

## PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Happy Spring AAG families!

This is a very busy time of the school year as we plan wonderful opportunities for students to celebrate their learning, prepare for EQAO to take place next month for our grade 3 and 6 students, strive to meet our learning goals to support student achievement, and begin to plan for next school year. During the month of April, an important goal is to review our secure schools protocol. Each week in April, we will be reviewing one protocol with all staff and students. Here is the schedule for the month:

Week 1- Hold and Secure  
Week 2- Shelter in Place  
Week 3- Bomb Threat  
Week 4- Lockdown Drill

For more information on these protocols, please visit the board website:  
<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Secure-Schools-Protocol.pdf>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

## JUMP2MATH

A huge thank you to School Council for organizing the Jump2Math event that took place on Tuesday March 26th. It was wonderful to see so many students and their families enjoying a free night of Math fun! Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this event such a success. Thank you to all of the families who attended and engaged in this wonderful community event!



*Ms. L. Snell & Ms. D. Barlow*

## SCHOOL ORGANIZATION FOR 2019-2020

At the end of April, we will receive our school organization according to our projected school enrolment. This information will be shared in our last newsletter on the last day of school in June. Please be aware that even once this is shared, things can change. The reason for this is that staffing of schools takes place late in the school year. Over the summer, a school can lose a teacher to retirement, leave of absence, maternity leave or physical move. Sometimes a loss or increase of students over the summer requires us to move students into another class to balance numbers.

Next month, teachers will be meeting in order to build classes for next year. Our staff spends a tremendous amount of time and energy creating class lists. Staff teams collaborate to create these lists. They review social, emotional and academic development. In addition, they consider learning styles, the number of males and females, balancing academic performance and leadership skills, which students need to be together, and who needs to be separated. As teachers differentiate instruction on a daily basis, requests to have students removed from split classes will not be granted. Any other parental requests/concerns regarding student placement must be put in writing and submitted to the office before **May 12th**. Only requests that are made for "sound educational reasons" will be considered. Parental input **does not** include "lobbying" for a class, and/or a particular teacher. Please note that any input received after **May 12th** will not be considered. We are attempting to make all class placement decisions before the end of this school year in order to allow us to get off to a smooth start in September. Waiting until after school starts to ask for changes is very disruptive to all concerned and therefore all requests at that time will be denied unless a reorganization of classes takes place.

We thank you for your patience and support as we work through this process.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PINK



On Wednesday, April 10, 2019, staff and students across HWDSB will join millions of people worldwide who wear pink on the International Day of Pink.

We do this because we want to make a statement that we stand against all forms of bullying. It also reminds us that when we stand up and speak out, we can make a difference.

The International Day of Pink began in Nova Scotia when two high school students saw a classmate being bullied for wearing a pink shirt

The two students intervened, but wanted to do more. A few days later they were able to get their entire school to wear pink. That school sent a message that together we can stop bullying.

Bullying can be a problem in our schools and in our wider community. Bullying can happen to anyone, anywhere. Collectively, we can stand up and speak out against bullying. We will continue to support anti-bullying efforts that make our schools safe and welcoming places for all of our students. Please wear pink on Wednesday, April 10th.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

April 5-Gr. 7 Immunizations  
 April 10-International Day of Pink-Wear Pink  
 April 10-Gr. 3's Scientists in the Classroom  
 April 12-Beach Day  
 April 15-26-Plastic Grab Bag Challenge  
 April 16-Sr. Swim Team Practice  
 April 16-17-Candy-grams on Sale  
 April 18-Jump Rope for Heart Assembly  
 April 18-Cake Raffle  
 April 19-Good Friday-No School  
 April 22-Holiday  
 April 23-Sr. Swim Team Practice  
 April 23-World Book Day  
 April 24-Gr. 3's Scientists in the Classroom  
 April 29-Greenpeace Assembly

**DATES TO  
REMEMBER**

### “VIRTUE OF THE MONTH: COMMITMENT

You are practicing **commitment** when you are carefully thinking about what you want to do, deciding to do it, then giving it 100%, holding nothing back. You don't allow problems to stop you. You go the extra mile. You only make promises you can keep. Being a committed friend is choosing your friends wisely, then sticking together through good times or bad. Commitment makes you trustworthy. It leads you to success.

*I practice commitment. I make good decisions and give my all to whatever I do. I keep my agreements. I am a faithful friend..*

## OUR ATTENDANCE REPORTING SYSTEM IS CHANGING...

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school every day. To improve



our safe arrival process, we are adding a new system that will make it easier for you to report – and respond to – your child's school absences. Once it is deployed in spring 2019, SafeArrival will let you use a website, mobile app, or an interactive toll-free phone number to report an absence in advance. This will save time when a school needs to verify student attendance, and when notifying families of unexpected or unplanned absences. An email address is required to log in to SafeArrival and to receive notifications. HWDSB will be contacting by phone all families that did not list an email address in their child's student record. This new, automated SafeArrival process is part of the SchoolMessenger notification system from West, a company used by many Canadian school boards. There is also a new SchoolMessenger mobile app for iOS and Android devices. It will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to make it convenient for you to report future absences. You will soon receive more details on how to sign up for SafeArrival, as we look forward to all families taking part. Learn more about SafeArrival at [bit.ly/safearrivalHWDSB](http://bit.ly/safearrivalHWDSB)

## PROLOGUE TO THE PERFORMING ARTS



Chris McKhool performed for students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 before March Break. His songs about Canada and nature also taught us about the importance of protecting our Earth and that our actions can make a difference. Students enjoyed singing along and participating in his songs.

After March Break, students in Grades 4-8 enjoyed a performance by the Kahurangi Maori Dance group from New Zealand, who shared with us songs, music, and dances of South Pacific cultures, including Maori people from New Zealand, as well as from Tahiti, Hawaii and Samoa.

Thank you to parent council for funding these fantastic assemblies, and to parents who support their initiatives. These assemblies were a great opportunity to extend our learning about the arts, while learning about other global topics as well.

## APRIL-CELEBRATING THE ENVIRONMENT!

**April 15-26th Greenleaf's Second Annual Plastic Grab Bag collection. We will be collecting clean grocery plastic bags during these two weeks.**

- Acceptable for the challenge: carry out plastic shopping bags.
- Non-acceptable for this challenge: food storage bags, clear produce bags, frozen food bags, milk bags, snack bags, sandwich bags, drycleaning bags, resealable bags, plastic film packaging, or anything that is not a carry out plastic shopping bag.
- Walmart is collecting the bags, and Trex, the world's largest manufacturer of wood-alternative decking products made from recycled plastic, will process and recycle the bags in North America, making them into the garbage bags, planter pots and plastic lumber.
- We encourage families to use reusable tote bags when shopping. We recognize that collections like the Plastic Grab Bag Challenge help collect bags for recycling and save them from landfill or as garbage pollution.

**Please send in clean plastic bags to your child's classroom beginning April 15th.**

### April 29th: Greenpeace Assemblies

Students in Grades 1-8 will enjoy assemblies by Greenpeace on April 29. Students in grades 1-2 will learn about environmental awareness, and students in grades 3-8 will learn about plastics and their effects on the environment.

### S.T.O.P. - Students Taking On Plastics

Greenleaf's S.T.O.P. group would like to renew their commitment to preventing single use plastics, encouraging Greenleaf and the community to rethink the items they use, and replace them with reusable items. This includes:

- limiting plastic use for family get togethers, class special events
- using reusable items for school special events (like the upcoming Dirt and Worms sale by student council)
- encouraging students to bring and refill reusable water bottles
- encouraging families to use washable and reusable containers for lunch items to reduce waste at school

We appreciate the S.T.O.P. group's commitment to helping us rethink our plastic use!

### Greenleaf's Bin Busters and Recycling

There is a committed group of Grade 4 students who check our recycling bins every week, to help make sure our recycling is free from food and garbage. Greenleaf can accept plastic bottles, cups and lunchable-type food trays pop cans and paper items. Greenleaf's recycling does not accept glass or plastic bags. Straws, foil lids and straws are garbage. During this month, our bin busters will be reminding students of what is accepted by Greenleaf's recycling program. Thank you to students in 6A who collect Greenleaf's recycling, and to the Bin Busters who help keep our recycling free from contamination.

### JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Jump Rope for Heart is coming soon! Greenleaf again is participating in Jump Rope for Heart to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Our kickoff assembly will begin on April 17, after which students will receive donation envelopes and instructions for online fundraising. There are many thank you prizes for various fundraising levels, as well as several incentives for participation. Our Jump Rope Day is May 17. All donations, both online and in envelopes, are due by May 17.



### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FESTIVAL

Many students who participated in their classes writing and presenting speeches. A big congratulations to all students who participated in our school finals in the junior and intermediate divisions. Good luck to Sophie T. (gr 4) and Sander S. (gr 8) who will be participating in the next level of the Oral Communications Festival on April 24th.



### CAKE RAFFLE

On Thursday, April 18, we are hoping that families will donate cakes or other delicious treats for our cake raffle! All the cakes brought in will be included in the raffle. We ask that the cakes be **nut free** please. We would appreciate it if you could label the items (e.g. chocolate cake, vanilla icing). Also please ensure that the cake arrives in a container that is easily transported by a child. Containers cannot be returned as the winner needs to carry the cake home! We will be accepting cake donations on Wednesday April 17th and Thursday April 18th. Students can purchase 5 tickets for a toonie, with 15 tickets being the maximum. All proceeds will go towards Earth Day Initiatives in our school. **\*Parents/Guardians-please note that we cannot guarantee that the cakes will be nut safe\*.**

