

The Gator's Tale



Mrs. Fay VandenBeukel - Principal
Ms. Sue Ehgoetz - Vice Principal

October 2008

Happy Thanksgiving!

What's in the October Newsletter:

- Halloween activities information
- School Council Information
- Photo Re-Take information
- Cross Country and Soccer Updates
- School EQAO results
- Newsletter draw ballot
- October calendar
- Magazine fundraiser information



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

It has been a very busy and successful first month of school. The students have settled into the routines and are learning lots of new things. This is especially noticeable in 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.

I also, want to thank all the parents who came to our Open House last month. We had a great turnout to this important event. There is a strong feeling of community at Greendale School that was very evident as people chatted with friends and neighbours on the playground before the festivities started in the school. I do apologize that we did not have enough meatless pizza to meet our needs. I guess the best way to describe this is a growing pain of getting to know the Greendale community. Perhaps you can help with some information about the culture of our school by completing the newsletter draw ballot.

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.

Wishing you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving weekend!

Mrs. Vanden Beukel



Friday, October 10th is a Professional Development Day for teachers. There will be no classes for students,

EQAO INFORMATION FOR 2007-2008

The results of the 2007-2008 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

	School	DSBN	
Reading	Level 3 & 4	50%	62%
Writing	Level 3 & 4	61%	65%
Mathematics	Level 3 & 4	46 %	68%

Grade 6 Level of Achievement in Reading, Writing & Mathematics

	School	DSBN	
Reading	Level 3 & 4	53%	67%
Writing	Level 3 & 4	61%	66%
Mathematics	Level 3 & 4	39%	58%

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 31st, 2008, 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. Wittig, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Vanderburg 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 31st. 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, 2008 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.

Quick Facts:

Sadly hunger is a reality for many families, children and individuals in North America.

- 841,640 Canadians use food banks every month (the population of Nova Scotia is 936,000)
- 39.7% of Canadian food bank users are children

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.

Me2We DAY

On Wednesday October 15th, eight members of the Me2We club will travel to Hamilton Place to participate in the Hamilton - National Me to We day conference. They will be joining with thousands of other teens from around southern Ontario, to learn about making a difference in their school, local and global community.

Present will be world renowned speakers Marc and Craig Kielburger, who will be sharing their Seven Steps to Social Justice and Action. In addition, students will meet the cast of *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, Sol Guy and Canadian Idol judge - Farley Flex. Afterwards, students will travel back to Greendale, and work with the other members of the Me2We club, to create a year-long Plan of Action.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Our first School Council meeting was held on September 15th at 6:30 p.m. We discussed plans for this upcoming year. Next meeting is Monday, October 20th at 6:30 p.m. Please plan to join us.

TERRY FOX PT- CRUISER AND FIRE TRUCK PULL

This year at Greendale School we put a new spin on our Terry Fox campaign. Thank you to Ms. Hammond for planning this fun, yet community minded event. Students and staff from kindergarten to grade 8 participated and flexed their muscles to raise money to support cancer research. When you are in the school, stop by the bulletin board in the main hallway to see the look of determination on the faces of our "pullers". We are still counting the funds..... stay tuned for the final amount. Thank you to the Vandermeulen family for taking the pictures and sending them in for all to see.

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 Empathy

SOCCER

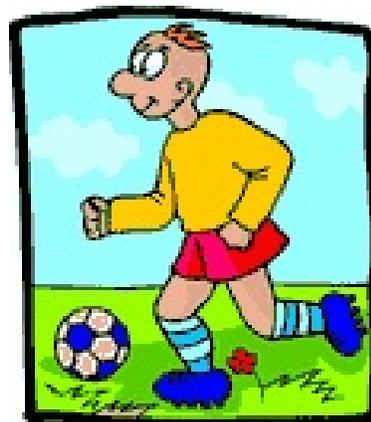
Congratulations to the following students who are members of our intermediate co-ed soccer team:

Boys

Alex Lasic
Jake Currie
Nikolas Gajic
TJ Kountourogiannis
Steven Lowe
Arjun Sohal
Warren Van Dyke

Girls

Nicole Mazzone
Jennifer Bilecki
Allison Cox
Jessica Marchese
Terri-Jo Scott
Carly Wedler



Thank you to Mr. Scozzafava for coaching the team this year.

CROSS COUNTRY

Our Cross country team has had two races this fall. Congratulations to all our runners for all their hard work training. The final meet for this season will be on October 15th. Thank you to Ms. Hammond and Madame Rocca for coaching our team.

ATOM BOYS

Dylan McIlravey
Matthew Conlon
Gassan Hassan
Joshua Yi
Matthew Twocock
Aaron Vale

MIDGET BOYS

Warren Van Dyke
Gregory Prewolschek
Eilef Baloga
TJ Kountourogiannis
Steven Lowe

MIDGET GIRLS

Allison Cox
Jennifer Bilecki

PEE WEE GIRLS

Mei Low
Cyra Spink
Thanh Nguyen
Jinny Yin
Taylor Mallet

PEE WEE BOYS

Lucas Marcon
Jordan Hiltz
Faiz Meghani
Ryan Stevens

BANTAM BOYS

Dylan Staley
Bret Hartmann

GRAPHIC NOVEL BOOK CLUB



Are you a fan of comic books? Do you enjoy books that tell a story through pictures? Come and join Greendale's newest club - the Graphic novel and Manga book club. We have a brand new collection of over 100 books, and they are waiting for you to read them. Our 50+ members meet every Tuesday, in the library. If you are in Grades 3 - 8, and would like to join, see Ms. Ehgoetz for more information!

SCHOOL NURSE

The School Nurse assigned to our school is Jo-Ann 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) 356-1538, ext. 223 - Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

HEAD LICE - This perennial problem will again need to be addressed. The home is the crucial link to help keep infestations to a minimum. Here are a few suggestions for parents to be a part of the solution.

- Check your child's head DAILY. Summer camps and sleep-overs can greatly increase the risk of lice.
- Use a remedy that is proven to kill the lice, nits and eggs. A treatment will need to be given before your child is allowed to return to school.
- Remove all nits. Many frustrated parents claim that their children have "caught" lice a second and third time. Generally, re-infestations occur because eggs were permitted to remain in the hair and the life cycle repeats itself. You must bring your child to the office after a treatment. They will be inspected before allowing them to return to the classroom.
- When a case of lice is confirmed at school, parents will be contacted and the student will need to be taken home and treated. A notification letter will be given to each student in the class where a confirmed case has been identified. All parents are expected to check their child's hair.



PHOTO RE-TAKE DAY

Those students who require photo retakes will have the opportunity on Friday, November 14th in the a.m.

MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

The students at Greendale School are selling magazine subscriptions to raise funds for our school. Monies will be spent to support our school library, subsidize school trips and presentations. Please help your child help our school. The campaign will run until October 20th. Thank you for your support!

WELCOME TO OUR STUDENT TEACHERS

Greendale School is very fortunate to have four student teachers this term. Please help us welcome: Miss Crofts to Mrs. Christian's grade 1 / 2, Miss Carter to Mrs. Hilliker's grade 3 class, Miss Keast to Mr. Scozzafava's grade 4 /5 and Miss Brigler to Mrs. Murray's grade 6 class.

Newsletter Draw Ballot for October

Family: _____

We have ____ children at Greendale School. Our families' cultural background is

Good luck on the draw!!

