

# Greenleaf Gazette

## PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

This newsletter includes information for December and January. There will not be a January newsletter. There are many exciting things happening this month! Please see the "Dates to Remember" in this newsletter and watch for our regular eBlasts of other holiday events taking place this month at Greenleaf! Our annual seasonal performances will be held this year on the morning of December 20th and December 21st. Teacher will communicate specific class times.

We would like to thank parents and community members who joined us for our Remembrance Day Ceremony. Student Council and the Greenleaf Band led a beautiful assembly and all students listened and attended in a respectful manner. A. A. Greenleaf School continues to have many opportunities for your children to be experiencing valuable learning: clubs, intramurals, spirit days, presentations and positive day to day interactions.

At Greenleaf we see many of you regularly and we are glad for the family atmosphere our school has. I often brag about us as I see the manner in which all of us work together for the improvement of our school and the education of our students. When you volunteer, visit to see the successes in our building, or schedule a meeting to discuss a concern, we all work from a place of learning to understand and build a plan to improve what and how we do things.

We talk to our students regularly about good reputation. Our Virtues teachings are a huge part of this. The Virtues Project is a global initiative founded in Canada in 1991 to inspire the practice of virtues in everyday life. Virtues are the content of our character. Learning about Virtues nurtures our children in the skills and qualities they need to be successful in school and life. At Greenleaf, this philosophy has been the foundation of our daily work since 2006! I am thrilled that this legacy continues thanks to the ongoing commitment of our teachers and our students.

On behalf of the staff here at the school, we want to wish all of our families a safe, happy and fun-filled holiday season. We hope you enjoy the upcoming break and we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on **Monday January 8th**.

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

## DRINKING WATER TESTING & DRINKING WATER FIXTURE SIGNAGE

Ontario is continuing to protect children's health with new regulation changes aimed at improving drinking water testing in child care centres and schools to minimize children's exposure to lead.



New amendments to Ontario Regulation 243/07 that took effect July 1, 2017, now require lead testing within these facilities for all fixtures used to provide drinking water and/or prepare food or drink for children under 18. There is a three-year period to test at elementary schools and child care centres, and a five-year period to complete testing at secondary schools.

Ontario Regulation 243/07 also requires testing to measure the presence of lead in drinking water against the provincial drinking water quality standard of 10 micrograms per litre, based on a national guideline set by Health Canada.

As we go through testing each year at Allan Greenleaf School you may notice stickers around certain sinks in the school. Any water fixture that is meant to provide water for consumption or for food preparation will be clearly labelled with a sign illustrating that the water is provided for drinking purposes. Water fountains will not have these signs as their intended purpose is for drinking.

## THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS



To the many volunteers who have given their time to our school we thank you! Your efforts in supporting the classrooms, driving to field trips or extra-curricular events, helping with fundrais-

ing or in a variety of ways around the school are greatly appreciated! It is through the efforts of many that help make us a great place for students!



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 1-PA Day
- Dec. 4-WDHS Band Workshop
- Dec. 5-Gr. 5 Trip-Crawford Lake
- Dec. 7-Gr. 1 Trip-Mountsberg
- Dec. 13-Gr. 5-8 Trip-Joseph & the Amazing Dream Coat
- Dec. 14-Co-ed Volleyball Tournament at WDHS
- Dec. 15-Gr. 2-3 Trip-Westfield
- Dec. 19-Concert band Alexander Place
- Dec. 20 & 21-Holiday Assemblies
- Dec. 25-Jan. 5-Christmas Break Inclusive

## FOOD WITH GRACE

We would like to share with you a letter from Food with Grace:



To the Students of Allan A. Greenleaf School:

Thank you to all the students and teachers that held the fantastic Halloween Food Drive. All of the food has been weighed, and WOW - 663 pounds of food was collected by your students to Scare Hunger! You should be very proud of your accomplishments. It will go a long way to feed those in need. There was such a large volume of food that we have been able to share with the greater community that is in need.



### THE GATE

As you may have noticed on the playground, we have a gate! We are thrilled that this gate has been installed earlier than anticipated to

support the safety outdoor education programming of some of our special needs students. At Greenleaf, we take pride in our warm and welcoming environment and therefore, continue to welcome parents on our playground, before and after school.

## AFTER SCHOOL PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS

As many of you are already aware, our office administrators Ms. Frasson and Ms. Posavad work very hard to support our staff and students. We realize that emergencies do arise, but please be aware that depending on what may be happening in the school and in the office, we cannot guarantee communication of changes in afterschool pick-up arrangements if calling after 3:00 pm. Please ensure that children are clear before they leave the house in the morning what the plan is for the end of the day. A Reminder that our office hours are from 8:30 to 4:00 pm. Although administrators are often in the office after 4:00, phones are not answered after this time. Thank you for your understanding.



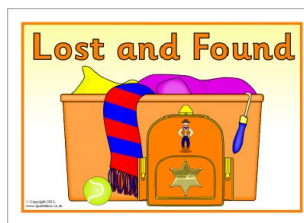
## "VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: KINDNESS

You are practicing **KINDNESS** when you notice when someone or something needs care. Use your imagination to think of things that give others happiness. Find out what habits harm the earth and choose kinder ways to live. When you are tempted to be cruel, to criticize or tease, decide not to do it. Speak kindly instead. Greet people kindly. Take good care of your pets.



*I am kind. I look for ways to help others. I show kindness to any person or animal I see. I do all I can to take care of the earth.*

## LOST AND FOUND



Is your child missing some items of clothing? We have accumulated a large number of items in our "Lost and Found" bin over the course of the term. These items will be laid out so that students can take a look to see if any items belong to them before Dec. 22. Following

this date, they will be given to charity. If you are at the school over the next couple of weeks, please make sure to take a look. Also, a reminder to please label all items that come to school so that lost items can be returned to your child easily.

## DOGS ON THE PLAYGROUND

Once again, we are appealing to our school community to help us keep our playground dog free. We have been hearing rumours that there are many dogs on our playground after hours. The playground is a play space for children, not a dog park. Thank you for support in this area.



Tues Dec 12  
& Dec 19

\*first day orders due by  
Dec 10



### Lunchie's Holiday Specials!

**Traditional Holiday Lunch...\$6.25**  
Roasted Turkey Breast with Mashed Potato  
Corn, Stuffing & Gravy

**Festive Chicken Meal...\$5.75**  
Chicken Fingers, Mashed Potatoes,  
Corn & Gravy

**Fa La La French Toast...\$5.50**  
French Toast with Turkey Sausage  
Syrup & Fruit

**Holiday Confetti Shortbread Cookie...\$1.50**

Visit [www.thelunchlady.ca](http://www.thelunchlady.ca) to login or set up an account.  
Look for **LUNCHIE'S HOLIDAY LUNCH** in the PICK MENU list beside the students name.  
Your Lunch Lady is [chrissy@thelunchlady.ca](mailto:chrissy@thelunchlady.ca)  
Gluten Free, Halal & Vegetarian and more options available.

## SMOKING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

As part of the Ontario Tobacco Act, we must remind our community several times per year that there is no smoking permitted anywhere on school property. This includes the school parking lot and all playground areas. Please ensure



that you dispose of your lit cigarette before entering onto school property.

Thank you for your co-operation with this Municipal by-law.

## SNOW CLEARING AND SALTING OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Staff from the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board will clear, salt and/or sand the following areas:

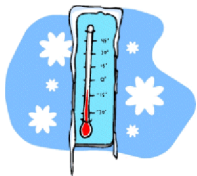


- The walkways from the City sidewalk to the school
- The school steps
- Ramps to schools
- An area outside of entrances and Fire Exit Doors
- Fire Exit stairs and ramps

When there is an accumulation of 5 cm of snow, parking lots and sidewalks are plowed by approved contractors arranged through Facilities Management. General salting and sanding of the parking lot is also done by contracted staff prior to the commencement of the school day when deemed necessary by the Facility Management staff. Head Caretakers may salt or sand isolated areas on the parking lot on an as needed basis.

## COLD WEATHER AND OUTDOOR PLAY

Time spent outdoors is an integral part of the school day. Children benefit from fresh air and exercise.



With the Canadian climate, time spent outside could mean anything from applying sunscreen to donning extra mittens and a hat, depending on the season. In the winter, it's important children come to school prepared for the cold. Boots, mittens or gloves and

hats should be worn and it's a good idea to provide extra mittens, socks, etc. in the event they are needed.

The City of Hamilton's Public Health and Community Services Department recommends individuals stay indoors when the temperature drops below minus 15 degrees Celsius without wind chill.

## SNOWBALLS

As the snow season begins full force, we must remind all of our students about the dangers of throwing snowballs. In ensuring that all of our students are safe at all times we must insist on the age old rule of NO SNOWBALLS at any time.



If parents could please review this important rule with their children at home it would be most appreciated.

## CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL & BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

The decision to cancel School and Board Administrative Operations is often a difficult call to make.



Please be assured that the decision to remain open or to close is always made with the safety and security of our students and staff in mind. In the event of inclement weather, our Transportation

Department advises our carriers to drive predetermined routes to assess the condition of the roads. This is done between 4:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. The drivers report back to the carriers and HWDSB begins to receive reports between 5:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. In the meantime, our Transportation Department is verifying the weather forecast through our local media outlets as well as contacting the City of Hamilton Works Department to determine where possible what roads have been cleared or when they are expected to be serviced. The decision to close our schools is made in conjunction with our colleagues at the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board based on relevant information at that time. School Boards across Ontario have varying policies about the cancellation of schools. At HWDSB, the cancellation of transportation is linked to the cancellation of School and Board Administrative Operations. The cancellation of transportation immediately triggers the closure of our schools. For more information on the Cancellation of School and Board Administrative Operation, please check the Board website. The HWDSB



has a voice-activated message system that allows the Board to send out messages to all students in the School Board. On days when the decision is made to close schools due to unsafe weather, the System will send out a telephone message to every household in the school. Please remember, as a parent/guardian you always have the choice on whether or not to send your child to school.

**Hamilton Wentworth District School Board School Closure Hotline (905) 521-2535.**

**Other sources include:**

**CHCH TV, CHML Radio, K-Lite FM Radio**

*Please **do not** phone the school to ask if schools are open as when schools are closed there is no staff at school to answer telephones.*

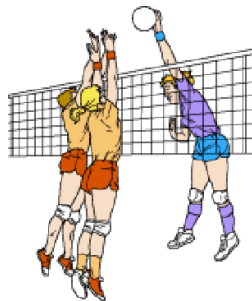
## PLAYGROUNDS WILL NOT BE PLOWED OR OTHERWISE CLEARED.

Head Caretakers will check the condition of the grounds early in the morning and during the school day to sand and/or salt isolated slippery areas that may occur due to changing temperatures. Students should take extra caution when walking onto and leaving from school grounds. Caution must also be taken when playing on school grounds when conditions are slippery. Principals may decide, dependent on weather and playground conditions, to have indoor recess and nutrition breaks.



## SPORTS UPDATE

Congratulations to our volleyball teams! Students in grades 6-8 enjoyed a season of team building while honing their volleyball skills. Volleyball continues for the senior teams as they head off to a friendly tournament at WDHS on Thursday, December 14. The tournament is open to all the Flamborough schools, as we look toward transition activities in the New Year.



Basketball tryouts will be starting soon! Scouting has already begun as some of our students come out to play some pick up basketball during breaks.



Our European handball league (Gr7-8) is in full swing! Two games are played daily during nutrition breaks as teams face off.



## CODING

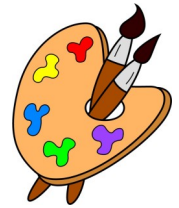
Greenleaf is once again immersing our students in coding! Students in Grades 3 and up have been challenging themselves with coding activities! We are using simple block coding, and with the older grades, scratch & java script. Students are enjoying the opportunity to learn something new.



Visit <https://code.org/> @ home to continue coding.

## ART CLUB

Art club is in full swing! Students in grades 2-3 meet regularly to hone their artistic talents. In grades 6-8 a student run Art Club meets twice a week to express their creativity.



## SKIPPING

Heart pumping skipping club as started up once again at Greenleaf. Students in skipping club not only have their hearts racing as they jump—they are also learning and practicing skipping tricks and routines! We can't wait to see some of their fancy footwork as they jump rope!

## CONCERT BAND

Concert band is practicing festive holiday tunes for our Holiday Assemblies. They are also going to visit Alexander Place on December 19th to spread holiday cheer! Coming up on Dec. 4th they travel to WDHS to participate in music workshops. They will have the unique opportunity to play with all the other Flamborough concert bands as they will gather in the gym at the end of their sessions to play in a mass band!



## ECO TEAM

Interested students in Grades 1 and up have joined together in forming Greenleaf's Eco Team. Their mission: Keeping Greenleaf Green! They have begun by collecting and dispersing milkweed pods/ seeds to help expand our monarch butterfly habitat. They are also helping the grade 6 recyclers, by learning what goes where, and teaching their peers!

## TOY DRIVE

Allan A Greenleaf's Annual Toy Drive begins on Monday, December 4th as the holiday season gears up. We would like to celebrate the season by spreading holiday cheer with kindness and generosity! Please consider donating a new, unwrapped toy to our Drive. We will be collecting toys from December 4th—Dec 12th.

