



May Report

2026

Strides for Students



The inaugural Grand Erie Strides for Students event, where every stride you take helps pave the way for student success, takes place on June 13.

Strides for Students is more than a fundraiser. It's a movement to support learning, opportunity, and brighter futures for students across Grand Erie.

Tee off to Support a Great Cause

Join us for the inaugural [Grand Erie Learning Open](#) on August 5 at 1 p.m. at MontHill Golf and Country Club. All proceeds will support programs and initiatives that remove barriers, strengthens mental health supports, and creates opportunities for Grand Erie students to thrive.



Family Night



Hagersville Elementary School, Walpole North, Jarvis Public School and Hagersville Secondary School partnered to provide a parent and family engagement evening for families where they could visit Hagersville Secondary School and participate in interactive activities offered by Hagersville Secondary School students. Activities included planting in the greenhouse, games in the gymnasium, a show with Rumble and Friends and internet safety with Norfolk OPP Officer Andrew Gamble.

Indigenous Arts Session



Participants learned about various art forms and mediums through an Artist Panel, featuring sculpture, video/media, beading, etc. They also learned about the artists' process, and how their culture and history is reflected within their work and had the opportunity to engage in replicable lessons that reflected Indigenous artforms and mediums, while making connections to common themes found within Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

Grade 7 Tour

Grade 7 Six Nations elementary students from Emily C. General, I.L. Thomas, J.C. Hill, and Oliver M. Smith Kawenni:io toured Grand Erie secondary schools. This day was part of our transition plan for students to become familiar with the various secondary options that Grand Erie has to offer Six Nations' students and Indigenous mentors.



3rd Annual Cultural Day at Walter Gretzky



This special evening provided students at Walter Gretzky Elementary School with the opportunity to showcase their diverse talents and cultural experiences through dance, music, and cuisine.

Following the performances, guests were invited to take part in a “passport” experience and sample a variety of international foods, thoughtfully curated through partnerships with local vendors. Additional activities included soccer and cricket games, as well as artistic experiences such as henna and face painting.

Grand River Envirothon



The Grand River Envirothon regional competition day was hosted by the University of Waterloo. This is the second part of the Envirothon program where the student teams of 5 from Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Delhi District took what they learned through the workshop day, their classes, and additional studying, and completed a number of knowledge and skill testing activities related to forestry, soils, aquatics, wildlife, and non-point source pollution.

During the Envirothon the students navigated the tests and fieldwork.

The team at Pauline Johnson Collegiate received a special shout-out on their overall fieldwork performance, and the Delhi District team was informed they scored first place on the soils activities.

Missy D French Concert at the Sanderson Centre

Approximately 1000 intermediate students gathered at the Sanderson Centre for a special concert.

Students were actively engaged in the concert, some having made signs in advance, and sang and danced along with Missy D. It was an interactive concert.

Un gros merci to ImmersArt, Canadian Parents for French, the Sanderson Centre staff, bus drivers, teachers, and chaperones!



Lab at Tollgate



Students at Tollgate Technical Skills Centre have been studying sources of electricity and our environmental footprint. They discussed how much effort goes their favourite foods and then made bean salad with local ingredients. The students were able to experience the idea of switching out one meat meal per week for a vegetarian option to shrink their carbon footprint.

Smile Cookie Contest



Elementary school administrators along with students participated in a kick-off of the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign in Caledonia. Administrators participated in a decorating contest that the students were able to judge. Good job to Jessica Rypma, principal at River Heights Public School for coming in second place. Additionally, many administrators also participated in decorating Smile cookies in the Caledonia Tim Hortons locations.

Education Week - Excellence in Motion



Grand Erie celebrated Excellence in Motion. It was a fantastic way to kick off Education Week, with student performances, fun hands-on sessions and informative booths where families learned about Grand Erie's programs and services.

Student Senate & United Indigenous Student Council



Student Senators gathered to celebrate year-end initiatives led by the Student Trustees, highlighting student leadership and engagement across the system. Attendees participated in a Cultural Showcase, which featured food, dance, music, and informational displays representing a wide range of countries and cultures. Students from Walter Gretzky School delivered performances of traditional Afro-Caribbean and Punjabi Bhangra dances, showcasing cultural expression and inclusivity. As part of ongoing student well-being and learning initiatives, hygiene kits and a trilogy of poetry books by former Gimaa Stacy Laforme were distributed to each secondary school. Members of the United Indigenous Student Council learned about the importance of strawberries in Indigenous teachings and were each given a strawberry plant to take home.

Annual Plant Sale

McKinnon Park's Secondary School's Annual Plant Sale was recently highlighted on [CHCH](#), showcasing the school community's successful fundraising efforts. Held on May 9, the event was a success with the strong involvement and support of students, staff, and families.



Relay for Life



Cayuga Secondary School recently hosted a successful Relay for Life fundraiser, welcoming students from McKinnon Park and Hagersville Secondary to take part. Through their combined efforts, an impressive \$60,000 was raised in support of cancer research and awareness.

Annie Jr.



Jarvis Public School staff and students wowed audiences with lively performances of *Annie Jr.*

Through energetic songs, engaging choreography, and confident performances, students showcased their talents and hard work, with the support and dedication of school staff. The production was a wonderful celebration of creativity, teamwork, and the performing arts.

Art Soup 2026



Art Soup was a resounding success, welcoming 107 elementary students for a full day of creative exploration at Brantford Collegiate Institute. Supported by secondary educators Mrs. Romphf, Mr. Barecca, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Sweetingham, and Mrs. Petrou, students rotated through engaging arts workshops that highlighted the depth of BCI's Integrated Arts programming. Throughout the day, students designed and printed silkscreen tote bags, pressed their own custom buttons, practiced rhythm activities and played the ukulele, explored hip hop dance, and practiced expressive fairytale-themed tableaux.

Secondary student volunteers played a key role in the day's success, mentoring visiting students as group leaders, supporting individual art strands, and with photography students capturing and learning about event photography. BCI staff and students infused the day with energy, leadership, and a strong sense of hospitality. Art Soup provided a meaningful introduction to secondary arts pathways while fostering creativity, collaboration, and excitement for future learning.

Epic Jobs



1,200 Grade 7 and 8 Grand Erie students attend Epic Jobs, which is a great experiential experience for our students.

Brantford Sports Council

The Brantford Sports Council recognized its nominees and **winners** during its awards banquet:

- Finney Memorial Award – Sportsmanship and Dedication: **William Finch**, Football, Brantford Collegiate Institute
- Phyllis Gretzky Memorial Award – Female Youth Leadership: **Ryleigh Lofgren**, Multi-Sports, Brantford Collegiate Institute; Sophie Vandenbrink, Multi-Sports, Pauline Johnson Collegiate; Sydney Kipp, Softball, Pauline Johnson Collegiate
- Frank Bricker Memorial Award – Male Youth Leadership: **Trudeau Gulati**, Multi-Sports, Paris District; William Finch, Football, Brantford Collegiate Institute
- Dave Levac Award – Excellence in Sports Officiating: **Andrew Advincula**, Volleyball, North Park Collegiate; Maddison Smith, Hockey, Paris District
- Jimmy Wilkes Memorial Award – Team of the Year: **Brantford Collegiate Institute Senior Boys Rugby Team**
- **Sydney Kipp**, Pauline Johnson Collegiate, was also the winner of a \$1,000 bursary



Junior Citizen of the Year Award



Delhi District Secondary School student Talia Mago received the Junior Citizen of the Year award from the Delhi District Chamber of Commerce. In addition to her academic responsibilities, the youngster is also the Delhi District Student Body president while also involved in the school's Linked Crew Leadership Program, Friday Night Lights football event, and helping at the Delhi Sharing Pantry food bank.

Words Matter Campaign

This year marked a highly successful implementation of the Words Matter campaign across the Grand Erie District School Board, delivered in partnership with Harmony Movement. This initiative directly supported the Board's Multi-Year Plan priorities by promoting student well-being, fostering a sense of belonging, and strengthening inclusive learning environments.



Pauline Johnson Collegiate Thunderbird Event



Pauline Johnson Collegiate hosted its Thunderbird Festival, a meaningful celebration of culture, community, and student leadership. Indigenous students shared their voices with pride in a safe and inclusive space, while many stepped confidently into leadership roles. The day culminated in powerful student performances, leaving families, staff, and community members inspired and proud.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Awareness Day (Red Dress Day)

MMIWG has been described as a Canadian national crisis. In September 2016, in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the decades long advocacy from families and survivors, the Government of Canada launched the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. According to the inquiry's findings, between the years 1980 and 2012, Indigenous women and girls represented 16% of all female homicides in Canada, while constituting only 4% of the female population in Canada

Six Nations Community Awareness Activities

Grand Erie's Indigenous Education Team participated in Six Nations awareness activities offering an opportunity to learn more about programs and supports in Grand Erie. There were information sessions on Land Based Learning, Pathway Planning, and Applying to Post Secondary in the US.



Staff Recognition



This month, we recognized and celebrated [National Principal's Day](#) on May 1, [National Skilled Trades Day](#) on May 7, [School Communicators Day](#) on May 8, [National Speech Pathologist and Communicative Disorders Assistants Day](#) on May 18, and [Human Resources Day](#) on May 20. Later this month, it's [National Accessibility Week](#).