



Brier Park Public School

October 2016



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Newsletter Date: October, 2016

WOW !!! September has quickly turned into October. It was wonderful seeing many of you at Meet the Teachers Night. We hope that you enjoyed visiting your child's classroom and meeting the "creature" who will be teaching your child this year.

We have completed three fire drills for the Fall and both mandated lockdown practices. Our students now know the procedures and did a fantastic job!!!

We have our first school council meeting on **October 3rd at 7:00 in our library**. Our nutrition program is up and running **THANK YOU** to our great coordinators, Jen Ciere and Tabitha Cherewka, and their volunteers. We received a Food for Thought and Metro Grant which will assist in the cost of running this program.

Halloween is also fast approaching and our school will be having our annual parade on October 31st. Our parade will begin at 9:15. This will allow parents to get their children dressed in the morning and prepared for the parade. After the parade, parents who attend the parade, are encouraged to take the costumes home for the night fun. Our grades 6-8 will have a dance from 1:40 - 3:00.

Please remember that attendance at school is very important as days missed mean many wonderful learning experiences also missed. We understand that children do get sick throughout the year and that they need to be kept home, however, many children are late for school which also impacts on their school day. Please make sure that your children are at school by 8:40 in the morning. If they are late, please have them sign in and get a late slip. After five unexcused lates, children will be seeing me to assist with community service for lost time. We want to teach our students the importance of being responsible. We also ask that if your children will be absent, please call us anytime at 519-759-8682. Our answering machine is on twenty four hours and you may leave a message.

If you have not already done so, please make sure that the teachers and the school have your e-mail address. All important notices, newsletters, and forms will be sent directly to your e-mail address. This is a great communication tool for all of us.

Dates to Remember:

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| Oct. 3rd | School Council 7:00 |
| Oct. 6th | Pita Pit |
| Oct. 7th | PD Day - NO SCHOOL |
| Oct. 10th | Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL |
| Oct. 12th | Dental Screening |
| Oct. 13th | HPV shots (Int.) |
| Oct. 14th | Chicken with rice |
| Oct. 21st | Subway |
| Oct. 28th | Pizza Day |
| Oct. 31st | Halloween Parade 9:15 am Grade 6-8 Dance 1:40-3:00 pm |

School Website

Please make sure to check our school website, www.granderie.ca/brierpark

Each teacher has their own classroom area, where you can find their newsletters or blogs. There are also all school newsletters posted as well as other pertinent information.



Staff Parking and Front Entrance

Some parents continue to use the two parking lots in front of the school. The front lot with the roundabout is designated **only** for our Kindergarten parents. It is a five minute maximum drop-off and pick-up zone. The lot to the side of the school is **Staff Parking Only**. The parking lots become congested and we ask that you do not drop off in the roundabout unless you are a Kindergarten parent.



Student **drop off and pick up** are at the **Ravenwood parking lot**. There is a paved path to this parking lot to/from the school for students and parents to use.

Please assist us in using appropriate drop off and pick up areas. This allows us to maintain a safe school zone, with less congestion. Please assist us in this matter as our goal is student safety first and foremost.

Lockdown and Fire Drills

Every year, schools are required to do a number of fire drills and lockdown practices.

We have had two lockdown practices this year and we encourage parents to continue to talk to their children about this. It's important for children to understand that lockdowns take place for a variety of reasons: intruder, unsafe student behaviour in the school, a situation taking place in the school neighbourhood. It's also important for students to know that these lockdowns are in place to keep the children safe.

We also have three fire drills in the Fall and three in the Spring. Students have been advised where they need to exit as well as their alternate exits in the school.

As part of your parent talk, ask the children to explain to you the procedures. This is not only good practice for them but also a great way to relieve some of the anxiety.



Nut Allergy Alert !!!

Some students in our school have **severe allergies** to nut products that could cause death.



A plan is in place at the school to assist in case of an allergic reaction with the specific students.

We ask our school community for understanding that this matter is serious and ask that you refrain from sending nut products to school with your children.

Setting a New Direction in Grand Erie

Grand Erie trustees approved a new strategic direction to guide the work we are doing.

In the centre of this 2016-2020 Multi-Year Plan is **SUCCESS for Every Student**.

We will achieve this through a focus on students and staff in a culture of high expectations.

The indicators that will support our goal include Achievement, Well-Being, Equity, Environment, Technology and Community.

For more information, visit www.granderie.ca/board/multi-year-plan

From School Council

Please join us at our next School Council meeting on October 3rd at 7:00 !

We are looking forward to a great year at Brier Park. Daycare is provided and we invite everyone to join us.

All parents are welcome !!!



Reminders about Student Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

The Ministry of Education has published a new document entitled Growing Success which outlines procedures and practices related to student assessment, evaluation, and reporting. Growing Success is intended to guide the collection of meaningful information that will help inform instructional decisions and promote student engagement while improving student learning. Parents have an important role to play in supporting student learning and therefore need to be fully informed about students' progress.

- ◆ Learning Skills have been reduced to 6, Responsibility, Organization, Independent Work, Collaboration, Initiative and Self-Regulation. These now appear on the 1st page of the report card. An example of the descriptors for the Learning Skills is included for information.
- ◆ To ensure equity for all students, major assignments for evaluation and tests are to be completed under the supervision of the teacher. Therefore, work done at home may not be used for evaluation purposes.
- ◆ There will be an Elementary Progress Report Card that will come home the week of November 9th, Grades 1-8. The purpose of this Progress Report is to show development of the students' learning skills and work habits (Excellent, Good, Satisfactory or Needs Improvement), as well as a student's general academic progress (Progressing with Difficulty, Progressing Well, Progressing Very Well) in the fall of the school year.
- ◆ There will be a formal interview on November 17th at night from 3:00 - 8:00 and November 18th in the morning from 8:00 - 12:00.
- ◆ There will be two Elementary Provincial Report Cards, Grades 1-8, sent home at the end of January and the end of June. Interviews will only be scheduled if needed due to academic or behavioural concerns.

Work Habits - Sample Behaviours that will appear on the Progress Report

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| Responsibility | The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fulfils responsibilities and commitments within the learning environment; • completes and submits class work, homework, and assignments according to agreed-upon timelines; • takes responsibility for and manages own behaviour. |
| Organization | The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • devises and follows a plan and process for completing work and tasks; • establishes priorities and manages time to complete tasks and achieve goals; • identifies, gathers, evaluates, and uses information, technology, and resources to complete tasks |
| Independent Work | The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independently monitors, assesses, and revises plans to complete tasks and meet goals; • uses class time appropriately to complete tasks; • follows instructions with minimal supervision. |
| Collaboration | The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accepts various roles and an equitable share of work in a group; • responds positively to the ideas, opinions, values, and traditions of others; • works with others to resolve conflicts and build consensus to achieve group goals; |
| Initiative | The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • looks for and acts on new ideas and opportunities for learning; • demonstrates the capacity for innovation and a willingness to take risks; • demonstrates curiosity and interest in learning; • approaches new tasks with a positive attitude; |
| Self-Regulation | The student: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sets own individual goals and monitors progress towards achieving them; • seeks clarification or assistance when needed; • assesses and reflects critically on own strengths, needs, and interests; • identifies learning opportunities, choices, and strategies to meet personal needs and achieve goals. |

Safe Welcome

Grand Erie District School Board implemented the Safe Welcome Program within all of its elementary schools.

Parents can now expect that all elementary school entrances are kept locked during the school day to prevent entry from anyone who does not have authorization.

Closed circuit television and controlled access buzzers were included in the installations.

School administrators, teachers and secretaries have been notified of the program guidelines and protocols as well as the system functions to continue to ensure that our schools remain safe and secure places for our students to achieve and succeed in their learning.

Please be advised that students in the building have been told not to open doors to anyone. The use of the buzzer to the secretary's desk is the only way into the school. If you are a visitor at the school, we ask that you do not let in other visitors/parents as they will need to use the buzzer to come in as well. This is sometimes frustrating as people may have to wait to be let in. Please be patient with our staff as we are following board protocols. These protocols are in place to keep the children and staff at the school safe.



As parents, we want our children to be safe at school and want to help them when a conflict occurs. As a school, we teach the students about Kelso's Choices and TRIBES to problem solve through conflicts with peers. Sometimes, children will require adult support to assist in conflict resolution.

As a school, we sometimes find that parents use the term bullying during any type of conflicts with students and their children. In order to assist you in distinguishing the difference between conflict and bullying, we have included a chart for your use.

Conflict VS. Bullying

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| Happens occasionally | Happens repeatedly |
| Accidental, shows empathy | Done on purpose, targeting |
| Not serious, rough housing, pushing | Serious-threat of physical harm or emotional or psychological hurt |
| Equal emotional reaction by both | Strong emotional reaction on part of victim |
| Not seeking power or attention | Seeking power or control |
| Not trying to get something | Trying to gain material things, or power |
| Remorseful - takes responsibility | No remorse - blames victim |
| Effort to solve problem | No effort to solve problem |