

# February Newsletter, 2019

## Dates to Remember

- Feb. 5 School Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library
- Feb. 6 Pizza Day
- Feb. 8 Gr. 6 to 8 Dance
- Feb. 13 Pizza Day
- Feb. 14 Valentine's Day, cookies delivered
- Feb. 14 Term One Report Cards go home
- Feb. 18 Family Day Holiday – no school
- Feb. 20 Pizza Day
- Feb. 21 Harvey's Night – 3 to 7 pm – Harvey's near Leons
- Feb. 27 Pink Shirt Day
- Feb. 27 Pizza Day

## A Message from the Principal...

It was quite chilly last week. We were in for five recesses over the three days. Thankfully, we were outside on Friday afternoon. Just a reminder, we will be outside until it reaches -20°C with the windchill. On days where you think it will be an indoor recess, students are welcome to bring cards or board games to keep themselves occupied. We have math manipulatives, paper for drawing and other board games for students to use too. Please ensure the students are properly dressed for the weather to keep them warm on the days we go outside.

Thanks is extended to our School Council for the Brier Park t-shirts. Each student received a t-shirt last Monday. Many students wore their t-shirts on Wednesday during our Spirit Day. It was great to see the "sea of red" in classrooms. We raised \$100 for the Strong Start program through our Spirit Day. Thank you to our School Community for your generosity supporting an organization used by Brier Park students.

A safety concern...many teachers get their students ready for home time just before 3 pm. When parents call wanting to have their child brought to the office for pick up just before 3 pm, there isn't a guarantee we'll be able to reach the child as they may be in the mudrooms. If you want your child at the office at home time, please call prior to 2:50 pm. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brittain

## **Please be aware of a change that will take place at all Grand Erie schools beginning February 1st.**

Last fall, the Government of Ontario passed the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which prohibits smoking tobacco or cannabis as well as all vaping in public areas, including schools.

The new law specifically states that a person can not smoke or vape in or around a school. This includes all indoor spaces and all outdoor areas like playgrounds and sports fields. It also prohibits smoking and vaping in public areas within 20 metres of the property line of a school or School Board facility. For reference, 20 metres equals 65 feet, or the approximate length of 1.5 school buses.

A person caught smoking or vaping in a prohibited area may be charged with an offence and subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 for a first offence, if convicted.

To assist our school with this change, the local Health Unit will provide new signage. Our Public Health Nurse will have education information available for those looking to quit smoking or vaping. Grand Erie will also be removing all traditional smoking and vaping areas.

Understandably, this is a significant change that will require everyone's cooperation. We don't want to see anyone charged. Therefore, we're asking for your support and assistance in ensuring everyone meets the requirements of this new law.

For more information on the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, visit: <https://bit.ly/2FGV4y5>.

### **Count Us In! Grand Erie's Student Census takes place, March 18-29**



The goal of Grand Erie's Multi-Year Plan is *Success for Every Student*. In order to achieve this, the Board must understand the needs of its students and their families. To assist the Board with this work, all students in Grades 4-12 will take part in Count Us In!, Grand Erie's first-ever student census from March 18-29.

This initiative is being led by Grand Erie's Safe and Inclusive Schools Team and has the support of the Board of Trustees, Senior Management and a host of community groups and organizations. It is also part of a larger initiative by the Ministry of Education and Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan.

The census findings will help Grand Erie better understand student populations and school communities; identify and eliminate barriers to student success, inclusion and well-being; and establish effective programs to increase student services. For more information, visit: [granderie.ca](http://granderie.ca).

## **A Note From The Public Health Nurse At Your School...**

### Active Winter Fun for the Whole Family

Winter is here to stay for a while, but there is no need to hibernate indoors. Instead, go outside with the whole family and enjoy playing old games or trying out some new ones.

Building a snowman, tobogganing, playing a game of hockey, going skating or participating in a winter treasure hunt are all great activities that will get the whole family moving.

Before heading outdoors, keep these tips in mind:

- \* Dress warm and layer clothing. Don't forget a warm hat, mittens and boots!
- \* Stay away from ponds and rivers. They may look frozen, but the ice may not be thick enough to support your body weight. Play it safe!
- \* Pack a lunch and something to drink. It's easy to forget that in the cold air you can still get hungry and thirsty.
- \* Wear Sunscreen. You can get sunburn even in the winter!
- \* Watch for frostbite. Kids get frostbite faster than adults. Signs of frostbite include a prickly or itchy feeling in the skin, numbness and/ or discoloration on the face, ears hands or feet. Stay protected, stay warm.