

**Central  
Public  
School**  
135 George St.  
519-752-8819



**March 2015**

# Made to be AWESOME!

### Principal's Message

At Central, our teachers are working very hard to focus on and improve the ability of our students to solve problems and be successful in math. This is the focus of our School Improvement Plan, and as such, we are doing many new and innovative things in our school. I thought I'd take the time this month to explain some of them for you.

Our teachers are deeply engaged in a co-operative inquiry to focus their understanding of the strengths and areas of improvement for each of their students. We are meeting regularly to look at samples of student work together. When we look at this work, we look for misconceptions ("Why did they get the wrong answer?") and gaps in skills ("Bob doesn't understand that multiplication can be related to skip counting— $2 \times 5$  is the same as counting 2, 4, 6, 8, 10). We also look at the teaching strategies we are using in our classrooms to identify which are effective and where we should be focussing our time for specific students. We meet as "divisions" with our kindergarten team meeting together in a group, our primary teachers in another group and our junior/intermediate teachers in another group. As a school we are focusing on number sense skills and problem solving in mathematics, as well as modifications and accommodations to support students.

During those learn team meetings, we often attend professional development off site and regularly invite our Learning Coaches into the school to support our learning. Teachers bring evidence of the strategies they are trying to our meetings for investigation and discussion. They then bring the results back to classrooms to try with their students.

Some of the things we have learned this year is that our students do better when the tasks they engage in during math are relevant and meaningful to their lives. They also find success using manipulatives (hands on tools) to help them solve problems. However, they don't always know how to use the tools we have, and many of our classrooms are lacking enough of these tools to really be useful. With that in mind, we found a sponsor to support the purchase more math tools for each classroom. We are putting together a cart for every classroom that holds a large variety of tools to support math learning.

Our board has also set up our schools with a math online program called Prodigy to support students in their recall of math skills and content. All students have been given a password and user name so that they can also access this game at home for free. There is a paid option on the site, but this is not required at all for the math learning/practice portion of the game. Our students are very engaged in this game!

Look for our "Math Night" coming soon, as your opportunity to learn more!

Ms. Gillespie

Scan this code with your smart phone for quick access to our school website!



# Keeping in Touch with Central—The Easy Way!

Do you want to keep up to date on the happenings at Central? Text or email our “remind” account and we will send out regular reminders of school events, special days, trip deadlines etc. These will come right to your phone or email!

To receive messages via text, text @cenadmin to (226) 778-2194. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @cenadmin'.

Or to receive messages via email, send an email to cenadmin@mail.remind.com. To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.



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!

Central School offers a full-day, every day kindergarten program for junior and senior kindergarten students. Children eligible for Junior Kindergarten must be 4 years old by December 31, 2015 to enroll. Share the word with friends in the neighbourhood and let them know to call Ms. Guest or drop by as soon as possible to register.

# Register for



# Kindergarten

## Central's Cooking Club was a big success!



Our public health nurse, Naika Duvalsaint, was very impressed with first Cooking Club! It was well organized and had great parent and family participation. Special thanks to all families for showing such strong commitment with their attendance. We enjoyed getting to know each family and sharing kitchen tips and tricks.

Our cooking club ran for 6 weeks, and families worked together to create a health snack or meal at each session. We also learned about food safety, and nutrition. There were also free gifts and prizes that supported family fun and cooking at home.

We hope to host another 6-week session for new families in the spring. Keep an eye on your Tuesday file folders for upcoming information.

Mrs. Hunter, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Faith & Laura Christie (parent council)



## Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 25th at 3:30pm

Babysitting Provided

All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Parent council is a great way to get more involved in your child's education and have your voice heard in decisions relating to fundraising and other school activities. Meetings are once a month. We look forward to seeing you at our meeting!



## Timetable



8:50am	Entry
8:50am—10:50am	Language Learning Block
10:50am -11:30am	Nutrition Break
11:30am— 1:10pm	Math Learning Block
1:10pm-1:50pm	Nutrition Break (students with permission may leave school)
1:50pm-3:10pm	Learning Block
3:10pm	Dismissal

## Parents Ask.... "What is a Green Card Day?"

Green Card Days are days when the weather in the morning cold enough that we don't want students waiting outside to enter the school. These might also end up being "inside recess" days if the weather doesn't improve by our break time.

What makes it "green card" weather? Temperature or wind chill of -20 or more is the cut off for a green card day. Warmer than this and we will be outside, colder and we will open the doors at 8:40am to allow students entry. They are asked to stay in the hallways under teacher and teacher-aide supervision until the bell rings at 8:50 and teachers are in their classrooms.

What can you do? Any time you have a concern about the weather, you can keep your child home a bit later. The second bell rings at 8:50am, but on cold weather or rainy days, we always give students a bit of extra time to get to class without being marked absent. Help your child to get to school around 8:50am instead of 8:40am, and they can come right inside at the bell. You can also ensure your child doesn't arrive before 8:40am, when the doors are locked, as staff hasn't yet arrived for duty.

**GREEN  
CARD**

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

### Smoke on the Big Screen

We all know that movies have a huge influence on how kids act. Kids easily connect with the movie characters they love, mimicking what they say, how they dress and what they do. But did you know that movies are a powerful marketing tool which companies, such as the tobacco industry, use to target kids to try and get them to start smoking?

As parents there are many talks that you will have with your children to help guide them as they grow, but have you ever considered how you would answer if your child asked you a question about smoking in movies?

An important step is talking to your kids about what they are watching in movies and what it means to them. Listen to what they have to say and discuss as a family. Below are several questions to guide you in this conversation:

#### Ask your kids:

- How is smoking portrayed in this movie (e.g. cool, fun, evil, etc.)?
- What are the dangers of smoking? Are these dangers shown in movies?
- How do movies affect the decisions we make?
- Does smoking need to be in movies? If smoking wasn't included in this movie, what difference – if any - would it make to the plot or character? Would you still like this movie?

You can begin this conversation with your children as soon as they are ready, this could be when they start to show interest in watching movies, can turn on the television or use other forms of media.

**Not sure if you know enough on this topic?** Visit [www.smokefreemovies.ca](http://www.smokefreemovies.ca) to learn why smoking in movies is an issue.

**Visiting the theatre for a family movie night?** Find out if a movie has smoking in it and it's rating by checking out *Hooked By Hollywood's* New Release Tab, updated weekly on Facebook and follow them on Twitter @HookedHollywood.

**Wishing you could do something more?** Show your support for eliminating smoking in NEW G, PG, 14A (rated for children and teens) movies at [www.takeaction.cancer.ca/smokefreemovies](http://www.takeaction.cancer.ca/smokefreemovies)



Monday, March 2nd

Friday, March 6th

Wednesday, March 11th

Friday, March 13th

March 16-20th

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Booster Club Begins (Mondays until May 3rd)

Wacky Hair Day

School Fun Day

Cineplex Day—Concession Stand Open!

March Break—No School

**PIZZA MONEY is due Tuesdays at 9am—for Wednesday Lunch**

