

King George Public School

www.kgs.atnet.ca

Tom Smith
Principal



Deb Skoretz
Vice Principal

From the Principal's Desk

April, 2012

Dear Parents,

April brings spring and it is a great time for us to clean house. In this case we have chosen to clean up the language at King George School. Since my becoming Principal here 4 years ago, we have made many efforts to improve the school climate. Language, while a localized focus with teachers, has not been the major focus overall. Our efforts to improve general behaviour and build a positive environment through efforts like TRIBES have been our main objectives. Now that we are experiencing some notable success in these areas, the inappropriate verbalizations of some of our students now is more noticeable. To that end, we are now systematically targeting inappropriate language. Teachers will still be the primary responders to this when it occurs within their earshot. The change will be that, students who don't choose to modify their language, even after teacher intervention, will be sent to the office. Our response will now usually be a call home where your child will be expected to recount to you exactly the words and phrases they have uttered. If this happens again the same day, another call will be made, and another, and another, until there is no doubt about the attitudes and language of that student. It is our hope that you will work with us to help curb this behaviour so the environment inside and outside the school will be much more pleasant for all. We are sure you do not accept this kind of language at home, so we do ask for your support to curb it here at the school.

Our School Nurse, Joe Kranz, has established a Leadership Group for a number of our students. These students meet weekly and are in the process of developing ideas to help make King George School a better place to learn. We applaud the efforts of Nurse Kranz and thank the students who are showing this leadership.

Our annual Heritage Fair will take place on Monday, April 2 in the gym. Judging will take place in the morning and students from the younger classes will have the opportunity to view the over 50 projects. Our students will be vying for a place in the Regional Heritage Fair in Dunnville, April 25. We will be able to send about 5 projects. This year there is also a Provincial Heritage Fair in Toronto in June. Our Regional participants are eligible to win a place at this event.

Education week is coming up, May 7 – 11. It promises to be an exciting time for all. On Tuesday, May 8, our Book Fair begins. Students will be able to view the many books for sale and purchase these over the following week and a half. On Wednesday May 9, our annual major fund raiser, the DPA-a-Thon will engage all our students for the day. It is a great

opportunity for students to participate in life activities that they may not have access to otherwise. In addition, the funds raised will directly support our students through the daily morning meal program and through access to further technology in the classroom. Please do take the effort seriously and encourage your child to ask family and friends to pledge their support. On Thursday, May 10, parents are asked to come to the school for two major events. Starting at 4:00 our second annual Literacy Night will be held. This will provide you with a range of ideas and skills to help you help your children with their developing literacy. At the same time the Book Fair will be open to all so you can assist your children with their reading choices. Later in the evening our annual Intermediate Air Band competition/performance will take place (7:00 in the gym). Parents are welcome to come see their children perform. It was a wonderful event last year and this year looks to be even better.

Tom Smith
Principal

Important Dates:



April 2—Heritage Fair

April 6—9—Easter Break

April 11—International Pink Day

April 27—PA Day—No school for students

May 1—Track & Field at Lion's Park

May 2—Education Week Gala at the Sanderson Centre—Glee Club

May 7—11—Education Week

May 8—14—Book Fair

May 9 DPA-a-thon

May 10 Literacy Night 4—6 PM Air Bands at 7 PM

Yearbooks, Yearbooks!!

It's that time of year again...time to think about all the memories of this school year.

We are very excited to announce that all grades will be represented in the King George Yearbook. There will be a very special section dedicated to this year's Grade 8 Graduates as well.

The yearbook will be produced in high quality print and every photo will be in colour. This year's book is longer than before. Many of the photos have been taken by students here at the school. In order to get an idea of how many copies we need please pre-order your copy as soon as possible. Yearbooks will be available mid-June and will cost \$15.00 each. I

f you have any questions please contact Mrs. Tansley at the school, 519-752-7486.

Notes From Your School Health Nurse...

Children and Self-Esteem

Self-esteem is the value we place on ourselves. It's the way we feel about ourselves and the way that we see ourselves.

Children with healthy self-esteem are happier, have more friends and are more likely to be accepted by others. They have fewer illnesses and are better able to cope with stress.

As a parent, you have the greatest influence when it comes to shaping your child's self-esteem. Developing a healthy self-esteem in childhood can lead to healthy and productive adult lives.

Tips to Help Your Child Build a Healthy Self-Esteem:

- Show your child that they are loved simply because they exist
- Avoid comparing your child to other siblings or children
- Show respect for your child by asking them for their input, opinions, and suggestions
- Focus on your child's strengths and assets rather than constantly pointing out their weaknesses and problems.

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Helping Children Learn®

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School



April 2012

Grand Erie District School Board

Growing Excellence ... Inspiring Success

From The Parent Institute, www.parent-institute.com



Parents' awareness can block bullying

Bullying is a serious problem that deserves your attention—even if your child is not bullied or a bully. To prevent bullying:

- **Recognize bullying.** Bullying comes in many forms. It can be physical, verbal or written, such as in emails or text messages. It can also be silent, when a child is left out on purpose.
- **Supervise your child's activities.** Bullying often occurs when adults aren't around. You may be able to prevent bullying just by being nearby.
- **React to bullying.** If your child knows someone who is being bullied, she should inform you or another responsible adult about the situation. If you suspect that your child is being bullied—or bullying others—seek help quickly before the problem gets worse.

Source: "What Family Members Can Do," StopBullyingNow! www.stopbullying.gov/parents/index.html.



Find chances to boost responsibility

Adolescents don't morph into responsible young adults overnight. It's a process, and it takes time. To nurture your child's sense of responsibility:

- **Enforce consequences** if your child breaks the rules. This will remind her that she is responsible for her actions.
- **Assign chores.** Chores are ideal for building responsibility, and completing them will make your child feel capable.
- **Have her manage money.** Nothing hammers home the responsibility message like empty pockets! Give your child opportunities to earn money and teach her how to manage those earnings.
- **Let her make choices.** Whenever it's reasonable—and safe—for her to make her own decisions, stand back and let her.

Source: M. Purcell, "Building Responsible Kids," Psych Central, <http://psychcentral.com/lib/2006/building-responsible-kids>.

Home Alone & Stranger Safety and Babysitters Training

One Day Courses—Friday April 27, 2012 9 AM—3 PM PA Day

See Mrs. O'Grady or Mrs. Flaman at the office for a flyer re registration and cost.

Safe Schools

Our Safe Schools Committee is revisiting the section our school improvement plan that addresses promoting a safe school environment. The Grand Erie District School Board has developed electronic School Climate surveys to help schools gather data in this area. The surveys combine elements of the original Ministry bullying survey, student perceptions survey, and are aligned with Character Education, Equity and Inclusive Education, Growing Success and now secondary program effectiveness. They measure various aspects of the teaching and learning environment identified in academic research as important influences on learning.

Our students in grades 3-8 will be completing surveys online at school April 19-26, 2012.

The students will complete one of two surveys designed for elementary students, one for grades 3-5 and grades 6-8.



We are also looking for input from parents and guardians. To access the survey go to on the Board's website www.granderie.ca and click on the "board survey" tab. Use the following passwords: **School Climate Survey for Parents: pr5XAp**. You will be asked to identify the school.

At the end of April, we will ask the Board Researcher to gather the data and forward it to our Safe Schools Committee. The committee will meet in May to discuss the findings and will report back to the school staff and the School Council in June.

Internet Safety

On March 8, 2012, our grades 5—8 students participated in a presentation put on by a Child and Youth Worker from Safe Schools. Her presentation highlighted the need to be a responsible digital citizen and raised awareness of online dangers.

Canadian Centre for Child Protection has many resources to assist parents and teachers. Visit <http://www.protectchildren.ca/app/en/kik>



International Day of Pink April 11, 2012

Day of Pink is a day of action, born when a youth in a high school in Cambridge, Nova Scotia was bullied because he wore a pink shirt to school. His fellow students decided to stand up to bullying; and hundreds of students came to school wearing pink to show support for diversity and stopping discrimination, gender-bullying and homophobia.

We invite everyone to make a difference and participate.

King George Happenings



Grand Erie Aboriginal 3D Art Mural Project

Over the course of three days from March 21st-23rd, students from grades 4 and 5 had the incredible opportunity to work alongside talented artist, Miss. Pamela, to create an Aboriginal 3D Mural. Students took part in an intense three day program and learned the finer points of becoming “tape masters,” making newspaper into puffy pillows, and making cardboard and paper maché come alive into creatures from nature using painting techniques and inspirational team work. A special thank you to the students in grade 4 and 5 for their hard work and determination. Your beautiful handiwork will be displayed on the wall and used for storytelling in classrooms for years to come. You should all be very proud of yourselves. Another big thank you to Mr. Smith and Mrs. Skoretz for your support, and for the rest of the school for your flexibility over those three days.

Chess Tournament

On Tuesday March 27th King George School hosted the fifth annual Lorne Berry Memorial Intermediate Chess Tournament. Fourteen teams from eleven schools competed in the tournament. The team from St. George won the championship with a narrow win over second place Paris Central. Third place went to King George, fourth to Fairview and fifth to Branlyn. The top scoring individual players were Colby Ayres from King George, Colin Pearce from Branlyn and Jakob Elliot from St. George.



Our school was represented well by Colby A., Johnny H., Lynn C., Tracy O., Johnny T., and Jakob M. Thank you to Keonna and Megan A. for helping out, to School Council for providing healthy snacks, to Mr. Smith and Mr. Monette for supervising and to Mr. Watts for coaching the team and organizing the event.



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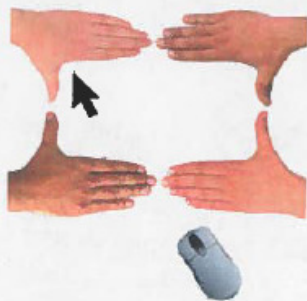
- monitor, keyboard and mouse
- Windows XP Professional
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Terry Kuck, Program Coordinator

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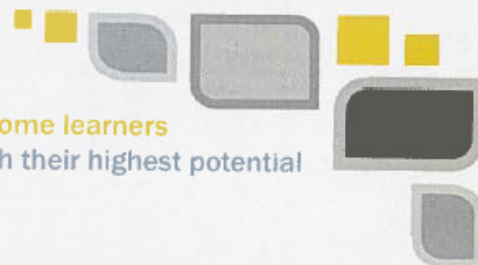
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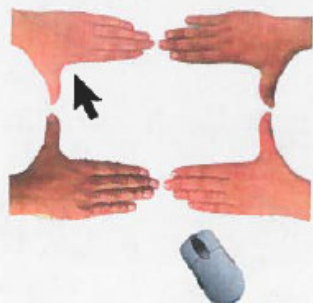
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School Council

We have some great news to share about our Snack program. Our funds were running dangerously low towards the end of February. In March, we received our final grant installment from Brant Food for Thought and a sizable charitable donation from Federal Marine Terminals (Ms. Mailloux's Dad works for the company)

Rachel J., Liz B. and Lisa H. attended the Parent Symposium by GEPIC on March 31, 2012. It was a great opportunity for parents to receive information and supports in so many different areas affecting our children today. The speaker Mary Jean Gallagher highlighted the influence of the Family Path on student learning.

Watch for more information and kick-off envelopes for the DPA-a-thon to be held on May 9th..

Next Council meeting is April 2nd, at 6:30 PM in the school library. Everyone is welcome to attend; we would love to see some new faces with fresh suggestions and ideas. We will welcome the Grand Erie District School Board Chair, Rita Collver and Vice-Chair David Dean to our May 1st meeting. Please consider coming out that night to meet them and talk about the great things happening at King George!

Thanks for your continued support, King George School Council.

Feedback Feedback:

We did receive a number of responses last month through our Feedback Forms. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

The winner of the Feedback Draw for March was Mistaya from Mrs. Clarke's class. Congratulations.

We received some very positive feedback complementing our Kindergarten teachers and thanking us for our Cell phone policy. We are trying to make King George School the best it can be and with everyone working together, we will get there.

One suggestion came in about sending notices home with specific grades listed when an illness, like Fifth Disease, is present. The main reason why we don't do this is because these diseases are often in families, across grades and the close proximity of students daily in the school makes a general notice more appropriate. Also, we do not want to put any student in a position where they could be singled out.

Another request was for the newsletters to be sent out on time each month. We do try to do so and this year, by and large, we have been successful. We did have an issue last month as a number of crisis type issues occurred right as we were trying to get the newsletter out. Hopefully this kind of situation will not happen again.

Thank you for the feedback. We do read and consider it all and do try to use suggestions to make daily life at King George better. We look forward to your comments next month.



King George Public School

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April

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: _____