



Excellence in Motion



Director's Annual Report
2024 – 2025

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Director's Message

The past year was one of growth and momentum. Together, we've witnessed powerful examples of curiosity in action, confident exploration, creative and critical thinking, and most importantly, connection in every corner of Grand Erie. This collective energy defined another year of collaboration, and in looking back, we can take pride in how far we've come.

I am proud to share the following report, outlining just some of our achievements. Every classroom, school, program and partnership contribute greatly to our mission.

I want to thank the Senior Leadership Team, Board of Trustees, Administrators, Educators and Support Staff. Your dedication and support move us forward each day.



Dr. JoAnna Roberto, PhD

Director of Education-CEO and Secretary of the Board

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan continues to guide our work to Learn, Lead and Inspire. These words represent our commitment to learn from each other, lead together and inspire those we serve to build a culture of learning, well-being and belonging for all.

From board-level programs to school-based initiatives, our mission and vision inform our work and bring purpose to everything we do.



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Board of Trustees

Thank you to our Trustees for their leadership and support of learning.



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Tom Waldschmidt
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Liz Whiton
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Aidyn Hill
STUDENT TRUSTEE
INDIGENOUS

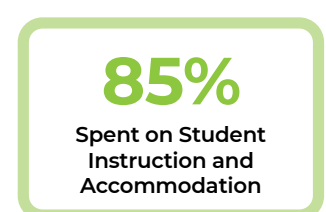
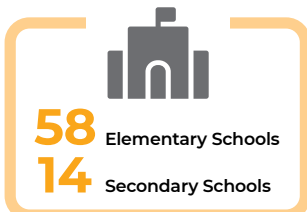
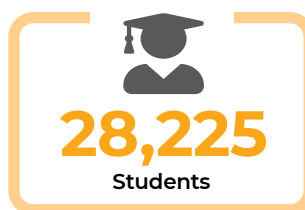


Olivia Prince
STUDENT TRUSTEE
SOUTH



Caitlyn Shields
STUDENT TRUSTEE
NORTH

Grand Erie by the Numbers



Learning Elementary

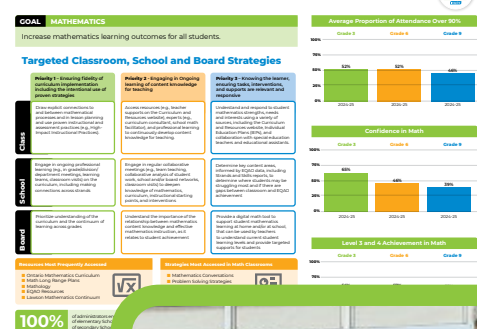
Accomplishments

- 100% of SK to Grade 2 educators received support with implementing instructional practices that address student literacy needs as identified through the Acadience Early Reading Screener
- Staff participated in a variety of learning, with a focus on math and literacy for elementary and secondary educators
- 100% of teachers new to teaching K to Grade 2 and all Grade 3 teachers completed Part 1 of Literacy Professional Learning
- 92% of primary students and 90% of junior students indicate that they understand most of the math that has been taught
- Grade 7 and 8 students from Waterford Public School **moved into a new intermediate campus within** Waterford District High School
- As students made strides in learning, their educators were right there with them, advancing their own education through **Additional Qualifications (AQ)**

Math Results 2022-23 – 2023-24

Grade 3 ↑ 2%
Grade 6 ↑ 4%
Grade 9 ↑ 3%

Grand Erie Math Achievement Plan Overview



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Learning Elementary

Innovation Hub is Ready for the Future, Today 🔗

Students, staff, families and Trustees cut a ribbon to officially open the Innovation Hub, a first-of-its-kind space for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) learning in Grand Erie. Since then, 1,790 students have visited the **Innovation Hub** and 1,960 students have participated in live outreach sessions from the Innovation Hub



Kick-Start to Kindergarten: Big Beginnings for Little Learners 🔗

At Kick-Start to Kindergarten, families had a chance to meet and greet educators, participate in the Looksee developmental screening and connect with the community partners that help Grand Erie build safe and welcoming learning spaces.



InnovateHER Summer Camp

Grand Erie launched a new camp for young women eager to dive into all things technology. InnovateHER marked a week of empowerment, creativity and mentorship, as young women uncovered technological solutions to real-world problems.



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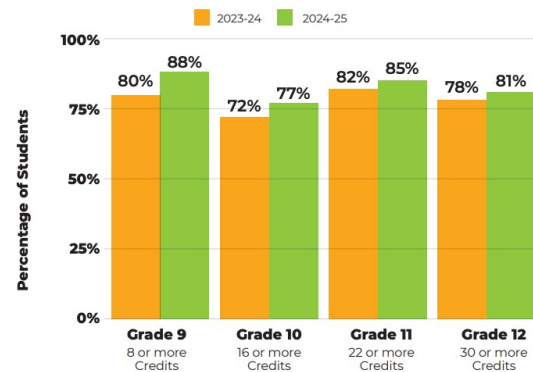


Learning Secondary

Accomplishments

- 262 credits achieved by 111 vocational students
- Two students won the prestigious **James Hillier scholarship** with plans to study robotics and climate change

Percentage of Students on Track to Graduate



\$100,000 Scholarship Launches Tomorrow's Leaders 🔗

Not one but two Grand Erie students received the prestigious Schulich Leader scholarship, valued at an incredible \$100,000. Judy Gao, a Grade 12 student at McKinnon Park Secondary School, and Jack Gillespie, a Grade 12 student at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School, are two of just 100 students across the country to be awarded this scholarship



Judy Gao



Jack Gillespie

Ford Donation Gives Dunnville Students Hands-on Experience 🔗

The Ford ACE program donated parts to eight Grand Erie District School Board schools. A variety of parts were donated, including engines, transmissions, steering racks, turbo chargers and fuel injectors.



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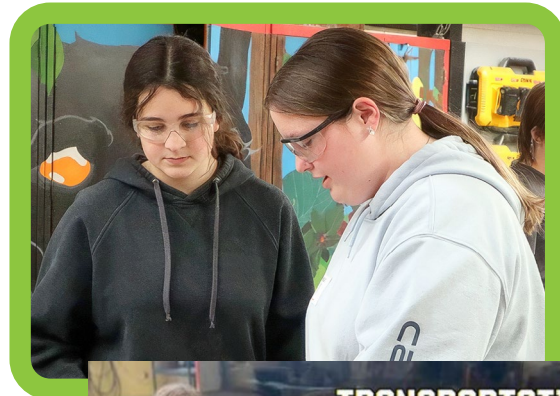
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Learning Secondary

Paris District High School Hosts Women in Trades Workshop to Inspire Future Skilled Workers 🔗

Grade 7 and 8 girls were invited to learn about career opportunities in the skilled trades such as construction, manufacturing, hospitality, and horticulture.



Tech is Grand

Tech Is Grand is an opportunity to showcase students and educators while highlighting pathways in technology at Grand Erie. One initiative was promotional videos created by schools to highlight what makes their school grand.



Click to watch the video

Graduation Ceremonies

Secondary schools have completed their graduation ceremonies. We offer our congratulations and best wishes for these graduates as they move on to the next step in their life journey.



Course Selection Resources

New tools were created to support educators and guidance teachers with Grade 9 to 12 course selection. The goal was to make course selection an easy process for students and educators.



Ontario Skills Competition

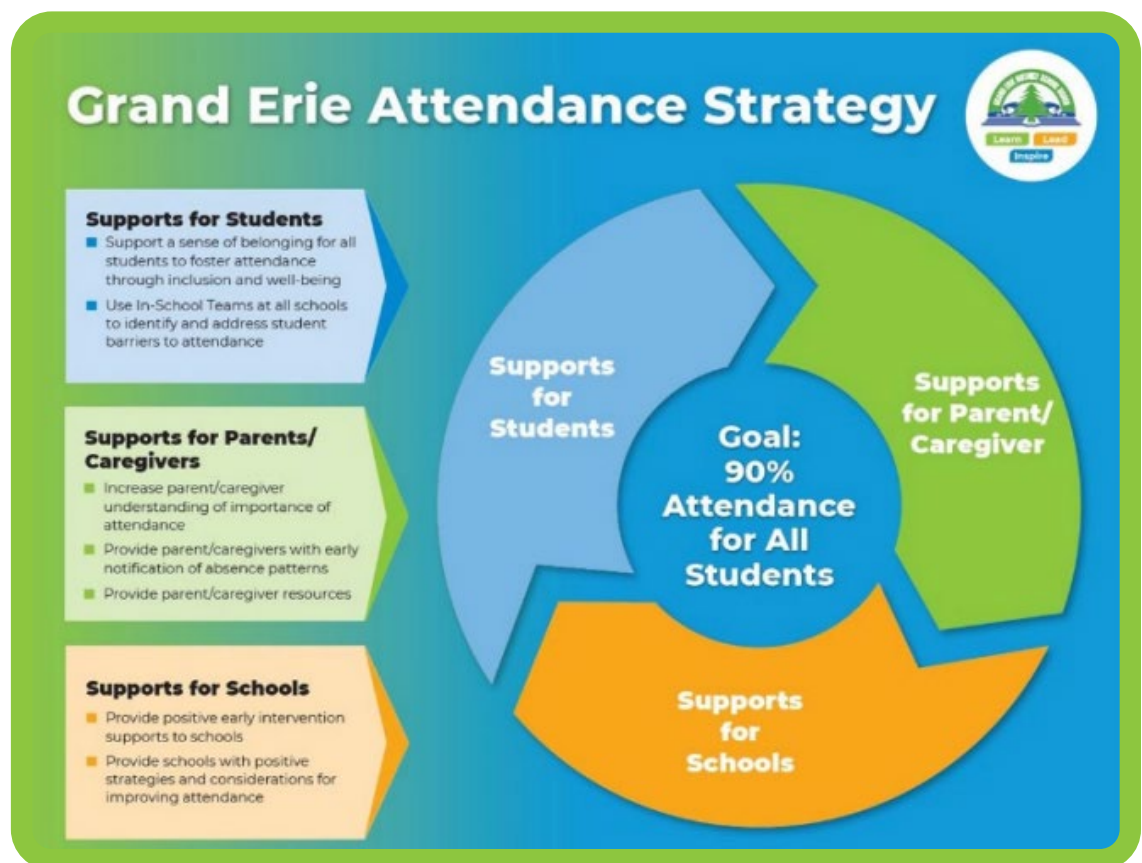
Brooke-Lynn Criddle-Brown and Wishv Jitendrakumar Patel, both students at Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, competed in the Ontario Skills qualifier at Niagara College, placing first and fourth, respectively. Both earned a spot at the provincial Ontario Skills competition.



Mental Health and Well-Being

Accomplishments

- The Attendance Toolkit was developed, distributed and implemented, with targeted advertising focused on the importance of attendance
- 438 employees completed the **MEHRIT Shanker training**, and 28 elementary schools participated in the school-based micro-credential Shanker Method 101
- 181 Grand Erie students received summer program support



Mental Health and Well-Being

Getting Loud for Mental Health and Well-Being 🔗

At the third annual “Wellness Out Loud” event, over 200 student wellness ambassadors from secondary and elementary schools gathered to participate in interactive workshops, such as sound bathing, therapy dogs, and nervous-system regulation, designed to deepen their understanding of mental health and equip them with practical coping strategies.



Riding the Wave of Emotions at Dunnville Secondary School

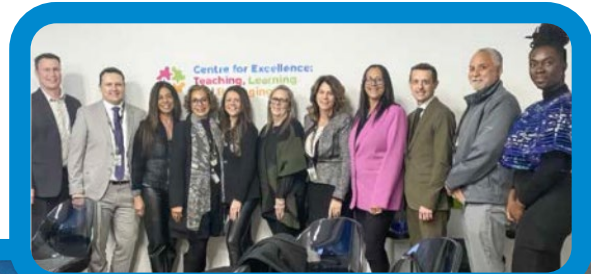
A collaborative art project at Dunnville Secondary School saw students expressing emotions without words as part of Mental Health Week. The art was arranged in a wave, an idea provided by the student council aligning with the well-being concept of riding the wave of emotions when experiencing intense and complex feelings.



Belonging

Accomplishments

- **The Centre for Excellence: Teaching, Learning and Belonging** officially opened
- To celebrate Black Joy, the African Caribbean Cultural Club from Walter Gretzky Elementary School and Carnival Spice Dancing Company were invited to perform at the Centre for Excellence
- This year's Special Olympics Summer Games were hosted in the Grand Erie region, bringing together students with and without intellectual disabilities to **explore inclusive sports**
- Grand River Public School and Blanche E. Williams Public School **received their new names**
- Grand Erie launched a **Cricket program**, introducing local students to the global game



Belonging

Grand Erie Partners with Toronto Holocaust Museum to Transform Education Through Immersive Learning [🔗](#)

Grand Erie launched a partnership with the Toronto Holocaust Museum to provide immersive learning experiences, centred on deepening understanding of the Holocaust.



A New Welcome Centre

We officially opened the new Grand Welcome Centre. Located just inside the Joseph Brant Learning Centre, this space is designed to support new families to Grand Erie and the diversity of the communities we serve.



Iftar Celebration at Walter Gretzky

Walter Gretzky Elementary School hosted an Iftar celebration, inviting learners and families to come together for the evening fast-breaking meal. It was an opportunity to learn from each other, with activities centered around Ramadan, while creating welcoming, inclusive spaces where students and families see themselves reflected in their school community.



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Belonging

Grand Erie Launches PROSE Modules to Foster Positive, Collaborative Learning Environments with Police

Grand Erie released the Police Resource Outreach Supporting Education (PROSE™) modules aligned with Ontario curriculum expectations. The curriculum initiative was followed by the launch of an extensive review and consultation process outlined in the Police in Schools Review Report (June 2023). The updated program is guided by recommendations prioritizing inclusivity, transparency, and the unique needs of Grand Erie's diverse school communities.



Community Donation Changes the Game for Cayuga Secondary School

After learning about the tight-knit community's struggle to relaunch its football program, Haldimand County resident Frank Rao donated \$10,869 for 25 new helmets and funding for future seasons.



Eco Symposium

Another signature event in Grand Erie, the Eco Symposium, brought together students from across the district with a variety of speakers, demonstrations and hands-on activities at the beautiful venue of Campfire Circle in Waterford. The day is an opportunity to engage learners in environmental stewardship and empower them to make a positive impact on their local communities and the planet.



Indigenous Education

Accomplishments

- 271 Six Nations and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation students from Grade 7 and 8 participated in Indigenous-focused “Tech is Grand” Day
- 32 Indigenous students were re-engaged at Grand Erie secondary schools
- 100% of Ojibwe students earned an Indigenous Language Course credit
- A hands-on **student art project** educated learners on the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls



Learning and Leadership on Truth and Reconciliation 🔗

Schools actively engaged in learning about the legacy of the residential school system and Indigenous perspectives during Truth and Reconciliation Week — from hosting survivor dialogue and classroom discussions on colonial impacts to student-led literature projects and interactive displays promoting Indigenous voices and culture.



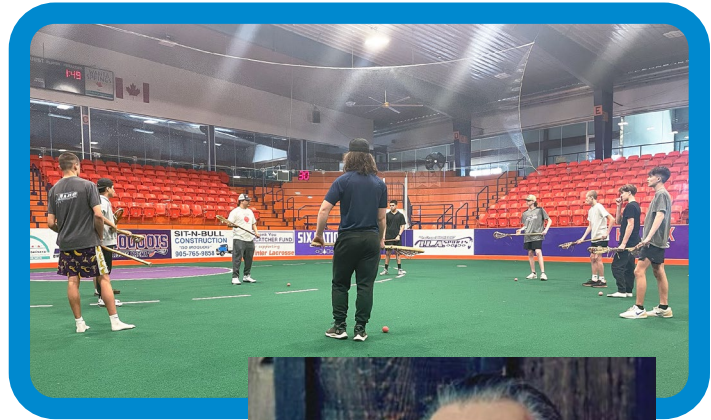
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Indigenous Education

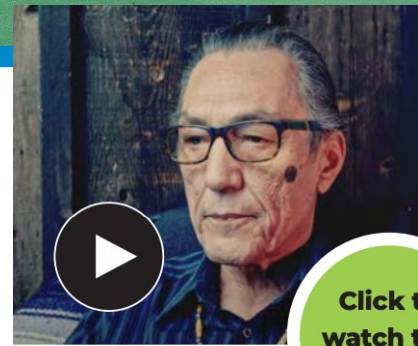
Lacrosse Expands Across Grand Erie Schools with Growing Support 🔗

Grand Erie continued work with the Haudenosaunee Sports Development Group to support a Lacrosse-focused Specialist High Skills Major at McKinnon Park Secondary School.



Earth Week in Grand Erie

Earth Week offered the chance to acknowledge the deep connections we share with the land, water and all living beings. To invite schools to reflect on these connections, Teyhahenteh Miller, a respected Mohawk voice in our community, shared aspects of the Thanksgiving Address/Ohentoh Kariwahtekwen in a special Earth Week message. This message situates the importance of environmental stewardship, community connection and gratitude for creation, fostered in our schools during Earth Week through a variety of activities and learning.



Click to
watch the
video

Connecting our Learning Communities

Students and staff had the opportunity to listen to and participate in a presentation by Thomas Porter of the Bear Clan of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne. Sakokwenionkwas or "The One Who Wins" is nationally respected as an elder of the Mohawk Nation, and he shared his message on the theme of "Connecting our Learning Communities."



Six Nations/MCFN Presentations

Grand Erie presented an overview of the Education Service Agreement Progress Reports to the Six Nations of the Grand River, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The reports highlighted programs and student achievement.



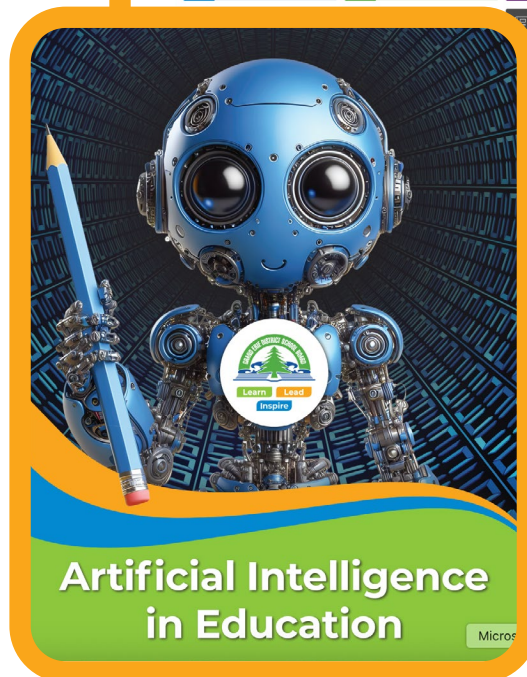
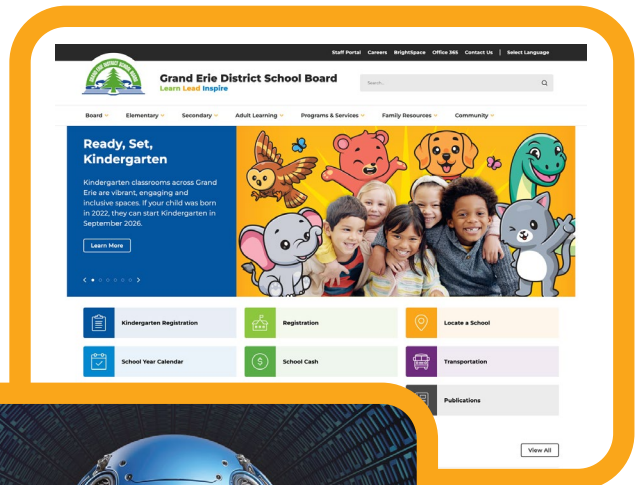
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Support Services

Accomplishments

- All elementary schools received and installed Kindergarten banners
- 3,424 support documents designed and produced for departments across Grand Erie
- 1.9 million social media accounts reached
- Launched a redesigned www.granderie.ca
- Developed an AI Micro Credential in Collaboration with Conestoga College and developed AI Guidelines for staff and families
- 28 Principals and Vice-Principals in the first year of their role participated in the new administrator mentorship program



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Support Services

Breaking Ground on Expansion of West Elgin Public School

Grand Erie kicked off a major renovation project that transformed the newly named West Elgin Public School. The work added a four-room kindergarten addition, a new entrance and elevator to ensure the building is fully accessible, a new three-room childcare centre to support early childhood care in the community, as well as significant upgrades to the existing footprint, improving both functionality and pride of place.



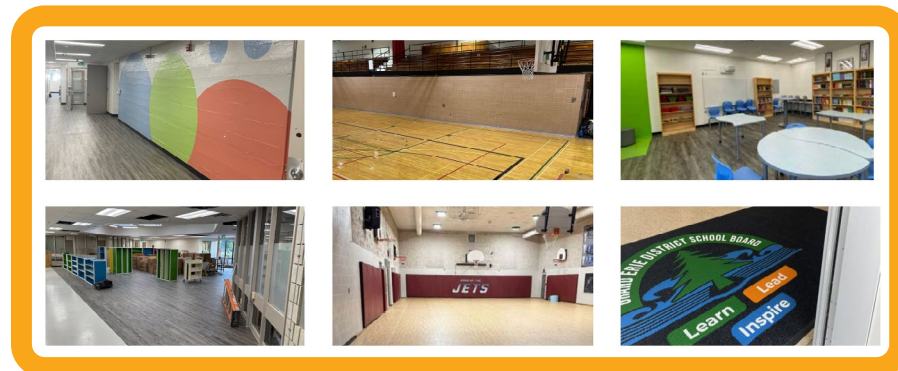
Two Staff Members Recognized with Grand Erie's Highest Honour

A secondary school teacher and the manager of business services for Grand Erie District School Board are this year's recipients of the Patti McCleister Memorial Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to leadership, camaraderie and realizing the board's vision of learning, leading and inspiring.



Facility Improvements

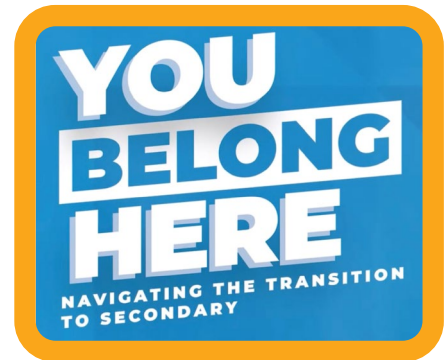
Many facility upgrade projects were completed across the district, including gym improvements at Dunnville Secondary School and Jarvis Public School, new hallway paint at Major Ballachey Public School, Learning Commons completion and renovations at Brier Park Public School and Grand Erie Learning Alternatives, and dozens of other interior and exterior improvements, from boiler replacements to paving work.



Community Connections

Accomplishments

- Grand Erie announced a **College-Within-a-School partnership** with the Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
- The Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC), Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) hosted many keynote speakers
- The **'You Belong Here' video series** provided families and future high school students with a helpful preview of what's to come at secondary schools across the region
- Naser Hamed, president of the Muslim Association of Brantford, presented Grand Erie with a **donation of \$2,150** toward the Mohammed El-Farram award



McKinnon Park Student's Artwork Takes Centre Stage in Dundas Exhibition [🔗](#)

Callum MacInnis, a student at McKinnon Park Secondary School, was selected to hold a solo exhibition titled "Tacit" at the Dundas Valley School of Art, showcasing his painting and sculpture work that reflects his passion for characters and animals while managing Autism Spectrum Disorder.



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Community Connections

Children's Safety Village

We were pleased once again to support the good work of the Safety Village of Brant. Over the years, thousands of Grand Erie students have benefitted from the hands-on safety training for children that this charity provides.

Career Fairs

Human Resources staff were at Brock University working to make connections and recruit the next generation of educators to Grand Erie.

Project SEARCH Success

Norfolk General Hospital partnered with Grand Erie and the Norfolk Association for Community Living to join Project SEARCH, a nationwide school-to-work training program where students with special needs in the final year of high school receive first-hand, work-related skills. It's having a hugely positive impact, building a strong community along with work-related skills. Alex Long, pictured here, is one of several students who's recently made the transition from school to workplace.



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Community Connections

Walter Gretzky Elementary Students Earn Honours at National Math Competition 🔗

Two students from Walter Gretzky Elementary School achieved notable success in the 2024 Canada Jay Mathematical Competition's Southwestern Ontario region: Grade 5 student Azaan Asad earned a bronze award, and Grade 6 student Dhruva Sandesh received an honourable mention.



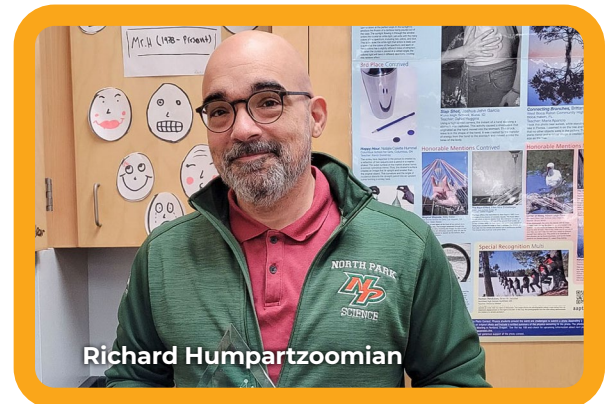
Pilot Project with Brantford Transit Connects West Brant with BCI 🔗

BCI partnered with Brantford Transit on an exciting pilot project that will connect the southwest region of the city with the BCI community. As part of this pilot program, transit passes will be provided free of charge to incoming Grade 9 BCI students residing in West Brant who don't qualify for school transportation.



Science Teaching Honour Recognizes Educator's Ability to Learn, Lead and Inspire 🔗

Richard Humpartzoomian, a science teacher at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School, has won the prestigious honour of Champion Teacher for 2025, presented by the Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair (BASEF).



For more highlights from the 2024-25 school, view the [Director of Education's Quarterly Highlights](#).



Grand Erie District School Board

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