

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



**June 2015**

# Made to be AWESOME!

## Principal's Message

Where did the year go? June is the “New Year’s Eve” of the school year—when thoughts turn to what we have accomplished and where we need to head in the year to come. What an absolutely awesome year we have had.

Some great things were accomplished this year. We finally got our sign out front of the school. This has been an amazing tool to keep parents informed of upcoming events and deadlines. We have been working to improve communication through our school website as well. We have recently set up a school Facebook page called Central Public School Brantford. Moving forward, we will use our school website for “static” information such as teacher contact information and school year calendar dates, and provide a link there to our Facebook page for more current and changing information. Check out our Facebook page for our June “Like and Share” contest!

There have been a number of changes happening around the school to improve the school and yards. We have recently had some extensive and expensive repairs done to the brickwork under our windows and in front of the library. Over the summer, we are anticipating some other big improvements, including a new gym floor, and a swipe card for teacher access at the playground door. We have also applied for a grant for our school grounds which should see us with a new and improved playground in September! Look for work to be happening on the yards over July and August.

We also ran a very successful Lottery Calendar fundraiser with Parent Council this year. We raised almost \$3500! This was one of our most successful fundraisers in the history of the school. We have already purchased almost \$2000 in new gym equipment and supplies, and will be buying uniforms and other equipment in the fall. Look forward to our second Lottery Calendar fundraiser in 2015/16!

We also have been working hard to improve and refine our math instruction. Each class got a cart FULL of math manipulatives, provided through generous corporate donations. Moving forward, we will be continuing to look at how to use these resources to support and engage all students in quality math instruction.

All in all, a truly awesome year. I am so happy to be here at Central to see all these changes and improvements. I will continue to work with the School Board, parent council and our community partners to implement more changes and improvements next year! I hope you all enjoy the summer together as families. I look forward to hearing of your adventures in September.

Erica Fleming-Gillespie



## Our Like & Share Contest



Central is having a contest on our Facebook page! Like and Share our “Central Public School Brantford” page this month for a chance to win a \$25 Crock-a-Doodle gift card! Scan the QR code below with your smart phone to link to our page. Or search for Central Public School Brantford while logged into Facebook. “Liking” the page will ensure you don’t miss a thing happening at our school!



### Snack Program and Breakfast Program Wrap-Up

We will be finishing our regular snack bins and breakfast program the week of June 15-19th. During the last week of school the breakfast program won’t run and our snack bins won’t be delivered to classrooms. We will put out our leftover food and some limited snack items on the front table for students without enough food in their lunches during that week.

We want to say a big THANK YOU to Brant Food for Thought for their generous donations this year that have made this program possible. And we also want to thank our loyal and hard working volunteer staff and parents for giving HOURS of their time each week to make this valuable program run. It couldn’t

happen without you.

Are you looking to help out next year? We are losing our “shopper” and will be looking for someone to volunteer to grocery shop for us. We hope to simplify the process next year so that we only need a shopper once every two weeks. If you are looking for a chance to give back to Central—this could be how! Contact Barb Guest at the office to leave us your name.

We have had our JK orientation session and are having some class visits this week. But it isn’t too late to register for Kindergarten! If you have a student turning 4 years old before December 31st, 2015, they can register for JK in September. Registrations can happen anytime in June. Families moving to the area during the summer can come into the office between September 1st and 3rd to register.

School start up in the fall will be a modified version of the “Gradual Entry” process. Senior kindergarten students will start school with all the other students on Tuesday, September the 8th, and the JKs will stagger their entrance over that week. Look for details to come home with all registered kindergarten teachers.

To order your copy of Grand Erie District School Board’s Welcome to Kindergarten Guide, contact the Principal or visit [granderie.ca](http://granderie.ca) to order a copy or view online.

# Register for



# Kindergarten

# Grade 8 Graduation

Wednesday, June 24th, 2015 at 6pm

Central Presbyterian Church

97 Wellington St., Brantford



## Timetable



*\*please return the form asap with your required number of tickets.*



### Parent Council Meetings

Monthly at 3:30pm

Babysitting Provided

*Thinking about how to get involved at Central? Consider being part of our Parent Council next year! It's easy and a small commitment of 1 meeting a month. We look forward to seeing you there in the fall.*

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.... Should my child have homework?

Homework is a controversial subject in many schools. In our board, we leave it up to the teacher to decide if homework is appropriate for his/her students. Some things we consider are:

- is the homework specific to the needs of the child, or generic homework done by all students (regardless of need)?
- is there parent support for homework completion to ensure that students aren't reinforcing misconceptions by regularly completing homework with a poor understanding of the content?
- will the students complete the work?
- is the homework required interfering with valuable and important after school activities (e.g. sports teams, family time, music lessons etc.)

Most often, homework consists of certain portions of the work that students choose or are required to do at home when they are not completed in class. This would often be items like: typing a good copy of an assignment, researching a topic in preparation for a project, completing some extra practice math questions etc. Homework might also be sent home regularly at the request of the parent on a per-child basis.

If you would like your child to have more time to practice school concepts at home, what can you do? Some of the best "homework" are things that students like to do. They willingly participate, and this reduces the stress on family life! Encourage your child to read with you (and ask them questions about what they have read). Have them spend some of their screen time on an educational game like Prodigy (passwords available from the school) that reinforces concepts learned in class in a fun way. Engage them in home projects like baking a cake or putting together that new dresser from IKEA. Both of these times can reinforce math concepts like measurement and geometry, as well as Science concepts like following a procedure, and form and structure.

Even in High School, students these days are completing less work at home and more work in groups at school. Things have changed from when we went to school! But don't be afraid to ask your child's teacher and discuss what is in the best interests of your child and your family.

## How will your child stay fit over break?

Kids who stay active over the summer are more likely to go back to school ready to learn. Are you making sure that your child will have plenty of opportunities for safe physical activity this summer? Answer *yes* or *no*:

- \_\_\_ **1. Have you talked** with your child about the kinds of exercise he enjoys? There's something for everyone!
- \_\_\_ **2. Have you helped** your child set personal fitness goals for the summer?
- \_\_\_ **3. Do you limit** your child's screen time? Have everyone get up and move during TV commercials.
- \_\_\_ **4. Have you checked** out activities being offered at local recreation centers, pools or parks?
- \_\_\_ **5. Have you mapped** out some routes for family walks?

### How well are you doing?

*More yes answers mean you and your child are on track for a healthy summer. For each no, try that idea.*

*"It is not what is poured into a student that counts but what is planted."  
—Linda Conway*

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### Hot Lunches at Central

Our last hot lunch will be Friday, June 12th. We will be revisiting our first two hot lunches and serving hotdogs and grilled cheese sandwiches with chocolate milk. Look for an order form coming home in next Tuesday's file.

**Orders and payment are due by Thursday, June 11th at 9AM. Late orders cannot be accepted, as we won't be purchasing extra food that won't last the summer.**

If your child is absent on Friday, you can call the school and have their hotdog given to another student at the school, or you can come to school at 1:30pm to collect their lunch and bring it home with you.

Thank you for supporting us!



## Your time matters most

Investing time in your child's education pays off. One study that followed more than 10,000 children found that family involvement at home was more effective than a positive school environment at increasing academic achievement. Try to:

- **Talk about school** and its importance.
- **Visit the school** and attend school activities when you can.
- **Check that your child** is completing homework and getting it back to school.

**Remember, when schools and families work together, children are most successful.**

Source: "Parenting More Important Than Schools to Academic Achievement, Study Finds," Science Daily, [niswc.com/invest](http://niswc.com/invest).

\*excerpt from Helping Children Learn Newsletter May 2015

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday, June 2nd	Regional Track and Field Event
Friday, June 5th	PD Day—no school
Friday, June 12th	Last HOT LUNCH
Thursday, June 18th	Gr. 1-3 Trip to African Lion Safari
Friday, June 19th	Pan Am Torch Run event
Monday, June 22nd	Report cards go home
Tuesday, June 23rd	Gr. 4-8 Trip to Toronto, JK-SK Trip to Kidtastic
Wednesday, June 24th	Grade 8 Graduation, Awards Assembly
Thursday, June 25th	Last Day of School.

