

WALSH PUBLIC SCHOOL



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER |

Principal: Nancy Norton

Vice Principal: Amie Salembier-Wright

Office Coordinators:

Sandra Vandendriessche

Judy Weller

Staff:

Huszczo, J.	JK/SK
Morris, B.	JK/SK FI
Watt, N.	JK/SK FI
House, C.	SK/1
DeSmedt	1FI
Walker, E.	1/2
Chmiel, C	1/2 FI
Bilinsky, A.	2/3
McCallum, B.	3/4
Meulemeester, M.	2/3 FI
Lapierre, H.	3/4 FI
Backus, M.	4/5
Schott, J	4/5 FI
McKay, E.	5/6
Grozelle, C.	6/7 FI
Jarvis, L.	6/7
Meulemeester, D.	8
Driedger, C.	7/8 FI
Bryson, K.	LRT
Carter, C.	Prep
Hamm, K.	Prep
Van Leeuwen, T	Prep
Swan, J	French
Gilchrist, K.	DECE
Gallant, N.	DECE
Hare, K.	EA
Holmes, A	EA
Walker, K	EA
Ward, K.	EA
Westlake, D.	EA
Solon, J.	Paid Supervisor

March 2026

February was an exciting month here at Walsh!

We celebrated Carnival on the 4th and on the 13th we celebrated the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day, and our School Council treated students to a delicious pancake celebration.

We also recognized Black History Month through daily announcements and meaningful classroom conversations. These important discussions about Black excellence, contributions, and history will continue well beyond February as part of our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and learning.

In addition, our school marked Pink Shirt Day, reinforcing the message that kindness, respect, and standing up against bullying matter every single day—not just once a year. We remain dedicated to fostering a safe, caring environment where all students feel valued.

On February 27th, we recognized Rare Disease Day by wearing stripes to help raise awareness and show support for individuals and families affected by rare conditions. It was a simple but powerful way to highlight understanding, empathy, and inclusivity within our school community.

As we head into March and look forward to the arrival of spring, please remember to ensure your child is dressed for the weather. Even with warmer days ahead, it is still winter, and cold or wet conditions will continue for a little while longer.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful and restful March Break!

Yours in cooperation,

Ms. N. Norton

Principal



WALSH PUBLIC SCHOOL

933 St. John's Road West,
Simcoe N3Y 4K5
519-426-3716
granderie.ca/schools/walsh

SCHOOL HOURS FOR BALANCED DAY

Day Start: 8:55 a.m.

Instructional Block: 8:55 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.

Outdoor Recess: 10:55 a.m.

Nutritional Break: 11:15 a.m.

Instructional Block: 11:35 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Outdoor Recess: 1:15 p.m.

Nutritional Break: 1:55p.m.

Instructional Block: 1:55p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Day End: 3:15p.m.

- ◇ All family members and visitors to the school will not be permitted to enter the school unless you have a scheduled appointment. Please call **519-426-3716** to make an appointment. All doors to the school will remain locked.
- ◇ Students who arrive late to school must buzz the office to be let into the school and stop by the office to be signed in.
- ◇ A parent/guardian who requires a student to leave the school before dismissal time must call the school ahead of time, and we ask that you do this early in the day so we can communicate with students without interrupting instructional time.
- ◇ If you get the answering machine, please leave a message stating your name and who you are picking up, and the departure time. All students must be picked up at the office door and signed out from the office. This policy is in place to ensure the safety of all of our students.

Reminder: Student Pick-Ups

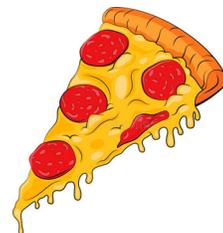
If you need to pick up your child before the end of the school day, please notify the school office no later than **1:30 p.m.** This gives us time to coordinate with classrooms without disrupting learning.

The school day ends at **3:15 p.m.** To minimize interruptions, we ask that students leaving for appointments either be picked up before 3:00 p.m. or wait until dismissal.

Students being picked up will be escorted across the field and should be met at the parent parking lot closest to Turkey Point Road, we will bring students out between 3:10-3:15pm. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep the school day running smoothly!

HOT LUNCHES

- ⇒ Monday's - Panzerottis from The Catherwood and the Kiln - \$6.00 each
- ⇒ Wednesday's – Pitas from Pita Pit - \$6.00 each
- ⇒ Friday's – Pizza from The Catherwood and the Kiln - \$3.00 per slice



April Hot Lunches will be due on March 15th. **No late orders will be accepted.**

SAVE THE DATE

March 3	Popcorn \$2
March 4	Intermediate Boys Basketball Tournament @ SCS
March 9	Grade 7&8s to Innovation Hub
March 10	Popcorn \$2
March 13	Grade 8 Grad Hoodie orders due (schoolcashionline)
March 16-20	March Break – No School for Students
March 23-April 2	Walsh Nutrition Program Food Drive: See flyer for requested food items
March 24	Popcorn \$2
March 25	GEDSB Kindergarten. Kick-Start Community Event 4-6pm(*note: Walsh will have an orientation specifically for new Walsh JKs in the Spring) Attention new Kindergarten Families: Together with community partners Grand Erie, is excited to welcome new Kindergarten students and their families <i>before</i> the school year begins! Follow the link below to register for a "Look See Screener" Timeslot and join us for this great start to their Kindergarten journey! https://granderie.ca/kindergarten/kick-start-to-kindergarten
March 30	School Council @ 5:30pm
March 26	Great Big Crunch! The Great Big Crunch is a fun, Canada-wide food education event where thousands of students (and plenty of adults) bite into apples <i>at the same time</i> to celebrate healthy eating and local food.
March 31	Popcorn \$2
April 3	Good Friday – NO SCHOOL
April 6	Easter Monday – NO SCHOOL
April 9	Grade 8 Grad Photos
April 17	PD Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Attendance Matters! “March Into Success” – encourages students to take an active role in their learning by strengthening relationships, participating fully in class activities, and engaging with school life. When



Chess Team

Chess may be known as an individual game, but our team has embraced the strategy, communication, and camaraderie that come with competing together. Their commitment to sharpening their skills has been impressive, and the growth in their gameplay shows just how dedicated they've been this season.



Sports & Clubs: February brought a flurry of basketball action, and the momentum continues. Our Junior and Intermediate Girls teams are gearing up for CAGE in March, while our Intermediate Boys kick off their tournament at the start of the month. Beyond basketball, students have been staying active through our fitness club and we will be bringing back our ping pong club, keeping spirits high as we look forward to warmer days ahead.

You're the Chef: This month, some of our students took part in You're the Chef (YTC)—a hands on food literacy program supported by trained volunteers and the Grand Erie Public Health School Health Team. Students learned kitchen safety, recipe skills, and healthy eating aligned with Canada's Food Guide.

They prepared dishes like fresh fruit parfaits, chickpea curry, and broccoli cheddar frittatas, building confidence with knife skills, measuring, mixing, and cooking with vegetables, whole grains, and plant based proteins. A heartfelt thank you to the Grand Erie Public Health Unit and our dedicated volunteers for making this meaningful learning experience possible. Our young chefs truly thrived!

Eco Team

The Eco Team has continued to champion energy conservation with Sweater Wednesdays, turning down the heat each week to spark conversations about reducing our environmental footprint. They've also been hard at work caring for the indoor garden tower, which is thriving once again this year, and enjoy a tasty reward with their salad club!



Walsh March Nutrition Program Food Drive:

March 23–April 2, 2026

Walsh is kicking off its annual March Nutrition Program Food Drive, and we're inviting our school community to help fill the cupboards for families who rely on the Walsh Nutrition Program. The Student Nutrition Network requires us to follow specific guidelines, so we're collecting only the following items:

- Cereal:** Regular Cheerios, Multi Grain Cheerios, Shreddies
- Granola Bars:** Store brand nut free, chocolate free bars; Made Good Strawberry or Mixed Berry
- Fruit:** Unsweetened applesauce *individual cups only*
- Crackers:** Triscuit, Breton, Whole Grain Goldfish
- Accessories:** Snack, sandwich, and large Ziplock bags, plus spoons

To make things even more fun, the **top class in each division** and the **top individual donor** will earn the chance to *place a pie in the face* of a Walsh staff member!

Winter Carnival Celebration

Our school community came together to celebrate **Winter Carnival**, a joyful tradition inspired by the famous *Carnaval de Québec*, where French Canadian culture is honoured through music, games, and winter fun. This celebration gave students a chance to experience a small piece of Québec's vibrant winter spirit right here at school.

Throughout the week, students enjoyed a variety of activities that brought the Carnival atmosphere to life, including:

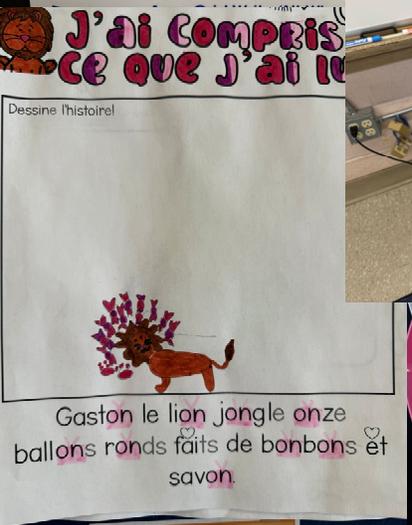
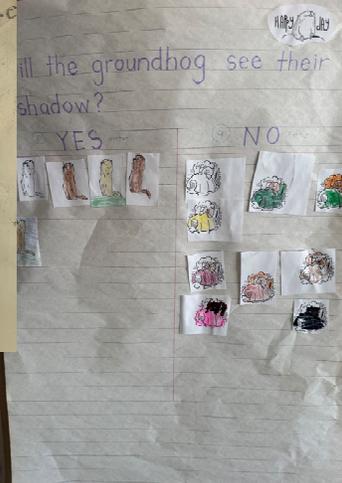
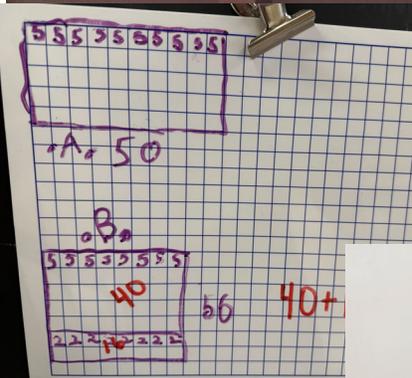
- School wide BINGO**, played together each day
- French songs (chansons)** shared and enjoyed in classrooms
- Ice Castle (Palais de Glace) building contests**, showcasing creativity and teamwork
- Carnival masks**, adding colour and flair to the festivities
- A school wide Carnaval Playday on February 4th**, where students took part in outdoor games and winter activities during the second block on Friday

Around The School in February

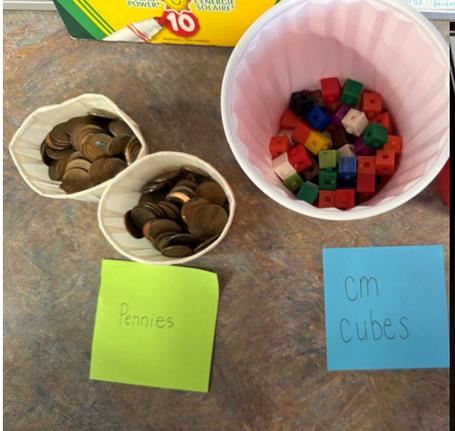
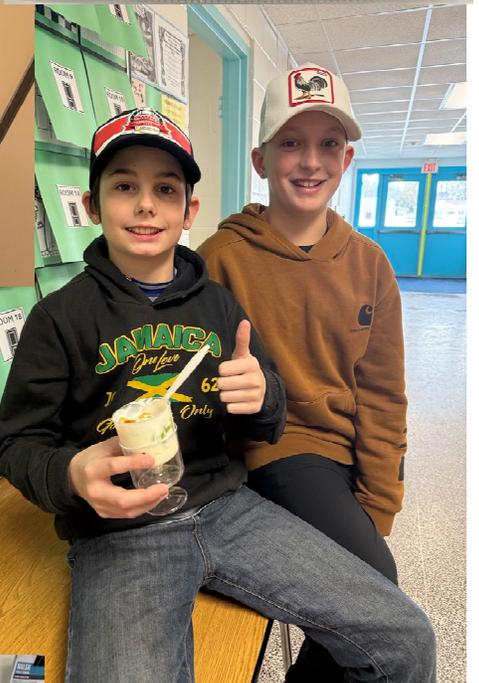
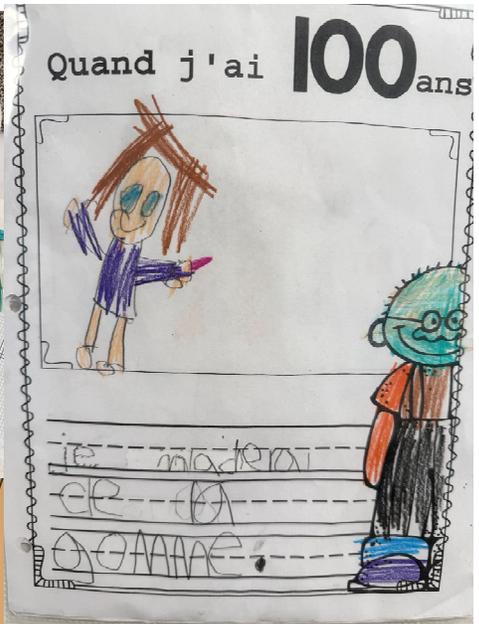


The Pledge of Kindness

I pledge to myself,
 On this very day,
 To try to be kind,
 In every way,
 To every person,
 Big or small,
 I will help them,
 If they fall.
 When I love myself,
 And others too,
 That is the best,
 That I can do.



Around The School in February



THE POTATO OLYMPICS RESULTS

EVENT	Team Name: Potato Head	Team Name: Westin	Team Name: Taylor	Team Name: Peanut	Team Name: Megan	Team Name: Pottato
Distance	2	4	6	3	5	5
Curling	5	6	4	2	3	4
Gymnastics	5	6	4	4	5	4
Dance						
Place/Points						

Point Score System:
 1st = 6 points + 2nd = 5 points + 3rd = 4 points + 4th = 3 points + 5th = 2 points + 6th = 1 point



Student Absences / Safe Arrival Application

Parents are asked to use the Safe Arrival app to report their child's absence

All students who arrive late or who leave early for appointments must sign in or out at school office. Parents picking up their children may not enter the school. Please understand that during school hours, there may be times where no one is immediately available to answer the door. If you are arriving late, please do not leave your children unattended, and please be patient.

Student Absences / Safe Arrival Application:

At Walsh, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each and every day.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we are introducing **a new**, more efficient student absence reporting system called **SafeArrival**. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

- 1) Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger app** from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
- 2) Use the SafeArrival website, <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
- 3) Call the toll-free number **1-833-557-9420** to report an absence using the automated phone system.

These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.

In addition, we will use the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated notification system to contact parents whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

If you report your child's absence in advance using the **SafeArrival** toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.

Starting **immediately** please report absences in advance using **SafeArrival** instead of sending notes or calling/emailing the school.

Staff will begin using the **SafeArrival** notifications to let you know if your student is absent (when you haven't reported the absence in advance).

If you have children attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.



School Council:

At Walsh, we know that parent engagement is a key driver of student success. Research consistently shows that when parents are actively involved in their child's education, students are more motivated, achieve higher grades, develop stronger social skills, and are more likely to pursue further education.

Great schools become even better when families and educators work together. Whether it's attending school events, joining committees, or simply staying connected with your child's learning, your involvement matters.

We invite all parents and guardians to join us at our next School Council Meeting on: **Monday, March 30 at 5:30 p.m.** It's a great opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, and help shape the future of our school.

For more information, please contact our School Council Chair, Leanne Rapley, at: leanne_rapley@hotmail.com

Let's continue building a strong, supportive school community — together!



Volunteering at Walsh Volunteers must provide the original copy of a Police Record Check that includes a Vulnerable Sector Search subject to availability, completed within the previous six (6) months and acceptable to the Board, prior to commencement of duties. Police Record Checks will remain valid for a three year period from the date they are received by the school. Police Check forms are available online at <https://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=147&lng=en>

The school office can provide you with a letter stating that you are applying for a police check to meet the requirements for volunteering at Walsh, so there will be no cost to you.

Walsh is a Nut-Aware School

A friendly reminder to all families that Walsh Public School is a nut-aware environment. We appreciate your continued cooperation in helping us keep all students safe.

Please ensure that your child(ren) do not bring any nuts or nut products to school, including:

- Peanut butter / WowButter (or any substitutes)
 - Peanut oil
 - Nutella
 - Baked goods containing nuts
 - Foods cooked in peanut oil (e.g., some home-style potato chips)
- Even trace amounts can pose serious risks to students with allergies.



Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and inclusive environment for all!



CHILD NUTRITION
NETWORK



Walsh March Nutrition Program Food Drive

March 23-April 2, 2026

Help fill the cupboards for the Walsh Nutrition Program

The student nutrition network requires us to follow strict guidelines, so we are asking for the following specific donations only:

Cereal: Regular Cheerios, Multi-Grain Cheerios, Shreddies

Granola Bars: Store Brands that do not contain nuts or chocolate

Made Good Granola Bars: Strawberry or Mixed Berry

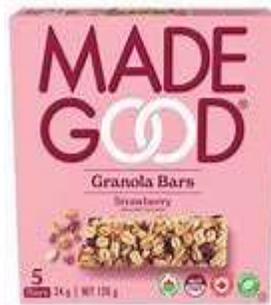
Unsweetened Apple Sauce Individual Cups (*not large bottles*)

Crackers: Triscuit, Breton, Whole Grain Goldfish crackers

Accessories: Snack, Sandwich and Large sized Ziplock bags, Spoons

The top class from each division and the top individual donors will win the chance to 'place-a-pie-in-the-face' of a Walsh Staff Member!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Want to know more about how to support your child's well-being?

FREE

Free webinar series for parents and caregivers

Join us for conversations on important mental health and substance use health topics identified by parents/caregivers in Ontario.

4 webinars | Subject matter experts | Q&A

Webinar 1 – March 5: Conversations about balanced device use

Webinar 2 – April 10: Conversations about vaping

Webinar 3 – May 7: Conversations about body image

Webinar 4 – June 5: Conversations about anxiety

Learn more and register today!



bit.ly/4kj5kfP



**School Mental Health
Ontario By Your Side**

Parent/caregiver resources to support mental health learning and well-being for every family

Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee
(GEPIC) presents

Thursday, March 26, 2026

From 6 to 7:15 p.m.

**Brantford Collegiate Institute
and Vocational School**

Learning Commons, 120 Brant Avenue, Brantford



Raising Awareness about Digital Dangers (RAADD)

GUEST SPEAKER:

Margot Denommé

Author, Speaker, Parent, and former Crown Attorney

With over 26 years of experience as a former Crown Attorney, Margot witnessed the devastating effects of low self-esteem and diminished confidence in children. As a mother of two daughters, she was deeply concerned about the unrealistic beauty standards set by mainstream and social media. Recognizing the links between poor self-worth, bullying, mental health issues, and future challenges, she embarked on a mission to address these issues.

Parents, teachers and other caregivers are the best role models for young teenagers when it comes to using smartphones safely. But how can you guide your child to make smart choices and stay safe online? How do you start those challenging conversations about responsible smartphone use? Margot Denommé will be sharing her best strategies, discussion prompts and tips for parents/caregivers on keeping the internet safe, with examples of potential threats and the legal consequences of online actions.

About Margot Denommé

Margot writes children's books and visits schools to educate children about the dangers of social media and the impact of online comparisons. Her 'The Celebrate YOU! Tour,' launched in 2013, has reached over 150 schools and community groups across Canada and the US, promoting positive self-esteem through kindness, resilience, courage, self-love, and embracing uniqueness. As an Author, Speaker, Parent, and former Crown Attorney, Margot is dedicated to fostering healthier, more confident youth and mitigating the negative impacts of digital dangers. Her comprehensive approach ensures both children and parents are equipped with the knowledge and tools to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

[Click here to register for this event](#)