



100 E. Church St.  
Waterford, Ontario  
N0E 1Y0  
519-443-8942

**Principal**  
Mrs. D. Opersko

**Office Co-ordinator**  
Mrs. K. Pitre



### Principal's Message:

Welcome back to our former families and to any new families who have moved into the Waterford Public School community! We hope that your family had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. We are thrilled to be working with your child(ren) this school year. My name is Mrs. Opersko and I am your new principal. I look forward to getting to know you and your children in the days ahead. We are excited to welcome new staff members to the school including:

Kindergarten B Teacher, replacing Mrs. Antonioli(L): Miss C. Demeter

Kindergarten C Teacher, replacing Mrs. De Pauw (L): Mrs. L. Clayton

Kindergarten A Early Childhood Educator, replacing Mrs. Dal Bello (L): Mrs. L. Horvath

Grade 3/4: Mrs. Vidmontas (P)      French/Prep: Madame L. Truman (P)

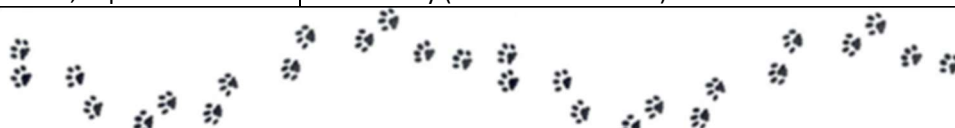
(L - Denotes staff member who is replacing someone on a leave, P- Denotes a new permanent staff member)

Let's work together to make this a fantastic year!

*Mrs. Opersko*

### Important Dates for the Month:

Tuesday, September 5th	Back to school, assembly at 8:50 a.m. in the gym for Grades 1-8 students
Thursday, Sept. 14th	Meet the Teacher Night from 6 – 7 p.m.
Friday, September 15th	PA Day, no school for students
Wed., September 20th	Parent Council Meeting and elections, 6:30 p.m. in the library
Thurs., September 21st	Fire drill # 1 at 9:30 a.m. (regular exit)
Mon., September 25th	Terry Fox Walk/Run (more details will be sent home later)
Tues., September 26th	Fire drill #2 at 9:30 p.m. (alternate exit), Terry Fox rain date
Wed., September 27th	Picture Day (retakes October 27)



**2017 - 2018 Staff List:**

P = Portable

Grade	Homeroom Assignment	Room #	Teacher Name
JK/SK	JKA/SKA	1	Mrs. A. Butler (Teacher), Mrs. L. Horvath (Early Childhood Educator)
JK/SK	JKB/SKB	2	Miss C. Demeter (Teacher), Mrs. L. Van Sickle (Early Childhood Educator)
JK/SK	JKC/SKC	4	Mrs. L. Clayton
1	1A	3	Mrs. B. Loder
1/2	1B/2B	5	Ms. J. Schipper
2	2A	8	Mrs. C. Smart
2/3	2C/3C	7	Mrs. S. Steward
3/4	3A/4A	6	Mrs. M. Wouters
3/4	3B/4B	P3	Mrs. A. Vidmontas
4	4C	P2	Mrs. J. Pragnell
5	5B	9	Mrs. H. Stronks, Mr. B. Ulysse
5/6	5A/6A	10	Mr. M. Brady
6/7	6B/7B	12	Mrs. T. Hewitt
7	7A	11	Ms. L. Van Kessel
8	8A	P1	Mr. L. Woods
French/Prep			Ms. M. Kerwin
French/Prep			Mrs. L. Truman
Library/Prep			Ms. P. Van Den Hurk
Learning Resource Teacher			Mrs. J. Duffield
Educational Assistant			Mrs. R. Richat
Educational Assistant			Mrs. F. Crowhurst
Custodian			Mr. D. Wood
Office Administrator			Mrs. K. Pitre
Principal			Mrs. D. Opersko
Please be aware that classes/teachers may change by the end of September, if our enrolment changes. If class changes need to occur, parents will be notified. We currently have 340 students enrolled in our wonderful school.			

**We Are a Nut Aware School:**

We have children in the school who have severe, life threatening food allergies (anaphylaxis) to nuts. This includes food which contains peanuts, peanut oil, or any other kind of nuts or traces of peanuts/nuts in them. Products which contain nuts, like Nutella, are not permitted. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition which causes a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. This requires the attention of our entire school community to ensure students are safe. All of our staff is aware of the situation and they have been instructed in the correct procedures regarding anaphylactic shock. We have a poster by the front door of our school so visitors will know we are a nut aware school. Teachers are always happy to have snacks and treats brought in for special occasions, however only prepackaged foods purchased from grocery stores, bakeries, or other inspected and approved kitchen facilities are to be brought into schools. Please keep treats and snacks in the original containers, boxes etc. if you are bringing in a treat or snack for a class. Please also keep in mind, that any items brought in must be peanut and nut free because of the chance of cross contamination for those students with severe life threatening allergies. Thank you for your help

**Meet the Teacher Night:**

We hope that your family can join us for Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 14th! Classrooms will be open for visits from 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. This is a great opportunity to talk informally with the teachers and meet your child's new friends.

### Our Daily Schedule:

Time	Activity
8:20	Bus students arrive
8:30-8:50	Walkers/Students being dropped off are permitted on yard
<b>8:50-10:30</b>	<b>First Instructional Block 100 minutes</b>
10:30-10:50	Primary Recess/Junior and Intermediate Lunch
10:50-11:10	Primary Lunch/Junior and Intermediate Recess
<b>11:10-1:10</b>	<b>Second Instructional Block 120 minutes</b>
1:10-1:30	Primary Recess/Junior and Intermediate Lunch
1:30-1:50	Primary Lunch/Junior and Intermediate Recess
<b>1:50-3:10</b>	<b>Third Instructional Block 80 minutes</b>
3:10	Dismissal
3:10-3:25	Bus students outside



**Drop Off and Pick Up Routine ~\*New this year\*:** In the past parents have been permitted on the yard, when dropping off and picking up students. Some parents have chosen to stay on the yard with their children until the entry bell rings. To ensure student safety, this will no longer be permitted. It is the policy of the Grand Erie District School Board that only parents who have signed in and out at the office are permitted on school property during school hours. We ask that you drop your child(ren) off and remain outside the fence at the side of the school, if you wish be with a younger student until school begins or that you drop your child off just before the entry bell rings. At the end of the day, please pick up your child at the front of the school.

### **Off to a Great Start Using Our Student Agendas:**

Students in Grades 4 - 8 receive an agenda. The agenda is a communication tool for students to record homework and other daily reminders. Please take a few moments each evening to read your child's agenda and respond as you feel necessary. Parents are also encouraged to write notes to the teacher(s) in the agenda, as needed. The agenda will assist with teaching your child important study habits, organizational skills and time management skills. It will also help to maintain regular communication between home and school. The cost of each agenda is \$6.00. For families with more than two children receiving agendas, the payment requested per family is \$12.00 in total. Payment for agendas can be made in one of three ways: the exact cash amount, a cheque made out to Waterford Public School, or on-line using cashless banking.

Every student in Grades 4 to 8 will receive a copy of the Waterford Public School Handbook in the front of his/her agenda. Kindergarten to Grade 3 students receive a paper copy from the teacher, as these grades do not use agendas. This handbook clearly outlines rules and procedures for our school. Please take the time to read it, sign the first page and contact the school if you have any questions. Your child's homeroom teacher will review the contents of the handbook with the class during the first days of school and refer to it when necessary throughout the school year.

### **Cashless School Banking:**

The Grand Erie District School Board is working toward making its schools as “cashless” as possible, and Waterford Public School started working towards implementing this policy in 2016- 2017 School Year.

Once registered for the online banking system, parents will be able to place orders/make payments for various items posted online for purchase as they become available. Parents will be notified when an item for purchase has been posted online. For example, a letter outlining details of an upcoming field trip, or a note indicating that the next month’s hot lunch order is available. Part of the online system is that an email message is sent out (to those parents that have provided the school with an email address) when a new item is posted, and a reminder email is sent to those that have not yet paid. The school may also use School Messenger as an additional communication tool.

Registration is a one-time process as your child’s record remains active provided he/she is registered at a Grand Erie school.

Parents who do not have computer access and/or need assistance may come to the school for help.

There are two options for payments:

**E-Check** → this is like writing a cheque. This option will take approximately one business day for the funds to show as being transferred.

**My Wallet** → this is like a gift card that you top up from your bank account. The parent will draw down from the wallet with each payment made. This option takes up to 4 business days for the money to appear in the wallet, and up to 4 business days for the funds to show as being transferred.

Some parents choose to put a lump sum of money into their wallet then draw from it in order to avoid service charges at their bank. It depends on the fee structure at your bank which option is better for you.

There are some instances when it is not practical to have on-line payments. The trend, however, is that online payments will be required for both school and Home and School purchases whenever possible.

**\*\*All Hot Lunch orders MUST be placed and PAID for on-line!\*\***

Please contact the school with any questions or concerns you may have, and thank you for your patience as we work through this process together.

Our Learning Resource Teacher, Mrs. Duffield, is featured on the Grand Erie District School Board website this month. Check out her story by going to this link: <http://www.granderie.ca/board/community/newsroom/feature-stories/2017-18/grand-together-people-and-journeys-define-grand-erie>

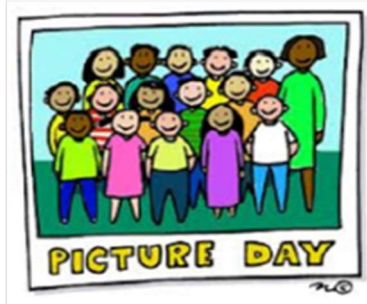


### **Paid Supervisor Needed:**

The school needs a parent/guardian to be a paid supervisor to help to supervise students on the yard, at bus time and during nutrition break. If you would like more details, please call Mrs. Opersko. If interested, you must have a current police check, with vulnerable sector screening, and you will be asked to provide a resume and references by Friday, September 8th. If more than one person is interested in the position, interviews will be conducted.



The Grand Erie District School Board has moved to a new school website platform. Our school site is currently under construction but there's lots of information for you to access already. You can find the school site at <http://www.granderie.ca/schools/waterford>. Please see the "Student Acceptable Use of Computers and the internet Agreement" form your child will be bringing home and return it signed to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Every child must have this form signed by a parent before he/she can use the school's computers. Teachers will also review safe computer use with the students.



### **Smile!**

All students should have their individual pictures taken on school photo day, regardless of intention to purchase a package, as an up to date photo is used by the office for student records. Class photos will also be taken. Edge Imaging will be at the school on the following dates to take photos:

### **Attendance:**

Parents are reminded that students dropped off in the morning are expected to be at school by the time the 8:50 a.m. bell, but no earlier than 8:30 a.m., when yard supervision begins. Students who are not prepared for class at this time are considered late and must come to the office to have their hand stamped as an admit slip to class. Similarly, students who leave at some point during the day will be required to "sign out" at the office. An accurate sign-in/out log is a Ministry of Education requirement for attendance purposes, as well as a safety precaution. Attendance is checked twice daily.

Parents are asked to contact the school daily when their child is absent. Parents who do not contact the school (via a phone call or note the previous day) will be contacted by the school. The school phone number is 519-443-8942 and voicemail is available if the call is made after hours.

### **Accident Insurance Requirements for Students:**

Student accident coverage is recommended and voluntary for parents to consider for their child. It is important for parents to understand that the Board does not provide insurance for students against any accidental death, disability, dismemberment or medical expenses that might occur as a result of accident during school activities, including sporting events and field trips.

Insure My Kids protection plan is made available to parents, at low cost, to provide benefits for dental injuries and other accidents which may occur through participating in school activities. In fact, there are options in the package for coverage outside of school hours including holidays and weekends. Please see the brochure for information or visit [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com).

Parents may have accidental coverage as part of their employers benefit plan. It's important for parents to review their plans to make sure they have the necessary coverage for accidents that may occur during school activities. Parents may want to consider purchasing additional personal coverage through Insure My Kids.

The Grand Erie District School Board requires that all parents declare whether or not they have accident insurance. An "Annual Declaration of Student Accident Insurance" form will be sent home for a parent/guardian to complete and return to the school.

### **Administration of Medication:**

It is the policy of the Grand Erie District School Board that students bringing non-prescription medicine to school are responsible for caring for it. School staff are not permitted to dispense non-prescription medication at any time or to store it for students. Students requiring assistance with non-prescription medication need a parent or guardian to come to the school at the appropriate time to administer it. In the case of doctor prescribed medication, a "Request for School Assistance in Health Care" form must be completed and given to Mrs. Pitre. This form is available, upon request, from the school office. A portion of this form must be completed and signed by a doctor. The medicine must be in the original container, clearly labeled with dosage instructions. Prescribed medication cannot be administered until the school receives this form.

### **Hot Lunches:**

Our school provides opportunities for students to purchase a variety of health hot lunches and beverages (white milk, chocolate milk, and apple juice) throughout the school year. Sales for these will not begin until October. More details will follow in upcoming messages home.

### **Fire, Lock Down and Evacuation Drills:**

Fire drills, lock down drills and evacuation drills are held and emergency procedures are reviewed regularly. We will be having three fire drills, a lock down drill and an evacuation drill during September and early October. At Courtland Public School we practise fire drills during class time, during nutrition breaks and while the students are playing on the yard. Students also practise an evacuation drill in the event of a real emergency situation. It is imperative that students wear indoor shoes while at school. Leaving a pair of indoor shoes at the school is required. It is also essential that each child's medical and emergency contact information is up to date, so any necessary medications can be taken by staff during an evacuation. We take our emergency contact information with us if we need to evacuate as well.

### **Our Nutrition Program:**

We are excited to be offering a nutrition program to the students at WPS again this year. Thanks to the Child Nutrition Network, and various community donations, we are able to provide a morning snack 3 times a week (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). Our morning snack consists of at least two food groups. Students can expect snacks to include cereal with milk, bagels with cream cheese, fruit, yogurt with bran buds, trail mix, and smoothies made with fruit, juice and yogurt.

The nutrition program is run entirely by volunteers, and we are always looking for parents, grandparents or community members to help us in the mornings to prepare and deliver snack to the classrooms. Volunteers are required to be at the school for 8am on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Whether you are available once a month or once a week, we are looking forward to growing our team of volunteers. The nutrition program will start in early October. Please keep in mind that a current police check is required.

**Please complete and return this portion to your child's teacher to let us know you'd like to help. Thank you!**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT(S) ATTENDING WPS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL and PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPECTED AVAILABILITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DO YOU HAVE A VALID POLICE CHECK?** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Fair Day:**



Tuesday, October 3rd - Young Canada Day at the Norfolk County Fair – has been designated as a Professional Activity day by the Grand Erie District School Board. Except for scheduled events (like the Road Race), there will be no supervision of elementary students on this day. Students will be admitted free to the Fair on Young Canada Day and do not require a pass to enter the fairgrounds.

### **Getting Involved in Your GRRRRRRRRREAT School!**

#### **Parents' Council:**

One of the ways you can learn more about your child's education and become an active part of the school is to join our Parents' Council. The group meets throughout the year in the school library. Parents are encouraged to come to any meetings they can make it to, as we know everyone's schedule is a busy one! The first meeting of this school year will be held on Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 p.m. All interested parents are invited to attend. You may bring your children to the meeting.

Parent Council elections will be held at the first meeting, for the executive positions of chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer and voting members. In addition to our executive, our goal is to have a least one parent attend from each classroom/grade in the school. Please contact Mrs. Opersko at 519-443-8942 ext. 516001 to request a COPE Council election nomination package, which includes a description of the executive positions' duties. Nomination forms for COPE Council positions are due to Mrs. Opersko by Monday, September 18th.

#### **Volunteers Needed:**

Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated at the school. To be a school volunteer, in any capacity, you must have a valid police check, including vulnerable sector screening. A police check is valid for two years and is free, if you take a letter from the school, signed by the principal. You can request one of these letters from Mrs. Pitre in the school office. We keep all of our volunteer police checks on file in the office, so if you are not sure when your police check expires, just ask. We can look it up for you.

Volunteers are required to sign in and out at the office and to wear a volunteer name tag while helping in the school. Not sure what we need help with? Just ask! But here are some suggestions:

- Drive students to sporting events
- Help in the school library
- Make materials for classrooms at home
- Serve at school dinners
- Help in a classroom
- Help with our nutrition program
- Accompany a class on a school trip



A note to your child's teacher in his/her agenda or Grades 1- 3 communication book is the best way to express your interest in helping. You can provide details about when you are available, what you'd like to help with and how to best contact you.

#### **Lost and Found:**

The school has a lost and found table by the school office. Every year this table is well used. Please label your child's belongings so we can return items to their rightful owners. Parents, please feel free to check the table when you are at the school.



### **Field Trips, Health Cards and the Walking Permission Form:**

Just a reminder that your child will be asked to carry his/her own health card (or a photocopy) when going on field trips outside the area i.e. Norfolk County. Each school year a walking permission form is sent home. This form gives your child permission to go off school property within the Waterford community i.e. evacuation drill, walking to the high school to participate in a special event, and visiting such places as the fire station or post office. Should your child go on an extended field trip, a separate permission form will be sent home. Students are not permitted to call home if a permission form is overdue and verbal permission from a parent/guardian over the phone is not acceptable.

### **Illness or Injuries:**

An illness or injury can happen at any time and our first concern is to give immediate attention to the student. If the injury is minor, the student receives first aid and when ready, returns to class. Parents will be contacted to pick up a child who is not feeling well enough to participate in the classroom program. For serious injuries, emergency personnel will be called and parents will be notified immediately. If a child is in distress, an ambulance may be called. Parents will be responsible for the cost of the ambulance. This emphasizes the importance of accurate, up to date information being kept on file at the office. Notify the office as soon as possible if there are any changes in your family such as telephone numbers, employment, emergency contacts or guardianship/custody.

### **News from the Grand Erie District School Board:**

The Grand Erie District School Board has a zero tolerance policy towards all forms of harassment. The Board is committed to providing a working and learning environment that is free of harassment, which supports productivity and the personal goals of dignity and self-esteem for every individual. The Board expects all students, staff and visitors to behave in a respectful, courteous and appropriate manner at all times. The Board will respond to all forms of unacceptable behaviour in a manner consistent with the Board's policy on harassment. To view this policy, please visit the Board's website at [www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca) and select the drop down menu titled Board, then look under Policies.

### **Individual Education Plans (IEP's):**

Some of the students in our school have an Individualized Education Plan, also known as an IEP. The reporting periods for your child's IEP have changed based on recommendations from the provincial Special Education Committee. Effective September 2017, (for any child who had an IEP the previous school year), your child's IEP will be reviewed and updated within the first 30 instructional days of school, and with the Term 1 report card in January and the Term 2 report card in June. As always, we welcome communication and conversation about your child's progress, on-going achievement of learning skills, work habits and curriculum expectations at any time.

### **Terry Fox Run/Walk:**

Students, Kindergarten to Grade 8, will be participating in the school's Terry Fox run/walk on Monday, September 25th. The rain date will be the following day, the 26th. Family members are welcome to join us. More information about this event will be sent home later in the month.



Your interest in Waterford Public School and your continued support is appreciated. Please call Mrs. Opersko if you have any follow up questions or concerns regarding this newsletter.

How do Waterford Wildcats describe themselves?

Answer: Purr-fect!