

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



April 2015

Made to be AWESOME!

Principal's Message

Field trips and out of classroom experiences are valuable learning experiences for our students. Think back to your own elementary school experience. What do you remember? I remember the sports activities and the field trips I attended! Those things were what made an impression on me and were long lasting!

At Central, we try hard to find inexpensive and educationally valuable activities for all students to attend. This year our younger students have gone apple picking to examine the changes that come with fall and learn a bit about agriculture in Ontario. Our grade 2/3 (and soon our 6/7 students) attended Swim to Survive training where students learn how to survive if they should fall into a body of water. And our grade 4-8 students will be attending an amazing end-of-year trip to Toronto where they will get to learn about underwater creatures at the Aquarium, take a drama lesson with Second City, learn about our amazing engineering accomplishments at the CN Tower, and learn a bit of Toronto History on a walking tour. We have had and will continue to have many other exciting out-of-classroom experiences during the 2014-15 school year.

Many parents wonder how we pick a field trip venue. There is much to consider. The first thing we must consider is the value of the learning experience, and the safety of our students. We must be able to show to parents and the Board of Education that the purpose of the trip is educational. This is the first "lens" we use when deciding on a school trip. Our next consideration is cost, as we always want all students to be able to attend any trip that we provide. Our school budget does not provide specific trip funding—and we often use fundraising dollars to support these trips. We try to support all families with this fundraising money in order to be fair and equitable for all. For example, for our Grade 4-8 trip, our fundraising dollars are paying half of the cost of the trip. In other cases, we use the money to pay for the buses, and then students pay the entry fee. Sometimes teachers are able to secure funding for entry fees through corporate donations, grants etc. and the trip can be offered to students for without any payment required from families.

We greatly appreciate the efforts our families make to financially support these kinds of trips when asked. We recognize that this expense is an extra, and want to assure you that we try our best to make the trip valuable in both the money spent, and the time required to plan and execute each class trip. A special thanks goes out from me to the teachers and Ms. Guest. They spend a great deal of time, behind the scenes, sourcing funding, getting approval from the Board, and collecting and managing the forms and payment that comes in. Thanks to you as parents for being quick to submit permission forms and payment, as this makes their jobs with this so much easier!

Looking forward to some great trips as the summer approaches!

Ms. Gillespie

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

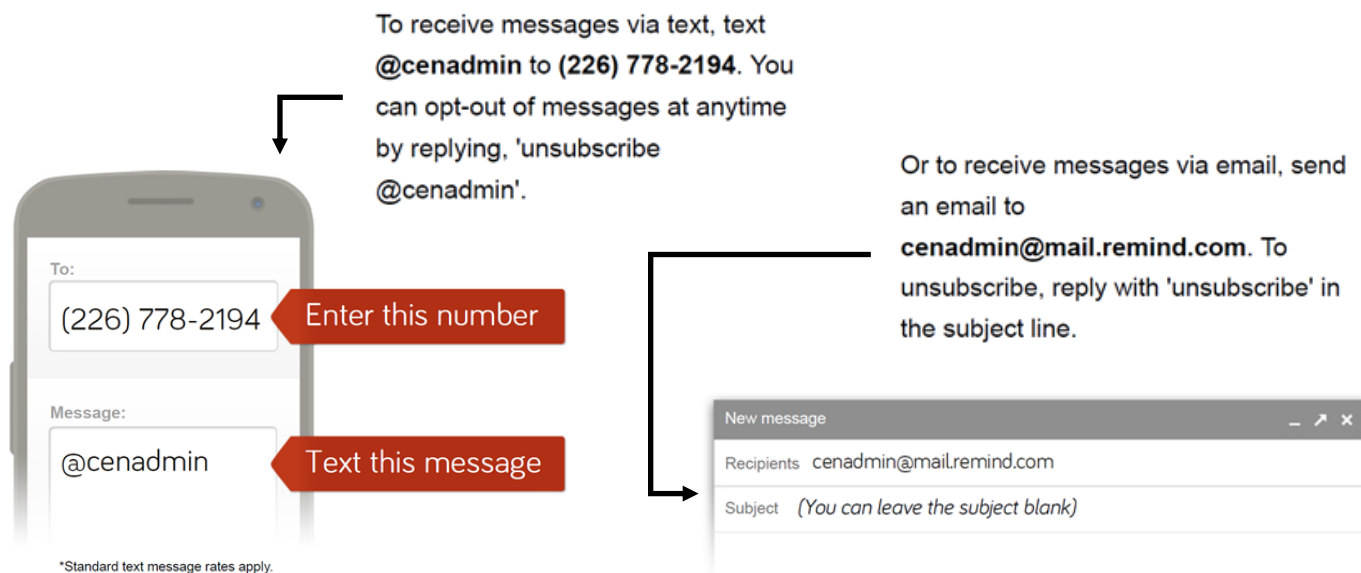


Keeping in Touch with Central—The Easy Way!

Many parents have signed up for our text message reminders! You can get text or email reminders as well—just follow the steps below. This is a great way to get reminders of pizza days, trip payments, special “dress-up” days, etc. Sign up now!

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.



The diagram illustrates two registration methods. On the left, a smartphone screen shows a text message form with 'To: (226) 778-2194' and 'Message: @cenadmin'. Red callout boxes point to these fields with the text 'Enter this number' and 'Text this message'. On the right, an email composition window shows 'Recipients: cenadmin@mail.remind.com' and 'Subject: (You can leave the subject blank)'. A red callout box points to the subject line with the text 'Text this message'. A small note at the bottom left reads '*Standard text message rates apply.'.

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



The illustration shows a group of diverse children holding hands in a circle, with butterflies and flowers around them, set against a green background.



Support Central's Phys. Education Program

Purchase a Central Lottery Calendar Ticket!

This month you will be receiving a pack of 5 Central Lottery Calendar tickets in a Ziploc bag for your family to sell in support of our school phys.ed. Program. Each ticket costs \$5, and gets the ticket-holder a ticket in up to 4 draws EVERY DAY in May! What a great deal!

The calendar attached to the ticket shows the prizes that are available for the draws every day. Keep the calendar and return the ticket at the bottom to the school with the \$5 per ticket for entry in the draw. Hang the calendar on the fridge so that you can dream about your possible winnings each day!

Prizes will be announced on the PA system daily, posted on the school website (see the link/QR code on the front page of this newsletter), and phone calls will be made to our winners. Prizes can be picked up at the school.

The proceeds from the calendar draw will be spent by our parent council organizers on equipment for classrooms/recess games, gym class and team uniforms.

Thank you for your efforts at selling our lottery tickets. More tickets are available at the office once you sell your first five calendars. Incentive prizes will be drawn for every ticket sold—see calendar for details!

Parent Council Meeting

Monday, April 27th 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

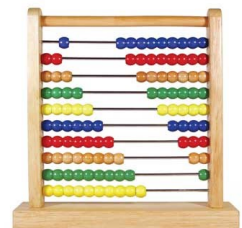
Parents Ask.... What are Math Manipulatives?

This year, our school has been focusing on the use of math manipulatives to support student understanding in mathematics.

What are they?

Math manipulatives are any tools that students and teachers use to help them to SEE how the math works. As parents, we probably learned how to calculate math with pencil and paper, but didn't always get to see WHY it worked.

Classes have a math cart with a wide variety of manipulatives available. These might be coins, counters, bead chains, 2D and 3D shapes, algebra tiles or other things. "Found" items like bread bag ties and macaroni can even be used as to help students visualize how to add and subtract etc.



April is National Oral Health Month

Help Your Children Be Cavity-Free



As a parent, you teach your children many things. You can help your children be cavity free by teaching them how to care for their teeth and gums. Here are some ideas:

- Teeth should be brushed 2 times each day for 2 minutes each time. Brush in the morning and at bedtime.
- The toothbrush should be child-sized with soft bristles. Use a pea-sized amount of fluoride toothpaste.
- Replace the toothbrush every 3 months. Replace the toothbrush more often if your child has been sick.
- Floss your child's teeth once a day.
- Eat healthy foods. Limit sticky and sweet snacks. The best time to eat sweet foods is with a meal. Avoid sipping sweetened drinks for long periods of time.
- Visit your dentist at least once a year. It is suggested that children start to see a dentist around age 1 so that any problems are found early.

If you do not have dental insurance and cannot pay to see the dentist, the Brant County Health Unit can help. You can find out more by contacting the Dental Department. Please call 519-753-4937 ext.450, email dental@bchu.org or visit www.bchu.org/dental.

Pizza Days are Changing!



April 14th will be our LAST pizza day of 2014/15. Due to declining interest, we have decided to switch things up and change the way we offer a hot food/fun lunch option for the rest of the year.



In line with the Ministry nutrition policy, we have several days each year where we can offer a special lunch to students for purchase that doesn't have to meet our strict nutrition guidelines. We will be offering these lunches on the following Fridays: May 1st, May 15th, May 29th and June 12th.

Information about the lunches will come home with the Tuesday folder on the week of the special lunch. Students will be able to return order forms and money on Wednesday or Thursday of that week, and the lunch will be delivered at second break of Friday. Students who are ill or absent on the day of the special lunch can have their lunch designated to another student or picked up by a parent that day. Please let the office know when you call in to report their absence.

The money raised by these lunches supports our school fundraising efforts. Thank you for supporting us!



Tuesday, April 14th
Wednesday, April 8th
Thursday, April 16th
Friday, April 24th
April 29th—May 1st
Thursday, April 30th
Friday, May 1st

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Last Pizza Day
First night of Cooking Club for registered families
Immunization Gr. 7/8
PD DAY—No school for students
BOOK FAIR
Family Math Night/Book Fair
Special Lunch (see Tuesday File April 28th for details)