

# King George Public School

www.kgs.atnet.ca

**Tom Smith**  
**Principal**



**Deb Skoretz**  
**Vice Principal**

## From the Principal's Desk

December, 2011

Dear Parents:

The Progress reports signaled the end of the first part of this school year. Teachers worked hard to make sure you had a good, well-rounded view of your child in the school context. The Parent-Teacher interviews were your opportunity to speak with teachers about your child's progress. Thank you to all those who came to these interviews. We did have some disappointment in that a number of parents did not attend the interviews at the scheduled times. Perhaps you were unable to come because of work. If so, we do hope you will call the school to set up an alternate time to meet with the teacher over the next week or so. It is important for parents and teachers to be on the same page regarding your children so we can provide the most relevant and effective approach to their education.

Parking is a continuing issue. Last month I indicated that the Parking Control office of the City of Brantford was looking in to new signage around the school. This is in progress and we hope to have everything operational soon. We expect this set of changes to be confirmed by Council in January. We are trying to expand legal parking areas around the school and clearly identify those areas where even stopping to drop off a student is illegal. This whole effort is designed to promote safety for your children. A little inconvenience is more than worth the effort. Once the new signage is confirmed, we will print a map of the area to identify those places where parking is acceptable and those that are not.

As we look forward to the Christmas season, we are always looking for ways to help families in need. This year is no different. It is our hope that no child goes without at this time of the year. The Christmas Light a Smile program is once again in operation. Some of our families will be receiving Christmas cheer this month. This is a time for giving. We wish the best of this season to all.

Regards,  
Tom Smith: Principal

### Important Dates:

- Dec. 2— Int. Boys Volleyball
- Dec. 5—Int. Girls Volleyball
- Dec. 6—School Council 6:30PM in Staff Room
- Dec. 7—Book Fair Preview All Day  
Extended hours for parents  
3:15-4:00PM & 6:00-8:00PM
- Dec. 8—Book Fair 9:00AM-3:10PM
- Dec. 9—Book Fair 9:00AM-4:00PM
- Dec. 14—Canada's Got Talent:  
Christmas Edition  
Dress Rehearsal 12:30PM  
Performance 7:00PM
- Dec. 15—D.A.R.E. Grad 6:30 PM
- Dec. 24 to Jan. 8—Christmas Break
- Jan. 9—Back to School
- Jan. 10—School Council 6:30PM in Library



## Fresh From The Students' Council

King George School has been having such a great time helping out the community! We wore moustaches for Movember Mania, Thursday November 24, 2011 and donated money to the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) for prostate cancer research. A whopping \$120 was donated by the Students' Council. For every student and staff, who wore a moustache, Students' Council donated 50 cents.

Have you ever wanted to be a doctor, a police officer or a firefighter? On Tuesday, November 29 we held Career Day. Students dressed up to show everyone what they want to be when they grow up.

King George School will be having a Christmas Toy Drive from Thursday, December 1, 2011 to Friday December 9, 2011. We will be accepting new or gently used toys. Please help out and donate to the children who don't get to have Christmas. So bring in that old teddy bear and give it to a kid who would really enjoy it.

We will be selling Candy Cane Grams again this year for only 50 cents each starting Monday December 12, while supplies last. So be an early bird and get the worm! (Candy Cane)  
Candy Cane Grams will be delivered during the week of Monday, December 19. Buy some for your friends, yourself, or even for your favourite teacher. Even the principal would like one! Students' Council members will help students in JK/SK to Grade 3 fill out the name tags. Show some Christmas spirit and send away!



Submitted by Sara E. and Ju Y.  
Students' Council members

## Kindergarten News



Ms. Claydon's kindergarten class worked very hard at classroom recycling to earn a real tree to plant at school. At the beginning of October, we were able to plant an Ash tree in the front yard of the school. We surrounded it with green temporary fencing, which was promptly stolen over the following weekend. The fencing was replaced and we added three student-made signs in an effort to keep "Ashley" safe. At the end of November, this fence and our signs were stolen again. After having our two little trees ripped out of the ground last year, we were really hoping for more success this year. So far, our little tree is still standing, and we will replace our fence again, but we would appreciate the support of our community to keep her safe!

Jenn Claydon

## Book Fair

### December 7—9, 2011

Our Scholastic Book Fair begins December 7, 2011 with a preview day for all students. The Book Fair will be open to parents from 3:15 to 4:15 PM and then opening again from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Students will have both Thursday December 8th and Friday December 9th to make any further purchases. The Fair will remain open on Friday until 4pm for any last minute sales.

Ms. Buchanan



## PJ Enrichment



An enthusiastic and spirited group of Grade 6, 7, and 8 students took part in an enrichment day organized by Pauline Johnson Collegiate. The group earned points for their involvement in various activities. Mr. Ed Wilson dropped by last week to present us with flag football equipment in recognition of their outstanding efforts. Way to go!

## Canada's Got Talent: Christmas Edition

### December 14, 2011

### King George Gymnasium

Dress Rehearsal: 12:30 PM

Performance: 7:00 PM







## Notes From Your School Health Nurse...

### Dental Hygiene Visits

Last month, Mr. Teeth (School Nurse, Joe Kranz), visited all classes to talk about taking care of our teeth.

### Children Have Stress Too!

Sometimes life can get a little stressful for everyone—even for children. While having a little bit of stress is okay, too much can affect your child's wellbeing.

As a parent, you can't protect your child from every stressful event in life, no matter how hard you try. But you can help your child cope by being there for them and helping them work through their problems.

#### Your child may be stressed if he/she:

- Is not interested in doing the activities he/she normally likes to do
  - Has trouble sleeping
  - Has trouble concentrating at school and home
  - Gets more headaches than usual
  - Doesn't have much of an appetite
- Is nervous, gets tummy aches or cries more often

#### Ways you can help your child cope:

- **Listen:** Sometimes kids just want to talk. Take the time to listen to how your child is feeling and encourage them by asking questions such as "how did you feel about that"
- **Label their feelings:** Your child may not yet have the words for their feelings. Using words such as "do you feel frustrated" will help them to describe what's going on
- **Touch:** Sometimes a hug is all that your child needs to help the stress melt away

**Healthy Routine:** A healthy body is better able to fight the stress. Make sure your child gets enough sleep and eats well. Physical activity is also a great stress reliever! So go for a walk with your child or encourage him/her to do something that they enjoy

### Nutrition Tidbits...Water:

Water is still the best choice. Children that drink enough water are more alert, can concentrate for longer and do better physically. Always quench your thirst with water first!

# School Council

## **WHY BEING A PARENT VOLUNTEER IS SO IMPORTANT.....**

It's a great way to show your kids that you are interested in their education. If you as a parent show an interest in what your child does all day, they will see school as important also!

Not only will schools benefit from your involvement, you and your child will too.

- you will see what students are learning during the day.
- you will get to know many students your child spends his/her day with.
- you will also tap into trends and fads of school life that can help you communicate with your child as they grow and change. (All without intruding on their privacy or personal space!)

We realize that is not easy for all parents, but keep in mind that even an hour or two a week helps a lot! School Council Meetings are a very good way to be involved if you are only available in the evening. Council meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month, in the school library; at 6:30 p.m. till approximately 8:30 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS.....**

### **Pop Can Drive**

We are doing very well, raising \$200.00 in approximately one month's time. We have found that we receive almost double for the same amount of cans when they are **crushed. Please crush all cans** before bringing them in to school. We thank you for your continued efforts.

**School Council's Annual Raffles:** Wednesday, December 14, 2011 Ticket price \$5.00 for card of 25 tickets.

*Best Wishes for a SAFE and HAPPY Holiday!*  
*King George School Council.*



# Helping Children Learn<sup>®</sup>

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 2011



## How can parents discourage dawdling in the morning?

**Q:** Every morning it's the same thing: It's time to leave. But my second grader is not ready. Again. This is the fourth morning this week she's been late to school! What can I do to get her moving?

**A:** Some kids just seem to have only one speed—*slow*! But there are ways parents can help these kids learn to “get a move on.” Here's what to do:

- **Take time at night** to lay out clothes and pack your daughter's book bag. If all of her school-related belongings are in one place before she goes to bed, your daughter might not waste time in the morning looking for her homework or favorite sweater.
- **Make sure** your daughter gets to bed on time so it's easier for her to get up in the morning. Most children this age need about nine hours of sleep.
- **Be sure your daughter** knows, step by step, what she has to do to get ready in the morning. Sticking to a routine might help her hurry along!
- **Give your daughter** the “two-minute warning” to help her prepare for transitions between activities. “You have two more minutes to finish up breakfast, and then you have to go brush your teeth!”



## Online safety ideas protect children

A computer can help your child find facts and complete homework. But surfing the Internet may also create problems. To keep your child safe:

- **Put** the computer where you can supervise Internet activities.
- **Check** out your Internet service provider's safety features.
- **Establish** rules for your child's computer use.
- **Discuss** why your child should never share personal information online.
- **Have** your child tell you if she receives an inappropriate email or other message.
- **Go** online together. Let your child show you her computer skills and favorite sites.

Remember, your child may also go online in other locations, such as at a friend's home. Take steps to ensure safety no matter where the Internet is used.

Source: “Safety Tips,” NetSmartz, [www.netsmartz.org/safety/safetytips.htm](http://www.netsmartz.org/safety/safetytips.htm).



## Computer News

Our school has recently purchased a software that can be used at home to help your child to learn their multiplication facts. If you have a computer at home with internet access, just follow the instructions below.

### Website Log-in Instructions For Timez Attack

**\*\*If you've played Timez Attack on your home computer before, you must delete the icon on the desktop before you begin the instructions below.**

1. Go to the website:  
[www.bigbrainz.com/Schools.php](http://www.bigbrainz.com/Schools.php)
2. Select 'Get Started' and then choose 'Windows' or 'Mac'
3. After it launches, select your province, district (Grand Erie), and school (King George).
4. Type in your assigned student password(it is the word "password") in the blank field.
5. Under Troubleshooting in the upper left hand corner, hit 're-cache.' Once it's finished, just select the student's class name and then their student name and hit play.

## Your involvement affects your child's achievement

Research shows that family support is key to student achievement. To promote academic success:

- **Tell** your child you think education is important.
- **Support** your child's teacher and school rules.



- **Ask** to see homework.  
Know what your child is learning.

Source: "The Relationship Between Family Involvement and Student Success," National PTA, [www.pta.org/2128.htm](http://www.pta.org/2128.htm).

## Feedback Feedback:

The winner of this month's Feedback draw is Marissa M. in Miss Harper's class. Congratulations. Come on down to Mr. Smith's office to get a slip for your free milk.

Positive comments referred to how children are enjoying school and enjoying the playground environment. We have been receiving many such comments of late and are happy that students and parents are seeing the differences we are working toward.

- We continue to get commentary about the parking issues around the school. Please look at the opening letter for our response to this issue.
- Communication is always an area that can warrant improvement. We are happy to see parents at our Parent –Teacher Interviews, but know that continued and consistent communication is good for all. Please take advantage of the school website and use the agendas by writing notes, asking questions or expressing concerns. Each child is important and we don't want to let anyone get missed in the crowd. With your help and our continued and increased efforts, we hope to enhance our communication with you.

One way to make your comments known is through the Feedback forms. Please do respond to us about your thoughts and ideas.



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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:

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### Concerns :

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### Recommendations:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (for draw).

*You can also give us feedback through our new website:*

[www.kinggeorgeschool.synthasite.com/feedback.php](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_