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Message from the Principal

May 18, 2016

Dear West Lynn Families,

It is the middle of May already! Spring is here; the leaves are out and the grass is green. It is a beautiful time of the year!

April and May have been very busy months with an abundance of valuable learning opportunities for West Lynn students, staff and families. You will be able to read about many of these experiences and events in this newsletter.

Judging by the long list of important upcoming dates at the end of this newsletter, May and June will continue to be very busy. And we still have a lot of teaching and learning to do this school year. That's our priority! Students and staff will be working hard to ensure that we give all subject areas our best attention and effort, right to the finish line at the end of June!

What stands out as I reflect upon things happening at West Lynn Public School, is what a wonderful school community we have, what caring compassionate students, staff and families make up our school community! West Lynn is a very special school.

Thank you to everyone for making West Lynn such a special place to learn and grow!

As always, please contact the school with any questions or concerns.

~ Mrs. D. Lefler

Education Week (May 2 – 6)

The theme for Education Week this year was *Journey to Well Being*. Our choir and our drama students from Grade 2 / 3 performed at the Sanderson Centre Gala, Kick-off for Education Week on April 27 with their wonderful performance of *Be the Best You Can Be*. Thank you to the students who did such a great job, and to Mrs. Malo, Miss Hutcheon and Mrs. Ongena for leading and supporting our students.

Books for Breakfast

About 80 people attended our 4th annual Books for Breakfast event on Tues. May 3. Breakfast appetites, the love of reading and greeting friends went together to make this event a big success. Big thank yous go out to: story teller, Mr. Dave Zeldon, for sharing some of his favourite books with us; Mrs. O'Donnell who arranged for students from SCS to prepare the food; Mr. and Mrs. Nelson of Tim's on the Queensway for donating the coffee; the Parent Group for setting up, taking down and for paying for all of the food; and to everyone who attended to make this our best turn out ever!

Let's Chalk About It!

Excellent messages of positive mental health were "chalked" on our sidewalks on Thursday, May 5. Thank you to the grade 5 students in Mrs. Rooney's class and to grade 6 and 7 students in Miss Kitchen's and Miss Hrycun's classes for your creativity, and thoughtfulness! Miss Srigley, our CYW – thank you so much for leading this great event! These messages were ready in time for our Open House; there was lots of positive feedback from our school community!

Open House and Book Fair

Our Open House was on Thursday, May 5 and we had a great turn out! Classrooms were open for students to share their work and greet their teacher with their parents. The Book Fair was available in the gym. Mrs. Pond reports that our *Feeling Groovy* (theme) Book Fair was a success. It was our 2nd fair of the school year, so

we were given a \$202.69 bonus plus the \$1013.47 worth of books earned from purchases. That totals \$1216.16! So far, our school library has gained over 100 new books from the Book Fair and there is more credit to be spent! Thank you to all who helped make this happen, including all of our shoppers, our student helpers, and Mrs. Pond, Mrs. Lagueux, Mrs. Worth, Mrs. MacDonald, and Mrs. Srikanth.

Math Workshop for Families

Our Math Workshop for Families Night was a huge hit! It was in the evening on Thurs. Apr. 21. Several families participated and had fun learning about ways to do and learn math at home. Math is everywhere! And everyone can learn math concepts and processes. A positive growth mindset for learning and working on math is a key to success! Activities were based on the booklet, *Doing Mathematics with Your Child* from the Ministry of Education. It is available online at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNumEn.pdf>. Each family received a package of helpful resources. The door prizes were all math related; and every family won a prize! Thank you to Michelle Swyers and Nancy Norton, Grand Erie support staff, and to West Lynn staff and students for all the work that went into our fun night of math. Greatly appreciated!

EQAO Assessments

The annual EQAO assessments for Grades 3 and 6 are fast approaching. Letters went home to parents of grade 3 and 6 students, on Friday, May 13.

Our Grade 3 students will be writing their assessments May 25 to May 31. And our Grade 6 students will be writing June 1 to June 7.

Attendance at school is very important so that the students do not get behind their classmates in the series of assessments. Good nights' sleeps, nutritious meals and snacks including a good breakfast, and lots of water to drink are very important also. During the EQAO testing period the Computer Lab will be used as a writing location as well as Mr. Rustan's room for the Grade 3's and Ms. Otterman's room for the Grade 6's.

Basketball Season

Basketball season at West Lynn was a memorable one for a number of reasons, this year. Basketball skills, sportsmanship, and cooperation were practiced and developed, and the students enjoyed the love of the game. Our Intermediate Girls' team and our Junior Co-ed team both qualified to go to the CAGE tournament on April 13 at SCS, where they played against winning teams from all over Grand Erie District School Board. Both teams played very well and we are so proud of all of the students! And our Junior team won top position at the CAGE Tournament!

Thank you to all of our students for participating so well! Way to go West Lynn Warriors! And a big thank you to all of our basketball coaches: Mr. Comeau, Mrs. Pereira, Ms. Huffman, Mlle Kellner, Mr. and Mrs. Bradacs. We really appreciate your time and dedication to our students!

West Lynn Badminton Team

Congratulations to the West Lynn Badminton team for a very successful tournament at SCS on May 12. Virtually every Warriors team came away with at least one win throughout the day, with several teams making it deep into the tournament including our mixed doubles team of Jennifer F. and Zack V., and our singles star, Sarah K., who all made it to the semi-finals of their respective divisions – earning valuable points for the overall standings. However, we did finish just short of the overall pennant. Well done, Warriors! Once again, you represented our school well and showed great sportsmanship and perseverance. Way to go! Thank you so much to coach Mr. Preston!

CAGE Soccer Tournament

Having won the Norfolk Junior Soccer tournament in October, our West Lynn Warriors Junior soccer team went to the CAGE tournament at the Dunnville Soccer Park to compete against the top Haldimand and Brant Grand Erie teams. In the first game they won 3-0 against James Hillier. After that they showed hard work against Grandview Central and won their second game 3-0. Next game, West Lynn played a tough game against the hometown of Thompson Creek. The score was 2-2 and they went into a double shootout to win the semi-finals. The final game was very close against Banbury Heights. The score was 2-2 and they went into a very long shootout; after 7 rounds and the entire team took a shot, our West Lynn Warriors won CAGE! The team represented West Lynn school very well and showed great sportsmanship and teamwork. The great volunteers made the day possible. Thank you so much to Mr. Lingard and Mrs. Bradacs for coaching our team!

Breakfast Program News

The West Lynn Breakfast Program Volunteers, Staff and students would like to thank the Simcoe Firefighters Association for their generous donation of a large food cart and accessories to our school. With the addition of these new items, the West Lynn volunteers and staff will be better equipped to serve and clean up each day. The Simcoe Firefighters Association is able to provide such donations as a result of their Scrap Metal Fundraising program. Please see the attachment for details regarding the location of their metal collection bins. It would be much appreciated by the Simcoe Firefighters if you are in a position to help them by donating scrap metal to them for their program. Thank you, Simcoe Firefighters!

Donation from Jarja Floral

We would like to extend a big thank you to Jarja Floral International for their generous donation of the tulips for our Easter tulip fundraising campaign. Since they donated all of the tulips, all of the money brought in was profit! So the result of the tulip sales was \$2,352.00, including the Jarja donation of the tulips (all 302 bundles at \$1,109.10). Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Rixmann for organizing this fundraiser.

Lego Club

As noted on the order forms, some of the profits from tulip sales was going toward the purchase of Lego for the new Lego Club. Thank you to Mrs. Rixmann who found a great deal on a large quantity of lego. We now have a great supply of lego in sturdy containers for our eager lego builders. Thank you to Mrs. LaPorte as well, for being the Lego Club advisor / leader! The students are really enjoying this great opportunity.

SIP (School Improvement Plan)

We continue to work on our School Improvement Plan:

Improving Mathematics Learning and Achievement – Our strategies include using differentiated instruction and assessment, encouraging students to be actively engaged in mathematical thinking, developing greater understanding of mathematical concepts and strategies for more success in problem solving. Positive growth mindset for math learning is also a big focus.

Promoting Safe Schools – We are focusing on increasing students' positive sense of belonging at school and increasing respect for others. Some of our strategies include continuing to focus on our Character Traits and the Social Justice Begins with Me themes, establishing our Mental Health Wellness committee, including mental health wellness activities and discussions throughout the week, and using the MindUp resources and activities.

Growth Mindset

We have been working on increasing Growth Mindset in all aspects of school life. Mindset is a simple idea discovered by world-renowned Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck in decades of research on achievement and success – a simple idea that makes all of the difference!

In a fixed mindset, the opposite of growth mindset, people believe that their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. They also believe that talent alone creates success – without effort. Carol Dweck's research shows that they (people with fixed mindset) are wrong!

In growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work – the intelligence and talents you are born with are just a starting point. This growth mindset view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment.

Teaching and learning about Growth Mindset creates motivation and productivity in the world of business, education and sports. And it enhances relationships!

We are finding that our students are learning about the power of yet, e.g., I don't get it, yet. We learn from our mistakes and our hard work. They are learning that we can all learn, we all learn differently but we can all "get it!" This positive, growth mindset approach to learning is making a difference to our students' success and achievement and their belief in themselves.

Ticks

It seems that the seasonal and weather conditions this spring are perfect for ticks. We have heard of several incidents from our students and West Lynn families. We have sent a pamphlet home on the topic of ticks from the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit. It contains excellent information and can be found online at:

https://hnhu.org/wp-content/uploads/tick_talk_AODA_web.pdf.

Crossing Streets Before and After School: Using the Crossing Guard Safely

Parents, please remind your children to use the cross walks and to listen to and wait for the crossing guards when crossing the streets. We also need parents to follow through on using the crossing guards to model for the children, the safe practices that we have in place. It may take a few minutes to wait, but safety should be the top priority. Children are always watching and listening to what the adults are doing. Thank you for your support with this important safety aspect.

Environmental Club

Our Environmental Club has been very active and innovative this year! The yard clean up for Earth Week was very successful in April. Also this spring the students had a battery drive to prevent the batteries from going into landfills. They collected 103 pounds of batteries, which was a ratio of 1:3 - pounds of batteries to students! The grade 8 class planted flowers in the front gardens with their grade 1 buddies. Another project was collecting milk bags and donating them to a group of quilters who shred them and weave them into thick mattresses for people in need in developing countries.

Our club has been working hard to qualify to officially become an EcoSchool this year. On Thurs. May 12 two representatives, one from the EcoSchools organization and Ms. Katie Hashimoto, Supervisor of Energy & Environmental Conservation for Grand Erie District School Board came to meet with the Environmental Club members to learn about all of the great environmental practices, events and projects we have done and are doing at West Lynn. We should hear back from them near the beginning of June. Thank you students for all your hard work and leadership! Thank you to Miss Hrycun and Ms. Huffman for guiding and assisting the Environmental Club.

Character Education Program

Thank you to Mrs. Bradacs and Mrs. LaPorte and their classes for providing us with a great start for our focus on Integrity and *True Worth and Beauty* for the month of May at our Good News Assembly on April 29. Your slide show was amazing! And the display case at the front is wonderful!

McDonald's Character Education Prizes

Here are the names of the winning students for April for the McDonald's draws for RESPONSIBILITY. Congratulations to:
Kindergarten: Ava A. Primary: Berlyn F.
Junior: Reese P. Intermediate: Sean H.

The **Principal's Awards** for one student from each class who demonstrated RESPONSIBILITY well, were presented also. Photos of these students are posted on our Character Ed. bulletin board beside the main office.

Character Trait for May:

Our character education teaching focus for the month of May is Integrity. Grand Erie defines Integrity: *Be honest, sincere, trustworthy and reliable. Ensure actions and words align.* Teachers will be talking about this very important trait with your children. Please help us by talking about the importance of having integrity at home, as well.

The Social Justice Begins with Me topic is *True Worth and Beauty*. Beauty is not always about what we see on the outside, but who we are on the inside. What kinds of things make a person truly beautiful?

Before and After School Program

Program provider, Today's Family will be offering their before and after school program again next year at West Lynn. For more information, contact Marni Flaherty, CEO of Today's Family, 44 Greendale Drive, Hamilton ON, L9C 5Z4, phone: 905-574-9344, ext. 115. Email: mflaherty@todaysfamily.ca.

Chocolate Fundraising Campaign

The chocolate fund raising campaign with World's Finest concluded last week with the drawing of the draw prizes. The grand total for profit is \$7097.05. What a great result!

The Early Bird draw winners for a chocolate bar were: Chelsea O., Brooke K., Madeleine H., Lily A-D., Arianna B., Adam D., Jacob M., Jared F., Davin P., Gabrielle L., Dolton S., Faythe A.

The Draw Prize Results:

1. Barbie Rock ' n' Roll Royals - Ava W.
2. Stereo Ear Buds 4 pack - Harmony M.
3. Monster High Doll - Paige M.
4. Max Tow Truck - Max Mini Track Pack - Jonah G.
5. NHL Street Hockey Goal - Xandre O.
6. Disney Frozen - Faythe A.
7. Pillow Pets Dolphin - Lucy D.
8. Kryptonics Skateboard - Harmony M.
9. Under Armour Ultra Grip Basketball - Riley L.
10. Spalding Outdoor Basketball - Connor D.
11. Door Hoops Basketball Hoop - Lucy D.
12. Giant Plush Rabbit - Chelsea O.
13. Retro TMNT 21" Skateboard - Ava W.
14. Disney Fairies, Tinks Ultimate Pixie Close-Xavia B.
15. Illuminated Water Speakers - Dawson W.
16. Air Hogs Atmosphere Axis Hover Ball - Berlyn F.
17. Bazai Giant Rollerball - Zander K.
18. Loto Soccer Ball - Aidan W.
19. NHL Hockey Passer - Aidan W.
20. Bluetooth Speaker & Speaker Phone -Charlie E.
21. \$50 i-Tunes Gift Card - Emerson R.

Jordanna O. was entered into the regional grand prize draw for a Canada's Wonderland seasons pass or a family weekend getaway to Great Wolf Lodge or an Apple iPad.

Top Selling Classes: Primary - Mrs. Malo, Junior - Mrs. Bradacs, Intermediate - Mrs. Hrycun. These classes won a 5 pound chocolate bar each.

The Top Selling Students:

Holly L. - 6 full boxes

Dawson W. - 6 full boxes

Brooke & Zander K. - tied with 5 full boxes each

Thank you to our school community, to all those who were able to help with this fundraiser. A special thank you to our School Council volunteers: Mrs. Oliveira, Mrs. Rigglesford, Mrs. Krulikowski, Mrs. Granger, Ms. Peori, and to Mrs. Weber and Mrs. Rixmann. Numerous hours of organizing, tracking, and counting have gone into this work. Much appreciated! Thank you so much!

Strong Start - Volunteer Opportunity

Strong Start is a great chance to get involved in your child's school and truly make a difference. Volunteers undergo 4 hours of training (free) and make a commitment of a minimum of 1 hour per week for 10 weeks. Volunteers work one on one with individual children to help foster skills that improve literacy. Activities are straight forward and all of the materials and lessons are provided. Through fun games volunteers help SK-Grade 2 aged children with skills in one or more of four strands: letter recognition, letter sound association, sight word recognition and sounding out skills that help them build and read unfamiliar words.

Past and current volunteers include parents, grandparents, retirees and recent graduates looking to build their resumes. We are planning ahead for the Fall of 2016 and are fortunate to have training sessions in our area, taking place at Elgin Avenue Public School.

Friday, October 14th 10am-12pm

Friday, October 21st 10am-12pm

If you are interested in becoming a Strong Start volunteer please see Mrs. Pond or visit

www.strongstart.ca to learn more.

The time commitment is truly very small and the results are amazing!! You can make a difference! Read on West Lynn!

Thank you Mrs. Pond, for your dedication to this excellent program!

Terry Fox Day

West Lynn students have been working hard to raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation. Funds are coming in daily for the classroom shoes collection. There is keen competition between the classes to raise the most! No amount is too small! Many students are raising funds with pledge forms. Also on Wed. you can wear a hat for a 50 cent donation. Our Terry Fox run / walk day in the community is on Thurs. May 19. Thank you so much to Mrs. Lesage, Miss McKinley, Payton C. and Jenna D. for all of your hard work and creativity in leading for this important cause.

Upcoming ARC (Accommodation Review Committee) Meeting

The next ARC meeting will be held at Walsh Public School on Tues. May 31, 7:00 – 9:00 PM. To obtain information about the ARC process and to learn about current updates about the ARC for the 5 south east Norfolk elementary schools, including West Lynn, go to the Grand Erie's website, www.granderie.ca > then on the banner at the top of the home page, click on white dots until you get to Accommodation Review Committee > select South East Norfolk Elementary > again click on South East Norfolk Elementary and there you will find all of files that pertain to the ARC. You can also watch for additional files being added as updates become available.

West Lynn Annual Family Picnic

Our annual Family Picnic will be on June 15, 12:30 – 1:20. We hope you can make it! Bring your picnic lunch, a blanket, lawn chairs and join your child(ren) along with other West Lynn families.

Important Dates / Upcoming Events:

May 16 – Cage Soccer Tournament for Junior team
May 19 – Terry Fox Day, walk/run at 2:00; make a donation for T. Fox and wear a hat all day!
May 20 – Block 3, Jr./ Int. Dance and Games Room
May 23 – Victoria Day Holiday
May 24 – Grade 2 Backus Trip
May 25 – EQAO: Blocks 1 & 2, Grade 3
- Gr. 1 Trip to Fire Hall
- Gr. 6 Archaeology Trip
- Gr. 7 Backus Trip
- Gr. 2 Bikes, Boards and Blades; presentation in gym
May 26 - EQAO: Blocks 1 & 2, Grade 3
May 27 – Track and Field Day at Lakewood
May 30 – Track and Field Rain Date
- EQAO: Block 1, Grade 3
May 31 - EQAO: Block 1, Grade 3
- 7:00 – 9:00 ARC Meeting at Walsh
June 1 – EQAO: Blocks 1 & 2, Grade 6
June 2 – EQAO: Block 2, Grade 6
- Gr. 4 & 5 Trip in Simcoe Community
June 3 - EQAO: Block 1, Grade 6
June 6 - EQAO: Blocks 1 & 2, Grade 6
June 7 – Track & Field, Norfolk Meet at Lakewood
- 4:30 – 7:30 Wendy's Night
June 9 – Junior 3 Pitch Tournament, Win-Del
June 10 – PA Day
June 15 – Play Day
- 12:30 – 1:20 West Lynn Family Picnic
June 27 – 7:00 Grade 8 Graduation at SCS



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Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success



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