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Principal
Mrs. D. Opersko

Office Coordinator
Mrs. S. Hofland



Q – Why can't you iron a four leaf clover?

A – Because you shouldn't press your luck!

Important Dates for the Month:

Mar. 1, 8, 22, 29	Grade 4 Swimming
Tues., March 5th	Pancakes provided by the Nutrition Program, Student Census for Grades 4 - 8
Wed., March 6th	Grade 4 students to Backus Mill
Friday, March 8th	Pajama Spirit Day
March 11 -15	MARCH BREAK Happy St. Patrick's Day on March 17 th !
Thurs., March 21st	Grade 4 drummers at the Legion at 2 p.m.
Friday, March 22nd	Inside Out Spirit Day
Thursday, March 28th	Blue Jay Spirit Day
Friday, March 29th	Earth Hour lights out and technology off from 2 to 3 p.m. throughout the school

Principal's Message:

The school days are zipping by and there are lots of activities to look forward to this month.

For families with students in Grade 3 or 6, please mark the following dates on your calendar as the EQAO assessment dates for our school:

GRADE 6 – May 22 to 24 GRADE 3 – May 28 to 30

Your co-operation to not plan any family holidays or appointments during this time is appreciated, as all Grade 3 and 6 students in the province are included in this assessment.

March will most likely bring lots of water and mud around the school and school yard. Please ensure your children continue to come dressed for the weather, with outdoor shoes or boots. Even though it's March the weather can still be chilly and students will be asked to dress warmly and to keep their coats on at recess time.

Have a wonderful March Break holiday!

Mrs. Opersko

Sincere thanks to all of our volunteers who joined our students when classes were skating at the arena. We appreciated your help to supervise and tie up skates. We couldn't have had all this fun and exercise without you!

Speeches:

Congratulations to all of our students in Grades 3 to 8 who wrote and presented a speech this year! Thanks to Mrs. Stronks for organizing this event and to our guest judges Mr. Hogg, Ms. Barber and Ms. Cobb.

School Competition					
Primary		Junior		Intermediate	
First	Bailey Stronks	First	Brilee Ethier	First	Seth Woods
Second	Karsyn Stronks	Second	Grace Herron	Second	Kennason Boudreault
Legion Competition					
First	Karsyn Stronks	Third	Grace Herron	First	Seth Woods
Third	Bailey Stronks				
Congratulations also to Brilee Ethier and Kennason Boudreault for also representing our school at this advanced level.					

Expectations for Ice and Snow:

With the extreme weather we've been having, it's a good time to review the school's expectations for safety.

- Once the temperature falls below zero the ground will freeze. It is hard, like cement. The playground equipment, including the swings, will be closed.
- Enjoy the snow but remember it must stay on the ground. No throwing snow, kicking snow or putting snow on others (i.e. in their faces, down their clothes). This includes throwing snow at the school building or even up in the air, as it could land on someone who is not paying attention.
- Students will miss school activities (i.e. dance, turkey dinner, class trips etc.) as a consequence. If you cannot be trusted to keep everyone safe on school property, you will not be allowed to participate in our special activities. If you hurt someone with snow or ice you can be suspended.
- Be respectful of the things other people make out of snow. Don't break or destroy what someone else has created. This creates bad feelings amongst students. Staff members do not have time to "police" this.
- Sometimes students make huge snowballs. This is permitted as long as students are not standing on them, sitting on them or jumping off them.
- If there is ice on the yard or blacktop, students are not allowed to slide on it. If you fall you can be seriously injured.
- Once recess is over, if you are coated in snow, take a moment to brush off, stamp your feet and try to leave the snow outside. It's really important that when the hallway is wet from melted snow that you have your indoor shoes on. Also if we need to have a drill or need to leave the building quickly, you won't have the time to stop and put something on your feet.

Sincere thanks to our Nutrition Program volunteers who will be making and providing pancakes for the ENTIRE school on Tuesday, March 5th. This is a huge undertaking and we appreciate how much you spoil us!



Skate-a-Thon Highlights:

The Skate-a-thon was held on Saturday, Feb 23rd and it was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who came, volunteered, and raised money to support this amazing cause. All five schools worked together to raise about ten thousand dollars. What an awesome team effort!!! The Waterford Lions are very grateful for everyone's effort. Each school raised more money than they did last year and that is something to be proud of. The Waterford Lions will be back to present the results at an assembly very soon. Our school raised the most money of the participating schools. Thanks also to Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Pragnell for planning and organizing our school's participation in this event, and to our student and staff helpers who led the school challenges.

Just a Reminder:

Last fall, the Government of Ontario passed the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which prohibits smoking tobacco or cannabis as well as all vaping in public areas, including schools.

The new law specifically states that a person cannot smoke or vape in or around a school. This includes all indoor spaces and all outdoor areas like playgrounds and sports fields. It also prohibits smoking and vaping in public areas within 20 metres of the property line of a school or School Board facility. For reference, 20 metres equals 65 feet, or the approximate length of 1.5 school buses.

A person caught smoking or vaping in a prohibited area may be charged with an offence and subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 for a first offence, if convicted.

To assist Grand Erie with this change, the local Health Unit will be providing new signage for all schools and Board facility sites. Through our Public Health Nurses, education information will be available for those looking to quit smoking or vaping. The Board will also be removing all traditional smoking and vaping areas.

Understandably, this is a significant change that will require everyone's cooperation. We don't want to see anyone charged. Therefore, we're asking for your support and assistance in ensuring everyone meets the requirements of this new law.

For more information on the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, visit: <https://bit.ly/2FGV4y5>.

Kindergarten Registration:

Now is the time to enroll your children at our school for September 2019. This includes students for Junior Kindergarten or new students for Senior Kindergarten. It is important that you register now so the school board will know our enrolment numbers for Kindergarten classes in September. Knowing the number of students we will have as soon as possible will let us know how many teachers and Early Childhood Educators we will be allotted. We appreciate your assistance to pass on this information to friends and family in our school community. Do not wait until September, please register NOW!

Q - Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun?

A - Because they are always a little short.

Q - How is a best friend like a four leaf clover?

A - Because they are hard to find and lucky to have.

