



# Greenbrier School

## Newsletter

### Zone 4

(519) 756-5173

**Principal**  
**Tom Smith**

**Secretary**  
**Mrs. C. Pineau**

*February 2016*

### From the Principal

Dear Parents:

The first month of 2016 has already gone and we continue to look forward to the events, activities and learning opportunities to come. Our Karaoke days were a big hit and the talent shown by our students was exciting to experience. Rocks and Rings was a precursor to our students going to the Curling Tankard on Feb 3. (Gr 5-8). Many of our classes have been experiencing Apps Mills, our Grade 3s are going swimming and our Gr 5 class is entered into the Norfolk Music Festival on Feb 24. All in all, the excitement and activity at Greenbrier continues unabated.

One issue that simply won't go away has to do with the mass of cars that come to and from the school each day. As I am sure you can agree, this does at times cause a potential safety issue. Our Safety Patrollers are doing a good job and most parents do try to drive safely, but it is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt. One solution I came up with in a previous school was to create a "Walking School Bus" program. In this program, students are strongly encouraged to walk to school. Volunteer parents work in pairs and walk to school as well. One at the front of the "bus" and one at the back. A route is planned that goes by a number of students' homes. As the "bus" walks by, they board the "bus" on the way. This way a large number of students can walk to school safely and supervised. Of course, we will need volunteer parents, so I am now asking parents, particularly those who live a few blocks from the school, to consider the benefits of walking (especially with those New Year's Resolutions) and help reduce the number of vehicles coming to the school. Please call the school to submit your name as a volunteer.

As a result of the contract agreement with ETFO, there will be an extra PA day this month. Friday, Feb 26. Therefore, parents will have to find alternative accommodations for your children. An announcement about this from the District is in this newsletter.

Regards,  
Tom Smith  
Principal

### Important Dates

**Feb. 23—Grade 8 and  
SK Grad pics**

Mar. 14-18 March  
Break

Easter—March 25 & 28

### Kindergarten Registration

With the new year we begin our Kindergarten Registration. Children who will be four by the end of December 2016 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten and children who will be five by the end of December are eligible for Senior Kindergarten beginning in September.

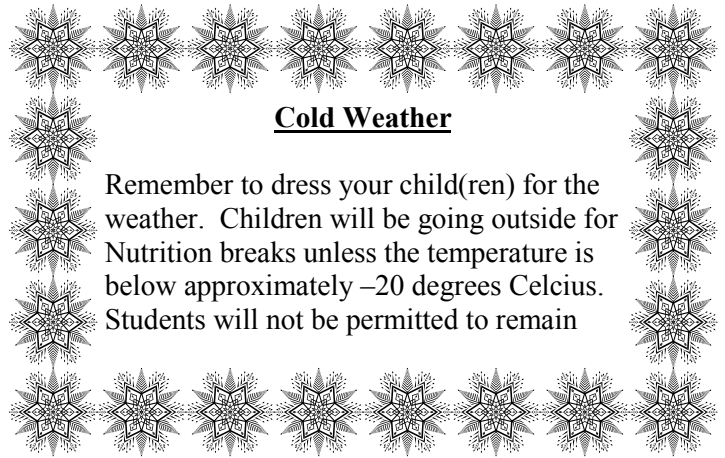
Early learning is so important for our children. Our kindergarten program provides a caring setting for developing social skills in a learning environment rich in early language and mathematics opportunities.

We will be running a Welcome To Kindergarten program for parents and their children. Registered students will receive an invitation to attend. Attending parents will receive a bag of exciting learning materials to help prepare their children for Kindergarten entry. If you or someone you know has a child eligible for Kindergarten please contact Mrs. Pineau at 519-756-5173 to arrange a registration time.

## Inclement Weather

There are still a few outstanding inclement weather sheets. Please ensure these are returned to the school promptly to enable us to make sure your child(ren) are sent home safely in the event the buses are called early.

Also, a reminder that if the school buses for our zone (4), are cancelled, the schools are closed. Please listen to CKPC 92.1 FM or 1380 A.M. for this information. You may also check the Grand Erie Board website at [www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca) and all cancellations are posted there.



### Cold Weather

Remember to dress your child(ren) for the weather. Children will be going outside for Nutrition breaks unless the temperature is below approximately -20 degrees Celcius. Students will not be permitted to remain

### ***New PA Day on February 26, 2016***

*The 2015-16 school year calendar has been modified to include a new Professional Activity (PA) Day on February 26, 2016 for elementary and secondary schools in Grand Erie.*

*The PA day was added as a result of the recent round of teacher and school board negotiations. The PA Day applies to both elementary and secondary schools and families are asked to plan alternate arrangements for their children on that day.*

*To view the revised 2015-16 School Calendars, please visit the Calendar section in the Schools tab at [www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca) or <http://bit.ly/1KuvBPw>.*

Thanks,

Shawn McKillop | Manager of Communications and Community Relations  
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Follow: Twitter @shawnmckillop | @GEDSB | Email: [shawn.mckillop@granderie.ca](mailto:shawn.mckillop@granderie.ca)

## **School Council**

Next Meeting is  
February 16, 2016  
7:00 p.m.

This is a reminder that the **Before and After School** program **Survey will close on February 23, 2015.**

Programs will run only where viable. Therefore families with children in Kindergarten to Grade 6 students need to be aware of the importance of completing the survey.

There is a small remaining supply of postcards that will be distributed to schools next week. Please give these cards to families who may not have completed the survey, and/or place or post them in a visible location within the school. Please also continue to inform families about the survey via any and all communications means available.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

**REMINDER...REMINDER...REMINDER**

**THE FRONT ROUND-ABOUT IS STRICTLY FOR BUSES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS ONLY.**

**DO NOT DROP OFF OR PICK YOUR CHILD UP IN THIS AREA.**

**THANKYOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION WITH THIS**

### **A Note From Your School's Public Health Nurse...**

#### **Warm Up to Winter with Active Fun for the Whole Family**

Winter is officially here! Although it's cold outside, there is no need to hibernate indoors. Instead, go outside with the whole family and enjoy playing old games or trying out some new ones.

Building a snowman, tobogganing, playing a game of hockey, going skating or participating in a winter treasure hunt are all great activities that will get the whole family moving.

Before heading outdoors, keep these tips in mind:

**Dress warm and layer clothing.** Don't forget a warm hat, mittens and boots!

**Stay away from ponds and rivers.** They may look frozen, but the ice may not be thick enough to support your body weight. Play it safe!

**Pack a lunch and something to drink.** It's easy to forget that in the cold air you can still get hungry and thirsty.

**Wear Sunscreen.** You can get sunburn even in the winter!

**Watch for frostbite.** Kids get frostbite faster than adults. Signs of frostbite include a prickly or itchy feeling in the skin, numbness and/ or discoloration on the face, ears hands or feet. Stay protected, stay warm.

# Feedback Form:

**February 2016**

As always, we sincerely appreciate your feedback. Feel free to let us know your questions, suggestions and compliments at any time.

We appreciate your feedback. Please respond either by paper or electronic means. Send your comments to [tom.smith@granderie.ca](mailto:tom.smith@granderie.ca).

Compliments:

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Concerns:

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Recommendations:

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

