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Principal
Clara Anderson

Office Coordinator
Marilyn Genery

March 2015 - Newsletter

Attribute for the month - INTEGRITY



Message From the Principal

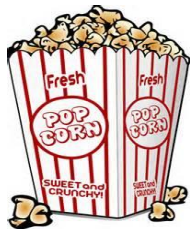
A lot has been happening during the cold month of February. Students have been actively involved in a variety of indoor activities including 3 basketball teams, Active Playgrounds in the gym, ball hockey, Workout Wednesday, and Baisakhi Dance group, to name a few. Thanks to all of the staff and volunteers for running these activities. Hopefully with warmer weather coming, we will be outdoors more often. On February 25th we wore pink to take a stand against bullying. Students are reminded that they have many adults they can go to if they have a problem with bullying. We encourage all students to include others and treat one another with respect and kindness. I would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the parents who have been coming out to School Council. They are working hard to make a difference at Walter Gretzky School.

Safe Arrivals

Thank you for using the front entrance when you visit the school. All visitors must sign in at the office. Parents and other visitors are not permitted in the classroom hallways unless they have signed in and are wearing a visitor badge. If you would like to walk your younger child to class, please stop in at the office to ask for assistance. You may walk them to the double doors and watch them go to class or have the secretary or principal walk them to their class. Thanks.

Popcorn! Popcorn! Popcorn!

The grade 8 class is selling Kettle Corn as a fundraiser for the year end trip. This popcorn is an excellent snack for your child to enjoy as a treat. Cost is \$1 for bag. Popcorn is sold at the office during 1st Nutrition Break.



Thank you for your support towards our graduating class of 2014-15.

Dates to Remember –

March Break – March 16 – 20

St. Patrick's Day – March 17

First Day of SPRING – March 20

M.A.D. Assembly – March 27th @ 1:30

Caught'ya Lunch – March 30

Coffee Time

March 4th 8:45AM

Parents are welcome to drop in for coffee and healthy snacks.

Meet our Brant County Health Unit Nurse, Sarah Sweiger.

Find out more about community services and what is going on in our community.

We will also have information about March Break events.

This is a great chance to meet other parents.

We hope to see you here.



Scent Free School

Remember that we are a scent-free school. We have students and staff who are allergic to scents in perfumes, etc. Help us to keep everyone safe by leaving perfume and all other scents at home. Thank you.

Cell Phones at School

Students are permitted to use their own cell phones and other electronic devices at school within certain limits. Each teacher sets classroom rules regarding cell phones with their class.



Some uses include: using the phone for research, music, and educational apps during appropriate, teacher-approved times. Students are not to text during class or use the phones to take pictures of other students. When cell phones are used inappropriately at school, the teacher will ask for the phone to be put away, locked away, or taken to the principal's office until the end of the day. Students who do not follow the cellphone rules will not be permitted to bring cell phones to school. Thank you for your cooperation.

The students wish to thank the Parent Council for supplying the hot chocolate during our Carnaval de Québec. Even though we were unable to go outside the Grade 7/8 and 8 classes created exciting games/activities for all the students. It was a great day! Merci

Mme Pettitt



Composting Beginning in March - This March students at Walter Gretzky will begin composting organic materials from lunch waste. Compost pails will be provided to each classroom and organic materials will be collected daily. Compost will be stored outdoors in the schools' two compost bins where it will be composted and later used to feed the school gardens. Take this opportunity to talk about compostable materials with your child. This will help to reduce the amount of garbage going to landfills in our area. Thank you for your support as we try to "Green Up" our school and community!

Mrs.Duran and Mrs. Walsweer

Caught Ya Winners

- Tristan
- Braiden
- April
- DeNeal
- Arav



Healthy Snacks Donations

Thank you to parents who have donated snacks to our snack program.



Currently, we are looking for donations of the following: Apples, oranges, nectarines, bananas, yogurt tubes, and unsweetened apple sauce. If you would like to donate any of the above, please call the office to let us know so we can schedule your donation for a particular week. This way, we can provide fresh snacks each week. Thanks for helping us out.



Want to buy a bat box for your back yard?



The grade 8's just finished a construction unit during which they built bat boxes and bird houses. They are hoping to sell them in

order to raise funds for their graduation. Bats are an efficient, safe, and environmentally appropriate way to decrease the number of pests (especially mosquitoes) in your back yard. We have 6 bat boxes for sale, and some bird houses as well. If you are interested, you can email Mr. Knuckle at richard.knuckle@granderie.ca

Tasimo Discs

Please remember to bring empty Tasimo discs to school. We are recycling the discs as a fund raiser which keeps them from going into the landfill sites. Monies raised will be used to support the Snack Program for our students. Thank you for supporting this recycling program.



Inclement Weather

Please watch the Board Website if you have questions about a possible school closure. The transportation department will post all delays and school closures by 6:30 a.m. As in all types of weather, please be sure that your child is dressed accordingly.



Walter Gretzky Elementary School

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Concussion Awareness and Information

Grand Erie District School Board is currently in the process of refining the draft of our concussion policy.

Children and adolescents are among those at greatest risk for [concussions](#) and that while there is potential for a concussion any time there is body trauma, the risk is greatest during activities where collisions can occur, such as during physical education classes, playground time, or school-based sports activities.

Increasing awareness of conditions to prevent and identify [symptoms](#) related to concussions will support the proper management of concussions, reducing increased risk.

- VIDEO: Learn more about concussions by watching a short video by Dr. Mike Evans on



[Concussion Management and Return to Learn.](#)

Students and parents can take a short online [course](#) - grades 3, 6 and 9 levels are available free.

Information for parents and students can be located at [Concussion Web Portal, Government of Ontario.](#)

This new policy will change the way we deal with bumps to the head at school. We always investigate immediately and provide first aid. Parents will continue to receive a phone call for bumps. If a concussion is suspected by staff, we will ask you to pick up your child and seek the necessary medical attention. A form will be provided to you, documenting the incident and asking for a signature to indicate if a concussion has been diagnosed or not diagnosed. You are also asked to notify the school should your child have a concussion from a home or community activity. Thank you for helping us work together to keep kids safe.

Clara Anderson
Principal

