

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

The beginning of the school year is always a busy, exciting and energetic time of the year. With 4 weeks of school behind us procedures and routines have been established, practiced and refined and our students are well engaged in meaningful, authentic learning opportunities each and every day.

Currently Allan A. Greenleaf has an enrolment of about 450 students. As a result of this unanticipated increase in student enrolment and in order to comply with provincial class size requirements, we have had to make some adjustments to our school classroom organizations. This is a process that occurs throughout the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board at this time of year, and is a result of a system review of our class sizes in accordance with Ministry legislation. Specifically, at our school, we have been required to create an additional Primary combined class for grade 1 / 2. In addition we have had to reorganize our grade 3 and 4's to meet Ministry legislation. Reorganization is never without its' challenges but working together and helping children understand that some changes are beyond anyone's control does help things go more smoothly. We welcome all of our new families to the school and hope that you feel a part of our wonderful community.

All of our newsletters continue to be posted online on our website. This year we will also be sending out an automated phone call to households sharing when a new issue has been posted. If you require a paper copy please contact your child's teacher or visit the school office. Please visit our web-site at www.hwdsb.on.ca/allanagreenleaf/ and click on the "Subscribe" link at the top of the page. By doing so you will receive an email each time the school website is updated.

Communication is essential between home and school. Should you have any questions, concerns or compliments please contact your child's teacher first. They are accessible by phone and you can also write a note in the student agenda. If you wish to meet with a teacher and/or administrator please contact the office to make an appointment.

Monday Oct. 9 is Thanksgiving and therefore, no school. There is always so much to be thankful for! I am looking forward to a family wedding and celebrating my 28th wedding anniversary on this weekend! Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family. Enjoy the long weekend!

Mrs. S. Costa-Popovich & Mrs. R. Coomber

FROZEN YOGURT

TCBY FRO YO is back!

WHEN: Fridays, second break, during the eating part of break



COST: \$2.00

BRING: your own spoon (to reduce plastic waste)

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

School Council is planning a fun filled day for all students on Tuesday, Oct. 31st. All students will be participating in a **Dance "Fundraiser"**. More details to follow closer to the date!

All students are welcome to come to school in their costumes, but are also welcome to put it on during one of the nutrition breaks. If putting it on at school, please ensure that it is something that can be done independently. Classroom teachers may send their own information home regarding their individual classroom festivities and expectations.

Our annual Halloween Parade begins after morning announcements. Children in K to Gr. 4 classes will participate in the parade on the playground weather permitting. If it rains, feel free to join us in the gym.

On this day options are:

- wear orange and black
- dress in a costume
- wear your everyday clothes



If students wish to wear a costume here is a list of Do's and Don't

Costume Do's

- appropriate for school
- use makeup or face paint
- check that your costume is safe (i.e. not too long)
- be creative
- have fun

Costume Don'ts

- no masks that impede vision
- no weapons
- no violent references



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 5-Safety Patrol Training
 October 6-Get Acquainted Day/Terry Fox Run
 October 9-Thanksgiving Day-No School
 October 12-Gr. 3-8 Cross Country
 October 16-Buster Bus Presentation
 October 20-Gr. 7 & 8 Vaccinations
 October 23-Picture Day
 October 26-My Path My Way-Education Center
 October 27-Movie Night
 October 31-Halloween



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thank you to all parents who attended our first School Council meeting. We are pleased to welcome a number of new members and look forward to their new ideas and commitment to our school community. School Council members this year are listed below as well as meeting dates. Please keep in mind that all parents are welcome to attend meetings if they choose. However, only the names listed below can vote.

School Council Members

Amanda Bradford-Janke/David Penton-Co-Chairs
 Tracey Hood—Treasurer
 Tim Louks—Secretary
 Alyson Johnson
 Andrea Vardy
 Ansuya Shell
 Cheryl Brown
 Christine DiPelino
 Kaitlin Bedford
 Karen Des Roches
 Karen Sparkes
 Lindsay Jack
 Rebecca Hessels
 Tobi Graves-Hofer
 Tracy Segal
 Tracey Robinson
 Yeliz Halil

Meeting Dates

October 29
 November 16
 January 11
 February 15
 April 19
 May 24



All meetings are at 7:00pm in the library.

CHANGING OUR BELIEFS & ATTITUDES ABOUT MATH

Myth of the Math Person

Most people believe that math is one of those subjects that you either “get” or you “don’t get.” Everyone can achieve in any subject with hard work, perseverance, and someone to guide them. The key to shattering this myth is developing a growth mindset in our teachers and students, and a math classroom where students are challenged by engaging problems and supported in their learning.

The Evolving Classroom

At Greenleaf, we believe that a balanced math approach is crucial to student success. Ensuring that children have a strong understanding of number sense will assist with more complicated math concepts in later grades. Today, teachers are striving for students to have a solid grasp of the “why” behind each solution as well as a solid understanding of numeration skills. This often means that students are encouraged to share a variety of methods and strategies to solve a single problem. By sharing different strategies, teachers can help students see the common thread that connects each solution, thus deepening their understanding of the concept being taught. The teacher’s role is no longer to just teach procedures, but to help students make connections and understand the mathematical concepts behind the solutions.

Growth Mindset Homework Help Tips

- Practice Mental Math at home. Research shows that mental calculation sharpens the mind and increases mental agility and intelligence as practical uses of mental calculations are many.
- Help children persevere to work through their struggles.
- Never let your child hear you say: “I was never good at math.” Research studies have shown when parents tell their children they were not good at math, their child’s achievement is immediately affected.
- Ask your child if they can solve a math problem in another way. This shows that your child has multiple strategies at their fingertips and they are flexible with their math thinking.
- Ask your child to explain the reasoning behind their response. “Why did you (add/ subtract/ multiply/ divide)?”

Boaler, Jo. *Mathematical Mindsets*. Jossey-Bass: 2016, pg 96.
 Boaler, J. (n.d.). *Parents' Beliefs about Math Change Their Children's Achievement*. Retrieved September 22, 2016, from <https://www.youcubed.org/think-it-up/parents-beliefs-math-change-childrens-achievement>

Homework

There are a many different views on Homework. Some parents are concerned that teachers don’t give enough. Others that they give too much. If you have questions regarding homework, please discuss with your child’s teacher. Please follow the link to HWDSB’s Homework Pamphlet that provides some information about homework.

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/homework-help-english.pdf>

SAFE WELCOME PROGRAM

As you may know, HWDSB has a Safe Welcome Program. The program supports a welcoming learning environment by ensuring that parents and other authorized visitors can access elementary schools while keeping students and staff safe. Exterior school doors will be locked during the instructional day, and visitors will access the school during school hours via the main entrance. You will notice that our main entrance is equipped with a video/intercom access system and signage. The access system allows staff to see and talk with any visitors requesting entry into the school. The system also allows school office staff to electronically release the lock on the door. Visitors are asked to report to the office for sign-in. Here are some points keep in mind:

- Visitors' include parents, community members, service personnel and HWDSB staff.
- Visitors will respect and follow the Safe Welcome Protocol.
- Visitors will access the school via the main entrance of the school.
- Visitors will report to the main office upon entry to the school to sign in and receive a visitor pass, if required.

When a child is being picked up, office staff may ask for identification.

Thank you for supporting our continued emphasis on student safety.

FOOD WITH GRACE

A big thank you to Food with Grace for the food donated to our food cupboard. Students greatly appreciate it!



VOLUNTEERING AT GREENLEAF



We welcome and value all volunteers in our school. All new volunteers are personally interviewed by the Principal or VP and provided information and orientation. A

Mandatory Vulnerable Sector Screening with Hamilton Police Services every 3 years is required for all volunteers. Even if you want to volunteer on occasion to attend a trip or drive students to a game, a police check is required.

TERRY FOX/GET ACQUAINTED DAY

Our Terry Fox Run is next Friday, Oct. 6. Have you been collecting pledges for Terry? Terry ran for 143 days and 5,373km to bring awareness to cancer. Let's help remember Terry's Marathon of Hope and his dream for curing cancer by collecting pledges and running on Oct. 6. We will be selling Harvey's for students in Gr. 1-8 only. Cash only. Please make sure your child knows their order. Prices are as follows: Hots Dogs \$4.50, Hamburgers/Veggie Burgers \$5.00, Cheeseburgers \$6.00, Cheeseburger/Hamburger/Hot Dog Combo (incl. pop & chips) are \$7.50 (Cheese burger), \$6.50 (Hamburger & Hot Dog). Dress appropriately, sunscreen, hats & extra water.

VACATIONS & EXTENDED ABSENCES



The education of children is a right that we value and hold in high regard. When students are absent from school for extended periods of time, they miss large components of the curriculum taught and it becomes difficult for them to catch up as concepts that are taught build upon previous lessons.

Please note that we do not endorse extended student absences for the purpose of family vacations. We do however respect that you may choose to withdraw your child from school for the purposes of a family vacation. A program of study will not be provided by the school and not all areas of the curriculum may be able to be assessed and reflected on the provincial report card. Please note your child will be removed from the school register after 15 consecutive days of absence. You will be required to reregister your child at the school office upon your return.

"VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: HONESTY

You are practicing **HONESTY** when you don't try to fool yourself or others. You say what you mean and mean what you say. You only make promises you can keep. Be trustworthy in all your dealings, refusing to lie or cheat. Admit your mistakes and fix them. Be honest with yourself and you will be honest with others. You don't need to make things up to look good—you're already good—honest!.



I am honest. I can be trusted to keep my word. I admit my mistakes. I tell the truth, kindly and tactfully. I have no need to impress others. I accept myself as I can.

Resources that help your child.

Books about honesty:

Empty Pot - Demi

The Boy Who Cried Wolf -Lee Wildish
or

The Boy Who Cried Wolf B.G. Hennessy (traditional fairytale)

David Gets in Trouble - David Shannon

A Day's Work - by Eve Bunting

Harriet and the Garden - by Nancy Carlson

Tiddler by Julia Donaldson

Liar, Liar - Gary Paulsen

Movies:

Pinocchio

Nancy McPhee

The Lion King

Willy Wonka

Mary Poppins

The Pursuit of Happyness (yes, it's spelled this way)