

The Gator's Tale



Mrs. Fay VandenBeukel - Principal

October 2009

What's in the October Newsletter:

- We Day
- School Council Information
- Photo Re-Take Date
- Sports Update
- School EQAO results
- Sharing Assemblies
- Terry Fox Fundraiser
- Art Club, Library and Choir news



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It has been a very busy and successful first six weeks of school. The students have settled into the routines and are learning lots of new things. This is especially noticeable in the the ECE and grade one classrooms. Even our youngest students are enthusiastic about what they are learning. Starting school is a big step and we are very proud of how well the students are doing. Thank you to parents for supporting your children during this back to school time.

As always I want to invite you to keep in touch with the school should you have any questions, suggestions or concerns. However, if you have a need to speak to me about something in particular it is always helpful to call ahead and make an appointment. This way I can be sure to give you my full attention.

Mrs. Vanden Beukel

Six Steps to Keep Me Healthy!!

1. Wash your hands often using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Ensure hands are washed:
 - a. After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
 - b. After shaking hands
 - c. Before eating
 - d. Before putting in contact lenses
 - e.
2. Avoid touching your face as much as possible.
3. Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. Throw out used tissues right away.
4. Do not share objects that have been in other people's mouths, eg. toothbrushes, drinks and water bottles, unwashed utensils, lip products, and mouthpieces of musical instruments.
2. Stay home if you feel sick and talk to your doctor. Staying home will help prevent the spread of infections.
6. Frequently clean common surfaces such as keyboards, doorknobs, countertops, etc.



EQAO INFORMATION FOR 2008-2009

The results of the 2008-2009 Grade 3 and 6 assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics have been released by the Ministry of Education and are now available for all schools, boards and the province. There are 4 levels of possible achievement. The Provincial Standard according to the Ontario curriculum is Level 3. The information below states the percentage of students who achieved Levels 3 and 4 at our school and throughout the District School Board of Niagara. This is valuable information to help us develop a plan for continual growth and improvement for our students. Parents are invited to provide feedback or input to Mrs. Vanden Beukel.

Grade 3 Level of Achievement in Reading, Writing & Mathematics

	Last Year	This Year	Increase/Decrease
Reading			
Level 3 & 4	50%	67%	+17%
Writing			
Level 3 & 4	61%	82%	+21%
Mathematics			
Level 3 & 4	46%	76 %	+30%

Grade 6 Level of Achievement in Reading, Writing & Mathematics

	Last Year	This Year	Increase/Decrease
Reading			
Level 3 & 4	53%	66%	+ 13%
Writing			
Level 3 & 4	61%	66%	+ 5 %
Mathematics			
Level 3 & 4	39%	41%	+2%

Communication Matters

Smart talk from your board Speech-Language Pathologists

Did you know that children whose parents are involved in their education do better at school than those with less involved parents? They get better grades, have a better attitude toward school and demonstrate more appropriate behaviour. Consider trying a few of these tips to make a BIG difference.

Tip 1: Get involved

- Attend open houses, book fairs, BBQs, parent/teacher interviews, etc.

Tip 2: Check on homework

- Communicate with your child each day about homework.
- Provide an organized and quiet place for your child to do school work.
- Help your child manage the workload by dividing assignments into smaller parts.

Tip 3: Make home a good place for learning

- Praise and encourage your child.
- Read and encourage your child to read, every day.
- Set aside a few moments daily, to talk with your child about a special interest he or she has.



HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

On Friday, October 30th, 2009, the students will take part in many special activities. JK/SK students may wear their costumes to school and participate in the classroom activities planned by Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Palmer during their regular scheduled school day. Students in grades 1 through 5 are invited to dress up for our Halloween Parade after the lunch break on the afternoon of Friday, October 30th. We will parade around the school property. Following the parade students will return to their home room classes for activities. Students in grades 6 to 8 will be invited to a Halloween dance that will run from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

HALLOWEEN FOR HUNGER

On October 31st, 2009 members of the Greendale Me2We club will take to the streets to participate in Halloween for Hunger, a local initiative supporting food banks through the collection of non-perishable food items.

WHAT is Halloween for Hunger?

Started by Professor Jonathan White, Halloween for Hunger is an annual campaign whose goal is to help alleviate hunger while raising awareness of global poverty. First adopted by Free the Children in October, 2000, the campaign pushes people to think globally by act locally.

How can YOU help?

On Halloween night collect a couple of non-perishable food items (every item helps!), and place them inside your door. When a Greendale School student comes to your door and identifies him/herself, make your contribution! Please note: We are going to do our best to cover as much ground as possible. However, if we are unable to visit your home and you would still like to make a contribution, please drop them off at the Greendale School office. There are Project Share bins in the hallways ready for donations.

Me2We NEWS



On Monday October 5th, twelve members of the Me2We club traveled with Miss. Mortley to the Air Canada Centre in Toronto to participate in this year's National "We Day" hosted by CTV's Ben Mulroney and Tanya Kim. They were joined by thousands of other teens and youth leaders from around Ontario, to celebrate their making a difference in their school, local, and global community. Presenters included world renowned speakers Marc and Craig Kielburger, Nobel Laureate,

Holocaust survivor, and prolific author Elie Wiesel, as well as environmentalist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. In addition, students heard from the Cast of *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, Former Toronto Argonaut player and coach Mike 'Pinball' Clemons, MTV's Jessi Cruikshank and Robin Wiszowaty, Spencer West, the Top 8 from 'So You Think You Can Dance Canada', along with last year's winner Nico Archibault. Musical performances included Justin Bieber, Louise Kent, Canadian Idol's Hedley and a very exciting and spontaneous set from the Jonas Brothers. A **HUGE** thank-you goes out to The Shawanoo Family and the Ferbrache Family for accompanying our students on this special day. If it were not for their support, we could not have such amazing experiences!

SHARING ASSEMBLIES

Each month our students will be involved in a Sharing Assembly that will highlight the Character trait that the students have been focussing on that month. Some months the assembly will be in the morning at 9:00 .m. and other months in the afternoon at 2:00 p.m. This time together will provide opportunity for the different classes to share the many positive learning activities that are happening in their classrooms and to acknowledge those students who have exemplified the monthly character trait. All parents and members of the community are welcome on Friday, October 31st at 9:00 a.m.

October's Character Trait is ~RESPONSIBILITY~

GREENDALE GLORIOUS GATORS has begun...

The 'GGG' Choir is now in rehearsal mode and anticipating some wonderful performances. An enthusiastic group of over 40 singers from grades 4-8 meet in Mrs. Morningstar's room on Thursdays after school to learn new music and melodies. We have already been invited to sing in the delightful Christmas Story of Scrooge at the Greg Frewin Theatre on December 1st at 11:00 am. More information will follow as the time nears. We are also preparing for the Remembrance Day Service at Greendale, as well as some other venues still in the works.

I am excited to have the help of four amazing staff members this year. Mrs. Sodtke, Mrs. Robinson, Miss. Ganski and Miss. Mortley. Thank-you so much! Also thank-you to the beautiful voices of the students who have chosen to be a part of the "Glorious Gators". What a great group!!

The **THANKSGIVING TREASURE** play was performed by the Grade 1 to Grade 3/4 classes just prior to the holiday and was well received by our audience. These actors learned their parts quickly and shared the true meaning of Thanksgiving beautifully. Thanks for doing a wonderful job, "students" and "Teacher Miss. F". Too bad the adults couldn't keep up when we sang "Flea" though! On a personal note, I have truly enjoyed my time at Greendale so far and look forward to more music and laughter with the staff and students here.

~Mrs. Morningstar

SOCCER

Mr. Scozzafava would like to congratulate the Intermediate Soccer Team for their play in our annual soccer tournament. We went undefeated in 3 games (5-1, 1-0, and 6-0). All players should be commended for their disciplined play, hard work, and sportsmanship throughout the day. Fun was had by all and Greendale used **TEAMWORK** all the way! **GO GATORS!!!**

This year's squad:

Boys

Alex Lasic
Dylan Staley
Sasha Gajic
Ryan Stevens
Lucas Marcon
Bret Booth
Zak Ibrahim
Jordan Hiltz
Eric Lowe

Girls

Cyra Spink
Tessa Dean
Nicole Smith
Huong Vo
Mei Low
Thanh Nguyen
Domenica Marchese



CROSS COUNTRY

Thanks to Ms. Hammond and Mrs. Sodtke for coaching our Cross-Country athletes this year!

ATOM BOYS

Caleb Jancsar
Matthew Twocock
Aaron Vale
Bryce Campbell
Massahara Ono
Alex Restivo
Cedric Robinson
Broc Botbyl
Noah Monchalin
Daman Willett
Joshua Lemire
Xavier Rolle-Smith

ATOM GIRLS

Ryane Mallett
Shelby Wilson
Mackenna Reilly
Megan Stevens
Jamie Huggins
Mayla Mayer
Suha Hassan
Chandra Craig-Easterbrook

PEE WEE GIRLS

Taylor Mallett
Jamie Lehouillier
Maddison Campbell

PEE WEE BOYS

Owen Devine
Cameron Lenartowich
Dylan McIlravey
Matthew Conlon
Nick Mazzone
Calvin Coplen

BANTAM GIRLS

Thanh Nguyen
Mei Low

BANTAM BOYS

Zak Ibrahim
Jordan Hiltz
Sasha Gajic
Eric Lowe

MIDGET BOYS

Bret Hartmann

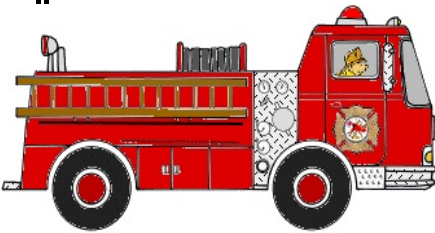
ART CLUB

Greendale's new Art Club is up and running. Each month members of the club will look at an artist, some of that artists work and a specific technique, resulting in beautiful works of their own. The Art Club bulletin board showcases some of the fine pieces created by members. Please check it out when in the building next! All students are welcome to join. Listen to morning announcements for meeting times. ~Mrs. Sodtke



TERRY FOX FIRE TRUCK PULL

On September 24th, Greendale had local firemen bring a fire truck to school for the classes and staff to have a pull-off. The week leading up to the day, the students of Greendale raised an amazing amount of money in honour of Terry Fox. The boys of Greendale School raised \$73.24, and our girls raised a phenomenal \$246.84! For a grand total of \$320.08!!! A big thank-you to Ms. Hammond for organizing this special event for us again, and to The Vandermuelen Family for taking such great photos for the bulletin board outside room 5!



SCHOOL NURSE

The School Nurse assigned to our school is Joanne Sacco. She will be promoting optimal health among our students and assisting us to develop a healthy school environment. Her role is to influence Niagara's children and their families to make healthy lifestyle choices. Our nurse can be reached at the Niagara Region Public Health Department at (905) 688-8248, ext. 7508 - Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PHOTO RE-TAKE DAY

Those students who require photo retakes will have the opportunity on **Monday, November 2nd** in the morning.



MOVIE NIGHT

Please be sure to join us for Movie Night on Thursday, October 22nd. Our School Council is inviting all families to come to school in the evening to watch "Monsters and Aliens". Pizza and popcorn will be available. Please remember to send back your family order.

FROM THE LIBRARY...

We are calling for any parent or family volunteers that would be interested in giving of their time to help organize and sort Greendale's library. Our students and teachers make Literacy a priority, and access the library resources often...sometimes this can be a difficult task to keep on top of. If you are interested, please call the school and ask for our new Librarian....**Mrs. Brewster!** Thank-you in advance! ©