



# The Echo

## Forest Glen Public School



A caring community where learning, respect,  
and responsibility come together.

Website: <http://fgl.wrdsb.ca>

School Phone Number: 519 662-2830 (#1 for attendance)

Attendance Email: [fgl-attendance@wrdsb.ca](mailto:fgl-attendance@wrdsb.ca)

Transportation Website: [www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.ca)

Principal: Mrs. T. Kaufman

Vice-Principal: Mrs. K. Graham

Office Staff: Mrs. K. Witmer

Mrs. S. Pietras-Gorczewski

## Happy New Year 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year! We hope all of our families had an exciting and wonderful holiday break! We are excited to be back at school and look forward to the rest of the school year!

December was a busy and exciting month here at Forest Glen! There were special days such as Red and Green Day; Hat, Mitts and Sock Day; Class Colour Day; Winter Wonderland Day and Pajama Day.

As we continue to experience the joys of Canadian winter weather, we want to remind families about a few important safety issues. In particular, we want to remind students to be extra careful when walking to and from school and staying off of roads, even when sidewalks may be difficult to navigate. Please take extra precautions when crossing streets to make sure that cars are actually stopped before crossing to ensure that the cars will not slip into intersections. Make sure to cross the street at the cross walk with the crossing guard. It is extremely important that students come to school prepared with appropriate clothing (hats, mittens/gloves, winter coat, snow pants, and boots) in order to be prepared to be outside throughout the day. Please do not request that students stay inside due to illness as we do not have the ability to supervise them. On days when we are faced with extreme cold or wind chill conditions, children will be kept inside as per Board Policy.

Please note that our **supervision** in the morning does not begin until **8:05 A.M.** We would ask that students do not arrive at school prior to this time as there is no yard supervision in place. As well, it is not permissible for students to be dropped at the main office prior to this time to be supervised. This is especially important during the winter weather as we do not want students to be standing outside in the cold for extended periods of time. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in adhering to our drop-off times.

**Yours in Education,**

*Mrs. T. Kaufman, Principal*

*Mrs. K. Graham, Vice-Principal*

**Just a reminder to please call or email the attendance line if your child is going to be away or arriving late. The attendance line is available 24 hours a day. By calling the attendance line, it helps the office to ensure that all students are accounted for in a timely manner.**

## **Creative Playground Update**

Both of our new creative playground structures were installed in the past 2 months and students had lots of fun playing on them before the winter weather set in. Stay tuned for the official grand opening for the new playground in the spring. We could not have accomplished this project without the support of our amazing community! We would like to thank the following donors that made the playground project possible.

### **Silver Level Donors**

#### **Donations \$200-\$499**

Cloverleaf Farms Food Outlet & Deli  
Forest Glen Staff 2021-2022  
H and K Dolman Optometry  
Happy Explorers Learning Academy  
In honour of Callum and Quinnly Pfohl  
In honour of Thomas Hanson  
John Moyes  
Josslin Insurance  
Misty and Devon Otterbein  
The MacQueen Family  
The Shipp Family  
The Dippel Family  
The Hamacher Family  
TD Canada Trust New Hamburg Branch

### **Gold Level Donors**

#### **Donations \$500-\$999**

Erb Group of Companies  
Susan Hammer  
The Streicher Family  
The Zaluski Family

### **Platinum Level Donors**

#### **Donations \$1000-\$7499**

Hillcrest Service Ltd.  
In memory of Dana Brown  
Kate Hyde  
Mark Kinnee- Realtor  
Nachurs Alpine Solutions  
Optimist Club of New Hamburg  
Puddicombe House  
Sobeys New Hamburg  
The Witzel Family  
TLC Pet Food  
Twice the Deal Pizza New Hamburg  
Wilmot Lions/Lioness  
Zimmer Dentistry

### **Diamond Sponsors**

#### **Donations > \$7500**

100 Men of Wilmot  
DTI Logistics Canada Inc.

## **HERO Update**

Our HERO Generation project continues this year with a focus on presenting HERO in a way that responds to our current school and broader community needs. Our main goal is to use HERO as a way of creating a sense of school community, particularly given that the pandemic interrupted in-person learning in the past two school years. The ultimate goal is to remind one another of the important role that joy and kindness play in making the Glen an amazing place to grow and learn. Please stay tuned for more HERO news after the break.

## **News from the Library**

Great news! Forest Glen P.S. will again be participating in the **Forest of Reading program!** This program is a **voluntary** reading program that invites students from Kindergarten to grade 8 (and older) to read up to 10 nominated books written by Canadian authors. The program officially begins in January and runs until April. In April, students all across Ontario will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite book.

There are different books offered for different ages. They are as follows:

**Kindergarten/Grade 1 and 2 students read books from Blue Spruce.**

**Grade 3 and 4 students** are invited to read books from **Silver Birch Express.**

**Grade 5 and 6 students** will read books from the **Silver Birch Fiction** program.

**Grade 7 and 8 students** will read from **Red Maple.**

There is also a **non-fiction option** offered for grade 5 - 8 students called **Yellow Cedar.**

If you are interested in more information about this reading program or if you would like to get an early start on reading, go to the following website for a full list of nominated books in each program.

<https://bookcentre.ca/news/2023-forest-of-reading-nominated-titles-announced>

[Forest of Reading 2023](#)

Happy Reading Falcons!  
Mrs. Winter



## Important Dates

Welcome Back!	Jan. 9
P.D. Day	Jan. 20
School Council Mtg. (in person)	Jan. 23
Report Cards go home	Feb. 15
Family Day	Feb. 20
Pink Shirt Day	Feb. 23
School Council Mtg. (virtual)	Feb. 27

## Safe School Arrival

Just a quick reminder to please call our Attendance Check number at **(519) 662-2830, option 1** or email [fgl-attendance@wrdsb.ca](mailto:fgl-attendance@wrdsb.ca) when your child is going to be **absent or late**. This number is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## School Council 2022 – 23

School Council met virtually in November. Thank you to Kelly Durst and Ara Luckhart who will be our Co- School Council chairs, as well as, Natalie McAleese, our School Council Treasurer, and Leanne Freitag, our School Council Secretary. We appreciate all of you taking on these new roles.

Our next meeting will be held in person on Monday January 23rd at 6:30. Please email [forestglenvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:forestglenvolunteers@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending our next School Council meeting.

## Music Notes

It's been a terrific start to the year with many music groups enjoying the opportunity to be back together!

The Junior and Intermediate choirs both had the opportunity to sing at the Remembrance Day assembly and the December Spirit Assembly.

The Primary choir, directed by Mrs. Hobson and Mrs. Erb also had the opportunity to sing at these assemblies.

The Intermediate Bucket Group has been polishing their drumming skills and doing a fabulous job this term!

Stay tuned for information about the extracurricular groups and classroom activities coming in the New Year!

Mrs. Miller

## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is back! On Wednesday mornings, the stage and lunchroom area is buzzing with excitement as our wonderful volunteers are serving breakfast! Students are so excited to see what healthy foods are being served for breakfast each Wednesday. Our wonderful volunteers from Hillcrest Mennonite Church and Steinmann Mennonite Church know that a healthy breakfast helps fuel a child's brain for learning each day. The staff and students at Forest Glen can't thank the volunteers enough for their kindness and generosity. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! ❤️



## Eco-Team News

Eco-Team has returned to the nest with many grade 3-6 students full of ideas to help make Forest Glen a greener and more environmentally friendly place.

With the return of this active group, the tradition of Holiday Marketplace was a successful event yet again. Many students, parents and staff sorted donated items and helped students purchase and wrap presents for family members.

Holiday Marketplace raised \$1720 which will be shared between the Wilmot Family Resource Centre and the Breakfast Club.

Many thanks to the Eco-Team, volunteers and Forest Glen Community for supporting this holiday tradition at Forest Glen.

## Fundraising News

The Fundraising Committee wanted to say a HUGE thank you to all Forest Glen families, students and staff. Our first fundraiser for the 2022/2023 school year was a great success thanks to all of your hard work and contributions! We were able to raise a grand total of \$2920.50 through the Rho Thompson and Baden Coffee Fundraiser that took place in November.

Thank you again to everyone for all your efforts in helping to raise funds for our school!

## **Partial French Immersion**

There has been a change to the French Immersion Program in WRDSB. A Grade 2 French Immersion entry point was approved by the Board of Trustees on June 27, 2022, with an implementation date of September 2023. All students enrolled in Grade 1 beginning in the 2023-2024 school year will receive an increased amount of Core French Instruction (240 minutes per 5-day cycle). Students born in 2017 will be able to apply in January 2024 for the Grade 2 French Immersion entry point of September 2024. As a result, there will no longer be a Grade 1 entry. The French Immersion program application process is under review. We will announce any changes to the application process well in advance of the application period on our [website](#).

We recognize that questions may surface in light of the upcoming changes to the FSL programs. As the board continues to plan for these changes, we invite you to share your questions with us using this [survey](#).

As we move forward, staff-based and public information opportunities will be made available through WRDSB communications.

If you have any questions related to the Partial French Immersion registration, please call the Learning Services secretary for Languages at 519-570-0003 x 4267

## **Kindergarten Registration- Sept. 2023**

Any child who was born in 2018 or 2019 and lives in the 2023-24 [Catchment Area](#) of the school is eligible to attend Kindergarten. Information about Kindergarten and Before and After School Registration will be shared through various advertising streams beginning in January 2023.

Parents/guardians will be able to register for Kindergarten, as well as, the Before and After School Program online anytime after Jan. 16, 2023 at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/kindergarten/>

Note: Children who are currently attending Forest Glen in our Junior Kindergarten program do not need to register for the Senior Kindergarten program.



## **Before and After School Programs 2022-23**

Looking for child care? The WRDSB provides high quality before and after school programs for children in JK to Grade 6. Registration will open in the new year. A minimum number of pre-registrations are required to operate these programs. Schools will notify families in May if the program will not operate.

### **Program Highlights:**

Available Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., conveniently located at your school

Ongoing registration with no waitlists

Program operates during P.D. Days, March break, and winter break. All programs are subsidy eligible. Nutritional snacks are provided

Age-appropriate, high-quality programming

OneList Portal opens on January 16, 2023 for registration for Before and After School Programs for the 2023-24 school year. Parents can register

at; [regionofwaterloo.onehsn.com/wrdsb](https://regionofwaterloo.onehsn.com/wrdsb)

Parents can learn more about WRDSB Before and After School Programs

at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/beforeafter/>

## **Parking Lot Safety**

Please continue to exercise caution when dropping off and picking up your student at Forest Glen. Students are to be dropped off at the back of the parking lot in the designated "drop off zone" (near the pathway that leads through the rear gate). Follow the directional arrows to reduce congestion and minimize the possibility of a collision. If you choose to park across the street from the school, please utilize the crossing guard at the corner of Waterloo Street and Forrest Avenue.

## **Weather Related Cancellations**

During the winter season we may encounter unusual or severe weather conditions that can lead to the cancellation of transportation and/or school closures. If buses are cancelled due to severe weather, schools will remain open unless it is considered unsafe. If weather conditions result in transportation cancellation or school closures, there will be announcements made on the local radio stations and also on the Board website [www.wrdsb.ca](https://www.wrdsb.ca)