



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

Principal
Mrs. D. Opersko

Office Coordinator
Mrs. S. Hofland

Don't forget to ensure your child has a pair of indoor shoes at school. Melting snow in the hallways means wet feet for students who do not have their indoor shoes at school.

Also, please label hats, mittens, boots and scarf with your child's name so items can easily be returned to him/her.



Important Dates for the Month:

Monday, December 3 rd to Friday, December 14 th : Non-Perishable Food Drive for the Caring Cupboard, Candy gram sales on-line from Dec. 3 rd until Dec. 13 th	
Wednesday, Dec. 5th	Intermediate Girls' Volleyball Tournament, Christmas Family Night (Stop and Shop in the gym from 5:30 – 7 p.m., classroom Christmas activities from 6 – 7 p.m.)
Thursday, Dec. 6th	Fire Safety presentations for Grades 3 and 4
Friday, Dec. 7th	Mrs. Stronks' Grade 5's and Mrs. Hewitt's Grade 6's trip to the Gretzky Centre
Thursday, Dec. 13th	Junior Volleyball tournament at Lakewood Elementary School
Monday, Dec. 17th	Staff and Student Turkey Dinner, red and green spirit day
Tues., Dec. 18th	Carol Sing, Christmas movie character spirit day
Wed., Dec. 19th	Christmas hat or headgear spirit day
Thurs., Dec. 20th	Candygrams delivered, tacky Christmas sweater spirit day
Fri., Dec. 21st	Carol sing, Grade 5 -8 dance/games room event
Saturday, Dec. 22nd to Sunday, January 6 th – Christmas Holiday We're back to school on Monday, January 7 th !	

Principal's Message:

As the Christmas holidays draw near, I would like to thank the staff at Waterford P.S. for their hard work and commitment to the students. They truly want the best for all of our learners. I'd also like to thank the parents for all they do to support school activities and for their help with their child(ren)'s learning at home. Finally, thank you to our wonderful students for being positive learners and a very enjoyable group to work with over this term.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season to all of the families in our school community.

Mrs. Opersko

Cardboard Boat Racing Results:

Congratulations to our Grade 7 and 8 students who participated last week in the cardboard boat races at the Annaleise Carr Aquatic Centre in Simcoe. Two of our teams placed second and third in the competition. Our second place team included Sydney Welsh, Seth Woods, Gabby Harbin, and Avalon Martin. Kianna Kowalski, Bella Spinella, Paige Killick, and Jessica Lepp were part of our third place team. Thanks to Mr. Dumoulin for taking the lead on this new activity for our school. Sincere thanks to Turkstra Lumber, Riddoch Lumber and Waterford TV and Appliances for the donations of our boat supplies.



Christmas Activities:



The Student Leadership Committee is sponsoring a non-perishable food drive until December 14th. Students will earn a point for their colour house for each item they donate. Help us to help others at the Waterford Caring Cupboard this holiday season.



From December 1st until the 13th, the Student Leadership Committee will be selling candy cane candy grams for 50 cents each. Orders can be placed through school cash on-line only. Proceeds will be donated to a worthy cause.



Join us for our Christmas Open House and Stop and Shop on Wednesday, December 5th from 6 - 7 p.m. There will be a variety of activities for you and your family to enjoy including:

- Melted snowman treats
- Reindeer dust
- Christmas cookies
- Reindeer pops
- Colouring contest
- Christmas cards
- Christmas Café
- Christmas ornaments

These are just a few of the fun activities to enjoy! Be sure to do some of your Christmas shopping at our Stop and Shop in the gym from 5:30 – 7 p.m.! See the flyer and school map attached to the end of this newsletter for more details.



The Parents' Council is providing a free turkey dinner for all staff and students on Monday, December 17th. We will be walking to and from the Waterford United Church to enjoy this meal together, in three different shifts. Please note: For parents who plan to pick their child up during the day, please check your child's agenda or communication book to see when your child will be at the church. Sincere thanks to the Parents' Council for providing this special meal for our school community.



We will be having a Christmas carol sing on Tuesday, December 18th and on Friday, December 21st at 9 a.m. in the gym.



The Student Leadership Committee is planning a Grades 5-8 dance/games room event for Friday, December 21st. More details will come home with your Grade 5 -8 student.

Don't forget to like our school Facebook page to follow our activities and upcoming events at:

<https://www.facebook.com/wildcatsintheknow>

Me to We Club:

The Waterford Public School Me to We Club is selling Rafikis and Mingas. Rafikis are beaded bracelets (that can also be worn as a necklace). Mingas are woven bracelets. There are 18 different options to pick from. To learn more about Rafikis/Mingas and view them online, go to this website: <https://wpsmetoweclubnews.wordpress.com> . If you would like to see what they look like in person, stop by the office at Waterford Public School (all 18 different options are on display in the office).

Each bracelet is twelve dollars. Ten dollars of each one sold goes to help people in need overseas. Two dollars of each one sold goes to True North Aid. True North Aid is a Registered Canadian Charity committed to supporting Northern Indigenous communities in Canada. Visit www.truenorthaid.ca to learn more.

Please purchase them online by going to <http://www.schoolcashionline.com> . If you must pay in cash, please visit Mrs. Hofland at the office. All orders placed by December 8, 2018, will be sent home before Christmas holidays. Please email Mrs. Pragnell for orders that you want put aside for secret pick-up (julie.pragnell@granderie.ca). Thanks for your support.

Expectations for Ice and Snow:

The following expectations have been shared with staff and students for safety in the ice and snow.

- Once the temperature falls below zero the ground will freeze. It is hard, like cement. The playground equipment, including the swings, will be closed.
- Enjoy the snow but remember it must stay on the ground. No throwing snow, kicking snow or putting snow on others (i.e. in their faces, down their clothes). This includes throwing snow at the school building or even up in the air, as it could land on someone who is not paying attention.
- Students will miss school activities (i.e. dance, turkey dinner, class trips etc.) as a consequence. If you cannot be trusted to keep everyone safe on school property, you will not be allowed to participate in our special activities. If you hurt someone with snow or ice you can be suspended.
- Be respectful of the things other people make out of snow. Don't break or destroy what someone else has created. This creates bad feelings amongst students. Staff members do not have time to "police" this.
- Sometimes students make huge snowballs. This is permitted as long as students are not standing on them, sitting on them or jumping off them.
- If there is ice on the yard or blacktop, students are not allowed to slide on it. If you fall you can be seriously injured.
- Once recess is over, if you are coated in snow, take a moment to brush off, stamp your feet and try to leave the snow outside. It's really important that when the hallway is wet from melted snow that you have your indoor shoes on. Also if we need to have a drill or need to leave the building quickly, you won't have the time to stop and put something on your feet.



Planning a Family Holiday?

Parents wishing to take their children out of school during the regular school schedule should be aware that they must fill out a *Request for Temporary Absence* form for the Grand Erie District School Board. This form is available from the office. Parents must take responsibility for any lack of school progress or failure that may result from the absence and acknowledge that absence from school may be detrimental to the educational progress and achievement of the student. Missed schoolwork, assignments or tests may restrict the school's ability to fully evaluate a student's performance. Upon return from a vacation students are responsible for completing work assigned by the teacher during their absence.

Teachers will not prepare assignments beforehand to accommodate students planning to be absent from school to accompany parents on holiday. Work will be saved as it is assigned to the class and given to students upon their return from vacation. Students will be responsible for "catching up" on lessons missed during their absence. Completion of unfinished work is the responsibility of the parents and the student.

Kindergarten Registration:

Kindergarten registration will begin in January 2019. If your child will be four years old by December 31, 2019, they are eligible to register for school for September 2019. Grand Erie provides a safe, caring and inclusive school for all students to learn and grow. In our Kindergarten program, your child will learn to explore the world around them, solve problems and make new friends. If you know a parent/guardian whose child is ready to register, please let them know as well. For more information or to receive a copy of Grand Erie's Welcome to Kindergarten Guide, please visit granderie.ca.

Hot Lunch Orders:

When placing hot lunch orders on-line, be careful not to check the gluten free pizza, by accident. Gluten free pizza will cost extra. From January until the end of May, WPS will have hot lunch options every Wednesday and Friday. These will be available for purchase on school cash online at the same time every month.

School Council News:

Sincere thanks to everyone who purchased poinsettias or recipe in a jar items. We hope you can join us for our next meeting in the school library on Wednesday, January 16th at 6:30 p.m.



This year for Christmas our school will be sponsoring families at Haldimand and Norfolk Women's Services. Your donations will ensure that families receive gifts for their children, a holiday meal as well as the pleasure of knowing that someone in the community cares about them. You can choose how you would like to provide sponsorship by choosing from the following list:

- 1) A full family sponsorship – You choose the size of the family you wish to help. Haldimand and Norfolk Women's Services match you with a family and provide you with their wish list.
- 2) A partial sponsorship – You donate what you can, whether it be a new toy or gift card and Haldimand and Norfolk Women's Services will ensure it goes to a family in need in our community
- 3) A cash donation to Haldimand and Norfolk Women's Services – the money will be used to purchase food and gifts for families in need

Items can be brought into the school for donation. Call 519-426-8048 for more information.