



John Darling News

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Welcome Back! Whether you are at home or vacationing away, We hope that everyone had a wonderful March break! The winter term has been a busy, productive one. The past two months have been filled with many memorable experiences for our students. They have been confidently developing skills and knowledge in a variety of areas. It is wonderful to share in the excitement of a child learning to read and write, with success or growing in confidence and accuracy as a mathematician!

John Darling has had many engaging activities over the past months, for example: Skating, Scientists in the School, Spirit days, Kindergarten Registration, Blue Spruce/Silver Birch reading, Home Reading program, the Book Fair and John Park's engaging Character Education presentation to name a few! Thanks to all our amazing staff and volunteers who give our students these excellent opportunities for learning both in and outside of the classroom. John Darling is a busy place!

Spring is around the corner and soon, our boys and girls will be skipping or digging in the sand or playing baseball and soccer outside. Students are asked to be patient while they wait for the announcement that it is safe to use the Play Structure once again. Although it will soon look like spring, it will be a while, yet, before the ground is soft enough for our students to play safely on the outdoor equipment. Also, please remember to keep sending your son/daughter to school with **splash pants** and **rain boots** as our field remains quite wet and muddy long after your lawns at home have dried up.

Students have been confidently developing skills and knowledge in a variety of areas. It is a pleasure to see our students working collaboratively, solving problems and explaining their thinking in a variety of contexts. Our school success plan has been focused on students communicating their thinking in mathematics. Students have been challenged to generate thoughtful reasoning and to select the best ways to clearly and logically represent their thoughts,

strategies and the processes used to solve engaging problems in mathematics. Students are encouraged to work collaboratively with their peers as they talk about concepts to deepen their understanding and make their reasoning visible to others in a variety of ways. Our students will continue to explore their world; inquiring about concepts; stretch and deepen their understandings and developing critical thinking skills that promote deep reasoning and independent questioning. We look forward to warmer weather and sunny days as we share the joy of learning with your son or daughter!

Sincerely,

Gillian McKenzie

Tips to Help Your Child With Math

1. Counting can be fun and entertaining. Sing counting songs such as "One, Two Buckle My Shoe."
2. Computers + math = fun. There are great computer games available for math- ask your librarian or check out your local computer store.
3. Start Easy and Work Up! Once they have got the hang of counting by 1s, introduce skip counting, such as counting by 2s and 5s.
4. Tap into your child's curiosity. Go on a number hunt together and discover places where numbers are used.
5. Use everyday activities. Your child's world is filled with everyday math problems that can be solved.
6. Predict and compare. Start to measure and estimate things like how far it is from the driveway to the house.
7. Identify geometric shapes and sizes. Play "I Spy".
8. Practise mental math using coins. For example, show that a certain item costs a **certain** amount and ask what coins are needed to pay for it.
9. Play games together. Show them that math can be fun and exciting.

10. Sports and math. There is a lot of math used in sports: batting averages, points per game, etc.

For more tips for parents, go to www.edu.gov.on.ca

Diversity Corner

Here are a few of the multi-cultural celebrations and activities occurring during March and April:

St. Patrick's Day (Mar. 17)

The anniversary of a patron saint. He used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Christian ideal of the Holy Trinity.

Naw Ruz (New Year) (Mar. 21)

It means 'new day' and is celebrated by various Muslims around the world.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Mar. 21)

On this day in 1960, police opened fire at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid 'pass laws'. The General Assembly called on the international community to support efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

Palm Sunday (Mar. 24)

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and palm branches were strewn in his path.

Good Friday & Easter Sunday (Mar. 29, Mar. 31)

These days commemorate the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Most Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.

Easter Monday (Apr. 1)

This day recognizes the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb. It is observed as a holiday in some countries.

Holy Friday, Easter, Easter Monday (May 3-5)

Greek/ Easter Orthodox Christians commemorate the Easter season.

Earth Day (Apr. 22)

Earth Day is celebrated around the world. Events such as festivals and rallies are often organized to celebrate the Earth and renew our commitment to building a safer, healthier and cleaner world for us all.

Administrative Professional Day (Apr. 24)

Workplaces all over the country acknowledge secretaries, administrative staff and support workers.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION **Full Day, Everyday 2013-2014!!**

Children born in 2009 and 2008 are eligible to attend Junior and Senior Kindergarten in September 2013.



If you have a child who will be starting school in September, please call the school at 519-749-0834 and arrange an appointment to register with Mrs. Simmonds, our office manager. If you know of neighbours or friends who have children who are eligible to start Kindergarten, please ask them to call as well. It is very important for our planning that we register as many of our next year's kindergarten students as soon as possible.

PARKING



Thank you, parents, for your continued support in keeping our parking lot and ring road clear and safe for our students and staff! We are lucky at John Darling to have many side streets near the school where parents can park to drop off their children. We make these requests in order that we keep all of our children safe, and we appreciate your compliance. Of course, the best way for children to get to school is for them to walk. Make this walk a part of a fit lifestyle!

Visitors are welcome to enter our parking lot when coming to volunteer at the school or to meet with our staff. Thanks so much for your cooperation!

EQAO DATES

Grade 3/6 EQAO assessment dates have been established for the spring of 2012. We ask that parents of Grade 3 and Grade 6 students at John Darling make every effort to avoid scheduling appointments, trips, or other activities during this time. Our students will write the EQAO assessments during the following dates: **Between May 27th – June 7th.**



Volunteer Appreciation Week

April 21-27

We would like to sincerely thank all of those who volunteer their time to John Darling P.S.!

Merci

ATTENDANCE CHECK LINE:
Number 519 570 8092 EXT:
3409#

If your child will be away from school for any reason please call the automated number: **(519) 570- 8092 ext: 3409#**

Please do not leave messages on a teacher's voicemail to inform them of your child's absence. If your child is away from school 5 or more consecutive days please call into the office to fill out a Temporary Student Withdrawal/Vacation sheet.



Canadian books in order to vote for their favorite Silver Birch book.

Our primary students will be listening to ten new Canadian children's picture books over the next couple of months. Once the nominated titles have been read, the Blue Spruce program rewards the children by making them judges in a province-wide voting event on the book of their choosing. Voting for both Silver Birch and Blue Spruce will take place in May.

Happy reading!



Did You Know?

Government Money for Your Child's Education!

We know that education is important for your child's future success, but are you sure how you will pay for it all?

When you open up an RESP (Registered Education Savings Plan) at your local bank and put \$1 in the account, the government will make annual contributions! They will support any child, born in 2004 or after, with \$500 a year.

For more information, consult your local bank and/or
Visit www.smartsaver.org to learn more!



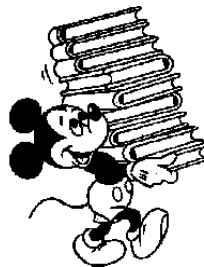
REGIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

A great way to celebrate Earth Week is to get involved in the Region of Waterloo's "Walk to School Day." Walking to school is a great way to get some exercise and help the environment. Walk with a buddy and tuck a small umbrella or poncho in backpacks for those unexpected April showers. Walking...it's healthy, it's clean, it's safe and it's fun! We will celebrate **Earth day on April 22nd!**

LIBRARY NEWS

This year's Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success! We made some great profits again this year. This money will be used to purchase new library books for both staff and students to enjoy. I would like to take this time to thank our amazing John Darling community for your participation and support in making this year's Book Fair such a fantastic event! Many thanks go out to our wonderful Book Fair volunteers, with a special thanks to our Book Fair Chairperson, Mrs. Wuensch. We couldn't have done it without you!



Silver Birch/Blue Spruce update!

55 of our grade 3-6 students are currently enrolled in the Silver Birch reading program. These students must read five of the recently published

Dates to Remember:

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| Mar. 18 | 20 new iPads arrive! |
| Mar. 21 & 25 | Dental Screening: JK/SK, Gr. 2 |
| Mar. 26 | Purple Day: Epilepsy Awareness |
| Mar. 28- Apr. 18 | Spring Fundraiser |
| Mar. 29 | Good Friday |
| Apr. 1 | Easter Monday |
| Apr. 3 | KW Fire Safety House: (JK-Gr.3) |
| Apr. 5,12,26 | John Howard Society: Bullying Prevention program; gr. 4-6 |
| Apr. 11 | Author visit: Frank Glew. |
| Apr. 17 | Walk to School Day |
| Apr. 19 | P.A. Day – no school for students |
| Apr. 22 | Earth Day |
| Apr. 22 | School Council Meeting- 6:30 p.m |
| Apr. 29 | Crazy Hat/Hair Day |
| May 2 & 3 | Spring Photos (may incl. siblings) |

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Darlingfest – June 6th – 2013

The planning and preparations have begun for our annual funfair...**Darlingfest!** This year's event will include a pizza dinner, a fantastic rock climbing wall, scooters and games for the little ones, clowns, face painting, many prize draws, snow cones and a cake walk; just to name a few. And, back again, by popular demand, 'The Pie in the Face!'

How you can help!!!

1. We are looking for prizes, gifts, or gift certificates that we would be able to use in our prize draws (lucky loonie) and hope that perhaps you, or your employer, will be able to make a donation this year! Each donation will have an acknowledgement on our Thank-You Banner which is displayed at the event. We will also thank you by recognizing your donation on our website and will be sending you a letter that you can display in your business! **If you are able to help with a donation, gifts can be sent directly to the school marked "ATTN: DARLINGFEST."**

2. This event is certainly always a success because of our many volunteers and we cannot do it without them! Talk to your family, friends and neighbors and to see if they would like to volunteer for this year's great event! If you are in High School and are looking for events to fill your Community Volunteer Hours this is a great fun night that will definitely help you reach your goal! **This year there will also be a Volunteer Appreciation Draw open to any of our volunteers helping with the evening!**

If you are interested, please watch for the Volunteer request package that will be sent home with your child or let the office know and we will get in contact directly with you.

3. **Mark your calendars for June 6th, 2013 (4:30pm-7:00pm). Plan to attend!**

Coming soon!

Don't miss the opportunity to check our website:
www.darlingfest.com

Boston Pizza COMMUNITY SUPPORT DAYS: May 6 and May 8th, 2013

The Darlingfest committee and Boston Pizza Erbsville, are planning another fundraiser. This event was a big success last year. Enjoy a meal with your family while benefiting our school at the same time. Come to Boston Pizza on Monday, May 6th or Wednesday, May 8th between 5-8 p.m. Ten percent of the evenings' proceeds will go towards enhancing J.D.'s Home Reading books & Snuggle Up books, as well as support music appreciation in our school!



More information to follow.!

GREEN DRAGONS AT JOHN DARLING



We are continuing to work to make John Darling an increasingly green school. J.D. students are consistently turning off lights that are not needed, using two sides of the paper and using scrap paper bins in classrooms and work areas. Also, we continue to implement our recycling program. As Earth Month nears, we are looking forward to celebrating the environmental stewardship that is already taking place at John Darling including cleaning up our playground and surrounding areas, to make the JD community a greener place to be!

SPRING REMINDER:

Playground Safety

Morning supervision starts at 8:35 a.m. We ask that students do not arrive at school before supervision begins. We appreciate your ongoing support and cooperation in this matter. Please remember that **all students walk their bikes as soon as they arrive on school property.**



Purple Day™ – The Global Day of Epilepsy Awareness

Epilepsy affects over 65 million people worldwide. “Epilepsy is a condition of the brain that is characterized by recurrent seizures. Approximately one in ten people will experience at least one seizure during a lifetime. A single seizure, however, is not epilepsy. Epilepsy is a condition that is defined by multiple seizures.”

Wyatt Helmuth lived with epilepsy. In memory of his life and as a demonstration of our love and support for Wyatt and his family, John Darling would like to raise community awareness about this disorder by participating in **Purple Day**.

On March 26th our school community is encouraged to wear purple as a signal to those living with “epilepsy everywhere (that) they are not alone”. A donation box will be available at the office for those who would like to make a contribution to Epilepsy research. Wyatt’s family will help us donate these funds to the organization.

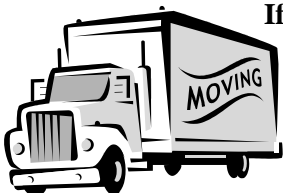


School Council Spring Fundraiser: Vesey Flower Bulbs March 28th to April 18th

For this year’s spring fundraiser we will be offering Vesey bulbs. Proceeds for this fundraiser will be directed towards bringing the performing arts to the school along with offering community building initiatives in the school community. *A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Epilepsy foundation in remembrance of Wyatt Helmuth; our grade 2 student who passed away in December.*



Are You Moving???



If you are moving between now and the start of school in September, please let the office know. Trying to accurately predict our enrolment for next September is critical and allows us to start our year with as few changes as possible.

As new families with school-aged children move into our community, please be sure to invite them to contact the school at 519-749-0834

MAIN ENTRANCE ACCESS

As of March 18th visitors to John Darling will be directed to the front entrance of the school. The doors off the parking lot will be locked. We look forward to welcoming all visitors through our Main Entrance. As usual, all visitors must go directly to the office upon arrival.

Those students who previously used the parking lot entrance in the morning will be directed to use the doors near the gym as their new entrance.

We appreciate all parents who drop off and meet their son/daughter outside their designated door. This helps us to monitor who is in the building, reduce traffic in our hallways and limit the amount of snow, rain water or mud on the floors. It also supports the development of independent skills in our young learners.