



# John Darling News

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## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: Jan./ Feb. 2015**

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all of our families in the John Darling School community!

Goal Setting is often at the forefront of most of our minds after we have enjoyed the festive season. For some of us it includes exercise and nutrition or maybe finding that elusive work-life balance. At John Darling, we continue to work towards learning skills, literacy and numeracy goals.

The Ministry of Education website (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/tips/readkto3.html>) offers Tips and Tools for parents to support your child in reading, writing, mathematics and homework behaviours. In our classrooms, teachers provide descriptive feedback that is specific, timely and ongoing. Descriptive Feedback tells the learner what they are doing well and what they could work on to improve and move along the learning continuum. It is linked to the learning goals and success criteria for the task.

*"Feedback is not advice, praise, or evaluation. Feedback is information about how we are doing in our efforts to reach a goal."* (Grant Wiggins)

*"Effective feedback shows students how to look at their work using criteria from the assignment."* (Moss and Brookhart, 2009)

*"When students have clear, accurate, timely and descriptive information, they are in the driver's seat for improving their learning. They will work harder because they are clear about what the target looks like and what they need to do to achieve it. They will persevere because they will be proving their own capability."* (O'Neill and Conzemius, 2006)

In our goal setting, we have high expectations for our students. As the educational researcher John Hattie suggests, our goal is for our students to see that through hard work and perseverance, they can achieve their goals, and more!

On behalf of the staff of John Darling P.S., we extend best wishes to our students and their families for a happy, healthy and rewarding 2015!

**Gillian McKenzie**

**Thank You!**



To Our School Council members, the staff and families of John Darling P.S. and the Equitable Life Insurance Company for your generosity and kindness to our families at Christmas time.

To our many parent volunteers and friends of John Darling P.S: We couldn't do it without YOU!

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION Full Day, Everyday 2015-2016!!

Children born in 2011 and 2010 are eligible to attend Junior and Senior Kindergarten in September 2015.

Kindergarten Registration will be held at John Darling School on:



**Monday, February 2th (morning & afternoon)**  
**Friday, February 6th (morning)**

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. Shantz, our Head Secretary. 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.

### **EQAO DATES**

Grade 3/6 EQAO assessment dates have been established for the spring of 2015. 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 25th – June 5th.**



### **Library News: 2015 Silver Birch and Blue Spruce reading programs**

We are pleased to announce that 53 of our junior students have signed up to participate in the Silver Birch program. Students who finish reading five of these fantastic Canadian books, will be eligible to vote for their favorite Silver Birch book in April. The Blue Spruce reading program will begin after the March break. Our primary students will have the opportunity to listen to this year's ten picture books and will also vote for their favorite book in April. Happy Reading!

### **BACK HILL**

We will have the opportunity to open the back hill for students to slide down at times during the winter months. Staff on duty closely monitor this activity. Students must wear slush pants or snow pants in order to participate. The hill and the rink are **NOT** supervised before or after school.



## **Severe Weather Procedures**

This is a reminder that in the event of a *severe storm*, or *frigid temperatures* (exceeding -35C), it is possible that school would be cancelled. Please check **[www.wrdsb.ca](http://www.wrdsb.ca)** , or **[jdp.wrdsb.ca](http://jdp.wrdsb.ca)** or **listen to local radio stations** for updates. A few are listed below:



**Oldies 1090,**                      **Kool FM- 105.3,**  
**Dave FM- 107.5,**        **CHYM- FM 96.7**  
**News 570,**                      **Kicx FM 106.7**

Since we do not rely on busing at John Darling, our school would only be closed if the whole school system were to be cancelled. This decision is made prior to 6:30 a.m.

### **KINDERGARTEN REPORTING**

The provincial report card is designed to give parents clear, detailed information about the expectations for the end of Kindergarten. It reflects achievement in the skills and strategies that the child is developing as they progress through the 2 year program. The report reflects evaluation of achievement in all six areas of learning:

- Personal and Social Development
- Language
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Health and Physical Education
- The Arts

The Kindergarten report card includes parent friendly comments on the child's achievement in relation to overall expectations, the next steps for the teacher, as well as the next steps for the parents to assist them in supporting their child's learning.

### **Core French Reporting**

The revised French as a Second Language curriculum (2013) has **four** strands in French: ***Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing***. This is a change from the previous curriculum which only had three strands (Oral Communication, Reading, Writing). For students in Grade 1 Core French, in Term 1 only, teachers will report on the Listening and Speaking strands only. Grades 2-6 will report on all 4 strands on both the February and June report cards.

## DARLINGFEST – Coming in June, 2015

It's hard to believe, but it's time to start planning Darlingfest 2015! We have struck a committee, and there is room for more. Please consider being part of the committee this year!

Also, if you can make a donation of a prize, give a gift, or gift certificate, or know of someone who can, please contact the school (gifts or donations can be sent directly to the school marked "Attention Darlingfest" - include your email to get a donations request letter if needed). Please also consider volunteering yourself or a family member for this huge event as many hands are needed (200 volunteers)! Only 30 minutes of your time, can help make this event a HUGE success!

## SKATING AND THE J.D. RINK

Our rink is up and running this winter! The rink committee members are very optimistic as they prepare for and maintain our community rink. Thanks



to **Michelle Martin & Amanda Bourassa** for coordinating our rink committee and to the following volunteer members of their committee for maintaining the rink:

**Austin Stamp, Amy Lee, Jay Neilson, Chris Bauman, Chad Henry, Ian Vanderpool, Justin Hawkshaw, Devin Hulett, Marc Bourassa, Mark Dowsett, Paul Schmidt, Mike Fleet, Steve Coleman.**

Thanks in advance for all of your hard work!

Parents, please watch for our school skating letter that will be sent home shortly. Please sign and return the skating permission form to indicate that your child has permission to use the rink during physical education classes. Grades three to six students have access to the rink during first and second nutrition break, if they are able to tie their own skates. Please make sure they also have proper gear and a *'fitted, CSA approved helmet'*.

Think sub-zero temperatures!

## Friday, January 30, 2015 Professional Development Day

Teachers will be engaged in reporting and assessment activities. There is no school for students.

## SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY

Parents are reminded that *access to the parking lot is for staff and current day's volunteers only*. The drop off loop is for the Daycare and the Developmental Education's class's transportation only. Your cooperation is necessary in order to ensure safety for all our students, especially during the winter days when snowbanks are high and visibility is reduced. Thanks



**Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is in February.** Our Crossing Guard is located at Highview Dr./Willow Green Crt. Crossing Guards work in all kinds of weather to ensure a safe walk to school for our children. Please say "Thank You" when you see our Crossing Guard!

## New Pizza Ordering Process

As we try to maintain Pizza Days on Tuesdays we need to make some changes to our ordering process. We are still looking for volunteers to help us with sorting and preparing the classroom pizza orders in the future.

Starting in January, we will no longer be collecting same-day orders. We will start collecting **monthly** pizza orders. Parents with more than one child in grades 1-6, please keep in mind that we will be managing orders from many classes. You are asked to complete a separate order form for each child participating and send in payment with each order. (Kindergarten remains on their alternate schedule.)



Order forms for the **month** of January were sent home in December. (To avoid mistakes and/or confusion, late order forms will not be accepted.) Order forms for the month of February will be sent home in late January.

***\*Please note that we are not in a position to provide refunds if your child is absent on a pizza day that they had ordered a slice. The money will have been deposited and the order will have been prepared in advance.***

## Dates to Remember

<b>Jan. 8- 31</b>	On-line Registration for French Immersion
<b>Jan. 8/9</b>	Bullying Prevention sessions begin with the John Howard Society
<b>Jan. 12</b>	School council meeting@ 6:30pm
<b>Jan. 16</b>	French Play: 3 Musketeers Spirit Day: Crazy Hat/Hair Day
<b>Jan. 30</b>	P.A. Day- no school for students
<b>Feb. 2</b>	School Council meeting@6:30pm
<b>Feb. 2</b>	Kindergarten Registration AM &PM
<b>Feb. 6</b>	Kindergarten Registration AM
<b>Feb. 13</b>	Kindess Theme: Valentines Spirit Day: Red, Pink, White Day
<b>Feb. 16</b>	Family Day Holiday
<b>Feb. 20</b>	Report cards go home
<b>March 16-20</b>	March Break



## John Darling wins 2014 Eco Award for environmental leadership!



This fall, it was announced that John Darling Public School was **1 of 5 top new ECO Schools** within the Waterloo Region District School Board for its ***environmental leadership and stewardship*** practices! The school was offered a prize from a list of “green” options. Considering input from our students and research about the effectiveness of the options offered, our school has selected to receive ***hand dryers*** for our student washrooms. This will greatly reduce the amount of paper towels the school currently uses; thus reducing our overall weekly garbage load, garbage removal costs, as well as, save trees in the long run. What a fantastic choice, J.D.!

In January, all students will be encouraged to pack litterless lunches on Wednesdays as well as our current Friday routine. Students are encouraged to pack lunches in reusable containers and are responsible for taking home any garbage or (emptied and rinsed) packaging used in their lunches. This practice helps raise our awareness of how much more we can reduce, reuse and recycle!

**We are very proud of our John Darling school community and our continued efforts to have a positive impact on our environment!**

## LIBRARY NEWS

John Darling is registered with the Ontario Library Association to take part in the Silver Birch and Blue Spruce reading programs for 2015. The Silver Birch program will begin in January, giving participating grade 3 - 6 students a chance to read quality Canadian literature.

The Blue Spruce program will take place in March for our grade JK - 2 students. These students will take part in the program by listening to ten recently published Canadian children's picture books.

At the end of this timetable our JD students will be able to vote for their favorite book!

## Strong Start Volunteers Needed!!!

Each year at John Darling we offer a valuable session of the strong start Letters, Sounds and Words program. If you can volunteer at least once a week for half an hour to help a child, by playing fun games to assist their learning, then please call Mrs. Deanne Bidinosti at the school or leave her a voicemail message at 519-570-8092 ext. 8813.

