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Principal
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January 2015 - Newsletter

Kindergarten Registration begins January 19th.

Grand Erie schools are exciting, enriching places for young learners to receive an education. They learn to explore the world around them, solve problems, and make new friends.

Our Kindergarten programs help students get off to the best possible start. Your child will be challenged and encouraged to do his or her very best. Our caring teachers are with them every step of the way! Children eligible for Junior Kindergarten must be 4 years old by December 31, 2015 to enroll.

Contact Walter Gretzky Elementary School at 519-770-1288 (365 Blackburn Drive, Brantford) to arrange a visit to the school and to learn more about what you need to register.

To order your copy of Grand Erie District School Board's Welcome to Kindergarten Guide, contact the Principal or visit granderie.ca to order a copy or view online.



The Student's Council recently held a **food drive** to help those less fortunate in our community. We partnered with the Brantford Food Bank. As a school we were able to fill 6 bins of non-perishable food items. It was a great success. The Student's Council wishes to thank everyone who participated. We especially want to thank Ms. Perreault's Grade 6 class for bringing in over 70 cans! We also want to congratulate the Primary hallway for bringing in the most items! **"Way to Go Griffins!"**



A Note From Your School's Public Health Nurse...

Winter Tips for Keeping Your Family Safe

The winter season is a great time to spend outdoors with family and friends. Being physically active during wintertime can help keep the whole family healthy, but sometimes injuries can spoil the fun. Follow some of these safety tips to help keep you and your little ones safe outdoors:

- * Dress appropriately for the winter weather – a coat, hat, scarf, mitts and winter boots will help keep everyone warm.
- * Take frequent breaks from the cold to let your body warm up.
- * Use sunscreen and wear sunglasses, even in the wintertime. Up to 80% of the sun's UV rays are reflected from the snow.
- * Stay away from the banks of ponds, lakes, streams and rivers. They may look safe at first glance, and if there is ice, it may look like it is thick enough to skate or step on, but underneath the water is moving very quickly and can be very dangerous.
- * Protect your head when going tobogganing or sledding; wear a helmet. A ski helmet is recommended, as it is designed to withstand the types of speeds and falls that could happen with this type of activity.

For additional winter safety tips, visit the injury topics section of Parachute Canada at www.parachutecanada.org.

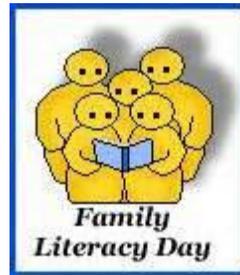
“Thinking about Quitting Smoking? FREE nicotine replacement patches for persons 18 yrs and over, are provided at Brant County Health Unit, Quit Smoking programs. To learn more and/or to sign up for a free quit smoking program with free nicotine replacement patches, call 519-753-4937, ext. 455.”

Popcorn! Popcorn! Popcorn!



The grade 8 class is selling Kettle Corn as a fundraiser for the yearend 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.



FAMILY LITERACY DAY...
JANUARY 27th
More information to follow.

Volunteers Needed – We are looking for parents to volunteer one to two hours per week to read with Primary students. If you are able to support our school in this learning opportunity for our students please contact Ms. Laura Dawson at the school.



Dates to Remember -

PA Day – January 12
BCI Grade 8 – January 15
Tollgate Grade 8 – January 22
Family Literacy Day – January 27
Report Cards go Home – January 30
Family Day – February 16

Grade 8 Information Nights

Brantford Collegiate Institute and Tollgate Technological Skills Centre are both having information nights for all grade 8 students graduating this year. Please mark this information on your calendar and take advantage of this opportunity to introduce your child to the next level of his/her education.

Pink Shirt Day

What is pink shirt day?

In September 2007, a grade nine student in Nova Scotia was bullied on his first day of high school for wearing a pink polo. Two grade twelve students, David Shepherd and Travis Price, heard about the bullying and decided to take action. They went to a nearby discount store and bought 50 pink shirts, including tank tops, to wear to school the next day.



After e-mailing fellow classmates and bringing them on board with their anti-bullying cause, it was dubbed the “sea of pink” campaign. Hundreds of students showed up to school wearing their own pink clothes, and support

began pouring in from around the world, as people took notice of the students’ activism.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, please wear PINK!!!

Order forms will be sent home for you to purchase your shirt and for each member of your family to also purchase shirts. JOIN US in the anti-bullying campaign.

Wear pink – February 25th

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.



Snack Program

As we begin a new year, our snack cupboard is looking a little bare. If you would like to contribute to the school to help with the children that need a little extra lunch from time to time, please feel free to donate.

Remember we are a **NUT FREE** school – for the safety of our children.





Supporting Families in Grand Erie

We want to know if you're interested in accessing Before- and After-School care at your school.

Here's your chance to tell us if a program would meet the needs of your family!

If enough parents show interest to run a viable program, a third-party provider will coordinate the service at a fee for the 2015-16 school year.

Submit your interest by completing this survey by

February 23, 2015.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GrandErie>

Results for schools will be available after March 30, 2015.

For more information about Before- and After-School Programs and Child Care, visit the Parent Section at granderie.ca



