Thanksgiving NO School

Oct 20 - PA Day

[Dates of Significance](#)



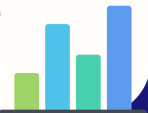
House Colours



Each student has been assigned to a house colour team. Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to earn points for their house colour by participating in a variety of activities. At various points in the year we will also get together in our house colour teams (gr 1-3 and gr 4-8). Your child should be aware of his/her house colour by now.

Our first house colour event is to show your house colour spirit by wearing your assigned colour on our Terry Fox run day!

If possible please have your child wear their house colour on September 25!



Terry Fox Run

Terry Fox run is scheduled for Thursday September 25 in the afternoon. Please dress for outdoor activity (running shoes, water bottle, sunscreen, etc.)

Please use the following link to donate to this very important and very Canadian cause. At some point in our lives, cancer will affect us or those we love. Research has brought treatments a long way, but there is so much still to do to make Terry's dream come true. Here is the link:

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/DrSJPhillipsPSOshawa>

Cash donations also accepted.



Healthy Hunger



We will be having Pizza
Pizza lunches on Tuesdays
and Subway lunches on
Thursdays. There will also
be a special lunch one per
month if If you don't have
an account already, you will
need to go to
healthyhunger.ca and join
our school. Orders must be
placed at least 5 days prior
to a delivery date.

General Reminders:



Arrival/Dismissal

Our arrival and dismissal procedures have improved
so much! Thank you for your commitment to safety
over personal convenience!

Please remember NO U-Turns or 3-point turns in the
Kiss and Ride area!!

School Messenger

Please use the School Messenger App to report
absences, or when picking your child(ren) up early.

Snacks



Next week we will begin a different
format for our snack program. This
program is designed to help our families
with food insecurity or financial
difficulty. Every classroom will have a few
granola bars. In addition the office will
have fresh fruit, yogurt, cheese and
sandwich options. Families, if you have
enough, please send plenty of snacks to
school with your children.

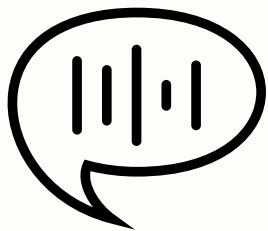
Recess / Yard Behaviour

We are now well into our transition back to
school, routines have been set and safety
rules have been communicated many times.
We have several students who continue to
play roughly, and we are asking all families to
review the expectations for safe play.

- no hands on, pushing, kicking, hitting,
etc.
- use kind words, no swearing or yelling at
each other
- racist, homophobic, transphobic, etc. slurs
or comments are never tolerated
- kindness is expected

School Community Council

Next Thursday evening at 6:30 pm in the library, our SCC will have their first meeting. We invite you to
be a part of this amazing group of parents who work together to help make Phillips the amazing school
that it is! We need new members!! Please consider joining us next Thursday evening. Babysitting is
provided!



COMMUNITY CIRCLES



What Are Community Circles?

Community Circles are a simple but powerful way for students and teachers to build strong, respectful relationships and create a positive classroom environment. Think of them as a regular time when everyone sits together in a circle to talk, listen, and connect.

What happens during a Community Circle?

- Everyone gets a chance to speak – one at a time, often using a talking piece (like a small object passed around).
- Topics vary – sometimes it's about feelings, sometimes it's about solving problems, and sometimes it's just fun (like sharing weekend plans or favorite books).
- No pressure – students can choose to pass if they don't feel like sharing.

Why are Community Circles Important?

- Builds trust and empathy among classmates.
- Teaches communication and listening skills.
- Helps resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Creates a sense of belonging – every voice matters.

How can Families support?

- Ask your child what they talked about in circle time.
- Encourage open conversations at home.
- Celebrate the values of kindness, respect, and inclusion.

Questions:

Each week we will have 2 community circle questions. Students will engage in the community circles with the homeroom classes. Questions are also posted outside our main office and will be shared via the newsletter.

This week's questions

Tell us about one of your hobbies and why you enjoy it?
What is something you want to improve upon? What is your plan?

Next week's questions

What do you enjoy most about school? Why?
Which calming strategies help you when you are feeling upset? Be specific.



Have you had your child's vision checked?

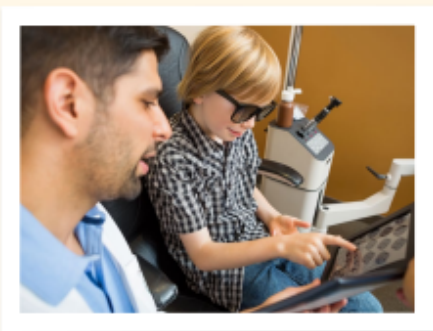
It's **FREE** through OHIP



Did you know?



- 1 in 4 school-aged children may have a vision problem that if left untreated, can affect their learning and development.
- Every year in Ontario 7000 children needlessly lose the use of an eye because they were not treated promptly for a problem.
- 15,000 children have trouble learning to read just because they need glasses.



Why?

- The most common problems are hard to spot without formal tests.
- Most parents do not realize how vital early eye checks are.
- Most parents do not know that OHIP covers eye exams for children.
- Many parents think glasses are too expensive.
- Some parents perceive wearing glasses to be stigmatizing.
- Some parents believe that glasses weaken eyes.

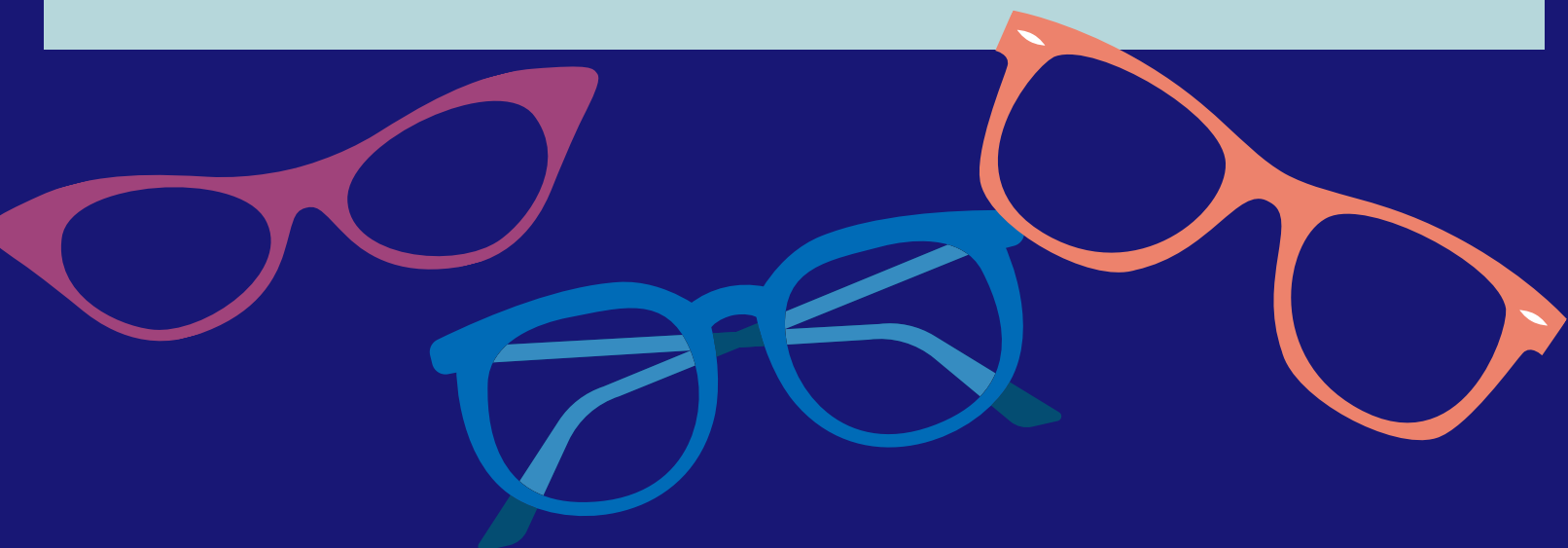


The Fix



- It is recommended that all children up to the age of 19 years have a **FREE** OHIP-covered comprehensive eye examination by their local optometrist each year.
- Before grade 1 every child's eyes ought to be checked and treated if necessary.
- It is important to monitor screen time for your child. With the increased use of digital devices, it's important to encourage regular breaks using the 20-20-20 rule: every 20 minutes, have your child look at something 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds.
- If your child reports difficulty seeing the board, squinting, frequent headaches, or any other vision-related issues, please inform their teacher and consider an eye exam. Healthy eyes lead to a successful school year!

Learn more about visual health or find a list of optometrists near you: durham.ca/visualhealth





Kindergarten

Building Foundational Skills

Essential Life Skills

I can...

- Work with others by sharing, taking turns, and listening to different ideas.
- Share my ideas, ask questions and talk about what I am wondering
- Follow daily routines with growing independence.
- Complete simple tasks on my own and ask for help when I need it.
- Use some problem-solving strategies when needed.
- Explore technology safely and responsibly.
- Share who I am, what I like, and what makes me unique.
- Care for my belongings and materials independently.
- Try new things and try again when something is hard.
- Express my needs and feelings with adults and peers.
- Use calming strategies when I feel upset.

Literacy Milestone

I can...

- Share my ideas, thoughts, questions and feelings in different ways (talking, drawing, writing, or acting them out).
- Recognize and match letters to their sounds.
- Begin reading simple words, blends, and short texts.
- Draw detailed pictures, write words or simple sentences to share my thoughts and ideas.
- Create imaginative stories through play.
- Talk about books, songs, stories that help me learn about others.
- Retell stories or experiences in the order they happened.

Application

I can...

- Write a note, list, label or detailed drawing.
- Read a list, street signs, and/or labels.
- Talk about stories and predict what might happen next.

Numeracy Milestones

I can...

- Count and compare groups of objects in my environment.
- Recognize and represent various numbers.
- Compose and decompose numbers up to 10 using objects, pictures or words.
- Sort, match, find and describe patterns around me.
- Solve problems like "Do we have enough?" and "What comes next?" and use math language to explain my thoughts and ideas.

Application

I can...

- Solve every day math problems like "Do we have enough plates for everyone?"
- Sort laundry or items by colour or type.
- Share items with friends or count how many we have or need.
- Find patterns in the world around me.

Questions Students

Can Ask Educators

- Can I tell you what I am wondering about?
- Can I choose a different way to share?
- Can I share what I created?
- What do I do if I need help?

Family Connections

In Your Language of Choice

This could look like....

- Sing familiar songs together.
- Share stories from other cultures, languages or communities.
- Talk about the best parts of the day.
- Play counting games or find patterns together.
- Do daily tasks together and talk about what is happening.

Questions Families

Can Ask Educators

- How can I support my child's curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving at home?
- What are ways to help my child build independence and confidence?
- How can I encourage my child to express their ideas in different ways?

System Benchmarks (Year two to Kindergarten SK)

Acadience Reading screener

Transferable Skills:



Critical Thinking and Problem Solving



Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship



Self-Directed Learning



Collaboration



Communication



Global Citizenship and Sustainability



Digital Literacy

Grades 1 to 3

Building Foundational Skills

Essential Life Skills

I can...

- Learn and play with others by sharing, taking turns, listening to different ideas and solving problems.
- Follow daily routines and complete simple tasks with growing independence.
- Use strategies to stay calm and focused during learning time.
- Use tools and technology safely to explore and share ideas.
- Share who I am, what I like and what makes me unique.
- Take care of my belongings and classroom material.
- Help others to take part in classroom responsibilities.
- Share what I need with adults and my peers respectfully.
- Make choices and explain why they are important to me.
- Try my best, learn from mistakes and keep trying even when something is hard.

Literacy Milestone

I can...

- Share my ideas, thoughts and feelings in various ways.
- Recognize letters, sounds, blends and simple words.
- Read and write simple sentences and messages.
- Read and understand short decodable texts.
- Retell stories or experiences in a logical sequence.
- Ask questions about what I read and reflect on how it connects to my world.

Application

I can...

- Read street signs, menus and labels.
- Write notes, labels or create drawings.
- Discuss stories and ask questions like, "What was your favorite part?"
- Talk about stories that reflect a variety of cultures and identities.

Numeracy Milestones

I can...

- Count by 2's, 3's, 5's and 10's.
- Recognize numbers up to 100.
- Add and subtract within 100 using objects, pictures or words.
- Begin to use multiplication and division by grouping.
- Identify and describe patterns in everyday life.
- Begin exploring fractions using real-world items.
- Share how I solved a math problem.

Application

I can...

- Count objects at home and in community.
- Spot patterns in clothing, tiles or nature. Compare, sort and make fair decisions.
- Solve simple addition or subtraction problems.

Questions Students

Can Ask Educators

- Can I learn about something I am curious about?
- Can I show my learning in a different way?
- What can I do if I need help?
- How can I improve?

Family Connections

In Your Language of Choice

This could look like....

- Make up stories or retell family traditions.
- Talk during family activities about your child's favorite part of the day.
- Talk about health habits, rest and routines.
- Celebrate what your child is proud of.
- Read and talk about books, videos, podcasts, etc.
- Play counting games and highlight patterns.
- Measure ingredients while preparing meals.

Questions Families

Can Ask Educators

- How can I support my child's curiosity and problem-solving?
- How can I help my child build independence and responsibility?
- How can I help my child explore their interests and strengths?
- Can you tell me about the EQAO?
- How can I help my child prepare?

System Benchmarks (by the end of Grade 2)

Acadience Reading screener, Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) assessment

Transferable Skills:



Critical Thinking and Problem Solving



Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship



Self-Directed Learning



Collaboration



Communication



Global Citizenship and Sustainability



Digital Literacy

Grades 4 to 6

Applying Foundational Skills

Essential Life Skills

I can...

- Work with others on projects, navigate challenges with a positive attitude and listen to different perspectives.
- Try new tasks, apply feedback and persevere when learning is difficult.
- Use calming strategies when I feel frustrated and know when to ask for help.
- Use various digital tools to organize, create and share ideas.
- Talk about my strengths and next steps in learning.
- Respect differences and learn about cultures and communities different from my own.
- Develop goal-setting strategies and independent work habits.
- Understand online safety, and practice responsible use.
- Organize digital and non-digital learning materials.
- Identify when I make a mistake and make it right.
- Make choices about my learning and explain why they are important to me.

System Benchmarks

[Grade 6 EQAO assessment](#)

Transferable Skills:



Critical Thinking
and Problem Solving



Innovation, Creativity
and Entrepreneurship



Self-Directed
Learning

Numeracy Milestones

I can...

- Recall or use multiplication and division facts up to 12 multiplied by 12.
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide to solve problems.
- Represent, compare, and order fractions, decimals and percentages.
- Solve problems involving ratios, proportions, and basic algebra and explain my thinking.

Application

I can...

- Calculate discounts, prices and taxes.
- Divide items equally.
- Compare costs or quantities in daily tasks.
- Create and interpret graphs to show data.
- Plan how to save money or save for a goal.

Questions Students

Can Ask Educators

- Are there different ways I can show my learning?
- What are my next steps in learning?
- How can I improve?
- How can I contribute to the school and classroom community?
- What can I do when I am stuck?

Family Connections

In Your Language of Choice

This could look like...

- Support your child in asking questions, setting goals and finishing tasks.
- Bake together and talk about measurement and planning.
- Compare shopping prices and talk about budgeting.
- Talk positively about math.
- Encourage journaling or writing or telling short stories.
- Read together for enjoyment.
- Discuss fairness, kindness and respect.
- Play games together that involve turn taking and problem solving.

Questions Families

Can Ask Educators

- How can I help my child explore different interests and strengths?
- How can I help my child to reflect on their learning and set goals?
- Can you tell me more about EQAO and how my child is being prepared for this experience? How can I help?
- How can I build my child's confidence in learning?



Collaboration



Communication



Global Citizenship
and Sustainability



Digital
Literacy

Grades 7 to 10

Demonstrating Critical Thinking Skills

Essential Life Skills

I can...

- Contribute ideas, listen actively and work through conflicts across various settings, showing respect for different perspectives.
- Design innovative presentations, reports, or multimedia projects using digital tools.
- Identify my strengths and next steps.
- Set personal, academic or career goals and plans to achieve them.
- Manage time effectively by prioritizing assignments and responsibilities.
- Use technology and tools responsibly to plan research and communicate my ideas.
- Understand appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- Advocate for myself and others respectfully.
- Explore pathways and career options through [myBlueprint](#).
- Reflect on the impact of my actions.

System Benchmarks

[Grade 9 Numeracy assessment, Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test \(OSSLT\), 16 credits by age 16](#)

Transferable Skills:



Critical Thinking
and Problem Solving



Innovation, Creativity
and Entrepreneurship



Self-Directed
Learning

Literacy Milestone

I can...

- Read and respond to increasingly complex texts.
- Understand and analyze texts from various sources, question sources, explain my perspective, potential bias, the author's intent.
- Express and support my ideas clearly.
- Think critically about different viewpoints: communicate and write about complex ideas and real-world issues.
- Research and defend an opinion on a topic of interest and engage in respectful dialogue.
- Create persuasive arguments about topics that matter to me.

Application

I can...

- Watch documentaries or read articles and discuss purpose and message.
- Critically analyze advertisements or media.
- Compare product reviews.
- Present my thinking in a variety of ways (podcast, digital story, multi-media).

Numeracy Milestones

I can...

- Use algebra and spatial reasoning to solve problems.
- Perform operations with fractions, decimals and integers.
- Solve linear equations and interpret graphs in real-world contexts.
- Connect statistics and probability in real life.
- Explore trigonometric concepts in practical applications.
- Explain my reasoning and reflect on my strategies.

Application

I can...

- Plan a budget and savings plan using real costs.
- Compare sports statistics or weather patterns; analyzing data trends and making predictions.
- Use trigonometry to calculate heights or distances.
- Manage personal budgets, including saving for goals.

Questions Students Can Ask Educators

- Can I share my learning in a different way?
- Are there other ways I could access this learning?
- What is [30 Credits My Way](#)? Can we explore my options together?
- How can I positively contribute to my school and community?

Family Connections

In Your Language of Choice

This could look like...

- Watch or listen to educational shows, podcasts or documentaries.
- Discuss goals, choices and career possibilities.
- Compare prices for purchases.
- Discuss the basics of money.
- Talk about your child's ideas, values and current events.
- Compare news articles or media coverage.
- Explore [myBlueprint](#) together.
- Establish a consistent study time and place.

Questions Families

Can Ask Educators

- What opportunities are available for my child to explore career opportunities?
- How can I support my child to be an independent and reflective learner?
- What is [30 Credits My Way](#)?
- How does the [Grade 9 EQAO Math Test](#) and the OSSLT impact my child?
- What summer school opportunities exist?
- How and when does my child need to complete their volunteer hours?



Collaboration



Communication



Global Citizenship
and Sustainability



Digital
Literacy