

From the Principal's desk. . .

On February 24, we will recognize Pink Shirt Day in support of anti-bullying. Leading up to the day staff we will reinforce with our staff and students what bullying IS and what it IS NOT. At Greendale, we focus on prevention and the part that each and every one of us plays in making our school as safe and secure as it can be for all who come to learn every day.

One thing that is very important when trying to prevent bullying is that we have a common definition to work with. The following definition is what we have taught our students. This is what we will continue to refer to at school when discussing bullying.

"Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself."

"repeatedly" - Repeated behaviour is more than once or twice. It is behaviour that is repeated over time.

"mean or hurtful things" - This includes physical, emotional, social and cyber occurrences.

"hard time defending" - This means that there is a power or strength (physical, social or by knowing another's vulnerability) imbalance between the bully and the victim.

It is important that we refer to this common understanding of bullying when talking to our children. If you **are** concerned that your child is being bullied at school and you have concerns, please speak to your child's teacher, or principal.

Our children do an exceptional job at school looking out for one another. I am an extremely proud principal. Thank you for your support as parents.

On February 5th all students from JK- Grade 8 will be receiving their term one report card. The report card is different from the progress report that they received in December as it contains letter or percentage marks for each subject area. Please review the report card with your child. Communication between teachers and parents is an important support for student success. Discuss with them their strengths as well as any next steps their teachers have noted within the comments sections. Then, set some goals with your child based on the next steps. All parents are invited to contact the school if you would like to schedule an opportunity to discuss your child's achievement and next steps for learning with his/her teacher. Parents have a very important role to play in supporting your child's learning. Studies show clearly that student performance improves when parents are involved in their child's education. We, as a school, will continue to provide ongoing communication with you. You are also encouraged to communicate regularly with your child's teacher(s) and to contact the school at any time should questions or concerns arise.

Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as "Students of the Month" who demonstrated optimism which is having a positive attitude, the resiliency to bounce back from adversity, and hope for the future. We do our part to make the world a better place.

FSP	Ayesha M.	3W	Mary H.
ELP1	Darren B., Allie D., Vincent Q.	4D	Mikayeel B., Kim D.
ELP2	Abby B., Ema D., Shenai S.	5N	Ethan D., Arham M., Hoa V.
1F	Ali N., Madison W.	6L	John H., Eli P., Jake W.
1/2C	Jake H., Aliyah N., Elizabeth S.	7/8M	Prabhleen G., Amanda T.
2F	Adrianna B., Simon M., Victoria S.	7/8H	Ethan S., Ben R.
2/3L	Bryson L.		

The character trait for February is improvement. Teachers will be reflecting on the past 5 months of school and recognizing students who have demonstrated marked improvement in their academic work as well as their learning skills.



Me to We

The Me to We club was lucky enough to have a guest speaker come from Free the Children on January 18th. Caro Kingston, and our Free the Children rep Arianne came to give a presentation about how we can make a difference in the lives of others. Caro shared some of the Free the Children mantras and presented about some people who have been helped by the Free the Children Foundation. She also helped the students get thinking about their projects and what their next steps will be. Watch out for bake sales, walk-a-thons, climb-a-thons and the collecting of goods coming up in the next 5 months!



Robotics Club

Our Robotics Club started up in January. Over 25 students from grade 4 to 6 have been attending weekly meetings on Wednesday's at lunch. Building robots, programming, solving problems and teamwork are all involved in this club. Thank you to Mr. Berry for assisting in this exciting club. We are looking forward to the addition of new EV3 robot thanks to Mrs. Hadfield!

TERM ONE REPORT CARDS



On February 5, you will receive your child's term one report card. In determining letter or percentage grades, teachers look at assignments, tests, demonstrations and projects for evidence that your child is learning the curriculum. Learning means more than just knowing facts. Students must also show an understanding of what they are studying by communicating and applying what they have learned. They must also demonstrate critical thinking and problem solving skills. All work is reviewed with special attention given to the quality of work at the end of a unit of study or term. As well as looking at tests or assignments, teachers talk to, and observe your child in the classroom to gather as much information as possible before making a decision on a final grade.

EARLY RELEASE DAY / FAMILY DAY / PA DAY

Friday, February 12th is an Early Release Day. Students will be dismissed at 12:20 p.m.

Also, Monday, February 15th is Family Day. There will be no school for students that day.

NEW – PA Day – April 15th – The elementary school year calendar has been tweaked slightly. As a result, your children will get to enjoy a PA Day on Friday, April 15, 2016. We'll also send out a quick reminder closer to the date, but wanted to give you a heads up so you can begin planning.

If your children currently access before and/or after school care, your provider will contact you with information about availability closer to the date.



SPECIAL LUNCH DAYS!!!

Tuesday – Sub Days

Wednesday – Pita Days

Friday – Pizza Days





Mad Science, the world's leading provider of educational and entertaining science programs for children is coming to Greendale Public School. Their mission is to spark the imagination and curiosity of children everywhere by providing them with fun, entertaining and exciting activities that instil a clear understanding of what science is really all about and how it affects the world around them. They use exciting activities and spectacular

demonstrations to capture the attention and imagination of children around the world.

Both the students and teachers will be thrilled on 5/Feb/2016 at 1:50 PM when Mad Science comes to the school to do a Spectacular Science show. The assembly will be educational, entertaining and also the kick off to the Mad Science Club. The Club is a 6-week science enrichment program offered to the students.

Students who join the science club will go on a voyage of discovery designed to support the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum. They will explore various topics in science including Optical Illusions, Sonic Sounds, Tantalizing Taste, Harnessing Heat, Lights Colour Action and Magnetic Magic. The Club will take place on Thursday, Mar 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28 from 12:55 PM - 1:45 PM.

For those of you who have been in the Mad Science Club before, this is a different club than last year with exciting experiments, cool demonstrations and amazing take home activities.

Mad Science also performs Birthday Parties, Camps and Special Events. Give them a call at 905-937-1878 and watch out for them in Malls, at Fairs, Festivals and Scouts and Guides. www.niagara.madscience.org

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO...

- ~parents who regularly or periodically volunteer in our school. We appreciate all you do!
- ~ our thoughtful early childhood educators, Mrs. Maitland and Mrs. Lipiec who work with our youngest students.
- ~Mrs. Handley and Ms. Smith, who organize our book cart on a weekly basis
- ~our wonderful educational assistants, Ms. Bicanic, Ms. Hilborn, Mrs. Harvie, Ms. Auld, Mr. Schuman, Ms. Garrett, and Ms. Meuller who work so hard with our students.
- ~our hardworking caretaking staff who keep the school clean during these messy winter months.
- ~Ms. Izzo who works so hard in the office
- ~our Intermediate Basketball Coaches Mr. Mason, and Mr. Harriman
- ~Mrs. Lagerwerf for organizing our Silver Birch Club
- ~all Greendale teachers who attend workshops after school to enhance their programs.
- ~Mrs. Lagerwerf, Ms. Rackal, Ms. Hammond for running the Me-to-We.
- ~Mrs. Brewster who runs Dreambox Club.
- ~Mrs. Fawkes for running Games Club.
- ~Mrs. Christian & Mr. Berry for running Lego Robotics Club.

STUDENT ILLNESS / ABSENCE

If your child is ill, or going to be away, please call the school to let the office know. We have an answering machine that is on 24 hours a day. Even if you know the night before that your child will not be at school, please call and leave a message on the machine. Ms. Izzo often spends a great part of her morning calling the homes of absent students. Thanks for your support in this matter.

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

It has come to our attention that we occasionally have children who arrive at school prior to the 8:40 a.m. bell. Teacher supervision begins at 8:40 a.m. and as such parents must understand that students who arrive prior to 8:40 a.m. are expected to remain outside. The exception to this would be if a student arrives for prearranged teacher support, a sports practice or is accessing the Breakfast Club (a program that is open to all students). Should there be inclement weather (i.e. rain or extremely cold temperatures) then students will be directed to enter the school, but not prior 8:40 a.m. We appreciate your understanding in this matter as we continue to strive to make Greendale both a safe and welcoming school.

FRONT DOOR USE IN THE MORNING

Our front doors are to be used by our guests and parents throughout the day. Students arriving prior to the morning bell are expected to enter through their divisional doors unless they are accompanied by a parent. Parents are reminded to please sign in at the office and wear a visitors badge while you are in the school. The badge lets our students know that you are a "safe" visitor at Greendale. Let's work together to keep our students feeling safe!

Dreambox Math

Our Dreambox challenge has been in full swing since the start of January. Each day students are given the opportunity to work on Dreambox during lunch recess and in their classrooms. Students are challenged to finish as many lessons as they can during the the month, at home or at school. Each week statistics are posted highlighting classrooms that have completed the most lessons during the week. There is also a list posted of the top five (Fab Five) students in kindergarten, primary and junior/intermediate divisions. We encourage our students to try to complete one to two hours of Dreambox a week. This interactive and adaptive math program is purchased by the DSBN for students to learn and practice their math skills in a game format, which many find exciting and interesting. Please talk to your child about the Dreambox program and contact your child's teacher if you require help setting up for home use.

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS BASKETBALL

Congratulation to the intermediate girls' basketball team on a very successful season so far. The girls have demonstrated great teamwork and skill development. The team is preparing for next week's tier one Niagara Falls playoffs. Good luck Gators! Team members are: Jamie, Maeve, Lyric, Savanna, Saige, Jayda, Morgan, Jessica and Stephanie.



Technology is Coming!

Our Greendale students will be using some new technology soon. With our annual technology allocation along with the funds we raised we have purchased 25

Chromebooks along with a charging cart for the new technology. We are very excited that our students will be able to use the Chromebooks more often. We have chosen Chromebooks because they are "Designed for users functioning in a mobile and interactive environment, Google Chromebooks give you access to all the rich resources of the web. Unlike traditional notebooks, Chromebooks are engineered to store files and documents on the web, enabling faster boot times, lightning speed web browsing, instant updates and automatically backed up files."

Every student as a DSBN secured gmail account so that work can be done at home, stored in Google Chrome and then worked on at school. Teachers also have the ability to provide feedback to students through Google Classroom.

It's almost time to register for

Kindergarten

at the DSBN

Do you know a child who will be turning 4 or 5 before December 31, 2016?

Visit a DSBN Kindergarten Open House on January 28, 2016 to register and to help your kindergartener get ready for their first day of school at the DSBN! See the classroom, meet the staff and get a gift bag full of fun learning resources and information to help children develop their school readiness skills.

Looking for more information? Visit our website at www.dsbn.org/kindergarten

Free Dental Screening Coming to Your School

A Public Health registered dental hygienist is scheduled to visit our school **February 29th 2016** to provide dental screening to students in grades JK, SK, 2, 4, 6 and 8 and other children as required under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.

During this time the registered dental hygienist will perform a visual inspection of each child to determine his/her dental needs. Parents will be contacted if their child requires immediate dental care. Public Health dental programs may financially assist children who do not have access to required dental care.

Please contact the Public Health dental program for any of the following:

If you do NOT wish your child to participate in the dental screening.

If your child is not in one of the targeted grades and you would like him/her to participate.

Call the Dental Health Information at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 or email dental@niagararegion.ca.