



September 2015 - Newsletter

365 Blackburn Drive,
Brantford, ON
N3T 0G5
519-770-1288

Principal
Clara Anderson

Office Coordinator
Marilyn Genery

Secretary
Julie Knight

Character attribute for September is "Respect"



Walter Gretzky Staff – 2015-16

Principal – Mrs. C. Anderson

Secretary – Mrs. M. Genery

Kindergarten – Mrs. E. DeGroot (1004)

Kindergarten – Ms. J. Poulin (1006)

Kindergarten – Mrs. M. Redpath (1007)

Kindergarten – Ms. A. Meyer (1003)

Grade 1 – Mrs. M. Harrison (1015)

Grade 1 / 2 – Mrs. J. Watkins (1017)

Grade 1 - Ms. E. Banbury (1009)

Grade 2 – Mrs. K. Schrader (1016)

Grade 2/3 – Mrs. J. Richardson (2048)

Grade 3 – Mrs. T. Nagle/Mrs. M. Walsweer (1018)

Grade 3 – Mrs. R. Duran (2045)

Grade 3 / 4 – Ms. T. Macdonald (2016)

Grade 4 – Mrs. J. Hirst (2013)

Grade 4 – Mr. B. Sawyers (2012)

Grade 5 – Mrs. K. Bradish (2014)

Grade 5 – Mrs. K. Yanover (2015)

Grade 6 – Mr. R. Hull (2002)

Grade 6 – Ms. S. Perreault (2051)

Grade 7 – Mrs. T. Clement /Mrs. K. Newstead (2006)

Grade 7 – Mr. G. Purcell (2003)

Grade 7/8 – Mr. R. Joynt (2007)

Grade 8 – Mr. R. Knuckle (2010)

E.A. – Ms. D. James

French – Madame Ms. L. Smith/Mrs. V. Pettitt

Learning Resource – Mrs. L. Dawson

Prep – Ms. A. Shortell

Secretary – Mrs. J. Knight

ECE – Ms. E. Urquhart

ECE – Ms. P. Gonzalez

ECE – Mrs. L. Jaeger

E.A. – Ms. S. Morgan

French – Madame A. Pappani

Teacher/Librarian – Mr. S. Grewal

Prep – Ms. C. Robinson

Go "Griffins" Go

Get Ready-Set-Go and we are off to a great start of another school year. Welcome back to Walter Gretzky Elementary School.

We are a growing community, with our population rising to over 500 as we begin September.

We have an exciting year ahead and look forward to you being a part of it. Working together is a key ingredient for a successful year. I encourage you to remain in close communication with your child's teacher to ensure that he/she has a successful and happy experience while attending school this year.

Aim for success

Stay Connected with WGES on Social Media

Stay in touch with WGES by following us on Twitter @wggriffins and on Facebook on the WGES School Council page.

Now you can also get news updates on the WGES blog at www.gretzkygriffins.wordpress.com. See updates and the monthly newsletter on our website at <http://www.granderie.ca/schools/waltergretzky>

We hope to reduce our use of paper by offering all newsletters electronically.

Help Wanted

We are hiring a paid supervisor for lunch and recess duty for approximately one hour per day. The supervisor will be needed during one or both nutrition breaks. A valid, current police check including vulnerable sector will be required. Please call Mrs. Anderson at 519-770-1288 by Monday, Sept. 14th to express your interest in this position.

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. Thank you for supporting this recycling program.

Information Fridays

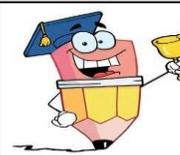
Generally, we will be sending home any information on Fridays. We hope that you can get into the habit of checking your child's backpack over the weekend – you never know what surprises you may find! As well, as a way of saving paper, some information we only send home with the youngest child in the family.

NO NUTS PLEASE

Peanuts and all other nut products will cause life-threatening allergic reactions in several children in our school. For this reason, we ask that you **NOT** send nut products of any kind to the school. Parents are asked to read product labels carefully. **Please reinforce with your child(ren) the importance of not sharing or trading their food at school.** The families of children with these allergies along with everyone at Gretzky thank you for your support throughout the school year.

Meet the Teacher Night

In light of the current state of job action, we have postponed our Meet the Teacher event until further notice. We value our connections with parents and families. Teachers will continue to meet with parents where appropriate. Parents can contact teachers directly to arrange an appointment.



Bell Times

There has been a change in time for both Nutrition Breaks, please be aware
8:45 – Entry Bell
10:45 – 11:25 – 1st Nutrition Break
1:05 – 1:45 – 2nd Nutrition Break
3:05 – Dismissal

Sign in and Sign Out



The Board of Education requires that all students who arrive at school late or leave the school early must sign in and out at the office. Parents who pick up their children during the school day for appointments must sign their child out of the

school. Parent volunteers, co-op student, maintenance workers and Board personnel are required to sign in and out. A Log Sheet is located on the counter in the office.

Children's Aid Society

The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes the Child and Family Services Act, particularly those sections of the Act which relate to suspected child abuse. This Act applies to all teaching, supervisory and professional support staff, including educational assistants. Parents should understand that all educators are required by law to report children for whom abuse is suspected to the Children's Aid Society. It is the responsibility of the C.A.S to decide how to proceed.

Harassment Statement

The Grand Erie District School Board has a zero tolerance policy toward all forms of harassment. The Board is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free of harassment, which supports productivity and the personal goals of dignity and self-esteem of every individual. The Board expects all students, staff and visitors to behave in a respectful, courteous and appropriate manner at all times. The Board will respond to all forms of unacceptable behavior in a manner consistent with the Board Policy, Procedure on Harassment. To view the policy, please visit the Board's website at <https://www.granderie.ca> and select the drop down menu titled Board.

Scent Free School Please remember that our school is a scent-free facility. In consideration to both students and staff that may have a severe allergy reaction in the event that they come in contact with an individual wearing perfume, hand sanitizer or other scented products to school, we ask that you refrain from using such products. We appreciate your understanding and support in making our school a safer place for all of us.

Dress Code ---- As the weather gets warmer, students are reminded to follow the dress code as it is written in the front of the agendas. Clothing is to be modest and tidy. Belly shirts, muscle shirts or string shoulder strap tank tops are inappropriate. The length of shorts should not be



shorter than the tip of your fingers when placed at your side. Students are asked to cover up or a phone call will be made home to have appropriate clothing brought to the school. Thanks for following the dress code.

School Council and Home and School News

Attention all parents. As our school grows, we have many opportunities for parent involvement. This year, we may be able to have a School Council and a Home and School Committee if we have enough parents interested in the various roles. Our first School Council meeting of the year will take place on Tuesday, September 15th, at 7:00PM. At that meeting, we will give an overview of the roles and responsibilities of both School Council and Home and School. This is a great chance to come out, meet the principal, some teachers, and other parents. All parents are welcome! If you require child care to attend the meeting, please call the office to let us know. Our School Council Elections meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 6th at 7:00PM. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else for one of the key roles, please call the school. More information will be sent home prior to this meeting. I look forward to seeing you at the 1st meeting on September 15th!

With the change of seasons and the weather being confused with summer and fall temperatures, please ensure that your child is dressed according to the daily weather forecast.



Accident Insurance Requirements for Students

Student accident coverage is recommended and voluntary for parents to consider for their child. It is important for parents to understand that the Board does not provide insurance for students against any accidental death, disability, dismemberment or medical expenses that might occur as a result of accident during school activities, including sporting events and field trips.

Insure My Kids protection plan is made available to parents, at low cost, to provide benefits for dental injuries and other accidents which may occur through participating in high-risk activities. In fact, there are options in the package for coverage outside of school hours including holidays and weekends. Please see the brochure for information or visit www.insuremykids.com.

Many parents may have accidental coverage as part of their employers benefit plan. It's important for parents to review their plans to make sure they have the necessary coverage for high-risk activities. Parents may want to consider purchasing additional personal coverage to reduce the anxiety associated from an injury to their child.

Grand Erie District School Board requires that all parents declare whether or not they have accident insurance. A declaration form is being sent home at the beginning of the school year for parent/guardian review and signature.

MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS

If you have a message that you need to pass on to your child/ren due to after school arrangements, please contact the office before 2 p.m. at 519-770-1288, this will allow adequate time for the message to be delivered.

If you are dropping off or picking up your child for the Before/After school program, please park your vehicle in the parking spaces provided before making your way into the school. This will reduce the traffic in the "drop-off zone" and allow others to move freely in and out of the area. Drop-off zone is not to be used as parking space, please park your vehicle in the parking lot. ***We ask for your cooperation for the safety of all students and adults making their way through our parking lot.***

ATTENDANCE ROUTINES

Student Attendance is checked twice daily. Unless you, as the parent/guardian, have contacted the school to explain that your child will be late or absent, the school office is required by Board Policy to verify all absentees. For your convenience, an answering machine is attached to the school's incoming phone line and messages can be left during the evening and night time hours to inform the school if your child will be absent. Please state your child's name and the teacher's name of his/her class when leaving your message.

School Number - 519-770-1288

No Wheels on the Playground

For safety reasons, students are not to use any wheels on the playground.

This includes bikes, scooters, and skateboards. All students must walk their bikes onto school property.

Thanks for helping to keep our students safe.

