

King George Public School

www.kgs.atnet.ca

Tom Smith
Principal



Deb Skoretz
Vice Principal

From the Principal's Desk

February, 2012

Dear Parents:

Our school community continues to grow, especially in Kindergarten! We have been granted a third ECE due to our high numbers and this week welcomed ECE Karleen Bainbridge to our Early Learning Team.

On January 30 we had a very special visit from the Minister of education, Laurel Broten. She wanted to see our new full day every day Kindergarten program. During her visit she read to the students, spoke with two Kindergarten parents (Mrs. Windle and Mrs. McGinnis), and discussed education policy with our Board Trustees (David Dean, Jane Angus, Carol Ann Sloat and Eva Dixon), Director John Forbeck and Superintendent Brenda Blancher. In addition to Minister Broten, MPP Dave Levac also joined us. Along with several members of the Education Secretariat, the minister's office and the media, it was a busy morning. Our Kindergarten classes went well with our students adding their charm to the process. Overall it was a very successful event and our Kindergarten program shone as a representative of the Grand Erie District School Board. Special thanks go out to our Kindergarten teachers and ECEs, especially Mrs. Claydon, for their support for this visit.

On the note of Kindergarten, now is the time for parents to register their children for next year. Currently we have 11 new students already registered for September. As our numbers show to date, we have approximately 40 SK students who will be moving into Grade 1. This means that we require about 30 more students to register for JK in September to assure our staffing allotment for the new year. Historically, this should not be an issue, but the earlier the registration, the sooner our staffing for next year is assured. It does make a difference for our students, so please consider registering your JK age students soon. When you come to the office to speak with Mrs. O'Grady, bring your child's birth certificate and proof of address. Depending on the strength of our registrations, it may be necessary to hold back on accepting students from out of our area. We must serve our local families first.

Regards,

Tom Smith: Principal

Important Dates:

Feb. 2 — ARTS SOUP Gr. 4 & 5

Feb. 3 — JK/SK to Kidtastic in PM

Feb. 6 — First Term Reports go home
— Parent Group at Major Ballachey 3:30-5:30 PM

Feb. 7 — Attendance assembly 12 PM
— School Council 6:30 Pm in the Library

Feb. 13 & 14 — Health Unit Dental Screening for JK, SK and Gr. 2

Feb. 20 — Family Day (No School)

Feb. 22 — Pink Day Kickoff Assembly

Feb. 28 — Good Touch/Bad Touch Presentations for Grades 4 and 5 (AM)
— Sexual Harassment Presentations for Gr. 6 Students (PM)

Feb. 27 — MS Readathon Assembly

Feb. 29 — Pink Day (Boys and Girls Club)
— Sexual Harassment Presentations for Intermediate Students (AM)



Community News and Partnerships

MAJOR BALLACHEY PRESENTS

A PARTNERSHIP IN HEALTHY LIVING: FAMILY WELLNESS SERIES

The City of Brantford, the Grand Erie District School Board and the Grand River Community Health Centre have joined together to offer a program on topics as decided by you! Groups run on Mondays from 3:30pm – 5:30pm in the Large Community Room downstairs across from the Wish Closet. Light Snacks and Refreshments will be served at each Group.

The first series will be on Online Safety.

Monday January 30th — Video and Gaming Addiction

Monday February 6th— an informal drop in

Monday February 13th — Cyberbullying and How to Keep Your Kids Safe Online

Driven to Quit Smoking Contest - March 2012



The Canadian Cancer Society is hosting a contest to help smokers kick the habit, with prizes which include a new Ford Fusion hybrid or a new Ford Edge, \$5000 holiday or \$2000 cash. Ontarians aged 19 and older, who smoked for at least 10 months in the year 2011, can enter. Each entrant must sign up with a support buddy, who could also win \$200 cash. To be eligible for the prize draw, participants must stay smoke-free for all of March 2012. Register at [Driven ToQuit.ca](http://DrivenToQuit.ca) by midnight Feb 29 2012.

To help smokers quit, the Brant County Health Unit Quit Clinic is offering free individual counseling and Nicotine Replacement Therapy (gum or patch) for eligible participants. Call 519-753-4937 ext 259 for more information

King George Happenings

School Improvement Planning: District Support

King George School has been designated, by the Grand Erie District School Board, as one of twenty-two District Support schools for the 2011-2012 school year. The District Support process is designed to identify the trends and patterns in schools to assist us in moving forward in our continuing efforts to improve student achievement. Over a five year period, every school in Grand Erie participates in a District Support visit.

On March 1st a District Support Team including our area Superintendent, Greg Anderson, support staff representing Elementary Program and Special Education, and Principals who represent Norfolk area schools will come and spend a day at King George.

Each classroom will be visited (for 25-40 minutes) by two or three District Support Team members. These visitors will observe student engagement in classroom activities, paying particular attention to the initiatives in our School Improvement Plan as they relate to literacy programming. Team members will then look at the common areas of our school, including the walls of our school, the library and computer lab, and our book room. Superintendent Anderson will provide verbal feedback for the staff at the end of the school day.

A written report will be provided to the school outlining *Strengths, Areas for Focus* and *Recommended Next Steps*. This report will be an essential part of our school planning and the ongoing revisions to our current School Improvement Plan.

Chess Tournament

King George School is hosting a chess tournament for grade 7 and 8 students on Tuesday, March 27, 2012.



All students will receive a trophy, medal or ribbon. Our tournament is an official qualifying tournament for the provincial championships in Toronto on April 22.

Mr. Watts

Milk for Sale!

White and chocolate milk is for sale everyday. Come to the Snack Room Kitchen during the first 15 minutes of both nutrition breaks. Cost is \$0.75 per milk.

Thanks,
Mrs. Pasek



Notes From Your School Health Nurse...

Cyber Bully-Proofing Your Home

Bullies have been around forever. But today, new technologies, like the internet and cell phones, have given bullies a new way to target their peers, through cyber-bullying.

As a parent, it's not always easy to know how or when to step in to help your child. But there are some steps that you can take to help protect your child from becoming a victim of cyber-bullying.

- Talk to you child about internet safety and create scenarios together to help your child recognize dangerous situations and practice responding to them
- Place the family computer in a busy area of your home so that you can monitor computer activity

- Check your child's friend lists for unfamiliar or new names

Work with your child to set up their accounts and make sure that no personal and confidential information is used; know their screen names and passwords

Teach your child about responsible internet use. Children should:



- Never post or say anything on the internet that they don't want the whole world to see or know about
 - Keep all personal information and passwords private
 - Block unwelcome or unknown senders
 - Only open emails from people they know
 - Trust their instincts. If something seems off, it more than likely is. They should turn off the computer and tell someone they trust
 - Save, print and show threatening messages to a parent or guardian
- NEVER make arrangements to meet anyone online...no matter what

Adapted with permission from Halton Region Health Department

Nutrition Tidbits... Are Cereal Bars and Granola Bars a Good Choice?

Not always. Some are more like chocolate bars, especially if they're covered in frosting and filled with chocolate chips and marshmallows. Check the ingredient. Pack them once in a while, not everyday.

THE **ECO** EDGE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU

SOME HELPFUL TIPS FOR STAYING WARM IN COLD WEATHER!

1. Do not wear cotton or polyester/cotton fabrics next to your skin. Cotton absorbs moisture and therefore will get cold lying against your skin. This will lead to rapid loss of heat which could cause hypothermia in very cold weather. A good investment is a fleece vest as it will keep the heart and body warm which results in warmer blood being sent out to the body's extremities. Fleece is very good as it "wicks" moisture away from your skin quickly. Down jackets are great insulators if they do not get wet. But . . . WOOL is the best by far! It traps warm, dry air next to your skin keeping air from moving across your body.
2. Always dress in layers. Several thin layers are warmer than one heavy layer. You can always remove or add on layers as you need and therefore you can better regulate your core body temperature.
3. You can lose a lot of body heat through your head so it is important to wear a hat and one that can cover your ears if needed.
4. Wearing a scarf also will warm the air before you breathe it in.
5. Wearing mittens (instead of gloves) and long thick wool or polypropylene socks will protect your hands and feet from the cold. Hands and feet are the hardest places to keep warm blood flowing to.
6. Keep hydrated and make sure you eat a healthy diet so your body temperature stays at a normal level. Dehydration affects your body's ability to regulate body heat and increases risk of frostbite. Water is just as important in the winter as it is in the summer.
7. If you get wet remove clothes immediately and warm the core body temperature with a blanket and warm fluids (soup or hot apple cider). Do not drink caffeine as it is a diuretic and increases heat loss.

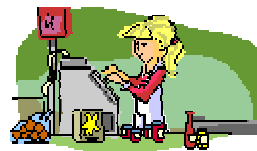
School Council

Back by popular demand, Council's Fundraising team is in the process of planning for our phys-ed-a-thon! The phys-ed-a-thon event day is scheduled for MAY 9, 2012. Students will receive fundraising packages at the Kick-off Assembly, held a couple of weeks prior to the event in order to obtain pledges from family and friends. (We discourage door to door.) The students will participate in physical activities, planned by different sports groups, rotating from one to the other throughout the day. Sports groups will volunteer their time to work with our children to help build interest in a variety of different sports and to help promote healthy living choices. Following the event the students will have time to collect their pledges. A final assembly will be held in the week following the event to award large prizes to students raising the most money in pledges! Smaller incentive prizes will be handed out the following day! Watch for more information regarding our phys-ed-a-thon in the months ahead.

Next Council meeting is February 7th, at 6:30pm in the school library. Anyone is welcome to attend; we would love to see some new faces with fresh suggestions and ideas.

Thanks for your continued support, King George School Council.

Thank you to the members of New Covenant Church! They have been collecting Zehrs tapes and donating them to support our Snack Program. More tapes were submitted just before the Christmas Break. We have received a cheque for \$244.00



Feedback Feedback:

It is a bit tough to write the Feedback Feedback column this month. We didn't get anything formally from the forms. We did receive some very positive comments from parents at the Christmas Family night. The school gym was packed and the students, as usual, did a fine job of ushering the school into the Christmas season. On January 30 we heard some very nice comments about our Kindergarten program from the conversation of our parents with the Education Minister. Once we get the road signage finalized (yes, I am still waiting), we expect feedback as some will be satisfied and others will not. Please remember that the purpose for our entering into this process is all about student safety.

Don't forget to send back the Feedback forms this month. Even if you only have good things to say, or nothing at all, we will do a draw for free milk for a student who returns the form.



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Feedback



We'd like to know what you think. Please specify compliments, concerns, issues etc. for comment and response in next month's newsletter. Fill in your child's name below to ensure you are entered into our draw for free milk!

Compliments:

Concerns :

Recommendations:

Name: _____ **(for draw).**

You can also give us feedback through our new website:

www.kinggeorgeschool.synthasite.com/feedback.php

We would like to connect with you online. Please provide us an email address so we can send you the newsletter and other updates right to your inbox.

Name: _____ **Child's name:** _____

Email: _____