



John Darling News

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Kitchener, ON N2N 3G9

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Teachers' Voicemail: 519-570-8092 (ext.)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014

With Autumn upon us, we are settling into familiar routines and preparing for engaging and challenging learning tasks in the classroom. Our School Improvement Plan's Learning Goal is: Students will use **descriptive feedback** effectively and will strive for continued improvement in a collaborative learning environment. The WRDSB Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) is posted on the Board website (wrdsb.ca). It shares insights and details about many of the aspects we as a staff are exploring. (View the link titled *High Expectations*). We continually explore strategies to support the overall goal of Optimizing Learning and Achievement for All Students.

Descriptive Feedback in the classroom is specific to the success criteria that is co-created during classroom instruction. It is provided in a timely and ongoing fashion. Students are given several opportunities to practice new skills and apply the feedback they receive from the teacher, their peers and themselves to revise and improve on their learning. Our challenge is to gradually release the responsibility for applying this feedback from the teacher to the student. Learning is a process. It involves making mistakes, learning from these trials and trying again. When we bring a Growth mindset to tasks we can benefit from the effort and the lessons learned during the process of reaching our ambitious goals!

We encourage our students to be risk-takers and to embrace the learning that is revealed through our mistakes. Your son/daughter are reminded that he/she may not have learned that, *yet*. But, keep trying because soon, *you will!*

Gillian McKenzie
Principal

JD website:
<http://jdp.wrdsb.on.ca/>

FROM THE OFFICE...

Office Hours (8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.)
Call: 519-749-0834

Attendance Check Number:
519-570-8092 Ext: 3409

Please leave a message on the answering machine if your child is going to be absent or late. The Attendance Check Number is used to report an absence of up to four days. If your child is absent for five or more days, you need to fill out a **Temporary Withdrawal** form.



Teacher voice mail: Unified Messaging System

519-570-8092.

You can leave messages for the classroom teacher by calling this line and using the ***teacher's extension number.***

*Communication is the key to a successful year. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our staff if you have questions/concerns.

STAFFING UPDATE

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Laura Sayer to our staff. She is our new special education resource teacher during Mrs. Heer's absence.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

There are many exciting opportunities for students to demonstrate their leadership potential both inside and outside the classroom. Already our students are acting as classroom helpers, safety patrols, lunchroom helpers, kindergarten helpers, library helpers, office helpers, and Mr. Lantz's helpers.

Many thanks, to all of our teachers, who are providing opportunities for students both in and out of the classroom and to our eager students who are actively engaging in helping us to build a vibrant school community.

PLAYGROUND EXPECTATIONS

Student Safety and Fun for All are our main objectives. The expectations in place are intended to keep our students safe and promote active play for all. With the help of Mr. Lantz and Mr. Synard, we have recently had updates to allow us to offer basketball nets to our students during the day. Games were newly painted on the tarmac in the spring and we have purchase mini hockey nets for our mini stick enthusiasts. We offer the appropriate equipment/games for our busy and active kids to enjoy outside. Each class has access to a class bin of equipment to share outside. Student safety, inclusivity, fun and positive conflict resolution are the foundation of our playground expectations.

Safe Welcome Program

With our Safe Welcome program fully implemented visitors are directed to the main entrance where there is a buzzer for the office and one for the Extended Day program. Please note that Mrs. Shantz takes her breaks during the Nutrition Breaks and is away from her desk at these times. (10:50-11:10am/1:00-1:40pm) Student helpers will respond to the buzzer, however, they need to find an adult to allow visitors entry to the school. We appreciate your patience as we find someone to assist you.

STUDENT SAFETY

1. Our student's safety remains our number one concern at John Darling. Please ensure that your son/daughter recognizes and obeys all traffic safety rules when you **drop them off in the morning or pick them up** after school. Our crossing safety patrols are constantly on the lookout for those who may be putting themselves into danger.
2. **Traffic problems** related to student pick-up and drop-off are a concern at most schools in the Waterloo Region District School Board. *Please watch and move your child safely from your vehicle to the crossing and school property.*
3. **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.

The parent handbook also has important safety information to discuss with your child/ren. Thank you for your help as we continue to make John Darling School a safe place to be!

Visitors To the School

It is the policy of the WRDSB that all visitors go directly to the office and sign in when coming into a school.

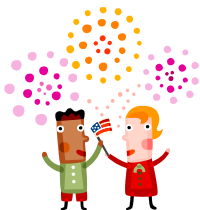
Whether picking up your child, or popping in for a quick moment, please help us by coming directly to the office each time.



School Council

Health & Wellness Fair

Friday, November 14, 2014
6-8pm



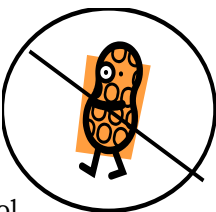
Bring the Family and Join in the Fun!

DATES TO REMEMBER!

Nov. 10	Photo Retake Day
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day assembly (9:50am) Wear red, black, white
Nov. 13	Guest musician: school song development
Nov. 14	Bus Evacuation Drill
Nov. 14	School Council: Health & Wellness Family Night (6-8pm)
Nov. 16-22	Stand up to Bullying Week
Nov. 18	Chess instruction begins
Nov. 20	"WE day"
Nov. 21	Humane Society Visits
Dec. 8	Poinsettia Pick-up in gym
Dec. 9	Kindergarten Vision Screening
Dec. 10	Christmas Concert- Dress Rehearsal @ 1:45pm
Dec. 11	Christmas Concert @ 1:45 pm
Dec. 22-Jan.2	Christmas Holidays
Jan. 5	Return to school

FOOD ALLERGIES

At John Darling, we have several children with severe allergies to nuts. These children and their parents have taken steps to ensure that they make responsible decisions about any food or drink ingested. As a school community, all students, teachers and parents can share the responsibility of making our environment safe for all students at John Darling. J.D. Public School is a "nut safe" environment. Please assist us by sending nut free lunches and snacks to school.



PARKING

Please be aware that the Daycare driveway is reserved for Daycare Staff and Special Education Buses. It is not a student drop off or pick up location. We ask that you cooperate with us so that we can avoid any serious accidents. Also, the parking lot is a "no drop off zone" due to student safety.

MILK

A8, our Developmental Education class started selling both white and chocolate milk. Milk is sold in advance at a cost of \$1.00 per carton. Same Day Sales are \$1.25. Please refer to the information note that was sent home entitled "Milk Program" for further details. We thank Mrs. Schott, Mrs. Cruz, Ms. Moores and their students in A8 for offering this program.



SMOKE-FREE ONTARIO ACT



Now that a new school year is underway, I wish to remind you of the enforcement protocol regarding smoking on school property.

On May 31, 2006, *The Smoke Free Ontario Act* (SFOA) was enacted. This Act prohibits or restricts smoking in all public places and workplaces in Ontario, including schools.

Specifically, this law prohibits:

(2) No person shall smoke or hold lighted tobacco in the following places or areas:

1. A school as defined in the Education Act.
2. A building or the grounds surrounding the building of a private school, where the private school is the only occupant of the premises, or the grounds annexed to a private school, where the private school is not the only occupant of the premises.

DRAKE CAUGHT YOU DOING SOMETHING RIGHT!

The 'Gotcha' is a small prize draw for students at John Darling Public School. Students receive tickets, which they then put into the 'Gotcha Jars' in the office, when they are caught doing the right thing (DRAKE expectations/Character attributes). Tickets may be awarded either in school or on the playground. The 'Gotcha Jars' are quite full at the end of each week. All of the students are recognized as winners, and one student from each grade receives a small prize at the end of each week. We congratulate all of our John Darling students for their wonderful behaviour!



Our EQAO Test Results 2013-14

The report on the Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and Junior Division (Grades 4-6) for 2006-2007 has been published on the Ministry of Education's website (www.eqao.com). EQAO test results provide a snapshot of student achievement in relation to the provincial standard. Students meeting or exceeding the standard (Level 3 and 4) have demonstrated most or all of the required reading, writing and mathematics knowledge and skills expected at their stage in their education.

However, no single test can offer a complete or definitive picture of what a child has learned. In the end, no one better understands the true measure of a child's abilities and knowledge—or is in a better position to assess them—than his or her classroom teacher. When used together, the results of EQAO and classroom tests provide a more complete picture of the student's knowledge.

This year, our Grade 3 students' performance demonstrated improved success in meeting the provincial standards in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Our results were somewhat stronger than the provincial results for Grade 3 learners. A significant number of our Grade 6 students also achieved results at or above the provincial standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. The results for mathematics, in both grades were consistent with the provincial trend. This information is currently being used by staff as we plan for improved student achievement in the school year ahead and to celebrate the success our learners have achieved.

Percentage of All Students at or Above the Provincial Standard (Level 3 and 4), 2013-2014

John Darling Results

	Grade 3	Grade 6
Reading	73	71
Writing	83	71
Mathematics	61	62

HOME READING PROGRAM

The John Darling Primary Home Reading Program is being offered to all students in grades one, two and three. This beneficial reading opportunity will help your child develop a habit of reading every day and improve their reading skills and confidence. This is why the books chosen are at a recreational level for the program. Please enjoy the reading time with your child, and work on comprehension and fluency



ESNS Hot Lunch Program

Please complete the Feedback Survey and let us know what your thoughts are about our new provider! A survey is coming home this week.



FAREWELL & THANK YOU TO MRS.

PAULINE WRIGHT:

OUR PIZZA TUESDAY VOLUNTEER!!

Pizza lunches are ordered from Panago Pizza on Tuesdays largely through the unwavering support of Mrs. Wright. As of December, Mrs. Wright is hanging up her pen and her coin counter. She will be focusing on enjoying a much deserved rest. We want to extend our sincere GRATITUDE to Mrs. Wright on behalf of our students and their parents for offering us this warm and tasty lunch option for the past several years! We will miss your warm smile.



*****Parents, if you might be willing to assist us with our Pizza Lunch program for an hour on Tuesday mornings, please contact the school office.***

COLDS AND FLU

Regular and thorough washing of hands is one of the most effective ways of stopping the spread of infections. Our hands can be the vehicle by which many different germs are spread.



Please encourage your children to wash hands frequently and show them how to cough into their sleeve. Hands should be washed for at least 15 seconds.

Please consider keeping your children at home if they display flu-like symptoms.

Students who feel sick at school will be sent to the office and a call will be made home for someone to pick them up.

AUTUMN WEATHER

Autumn brings varied weather conditions. We often remind all students to arrive at school dressed for changing temperatures throughout the day. Effective learning occurs when children take advantage of the outdoor activity. Please assist us by reinforcing with your children that the weather may require a jacket, umbrella or raincoat. Thank you for your support. **Please remember that if your child is well enough to attend school, we assume they are well enough to go outside during the first part of the nutrition break and participate in gym.**



EMERGENCY DRILLS

Every school is required to practice three **fire drills** in the fall term, and three drills in the spring. We must also hold a practice **tornado drill** in the spring. The third emergency procedure that must be practiced with students is a "**lockdown**", and is put into place when there is a threat to personal safety inside or outside of the school.

We have completed our Safety procedures for the Fall. We explain to the students why we are practicing these procedures, and we also assure them that these events have very little likelihood of occurring. Sometimes, there may be an individual child who is fearful after the procedure. Please take some time to talk to your child if you feel this is the case, and offer information and reassurance to alleviate any fears. Thanks so much for your cooperation!

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thank you for supporting our Fall fundraising campaign! To date our profit is approximately, **\$6000!!** The new Chocolate Mint Smoothie option was quite popular this year. The Dielemann catalogue orders arrived this week and were sent home. Thanks for getting your orders in! School Council is now taking orders for our annual poinsettia sale in November. Profits from these two campaigns will be used to pay for chess club for our grades one to six students, a science program for all grades (2 for each kindergarten), and busing for one trip per class. Council will continue to review ways to support school initiatives with the funds we raise. Thanks again for supporting our fundraising efforts.



Our next 2 meeting dates for School Council are: Dec. 1st, and Jan. 12th.

School Council Elected Executive 2014-2015

Co-Chairs- Jessie White, Katie Hoedle

Treasurer- Mandy Dahmer

Secretary- Andra Assaf, Marti-Anne Hachey

School Council Voting Members 2013/2014

Beth Skilling

Mandy Dahmer

Amy Lee

Jessie White

Heather Quiring

Amy Knechtel-Shannon

Andra Assaf

Colleen Brandes

Jennifer Fleet

Marti-Anne Hachey

Kim Schmidt

Lori Williams

Michelle Martin

Katie Hoedle

Heather Dubrick

Jackie Teixeira

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The staff at John Darling appreciates and values the many volunteers who support and enrich our School programs. We know that many parents work outside of the home full time and are not available to help during school hours. If you would have some time to support School Council in their community building initiatives, which support and strengthen our school programs, but would prefer not to be a member of council, please contact the school at 519-749-0834. If you would like to volunteer in other areas (home reading, office, classroom) please call the office.