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Waterford, Ontario  
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Principal  
Michelle Black  
Secretary  
Kathleen Pitre

### **Upcoming Dates:**

#### **December 1<sup>st</sup>**

Poinsettia orders pick up in  
the Library 3pm-8pm

#### **December 5<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**

Caring Cupboard Donations  
accepted

#### **December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Classroom Open House  
Stop and Shop  
6pm-7:30pm

#### **December 19<sup>th</sup>**

Candy gram sales begin  
Turkey Dinner  
Spirit Day-Wear the colours  
of the season-red and green  
day

#### **December 20<sup>th</sup>**

Spirit Day- Creative  
Christmas décor /attire

#### **December 21<sup>st</sup>**

Spirit Day-Festive/Tacky  
holiday apparel  
Last day to buy candygrams

#### **December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Spirit Day-Christmas Hats  
School wide Carol Sing

#### **December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Spirit Day-Pajama Day  
Grade 5/6 and Grade 7/8  
Dance/Games Room  
School wide Carol Sing  
Candygrams delivered

See you back on Monday,  
January 9<sup>th</sup> 2017!

### **Message from the Principal**

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Mr. Keith Berry. Mr. Berry and his wife who is also an educator, are both retiring in December. Although the staff and students are excited for him on reaching this milestone in his life, we will miss him. We will miss the way he teases and jokes around with everyone, how he makes learning fun, and how no matter how busy he is, he always helps out anyone that needs an extra set of hands. Mrs. Duffield, currently our Grade 3 /4 teacher, will be the Learning Resource Teacher in January. Mrs. Sarah Steward has been hired as the Grade 3 /4 classroom. Mrs. Steward is an experienced Grade 3 / 4 teacher in our board and is a welcome addition to our staff.

***“I wanted to say good-bye to all of the teachers and families from Waterford Public School. It has been an honour and a privilege to be part of this community. To all of those supporting families and many volunteers, I wish you good luck and many memories. To all of the students who have made my life so complete and rewarding-thank you.” Mr. Berry***

December has 17 school days this year and it is jam packed with special events both during the school day and in the evenings and weekends. The staff of WPS wish each of you a restful and safe holiday season. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

### **Annual Turkey Dinner**

December 19th will mark Waterford Public School’s 4th annual turkey dinner! The staff and students will be treated to a turkey dinner held in the dinner hall of the United Church. A very special thank you goes out to our School Council again, for supporting this event. We would like to acknowledge the organization and preparation from our school and community including Mrs. Jen Welsh and Mrs. Marlene McCulligh who are organizing and heading up a team of dedicated volunteers, and to Mrs. Brooke Payne who will be “commander in chief” in the kitchen! Many thanks to the kind hearted donors who made a financial contribution or who contributed food items to the dinner. How fortunate we are to have so much support from our parents here at this school and our community.

### **January is Kindergarten Registration Month**

Just a quick note to everyone that January is Kindergarten Registration for all children turning 4 by December 31st 2017. Any child born in 2013 is eligible to register. A birth certificate and proof of address are required to register for school. Parents and guardians can visit the school the last week of January (January 30<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>) to register our newest students!

## **December 14th Festivities!**

### **Stop and Shop 6pm-7:30pm**

Our Stop and Shop event is back again this year! Our gym doors will be open from 6pm-7:30pm for a big night of shopping and visiting. Vendors will be available to help you find the perfect gift.

### **Open House 6pm - 7:30pm**

Our classrooms will be open for craft making, games and other fun activities! Please come and join us. Santa will be in Room 8 to hear some wishes and for photos, children can make reindeer dust in Room 3, students can play Santa Bingo in Room 11, Christmas wreaths can be made in Room 5, and much more!

### **French Café**

The Grade 6,7 and 8 students at Waterford PS are hosting a French Café during the School Open House in the front foyer. At the cafe, we will be serving coffee, tea, juice and croissants. Payment for our delicious treats will be in the form of a Food Bank donation. There will be a box at the counter to collect all non-perishable items. We look forward to seeing you at the café!

### **Santa's Toy Shoppe**

Room 7 (Ms. Barber's class) will be hosting a toy and book sale. All proceeds will be split between two charities suggested by the students themselves: Operation Smile and Haiti Children's Home. Your support in past years has been wonderful and the Grade 2 students have learned about giving as well as about how people in other parts of the world live. Please help us out by sending in gently used toys and books to the school beginning the week of December 5<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Ms Barber for more information.

### **Crock a Doodle Pottery**

**We are coming to Waterford Public School's Christmas Open House!** Crock A Doodle will bring in the pottery pieces and supplies, and manage all aspects of the pottery painting activity – the set-up, instruction, clean up and all. Painted pieces will be taken away to be professionally glazed and kiln-fired and returned to you the following week. Your students will all have a wonderful creative keepsake from our 2016 Christmas Open House.

Orders were due on November 24<sup>th</sup>. **Your items will be waiting for you at the school open house!**  
Visit us online at [www.crockadoodle.com](http://www.crockadoodle.com)

### **Waterford Caring Cupboard**

From **December 5<sup>th</sup> to December 16<sup>th</sup>**, Waterford Public school is accepting food drive donations. If you have any non perishable food items like canned food, pasta, cereal, baby food etc. or hygiene items like shampoo, toothpaste or soap, feel free to send the items to school with your child. The Caring Cupboard can not accept dented or damaged packages. As well as making us feel good for helping others, every food item will earn your child one point for their colour house and the top primary class and junior/intermediate class will win a pizza party!

Thank you for your support, Mrs. Hewitt's grade 6/7 class.

### **Coat Drive Underway**

Just a reminder that Donations of coats will be accepted at the school office for a few more weeks. The coats will be delivered to the Baptist Church Youth Centre and any one in need of a coat can simply walk in to the **Baptist Church Youth Centre on Wednesday and Fridays from 3:30-5:30**, try a coat on and leave with an extra layer of warmth this winter.

### **Composting at School**

The compost program is up and running here at WPS. Each day, our "Compost Kids" collect apple cores, banana peels etc. and deposit them in our composter at the east end of the building. WPS is striving to be recognized as an ECO School. Thanks to all of the classrooms for your continued support and for Mr. Berry for getting the program off the ground!

## **Grades 4 to 8 OurSCHOOL Student Survey**

All Grand Erie schools will be participating in an online school survey for students called the OurSCHOOL Student Survey.

Who: Grades 4-8

When: Early December

Where: in the classroom

### **About the OurSCHOOL Student Survey:**

- Allows students to share their feedback **anonymously** on their experiences at school, school environment and school improvement programs.
- Participation in the survey is **voluntary**, however all students are encouraged to participate.
- The time required to complete the survey may vary, but it is designed to be completed in approximately 35-40 minutes.

Survey measures include such topics as behaviours and attitudes linked to student success, emotional and social well-being and physical health. For more information about the OurSCHOOL Student Survey, please visit The Learning Bar Inc.'s website: [www.thelearningbar.com](http://www.thelearningbar.com).

## **Skating is in Full Swing!**

Thank you to all of the parents who are able to meet us to carry skates and helmets to the arena and to do up skates. Special thanks to Mr. S. Lalone who has been kept busy at school fitting skates and helmets so as many students as possible can have the opportunity to take part in our skating program.

## **Today's Math Classroom**

Students used to spend almost all their time working at their desks, with the teacher at the blackboard and with little discussion. Math classes today look, sound, and feel quite different.

### **How and Why it's Different?**

If you peeked inside your child's math class, here are some things you would notice:

- \* students working on their own, in pairs, in small groups, independently and with teacher direction
- \* students engaged in a wide variety of tasks — practicing skills, solving problems about real-life situations, playing games, and applying math concepts to design challenges
- \* students using a variety of physical and digital learning tools as they explore math ideas and solve problems
- \* students using a variety of tools, including paper and pencil, chart paper and markers, and digital devices, to write and record their math thinking
- \* students talking about connections they have made personally or exploring new math concepts and skills
- \* students sharing their strategies for solving a problem

Learning math involves understanding concepts and procedures, acquiring skills, and applying math processes. Each of these aspects of learning requires different learning and teaching strategies. As well, individual students learn differently. It's important for students to have opportunities to learn in a variety of ways.

Taken from: Math Learning Today: produced in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Ontario District School Boards 2016

## **Chocolate Bar Campaign Wrap Up!**

A huge thank you to the Waterford School Community for supporting our chocolate bar campaign for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year! Through this campaign, Parent Council can continue to support many exciting ventures like contributing towards classroom year end trips, increasing technology in the classroom and providing a drop down screen and projector in the gym to complement the sound system that was purchased last year!

### **Top Sellers:** (won a scooter)

Kindergarten- Ava Catt  
Grades 1-3 Landon Gibbons  
Grades 4-6 Tie Mason  
Grades 7-8 Alexis Schnitzer  
(gift card)

### **Top Classes**

Sharing a 5lb bar of chocolate:  
Kindergarten Miss  
MacKinnon/Mrs. Van Sickle  
Grades 1-3 Mrs. Smart  
Grades 4-6 Mrs. Stronks  
Grades 7-8 Miss Van Kessel

Anyone who sold 1 case had their name entered in draw a for a \$75.00 gift card-choice of itunes/Walmart/Best Buy:

Grades 7-8 James Anderson  
Grades 3-6 Kaely Shortt  
Grades K-2 Mason Neidrauer

## **Coming soon to Waterford Public School...**

### **Cashless Schools- What is this?**

We are very excited to announce the launch of **School Cash Online**, an online fee payment system that will allow parents to pay with credit cards for student hot lunches, milk, class trips etc. For teachers, staff and our volunteers, it will mean considerable time saved when planning, processing and handling cash payments. For parents, it will save time looking for proper change, going to an ATM, and most importantly, you can be assured that the money you have sent with your child has reached the proper destination. For example, the end of November saw separate bags/envelopes of money being brought to school for hot lunches, poinsettias and Crock A Doodle Pottery- with 3 different staff members or parent volunteers in charge of collecting, counting, and ordering these items. Errors can be made with so many people handling and processing the money. School Cash Online eliminates many steps. The money goes directly from the giver to the receiver.

**Please enroll by  
registering online at  
[https://granderie.  
schoolcashonline.co  
m/](https://granderie.schoolcashonline.com/)**

Registered parents will receive notification when trips, hot lunches etc. become available for your children. This will help

reduce the amount of overdue and forgotten payments.

### **Timelines**

**December**-make parents aware of online fee payment and allow time for parents to register their child.

**January** - continue to make parents aware of online payment, and send out February's hot lunch order using online payment.

Orders are due by **January 16<sup>th</sup>**. You will receive notification for when the order is available.

A paper order will still be sent home this year as we transition to the online version for most school expenses.

Mrs. Pitre, our school secretary has used the online fee payment system at her previous school, so feel free to call her if you need help getting set up, or if you have specific questions about its use. You are welcome to come to the school to use a computer or tablet if your phone or home computer gives you grief! The Public Library has computers available for community use as well.