



Forest Hill Public School Newsletter

May/June 2016

Be the Change You Want to See!

Phone: 519-578-5480 | Fax: 519-578-5460 | Attendance Line: 519-570-8081 ext. 3294 #

Principal: P. Berndt | Vice-Principal: B. Hughes | fhl.wrdsb.ca | Still a Gold Ecoschool!

Message from the Principal

Busy... that is Forest Hill Public School right now... very busy! And in a very good way! Our music program is working at top speed right now as our Kodaly Choir is preparing for their performance at Centre in the Square on May 5th. At the same time all the singers in our school are gearing up for our school musical on May 19th! Our soccer intramurals are wrapping up for another season. The staff and students will then switch to a BIG track & field season of events. Our green thumbs were put to use this past month with many Earth Month activities thanks to the leadership of many of our parents. We are also in EQAO season too, and our grade 3 and 6 students will be involved in provincial mathematics and literacy assessments during the last week of May and the first week of June.

This time of the year is also the time that we start looking into what the next school year will look like. We host our Welcome to Kindergarten Information night on May 5th and our grade 6's have a few invitations to visit their grade 7 schools in the coming weeks. We as a school are also starting to look at the number of students we will have here and we are working on teachers' assignments. This is the time when we consider student class placements as well. All this takes place while still focusing heavily on what is being taught each day and meeting the present needs of your child here at school.

It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child. This adage is never more true than at this time of year. With the busy pace of things happening all is working smoothly thanks to the amazing staff and parent volunteers we have here at Forest Hill. They give so much, from that direct leadership of the events to behind the scenes work, and the winners of this great effort are your children!

Just another reason why Forest Hill is such a fabulous school to be a part of!

Sincerely,
Mr. Peter Berndt

Remember to Bookmark our Forest Hill School Website!
Our school website is being updated on a weekly basis, so please visit

www.fhl.wrdsb.ca

to get the most up-to-date information on what's happening at
Forest Hill School!



Are you moving before SEPTEMBER?

We are in the process of making plans for next year! Part of the planning process is getting an accurate picture of which students will be attending Forest Hill in September. If your family is planning to move, or if you have children who will be registering for kindergarten, please let us know as soon as possible. The first day of school next year will be Tuesday, September 6th, 2016. It is a full day of school.

Planning Begins for 2016-2017!

It is hard to believe that we will soon be making plans for the 2016-17 school year. Teachers from each grade will be meeting over the next month to consider the placement of each child based on a combination of the following criteria:

- the academic level of the students
- each child's learning style
- the social / emotional level of each student
- the relationship that exists between and among students
- a balance, in each classroom, of students with special needs

This is a process that we take very seriously and it has tremendous impact on the whole school year. We do our best to ensure that your child's placement will best serve his or her learning needs. As part of this planning, parents may choose to submit in writing, characteristics of their child(ren) and any observations that they would like the school to keep in mind about the child(ren) when organizing classes.

If you wish us to consider specific information about your child's placement for September, we ask that you submit this in writing to Mr. Berndt by Friday, May 13th, 2016. Please understand that this is not an opportunity to request a specific teacher for you child(ren). Since our staffing, organization and procedures for September are not completed at this time, we cannot guarantee placement of your child(ren) with a specific staff member. We ask that all families recognize that as a staff, we take class organizations very seriously and give it careful thought, reflection and planning based on the best interests and needs of all students.

Class placements will not be finalized until the end of the summer. Class lists will be posted on Friday, September 2nd, 2016 after 4:00 p.m. at the back of the school.

EQAO TESTING

Each spring students in Grades 3 & 6 write provincial tests in reading, writing and mathematics. These tests are for two hours a day for 3-4 days. Our **Grade 6 students will write on May 25, 26, 27, 30.** Our **Grade 3 students will write on May 31, June 1, 2.** We'd appreciate it if students could make an extra effort to be on time those days. Please avoid doctor's and dentist's appointments as well. Our students are well prepared.



Upcoming Events

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- Thurs. May 5 Kindergarten Information Night 6:30 p.m.
- Tues. May 10 Class Photo Day
- Tues. May 10 School Council Meeting in Library 6:30 p.m.
- Wed. May 11 Gr. 7 Orientation at Laurentian 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs. May 19 Forest Hill Musical – "Highlights of Anne" 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Thurs. May 19 Community Closet 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Thurs. May 19 Book Sale 5:30 p.m.
- Fri. May 20 School Spirit Day – Hat Day!
- Mon. May 23 Victoria Day – No School
- Wed. May 25 Gr. 7 Orientation at Queensmount 7:00 p.m.
- Wed. June 1 Junior Track & Field Day (rain date Tues. June 7)
- May 25-30 Grade 6 EQAO Testing (Don't be late and don't leave early!)
- May 31-June 2 Grade 3 EQAO Testing (Don't be late and don't leave early!)
- Tues. June 9 School Council Meeting in Library 6:30 p.m.
- Mon. June 13 All Library Books are Due!
- Mon. June 20 Area Track & Field Meet - Jacob Hespeler Secondary School
- Thurs. June 23 School Council "Fun Fair" 6:30-9:30 p.m.
- Fri. June 24 School Spirit Day - wear school colours! (green & black)
- Mon. June 27 Term 2 Report Cards Go Home
- Wed. June 29 Last Day of School!!

Sign-Out Procedure

When you need to pick up your child(ren) early from school please enter through the front door and sign them out at the office. One of the secretaries will call your child(ren) to come down and meet you. Please allow for some extra time for your child(ren) to get ready. We call students to come and meet you when you arrive so they will miss the minimal amount of class time. Thank you for your cooperation.

Pets Not Allowed On School Property

With the warm weather upon us, many families would like to bring their pets along for the walk to drop off and/or pick up their child(ren) from school. Unfortunately this is a safety concern for our students, so pets are not allowed on school property between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Thank you for your understanding.



Forest Hill Singers at the Kodaly Choral Festival 2016

On Tuesday, May 3rd, and Wednesday, May 4th, the Kodaly Choral Festival took place at The Centre In The Square in Kitchener. Twenty-seven of our Junior students were among over 900 children who sang in one of these two performances to a concert hall full of delighted families and teachers.

Mrs. McKay and Mrs. MacKenzie want to congratulate our students on their commitment to the choir, attending practices twice a week and memorizing all the lyrics. They did it because they love to sing and, as a result, have experienced being a part of a unique event that they will remember all of their lives. You'll have a chance to hear two of their songs at our Anne musical. We are so proud of you, Kodaly Choir members!

Highlights of Anne! Ice Cream and so Much More!

Did you know that Anne of Green Gables never tasted ice cream or that she almost did in Gilbert Blythe? When Anne Shirley's around, there's "trouble" with an "e"! Please plan to take in the antics of this well-loved redhead from P.E.I. as we present "Highlights of Anne" on Thursday, May 19th at 6:30 p.m.



During our field trip to see "Shrek, The Musical" at Eastwood C.I. in April, our students learned that it takes many people working together to present such an amazing performance. Just like at Eastwood, we also have actors, soloists, dancers, a stage crew, choir members and teachers, all working together to make our own musical, "Highlights of Anne", come alive. All students from grades one to six are invited to be in the choir. You just need to return the yellow choir form to let us know.

We hope to see you on Thursday, May 19th to support our Forest Hill students. The gym doors will open at 6:00 p.m. so come early to get your seat!

WE TEAM Book Sale - Thursday, May 19th starting at 5:30 p.m.

On Thursday, May 19th, our WE Team will be selling new and almost new children's books at the low, low price of \$1.00 or \$2.00 per book. Many of the new books are Scholastic editions and have been donated in order to raise funds for children's charities.

Our We Team is selling these books to support Kenyan Kids Foundation Canada, a foundation started by Mrs. McKay's daughter to help poor families in Kenya. Tarah Korir (nee McKay) has also written a children's book, called "Grandma and Gogo", which is in our school library and many of our classrooms.

Please plan to attend our book sale either before or after the Anne musical on May 19th and take advantage of the amazing book selection and prices. We will also have the books on sale for students during the day on Friday, May 20th. Thank you for supporting this important project!

News from the Library!

Forest Hill Voting Results!

Blue Spruce (K-Gr. 3):

Winner: **If Kids Ruled the World**
Second Place: **Super Red Riding Hood**
Third Place: **Stop, Thief!**



Silver Birch (Gr. 3-6):

Express: **3 Way Tie!** Jack, The King of Ashes
 Magical Animal Adoption Agency: Clover's Luck
 Tank and Fizz

Fiction: **The Swallow: A Ghost Story**
 2nd: Masterminds

Non-Fiction **Haunted Canada 5**

2nd: *A Brush Full of Colour: The World of Ted Harrison*

Will the other voters agree? The official winners will be announced in Toronto May 17-19, so watch for the announcement!

All Library Books Due back by Mon. June 13th!

Yes, it's that time of year again! The books have to be returned before the summer. Be sure to check with your children about overdues they may have. Please help them as we try to clear up their records. Students who have all books returned, or paid for if lost, will earn a thank you from Mrs. Gawley. If you find books over the summer and return them in good condition in September, your money will be cheerfully refunded - Mrs. Gawley would much rather have the books back!

And don't forget about the many wonderful programs that the KPL has for free or at a minimal cost - hot summer days are great for sharing a book under a tree. You might even see me there! Happy reading!

Mrs. Gawley

“Even More Green Eggs and Ham”

There was hope. There was excitement. And there was enthusiasm. All of those emotions happened at The Tannery on Thursday, April 21st. And all of that excitement and enthusiasm was for our students at Forest Hill. Our “Even More Green Eggs and Ham” event saw 130 people gathered for a night of fun and fundraising for our snack program. As a staff team, we are delighted to have snacks available for all of our students here at Forest Hill School. That takes time, effort and money. And so, friends of the school and members of the community gathered together for some great food and silent auction bidding. When the evening was over we had raised over \$10,000 – which will provide snacks for all Forest Hill students for 10 weeks! This is spectacular!

To get a taste of the evening, and to hear the voices of our students, visit the school website at <http://fhl.wrdsb.ca>. You'll be able to watch a video about hunger and how it affects kid's learning. We are so grateful for the support of our volunteers and the community that came together to make sure that all learners matter here at Forest Hill.

If you would like to contribute your time, resources or financially to the Snack Program, please contact the school and someone would be more than happy to connect with you to get you involved.

Anne Campbell, Kindergarten Teacher

We Team News

We are very excited to share that we are just \$1000 away from reaching our goal of raising \$10,000 to build a school in Sierra Leone with Free the Children! We have been working on this goal for the past 5 years and we are committed to achieving our goal this year! This is very exciting! Thank you for all of your support over the years and stay tuned for ways you can help us to reach this goal before the end of June!

We will also be holding a book sale the evening of the “Highlights of Anne” musical on May 19th to raise funds for Kenyan Kids Foundation! Stop by the book sale to purchase some great books at incredible prices, all to support an important cause! We will also be collecting non-perishable food items the night of the musical to support the Food Bank of Waterloo Region!

Chocolate Bar Fundraiser Results

We would like to thank all families that participated in the Chocolate fundraiser! This has been a very successful fundraiser for many years at Forest Hill, and this year we raised **\$5489!** This is our major fundraiser and the money raised goes a long way in assisting our students with a variety of learning materials and experiences. A **big thank you** goes out to Mrs. Gawley and long-time volunteer, Teri Jack, for all of their hard work year-after-year!