

The Gator's Tale



Mrs. Fay VandenBeukel - Principal

September 2011

Welcome back to school!

What's in the September Newsletter:

- Current year staff list
- Bell times
- How to report your child's absence
- Open House information
- Student agenda information
- Student health information
- School Council information



Here it is the first day of school for another year. I hope you and your family enjoyed a fun-filled summer together. While it is wonderful to have time to enjoy the outdoors and the warm weather, it is also great to get back to school and into a regular routine.

Everything is in place for another great year. Greendale School is very fortunate to have such a dedicated staff. The teachers have worked very hard to prepare their classrooms for students and they look inviting and ready for learning. A special mention to Ms. Deschamps for all her hard work cleaning over the summer. The school is sparkling clean. Thank you to Ms. Munn for getting us organized and ready to go. There are numerous important pieces of correspondence going home this week. Please take the time to read and return the ones that help us to stay organized here at school.

There are also a couple of staff changes that I would like to share with you. Firstly, just last week Ms. Mortley was promoted to Vice Principal of Crossroads Elementary School. While we are so pleased for Ms. Mortley, she is going to be missed here at Greendale School. The good news is that Ms. Mortley has promised to stay in touch with all of us and visit whenever she can. Mrs. Martin (formerly know as Miss Macnamara) is returning to Greendale School to teach our grade 1 /2 all boys class. Mrs. Martin has been at Greendale previously as a kindergarten and music teacher and we are very excited to welcome her back. You will also notice a new name on the staff list. It is Mrs. L. Tyminski. Mrs. Tyminski has been formerly known as Miss Sullivan. Miss Sullivan was married over the summer and we are pleased that she will continue as Youth Counsellor here at Greendale School.

One of the main ingredients for establishing and maintaining this welcoming community atmosphere is open and honest communication between school and home. Please continue to be involved with your child's school and feel free to contact your child's teacher or myself if you have questions, concerns or suggestions. Also, be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend our Open House on Tuesday, September 13th. Together let's make this the best school year ever.

Mrs. Fay Vanden Beukel



Early Release Day

On Friday, September 23rd 2011, students will be dismissed at 12:25 p.m. Teachers will be involved in school-based professional development for the afternoon.

GREENDALE STAFF 2011-2012



JK/SK
JK/SK
Grade 1
Grade 1 /2
Grade 2
Grade 2 /3
Grade 3/4
Grade 4
Grade 5
Grade 5/6
Grade 6

Grade 7/8
Grade 8
Spec Ed
Learning Resource Teacher
Music, Drama and Dance
French
Library
Design and Technology
Literacy Coach
English Language Learning
Educational Assistant
Educational Assitant
Educational Assistant
Educational Assistant
Educational Assistant
Youth Counsellor
Secretary
Caretaker
Part time cleaner
Lunchroom supervisor

Principal

Mrs. M Rackal
Mrs. J. Marr
Mrs. C. Christian
Mrs. K. Martin
Mrs. S. Dunne
Mrs. M. Hilliker
Mr. B. Barker
Mrs. K. Vanderburg
Ms. T. Hammond
Miss K. Wood
Ms.S. Ehgoetz
Mrs. K. Lagerwerf
Mr. T. Mason
Mr. D. Harriman
Mrs. S. Carniello
Ms. F. Boon
Mrs. C. Morningstar
Mrs. J. Murray
Ms. S. Ehgoetz
Mr. I. Darling
Mrs. L. Littlejohn
Mrs. S. Turner
Mrs. G. Harvey
Mrs. M. McLaughlin
Mrs. L. McBurney
Mrs. H. Gilmour
Mrs. M. Woodburn
Mrs. L.. Tyminski
Ms. P. Munn
Mrs. R. Deschamps
Mrs. T. Whittom
Mrs. S. Conlon
Mr. A. Slogget
Mrs. F. Vanden Beukel

Bell Times



Morning Entry	8:55 a.m.
First Nutrition/Fitness Break	
	10:35 - 11:15 a.m.
Lunch	12:55 - 1:45 p.m.
Afternoon Dismissal	3:25 p.m.
Early Dismissal Days	12:25 p.m.

Arriving on time for school to begin each day is one of the keys to student success. Lessons begin promptly after students enter in order to maximize student learning time, so please help your child arrive on time.



This Week's Correspondence



During the first week of school, your child will bring home a number of important forms which need to be completed. Please return the confidential Student Information Forms as quickly as possible. The Student Information Form is vital to keep the school up to date with your Emergency contact information. In the event that your child takes ill, or is injured, we will make every effort to reach you, but we also need an additional name and number in case we cannot contact you. If you are interested in subscribing to the Student Insurance package that was sent home (there is no obligation to do so), please send this completed form directly to the insurance company using the self-addressed postage paid envelope. Please do not return it to the school.

School Council

Our School Council is an integral part of the school. It is a group of parents and members of the community who serve as an advisory committee to the school. The Greendale School Council meets approximately once a month. Our first School Council meeting will be **Monday September 26th, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.** at the school. It is an excellent way to stay informed about school, board and provincial initiatives and to offer input in the decision making process. Please consider becoming a member of School Council and plan to join us for the first School Council meeting, or call the school for more information.



Reporting an absence and calling the school

When your child is going to be absent from school, please call the school to let us know. The phone number is: 905-358-8111 Greendale School has an answering machine so you may call and leave a message at any time, or call between 8:00 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. to speak to Ms. Munn. This will reduce the number of call backs Ms. Munn has to make. She tracks the attendance of all our students twice daily for their safety.

Greendale's Electronic Policy

As you are well aware technology is advancing at a very fast pace. There are now cell phones, PSP systems, DSI's, I-pods and other electronic devices that can play music, make calls, take pictures and access the internet at the touch of a fingertip and many of our students own these types of electronic devices and currently bring them to school. With all these capabilities come added risks to student privacy and safety. Therefore, we are going to ask that students DO NOT bring any of these electronic devices to school.

The one exception to this policy is a cell phone. If parents make the family decision to have their child carry a cell phone it may come to school. However, the same cell phone policy remains:

Cell Phones: *It is a recognized part of Greendale's Code of Conduct that if a cell phone is brought on school property, no student shall have a mobile phone on their person, or be texting in class. It is expected that all cell phones are to be stored in the student's locker. The cell phone will be confiscated if these policies are not followed.*

Thank you for working with us to ensure a safe environment for all our students. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Agendas



Students in grades 1 through 8 will receive a student agenda this week. This organizing tool should be used daily by students to track assignments and homework. It can also be used by parents to communicate with the teacher. Please encourage your child to use the organizer consistently, by asking to view it, writing notes in it and ensuring it is returned to school each day. Please note that we are asking parents to help offset the cost of each agenda with a \$6.00 donation. for each agenda. Please have your child return the money to his/her home room teacher.

School Photographs

Tuesday, September 27th, 2011 will be Picture day at Greendale School. Class and individual photos will be taken by Pegasus beginning at 9:00 a.m. This year we are also having a whole school photo taken on Friday, September 30th.

Milk Program

A sheet of 12 milk tickets will be available for purchase at the office for \$10.00

Headphones:

All students will need to have their own set of headphones to be used in conjunction with our computers at school. Please help us by sending your child with their own labelled set.



Severe Allergy Alert!!

This September we have numerous new students as well as some returning students who have severe potentially life threatening allergies to nuts and latex. To ensure everyone's safety here at Greendale, we are asking students to bring only nut free snacks and foods to school. Even tiny amounts of nut particles or residue can cause someone with a nut allergy to have a strong reaction. Without treatment, this person could die within minutes. Greendale School can only be a "nut-safe" school with your commitment and co-operation. Please read labels to see if nuts or nut products are present. Try to avoid products that do not carry a list of ingredients. Also latex balloons are not to be brought into the school

Safety Issues that Require Parent Attention:

Severe Allergic Reactions:

If your child is in danger of suffering a severe, anaphylaxis reaction to bee stings, nuts or other allergens, please call the office to set up an appointment immediately so that an emergency plan can be put in place to ensure that your child's medical needs are met immediately.

Students Requiring Daily Medication

Please do not send medication to school with your child or do not place it in your child's backpack. All medication, including over the counter drugs, must be stored at the office with instructions for administration. Please contact Mrs. VandenBeukel for further information.

Custody Please inform the school if there are special Custody Orders for your child.

SAFETY COMES FIRST

The Niagara Regional Police Service has put together this list of safety tips to assist the community in keeping everyone safe. The back- to- school season provides a great opportunity for parents to instill in their children common sense behavior that will keep them safe all year round. This is also a critical time for area motorists to be alert and careful for children everywhere!

Walking to School

- Choose the safest, most direct route with the fewest street crossings- walk it with your child ahead of time
- Choose routes with the fewest street crossings and use intersections with crossing guards
- Children under 10 should walk with an adult or older child every day- use a buddy system
- Stay away from parks, vacant lots, fields and other isolated or unpopulated areas
- Teach children to obey all traffic signals and markings – children should be taught the meaning of all traffic signals – for example, a flashing "WALK" sign is not an automatic GO signal
- Make sure children look to the left, right, and left again for moving vehicles before crossing the street- instill the STOP, LOOK & LISTEN rule
- Teach children not to enter the street from between parked cars or from behind bushes
- Always walk on the sidewalk- in areas without sidewalks teach kids to walk as far away from traffic as possible and to walk facing the approaching traffic.



School Bus Safety

Be at the school bus stop early and wait in a safe place well back from the edge of the road

Do not play in ditches or on snow banks

Enter the bus in single file holding the hand rail

Find a seat right away and stay seated facing forward at all times - do not place things in the aisle

Avoid rowdy behaviour. Do not throw things, eat or drink.

Keep your arms and head inside the bus.

NEVER distract the bus driver. Always follow his/her instructions.

When you leave the bus, move away from the side.

If you drop something near the bus, never try to pick it up because the bus driver cannot see you. Ask an adult or the driver to help

When getting on and off the bus, walk at least 10 big steps in front of the bus, look at the driver for a signal before crossing. Look all ways before crossing - walk, never run to a parent or caregiver who is waiting for you

PENALTIES FOR NOT STOPPING FOR A SCHOOL BUS

First offence: \$400 to \$2000 and six demerit points. Each subsequent offence: \$1000 to \$4000, six demerit points and possible jail time up to six months,

The Niagara Regional Police Service wishes everyone a safe and happy back-to-school season!

Home Alone Safety

The age at which children can legally be left alone varies from province to province, however the parent must assure the safety of the child- at whatever age. If your children are coming home to an empty house after school it is important to set firm ground rules and explain the following

Stay in touch - instruct children to call as soon as they arrive home

Post important numbers by the telephone – including parents work and cell numbers, a neighbour or relative that can help is needed

Teach children when and how to call 9-1-1

Set firm rules – with clear do's and don'ts-what they are allowed to do and what they aren't allowed to do... can they use the Internet when home alone? Can they invite friends over?

Store alcohol and prescription medication in a location that is completely inaccessible to children.

Make sure your children understand that if they see anyone doing anything that makes them uneasy or uncomfortable – like a stranger hanging around the school playground, a bigger kid bullying younger children, acts of vandalism or graffiti – to GO TELL a parent, teacher, principal or trusted adult.



School-Based Immunization Clinics

Did you know that every year in Canada, 1,400 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer and more than 400 will die from it?

are caused by a Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection.

The HPV vaccine is an important medical advancement that makes cervical cancer a preventable disease.

Once again this year, the HPV vaccine called Gardasil® will be offered free to all female Grade 8 students through Niagara Region Public Health's school-based immunization clinics. In addition, the Hepatitis B vaccine and the Meningococcal vaccine called Menactra® will be offered free to all Grade 7 students.

Parent/student information packages will be coming home with your child in September. Clinic dates and times will be announced through your child's school. For more information, speak to your school nurse or call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-82

Almost all cervical cancers 48 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.



School Newsletters:

From this newsletter on we will be posting our monthly newsletters on our school website. dsbn.edu.on.ca/Schools/Greendale. If you need to have a paper copy please send back the tear off slip for us.

I would like to receive a paper copy of the Greendale monthly newsletter as I do not have access to the school website.

Student's Name: _____

Student's Class: _____

Open House

Please plan on attending our Greendale Open House
Tuesday, September 13th, 2011

