



October 2021

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Wow a month has gone by so fast, but it has been so exciting to be back at school with all the students. All staff have worked hard to prepare for the students' arrival and have been doing some pretty amazing things in their classes. We continue to make sure all precautions have been put in place to keep our students and staff as safe and healthy as possible. Thank you to all of you for assisting with this process, your patience and understanding especially with our secretarial staff Mrs O'Grady and Ms Demeulenaere who are often the first to contact families doesn't go unnoticed.

The students have done a fantastic job during the school's start up in the first month. It has allowed them to reconnect and begin building relationships with their teachers and peers. They've also been busy learning about the routines, signage, protocols and expectations at the school during this time.

We've also had a month of learning about the journey that Mr Terry Fox took prior to his death in support of Cancer Research. Thanks to Ms Marcella's class who lead us in announcements and the days activities which took place on September 29, 2021 in support of Cancer Research.

September 30, 2021 marked the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Orange Shirt Day is a commemorative day that honours the children who survived Indian Residential Schools of the past and remembers those who did not. This day relates to the experience of Phyllis Webstad, a Northern Shuswap, who on her first day of school, wore a new orange shirt, which was taken from her. It is now a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations. We as a school honoured those lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities by wearing our Orange Shirts this past Thursday and we will continue to discuss these past tragedies as a school to .

A special thank you to your teachers and educational staff who all week and throughout the month of September have been sharing in the understanding of Residential schools and the historical impact it has had on our community and other communities around us. We have asked all classes to develop a pledge to demonstrate their commitment to reconciliation. We have been sharing them on the announcements all week and will continue to do so to continue our learning and understanding.

The entire staff looks forward to working collaboratively with the students, parents and community of King George to ensure "Success for Every Student,". Please don't hesitate to contact the school and make an appointment with Ms Atanas (VP) or myself if you have any questions or concerns. If you have not done so please update your email address with us at the school through either your child's classroom teacher or one of the secretaries at the office. Most messaging from the office is delivered through email messaging and it is important to be always checking for important information.



Balanced School Year Pilot Project Survey to Complete

Grand Erie District School Board is exploring the possibility of introducing a balanced school-year calendar to one of its elementary schools for the 2022-23 school year. A balanced school-year calendar contains the same number of school days and holidays for students and staff, but holidays are distributed more evenly throughout the school year. There are many benefits to arranging the school year this way, and that's why it's being explored further.

Our school is one of 9 schools being considered for this pilot project. At this point in the process, input from parents/guardians is crucial to understanding the questions and concerns our parent community might have. Information about this can be found on the board website as well as in an enclosed letter sent home yesterday with the youngest and only in the school. Please make sure you read it please as Surveys are due by Monday, October 4th.

If you have any additional questions or concerns you would like to express, I invite you to reach out to Grand Erie directly at info@granderie.ca.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first School Council meeting will take place virtually on Tuesday, October 26th. If you would like to attend to observe the Council meetings or you are interested in becoming a member of the council please contact Mrs Bannister or Ms Atanas at the school so we can be sure to send you an email invite to our virtual council meeting on Tuesday, October 26th at 6:30 pm. Should you wish to present or participate in a discussion at Council, please communicate your question in advance to the Principal or Vice Principal until a Chair or Vice-Chair has been voted on at the first meeting and we will provide a time on the agenda for that item. We have a few returning members however we are always looking for additional support and voices. School Council meetings will be held the last Tuesday of every month except for December where it will be held on December 14 instead. They always begin at 6:30 pm and will be virtual until otherwise directed by the board and the local health unit.



ALLERGY ALERT

We have children in our school community who have severe nut and environmental allergies. In order to make our school as safe as possible for the students, King George school is completely "nut aware". Please assist us and the students by not sending food to school that contain nuts or nut products.

Peanut-free "Peanut Butter"

There's a peanut-free soy nut butter product on the market that says it's a peanut butter substitute and safe for schools. Grand Erie District School Board request that parents/guardians and staff refrain from bringing this product into our peanut-free schools it is a peanut free. If it's peanut-free then what's the big deal? This product looks smells and taste like peanut butter. The concern is that some children might mistakenly think it's OK to bring peanut butter sandwiches in their lunches when they see their classmates eating the soy product. We simply cannot run the risk of any students or staff member being exposed to peanuts as this may cause an allergic reaction the safety and health of our students and staff members comes first for more information on the Boards response to anaphylaxis (allergic reactions), please visit www.granderie.ca Thank you for your cooperation with this.

HEAD LICE

The Head Lice season is upon us!! Please take a moment to learn some steps on how to prevent Head Lice.

Head lice spreads by close contact when heads touch during hugs, sharing secrets, play wrestling, working together and sharing objects such as combs, brushes and hats.

At King George, students have 'head checks' occasionally and our staff will do follow up checks when a student has lice.

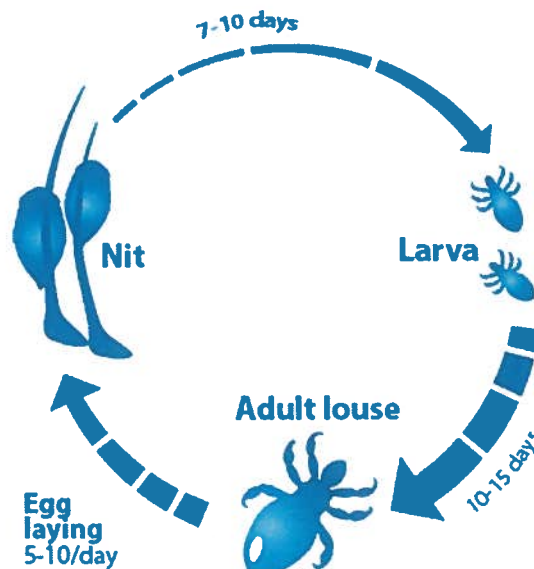
WE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES AT KGS:

- When **a lot of** nits or live lice are present, students are asked to go home and have treatment.
- When students return to school we ask a caring adult to attend for the follow-up check.
- If there are no lice or nits or a few nits, staff will identify the nits to guardian and offer information about removing the nits but the student may return to class.
- If there are live lice or more nits than previously or a similar amount of nits, it means there are live lice that can't be seen and the treatment has not been successful – the student will need to try another treatment and the picking of nits needs to occur at home.

Getting rid of lice completely can be frustrating. It means caring adults need to check their children's heads and pull out nits. This takes time and needs to happen every day or evening for a week or even longer in order to get rid of lice in your home. The treatments alone are not enough for most cases.

Tips to prevent infestation or re-infestation:

- Teach children that head lice spread by direct contact. They should keep a little distance from other heads – this should be much easier now as we should be social distancing.
- Teach children to never share combs, brushes, barrettes or anything else they use for their hair.
- Keep longer hair in barrettes, pony tails, buns or braids.
- Teach children to never share hats, caps, scarves.
- During winter months, send a plastic bag to school for your child to store hats and scarves in before hanging them on the coat hook.
- Consider adding tea tree oil or pure lavender oil to your shampoo. This method is not proven, but some people have had success with it.
- Start a head lice patrol in your home: regularly examine each child's head closely for signs of infestation, once a week is about right.



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