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Principal

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December 2, 2014 **Message from the Principal**

Dear Parents,

As we enter December, we are well into the school year. As a school, we are focusing on the teaching and learning of Mathematics as our key area of new learning. Parents are encouraged to help at home by talking about the math that students are learning. You can also work on the monthly math calendar. Students who bring the calendar back receive a ticket for the free pizza draw each month. You need 5 completed activities to earn a ticket.

Welcome to new staff at Graham Bell. Nicole Phillips is teaching French and Prep while Sandi Zebroski is off. Brianne McGregor is our new Grade 4-5 teacher. Thank you for all you are doing for the students at Graham Bell.

Mrs. Anderson

Mrs. Marry

Save the Date!

Dec. 9th- BCI play- The Little Mermaid for Metcalf, Wrobel, and Hutfloetz classes

Dec. 9th- Apps Mill for MacGregor and Forneri classes

Dec. 10th- Apps Mill for Wrobel, Metcalf, and Guthrie classes

Dec. 11th- Kindergarten classes to Bell Homestead

Dec. 15th- Family Fun Christmas Night – Raffle Draw. Please send in donations.

Dec. 17th- Festive Feast

Dec. 18th- Pizza Day

Dec. 19th- Last day of school. Happy Holidays. See you back on January 5th.

Chocolate Bar Fundraiser...

The chocolate bar sales are well under way. Many students have sold their first bag of 10 bars and are coming back for more! Keep the sales going. All money is due back at the school on December 12th. If you have unsold bars on that date, return those, too. Good luck to all students. There are prizes of family pizza coupons and Walmart gift cards for the top seller!

Volleyball....

The Junior volleyball team represented Graham Bell-Victoria very well at the tournament on November 26th. They lost their 1st game 9-25 despite excellent serving from Brock, Tee'La, and Kaiden. The team rallied in the next two matches, leading both games until nearly the end. Unfortunately, they fell short 20-25 in both games. The team showed excellent team spirit and cheered each other on throughout the tournament. Mr. Forneri, Ms. Metcalf, Ms Hufloetz, Ms Ptatschek, and the staff and students of Graham Bell congratulate the team on a great tournament. We'll get them next year Gryphons!

Inclement Weather...

On days of inclement weather, information will be posted on the websites of STSBHN as well as communicated to a number of local media sources; please see the FAQ section of STSBHN's website for a complete list of radio and television sources. Parents can also receive an email notification when a zone delay or cancellation is experienced by signing up for the free transportation subscription service; information on the service is also available at STSBHN's website under the FAQ section. STSBHN also posts area delays and cancellations on their Twitter; individuals can follow STSBHN by following @STSBHN. Parents may also choose to keep their child home on a day when buses are not cancelled if they feel it is unsafe to travel to school. Website: <http://www.stsbhn.ca/>

Family Fun Night- Dec. 15th

Mark your calendar! Family Fun Night is a tradition at Graham Bell. All Family and Friends of the Graham Bell community are invited for a night of Christmas activities, treats, and a Raffle Draw. If you have a gift to donate to the raffle table, it would be greatly appreciated. Just drop it off at the office. Come out for an evening of family fun including performances by every class! We just may have a special visitor drop by to see the children. See you there!

United Way...

Thanks to all students who supported United Way by buying popcorn. Together students raised \$78 for United Way with popcorn sales. The United Way supports many services in our community, including our own Breakfast program through Brant Food For Thought.

Swim to Survive...

Congratulations to the Grade 3 students who participated in the Swim to Survive program at the Wayne Gretzky Centre. Students learned basic swimming skills and are better able to stay safe in the water. Thanks to Samantha P's mom for volunteering with us.

Popcorn Sales....

Popcorn is sold every Friday for \$2. All proceeds go to subsidize class trips.

Picking up students...

Parents, please pick your child up at the fence at the side of the school or at the Kinderpen area. Please do not come into the school to pick up your child unless you have an appointment. Many adults in the front hall at the end of the day makes it difficult for staff to hand off students to their caregiver. Please do not go directly to your child's class to pick them up or drop off lunches. Please come to the office and we will call up to the class. Thanks for helping out in this regard.

A Note From Your School's Public Health Nurse... Gratitude

With the holidays around the corner, what are you and your family grateful for? The holiday season is a good time to step back, reflect and talk with your children about the importance of being grateful for everything they have been given. By learning to be grateful, children develop a better sense of the world around them. They learn to put things into perspective and to look beyond themselves to understand and become sensitive to the feelings of others.

Here are some tips to help your children develop an attitude of gratitude:

- **Set an example:** Model gratitude for your kids by commenting on or writing out the things that you are grateful for each day.
- **Create rituals:** For example, at meal time ask every member of the family to name one or two positive things that he/she is grateful for that day.
- **Encourage:** Encourage your child to use his/her strengths to help others and lend a hand when needed. Also, talk to your child about the things that you do to help others.
- **Practice:** Like any other skill, being grateful requires practice.

Thank you to Laura Fretz, our school nurse. If you would like to talk to Laura, please contact the school.



Remember that Graham Bell is a **peanut-free school**. We do our best to keep all peanuts out of the building. Please check your child's lunch to be sure it doesn't have products that say "may contain" in the ingredients. Looking for the peanut free symbol on granola bars and cookies is a great idea. Thanks for helping to keep our school safe!

Helping Children Learn Turn reading into thinking

When young readers go beyond sounding out words to understanding and using information, reading becomes learning! To reinforce your child's comprehension skills:

- **Talk about the material.** What problems did the characters face? Why did things turn out the way they did?
- **Make connections.** How is the story like or unlike others he's read?
- **Sum up.** What was the message of the story? Can he apply it to real life?

Achieve goals with 3 W's

Children don't always know how to reach their goals. Making goal strips can help them plan. Here's how:

1. **Cut a paper strip** about 3" wide and 12" long. Fold it into three sections.
2. **On section one**, your child writes "I *will*"
3. **On section two**, he writes *what* his goal is. "Read for 20 minutes."
4. **On section three**, he writes *when* he is going to do it. "Every day."

This 3W formula, *will + what + when*, is a key to staying motivated. Have your child post his strips where he can see them.

Do an attendance checkup

Researchers in Oregon studied students who missed as little as one day of school every two weeks. They found that:

- **Absence has an impact on learning.**
 - **Missing school becomes a habit.** Children who miss a lot of kindergarten are still frequently absent in fifth grade.
 - **Early attendance affects later achievement.**

Has your child missed some days? It's not too late to get him back on track for a successful school year ... and school career.

Helping Children Learn is brought to you by the Parent Institute. For the full newsletter, see the Board website under the parent tab. www.granderie.ca