

April Newsletter, 2019

Dates to Remember

April 2nd – School Council Meeting, 6 pm, library

April 3rd – Hot Lunch

April 10th – Hot Lunch, Boston Pizza Fundraiser for Int. Trip, 5-8 pm.

April 12th- PD Day, no school for students

April 17th – Hot Lunch

April 18th –Brier Park Celebrates Earth Day - wear green and blue

April 24th - Hot Lunch, Harvey's Night, 3 to 7 pm

April 26th - Jump Rope for Heart Event – AM

May 10th –Special Friends Day – AM, more information to follow

Principal's Message

April, May and June are busy here at Brier Park. During our April Professional Activity Day on the 12th, we are working with the staffs of Ryerson Heights and Agnes Hodge schools improving our math teaching skills.

Thank you to our School Council for organizing our Family Wellness Night on April 3rd at North Park Collegiate. It was a great event filled with a variety of topics focussing on wellness. We appreciate their efforts. Thank you to the families that attended the event. It was great to see everyone there.

A reminder that April 18th is Brier Park's Earth Day celebration. Students are asked to wear green and blue, pack a good boomerang lunch (everything sent today goes back home whether it's a wrapper that's garbage or an apple core). Please help support this day.

We have EQAO during the last two weeks of May and the first week of June. More information will be in May's newsletter.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Brittain

Social Networking and Online Safety Information Session for Parents

Grand Erie's Parent Involvement Committee (GEPIC) is hosting an important and timely social media and online safety information session for all Grand Erie parents on April 16.

Social Networking and Online Safety: What Parents Need to Know will be led by guest speaker Paul Davis who is an expert in social media, and brings more than 27 years of IT knowledge and experience to Grand Erie.

"Social media is an area of major concern for many parents," said Sarah Nichol, Chair of Grand Erie's Parent Involvement Committee. "Social media and other online activities consume a lot of our children's time. As parents, it's important for us to understand these platforms and to find ways to ensure our children and teens are safe when using them."

Davis is an expert in all of the latest social media trends. His presentation will cover cyberbullying, sexting, smartphones, digital trails, online security and other relevant topics.

"Paul's presentation is intense, so parents should come prepared," said Nichol. "He'll scare us, that's a guarantee. But, he'll also offer great tips and advice on how to deal with social media as well as concrete ways to manage and monitor online activities to ensure our kids stay safe. And, he'll give us strategies to communicate with our teens about keeping their online presence safe."

Social Networking and Online Safety: What Parents Need to Know takes place on Tuesday, April 16 at 6 p.m. in the Gord Paynter Theatre at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School (280 North Park Street, Brantford, Ontario).

Parents are asked to RSVP by Wednesday, April 10 to kimberly.newhouse@granderie.ca.

Special Education Survey – We Need Your Input!

At Grand Erie, we believe all children have individual learning needs. Some children have exceptional learning needs, and may require additional resources to reach their learning potential.

Help us ensure *Success for Every Student* by reviewing our Special Education Plan here: <https://bit.ly/2CKCfWQ>, and providing your input on our Special Education Feedback Survey here: <https://bit.ly/2PYue8H>

Parent Councils Bring Renowned Speaker to Paris for Presentation on Brain Development for Children and Teens

Brantford Ont. – Dr. Jean Clinton, clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neuroscience's Division of Child Psychiatry at McMaster University, is coming to Cobblestone Elementary School on April 30 to speak at a free event for Grand Erie parents titled *The Student Brain Under Construction*.

“Dr. Clinton is known around the world as a respected expert in this field, and is also a tireless advocate committed to ensuring young people’s voices are heard and respected,” said Nancy Waldschmidt, chair of the parent council at Paris District High School, which, along with the parent councils of Brant County elementary schools, is organizing the event. “We’re thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity to parents in the area.”

Dr. Clinton is also a senior scientist at the Infant Child Health Lab at McMaster, and a fellow of the Child Trauma Academy. She was appointed as an educational advisor to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Education from 2014-18. She has been a consultant to children and youth mental health programs, child welfare, and primary care for more than 30 years.

The event is free to Grand Erie parents, but seating is limited. To reserve a seat, please email Nancy Waldschmidt by April 23 at: nancywaldschmidt@sympatico.ca.

Event Details:

The Student Brant Under Construction with Dr. Jean Clinton

- Tuesday, April 30, 2019
- Cobblestone Elementary School (179 Grandville Circle, Paris, Ontario)
- 6-8 p.m.