

Mrs. Black  
Principal

Mrs. Pitre  
Secretary  
519 443 8942

# Waterford Public School

## September 2016 Newsletter



### Upcoming Dates:

#### Sept. 6th

Student information forms, and other school forms sent home this week.

Please update, sign and return forms to the school as soon as possible so we can update our records.

#### Sept. 14th

Parent Council Meeting  
6:30pm

#### Sept 15th

Meet the Teacher Night  
and BBQ 5:30pm-7pm

#### Sept. 16th PD Day

#### Sept.26th

Kick off assembly for  
chocolate bar fund raiser  
(Oct. 3rd - 24th)

#### Sept. 28th

School photo day

#### September 30th

##### **Terry Fox Run**

Our school will be participating in the annual Terry Fox Run for cancer research again this year.

Please note that all students will take part in the walk and while we hope that everyone is able to collect pledges, the decision to do so is entirely up to your family.

We see this event as a great way to get all of our students involved in a physical activity and at the same time, support a very worthy cause.

The staff of Waterford Public School extend a warm **welcome back** to the families who are returning to WPS, and to those families who are new to our school and neighbourhood– **WELCOME!** We hope that all families will participate actively in the learning environment at our school. We anticipate that this school year will bring many new learning opportunities and success for your children.

We welcome new staff to our school this year. Mrs. Kathleen Pitre will be our new secretary. Her hours are from 8am to 3:45pm, for your information if you are trying to call before or after school. We also welcome Mrs. Jeanette Duffield as our Grade 3/4 teacher and Mrs. Ashley Cooper as our French, Health and Arts teacher.

At Waterford Public School, it is our goal to provide all children with the best possible education. We believe that effective communication between home and school can only happen when we, as educators and parents, work together for the benefit and well being of our children. The support from our parents and the Waterford community is exceptional and the staff greatly appreciate all that our volunteers do for this school. With your participation and support we will continue to achieve success for every student.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Black,  
Principal



@mich05gedsb

Follow me on twitter to see WPS happenings!

Visit our school website for information and events, including school newsletters

<http://www.granderie.ca/schools/waterford>

### Meet the Teacher

Everyone is welcome to meet the staff on **Thursday, September 15th**. We will be selling hot dogs and refreshments. Doors are open from 5:30pm -7:00pm. This is a great opportunity to talk informally with the teachers and meet your child's new friends. Hope you can make it!

### School Council Meeting

Our first school council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, September 14th at 6:30pm**. All of our meetings take place in the school library. Any interested parent is welcome to attend.

## Attendance Routines

Student attendance is checked twice daily.

Unless you, as the parent/guardian, have contacted the school to explain that your child will be late or absent, the school office is required to call to clarify this. For your convenience, you may call the school 24/7 and leave a voice message. Please tell us your child's name, the teacher, and the reason for the absence.

## Sign in and Sign out

GEDSB requires that all students who arrive at school late or leave the school early must be signed in or out at the office by a parent. Parents who pick up their children during the day for appointments are also required to sign their child out of the school.

*Please make these arrangements known to your child, and place a note in the agenda/communication book for the teacher.*

*This minimizes disruptions in the classroom.*

Parent volunteers, co-op students, and Board personnel are also required to sign in and out.

## Waterford Public School Staff 2016-2017

Secretary- Mrs. K. Pitre  
Custodian- Mr. D. Wood

### Kindergarten

Mrs. A. Butler (teacher) and Mrs. S. Dal Bello (ECE)  
Mrs. J. Antonioli (teacher) and Mrs. L. VanSickle (ECE)  
Mrs. J DePauw

Grade 1 Ms. J. Schipper

Grade 1 Mrs. B. Loder

Grade 2 Ms. C. Barber

Grade 2 / 3 Mrs. C. Smart

Grade 3/4 Mrs. M. Wouters

Grade 3/4 Mrs. J. Duffield

Grade 4 Mrs. J. Pragnell

Grade 5 Mrs. H. Stronks and Mrs. E. Jansen

Grade 6 Mr. M. Brady

Grade 6/7 Mrs. T. Hewitt

Grade 7 Ms. L. VanKessel

Grade 8 Mr. L. Woods

French/Prep Mme. M. Kerwin and Mrs. A. Cooper

Library/Prep Ms. P. Van Den Hurk

Learning Resource Teacher Mr. K. Berry

### Educational Assistants

Mrs. K. Byrne and Mrs. R. Ritchat

Principal Mrs. M. Black

## Waterford Public School Student Safety

Like most schools, WPS has students in our school with severe food allergies (anaphylaxis) to a variety of food items, including peanuts and nuts. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to specific foods. Prevention, of course, is the best approach. Although this may not affect your child's class directly, due to the likelihood of cross-contamination (from a hand to a drinking fountain, skipping rope, door handle etc), ***I wanted you to be aware that sending foods that are free from peanuts or nut products can help reduce the risk*** at school of a student having a life threatening reaction.

### **Peanut-Free "Peanut Butter"**

There's a peanut-free soy nut butter product on the market that says it's a peanut butter substitute and safe for schools. Grand Erie District School Board requests that parents/guardians and staff refrain from bringing this product into our schools.

If it's peanut-free, then what's the big deal? This product looks, smells, and tastes like peanut butter. The concern is that some children might mistakenly think it is okay to bring peanut butter sandwiches in their lunches when they see their classmates eating the soy product. We simply cannot run the risk of any student being exposed to peanuts, as this may cause an allergic reaction. The safety and health of our students must come first.

For more information on the Board's response to Anaphylaxis (allergic reactions), please visit [www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca). Thank you for your understanding and your cooperation in ensuring that all of our students are as safe and as healthy as can be.

**School Begins at 8:50am**

Students who arrive to school after the bell rings at 8:50am are considered late. Although this may not seem problematic on an individual basis, consider the disruption to the classroom when the rest of the class is already settled at their desks and the teacher has started a new lesson. When a child arrives late, the focus of the students is momentarily lost (and this may happen 3-4 times depending on the number of students who are late in the class). The teacher then may then need to review the previously taught information to those who arrived late, or ask repeatedly for information in the agenda, assignments etc. Additionally, Mrs. Pitre our school secretary, is taken from her work to help younger students sign in and prepare late slips. Being punctual is a life long skill!  
**Set a goal to be on the playground by 8:45am** That way all students can line up when the bell rings and enter the school with all of their classmates.

**Students who have allergies or take medication**

Asthma and allergies: If your child self administers a puffer for asthma, or if you require school personnel to administer medication at any time, it is board policy that a medical form be filled out. Please pick up a form at the office, which needs to be signed by your family doctor. This also allows classroom teachers to know who has a puffer so that we can monitor its use during the school day. In the case of Epi-pens, although some students may keep one in their backpack, a second Epi-pen is required to be kept at the office, so in the event of an emergency, all staff know to quickly access the office for the Epi-pen.

**Bus Routines**

Waterford Public School continues to be a transfer point. This means that four busses arrive to Waterford PS at approximately 8:20am. Bus students will go to the playground where they will be supervised by a staff member. At the end of the day, busses will depart at approximately 3:25pm. Bus students will meet and be supervised on the playground during this time. The staff member will take students out to the busses once all four busses have arrived.

**School newsletters**

School newsletters will be emailed to families who have provided an email address on the Student Current Information Form (white paper). If you would like to add additional email addresses, or have other family members receive the newsletter, simply add the information below and I will happily add them to my distribution list.  
If you received emails last year, you are still on the list!



**Family name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional email address(es) not on the white Student Current Information Form or on current list:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you do not receive the October newsletter electronically, please contact the office.

## **Picture Day**

Student and class pictures will be taken on **Wednesday, September 28th**. Students absent on picture day can have their photo taken on retake day scheduled for October 28th.

## **Special occasions at WPS**

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.

## **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 high-risk 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).

Many parents may have accident coverage as part of their employer's benefit plan. It's important for parents to review their plans to make sure they have the necessary coverage for high-risk activities. Parents may want to consider purchasing additional personal coverage to reduce the anxiety associated from an injury to their child.

**Grand Erie District School Board requires that all parents declare whether or not they have accident insurance. A declaration form is being sent home at the beginning of the school year for parent/guardian review and signature.**