

The Greenleaf Gazette

September 2023 Newsletter
Volume 23 Issue 1



A Message from Our Principals...

We hope that everyone has had a wonderful start to the school year!

To our students and families who were a part of our community last year, welcome back! To our students and families who are beginning at Greenleaf, we are thrilled to have you join our school community!

We would like to welcome back all returning staff members, as well as introduce new members of our school team:

Ms. Gortcyh (DECE)
Mr. Gould (Grade 2 & French)
Ms. Neil (Grade 2/3)
Mrs. Leroy (Grade 3)
Ms. Westoby (Grade 4/5)
Mrs. Harris (Grade 5)
Mr. Hewitson (Grade 5/6)
Mrs. Akamhuber (Grade 8)

We are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead! Education plays a vital role in each child's development and a strong partnership between home and school is essential. Together, we can encourage our students to achieve their very best in academics and citizenship (Respect, Responsibility, Kindness). We value the strong relationships with our community and know that together we are better! Thank you for partnering with us to support our students.

Our wishes for a great year!

Mr. Yull & Mr. Reid

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEBSITE!

This is our only print copy of the newsletter. Stay up to date! All school communications including newsletters will be blasted through our site.

Dates to Remember...

September 21st—Meet the Staff
5:30- 7pm, (Book Fair, Fro Yo, Popcorn & Athletic/ Spirit Wear)

September 20th—Sr Boys 3-Pitch
22nd—Terry Fox Run

September 26th—Jr Boys 3-Pitch

September 27th—Sr Girls 3-Pitch

September 28th—Jr Girls 3-Pitch

September 28th —School Council 6 pm in
the Library

Popcorn Thursdays (\$2.50) & FroYo Fridays
(\$4) begin the last week of September

* please check our online [Events Calendar](#) and
subscribe to get all updates to your Inbox!*

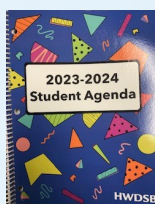
School Council

Our first School Council meeting will be held on September 28th at 6 pm in the library. School Council is a great way to learn about all of the initiatives happening at the school, to contribute to initiatives and offer suggestions to the administration about operations at Allan A. Greenleaf. All parent/guardians are welcome. Parents can nominate themselves by filling out a [nomination form](#) and returning it to the school **by Sept. 28th. Please note, you must be in attendance at this meeting in order to be elected.** We are always looking for new people with new ideas to add to our council that works at enriching the school experience for our students. Nomination forms are only completed for parents wishing to be voting members or hold an elected position.



Student Agendas

Each student between the grades 1-6 will receive a student agenda. Although the first agenda is free of charge, if a student loses it they will be required to replace it at a cost of \$10.00. The agenda is a tool used to assist students with organization, and homework completion. Although it can be used to assist with home/school communication, if you have any questions, concerns or information to share with staff, feel free to connect by phone, anytime.



Calling & Visiting the School



Staff are always willing to talk with you regarding any concerns you may have about your child's education. The best time to make contact is after instructional hours as it is almost impossible for staff to leave their classrooms unattended during the school day. Please also be observant of the fact that schools are very busy places. If you wish to see a teacher or administrator at the school, please call and make an appointment, and we will gladly find the time to meet with you. Dropping in to the school with the expectation that a teacher or administrator is available to meet with you may lead to disappointment if the individual is not available. Also, when visiting the school, you are reminded that you must **report to the office and check in with the school Administrative Team. No adults are permitted to interrupt classroom instruction by visiting teachers or dropping off children at the classroom door after the 9:15 bell rings to begin classes for the day.** We thank you in advance for your cooperation with these very important items.

School Cash Online

[HWDSB's School Cash Online](https://www.hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com) is a convenient online payment system for families to pay for activities, events and school items without handing in cash or cheques. Available at all HWDSB schools, School Cash Online is used at our school as a way to help teachers focus on instruction instead of order forms. Parents also no longer need to worry about their young children bringing cash to school. Once parents sign up for an account and connect the student(s) they will be paying for, the account will move with the student(s) as they progress to other HWDSB schools. Even parents who are not able to make online payments through their bank are encouraged to sign up, because School Cash Online can let parents know about upcoming events, sends email reminders about payment due dates and can accept credit cards. Access School Cash Online at [hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com](https://www.hwdsb.schoolcashonline.com).

Life Threatening Allergies



While many of us have an allergy of some sort, a significant number of people have severe reactions to food, insect stings or products such as latex that can cause anaphylaxis—a life threatening swelling of the airways that can lead to suffocation. At Greenleaf, we have both students and several staff members that have life threatening or severe reactions to one or more allergens. Below is a list of life-threatening allergies: peanuts, sesame seeds, dairy (milk, cheese, yogurt), kiwi fruit, eggs, oranges, pineapple, tree nuts (walnuts, cashews, almonds, etc.), mango, seafood (fish, crab, shrimp, bivalves), peas. While there is a large range of foods that can cause allergic reactions, peanuts, nuts and dairy products often pose the most significant risk of causing anaphylaxis. Please check with your child's teacher to see if there are significant allergies in the class. Please keep in mind that students spend time in common areas such as our library, the gym, music room and our resource rooms. And, of course, there are the outside areas where all students play. Contact with an allergen on surfaces can be enough to cause a reaction (i.e. some children do not even have to eat a product containing an allergen to have a reaction). Thank you for your support in keeping students and staff safe.

Medications

Students who had medical forms filled out for our staff to distribute medication will have to have new forms filled out this year. These forms expire at the end of each school year. Please submit these to the office.



Student Information Forms

Please log on the parent portal and ensure that you have completed all the information forms for each of your children in the school. Many teachers may also send home additional information forms for daily classroom use. We would ask that you please ensure that all the forms are filled with the most current information. We will be sending home a hard copy of the "Emergency Medical Student Information Form" and request that it be completed and returned ASAP. Thank you for your prompt attention



Volunteers

Thanks to all of you who had the opportunity to volunteer last year. Your support was greatly appreciated. A reminder that new volunteers must be interviewed, provide a Vulnerable Sector Screening Criminal Reference Check (CRC) for review, and that documentation must be completed for each volunteer as outlined in the Policy Directive. All returning volunteers must sign an annual offence declaration and should begin updating their CRC's before the three year window closes on their last check. In addition, be aware that even to volunteer for the occasional school trip or drive to games, a CRC is required. Please do not allow these new policies to discourage you from volunteering. We need volunteers to support all aspects of student life. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc are all welcome. Any time you can volunteer is appreciated! Please contact the office for more information.



Transportation

The Board has a very comprehensive Transportation Policy that we at the school are bound by. Any student who is eligible for transportation will have received notification from the bus company during the summer. If you did not receive details about transportation in the mail, your child is not eligible for transportation at this time. If your child received Courtesy Transportation last year, you will be required to apply for Courtesy Transportation again this year. Each year we have a different number of available courtesy seats. Application forms for these seats can be picked up at the school office. Our office administration will be allocating these extra spots through the month of September. Parents must make arrangements to transport their children to school until they are notified that there is a seat available for their child. We will not be able to accommodate all requests for Courtesy Transportation as we only have a limited number of seats available to us. Thank you for understanding the limitations of the transportation policy. If you have any questions about transportation please contact our office staff.



Absent?? Please remember to use our SafeArrival system to report your child's absence or tardiness or call the school! This helps our school ensure the safety of our students quickly.

Parking, Picking Up & Dropping Off

Our families and community are reminded to honour the NO STOPPING area in the front of the school this year. In the excitement of the new year, there is an increase in people stopping their cars in this area to drop students off. Please remember to park the car in a designated parking spot and walk your child over to the school using the clearly marked crosswalk. Please refrain from using our disabled parking spots unless it pertains to you, even if you're stopping for "just a minute." **The area in front of the school is a NO STOPPING zone.**



Families are also reminded to drop their children off at the black gate in the playground area in the mornings and wait there in the afternoons for pick up. We have many excited students running around and enjoying the last beautiful days of summer with their peers and for their safety we would like to ease congestion in our pick up areas.

Emergency Procedures & Fire Drills

As you may recall from your own days in school, **FIRE DRILLS** are conducted regularly throughout the year to help ensure that students and staff understand clearly, how to respond in the event of a real fire. In addition to these practices, we are now required to practice Emergency Procedures (i.e., shelter in place, hold and secure, and lock-down). **HOLD AND SECURE** is used when the school is secured due to an ongoing situation outside, not related to the school, that requires all persons to remain in the building (e.g., bank robbery near a school). In these instances the school continues to function normally, with the exterior doors locked until the situation is resolved. **LOCKDOWN** procedures are used when there is a violent incident or threat of serious violence within the school, or in relation to the school. The threat is inside the school, or is on school property, and poses an immediate threat to the students and staff. In these instances all movement within school and into and out of the school is restricted. These procedures will be reviewed with students and practiced over the course of the school year. Should your child have any questions or concerns, please reassure them that these practices are intended to help keep everyone safe, and we hope to never need them.



Greenleaf Sports Update

Do you ever have dreams of playing in the World Series? Hitting homers out of the park? Catching the winning pop fly?! If you do, consider trying out for one of Allan A Greenleaf's 3-pitch teams. Throughout the month of September, Gryphons in grades 5-8 have the amazing opportunity to play on this year's junior or senior 3-pitch teams! Your child may tryout for these teams if desired and possibly be chosen to be apart of one. They will get the chance to participate in a one – day tournament and experience a day full of fun. The junior tournaments are on September 26th(boys) and September 28th(girls). Senior tournaments are September 20th(boys) and September 27th(girls). Please remember your permission forms. Good luck! ~ by *Bella and Dana*



Looking Forward to the Year Ahead

2024's Grade 8s have started the year with many things to look forward to along with goals they each have for this year. This year is a big year for the Grade 8s as it is the last year they will be spending in Allan A Greenleaf. They will want to achieve many things. A common goal could be to get better grades throughout the year for high school preparation. A goal Tanvi Sai in 8A has is to participate in more extracurricular activities. She has already joined Green team. In Grade 8, there are many opportunities for them. If there is a club, join. If there's a sport team, try out. As for the things we would look forward to, there are a lot. In my opinion, one of the biggest would be graduation and going to see the high school. I am sure all the Grade 8s have goals as individuals and will work hard to achieve them throughout this school year. ~ by *Ameek*



Greenleaf is an Eco School

We are a certified Eco School as a direct result of our school's environmental efforts. Please look for information in our school newsletter about our school's initiatives and information. We will also have a bulletin board outside the office sharing this information and highlighting environmental activities and education at Greenleaf.

Recycling



Grade 6 students collect paper recycling each week. Please remember that Greenleaf's recycling is not as extensive as residential recycling, and is more focused on papers and cardboard.

We encourage families to plan lunches with minimal packaging waste for garbage or recycling by sending in reusable food containers and cutlery. This helps minimize our waste at school, as well as improper recycling. Students can use classroom sinks, fountains and the water bottle filling station near the fountains to fill water bottles.

Go Gryphons Go!

Another school year is upon us and once again Greenleaf will be busy with Phys. Ed. classes, intramurals and school teams! During Phys. Ed., all students in K to 8 will be expected to wear proper running shoes to ensure safe and full participation. It is recommended that all students have a pair of indoor running shoes that are kept at school.

Greenleaf school t-shirts and spirit wear will be available for ordering at our Meet the Staff event and are an excellent option for Phys. Ed. class.

Greenleaf's Terry Fox Run Friday September 22nd

The 2023 Terry Fox School Run is set for this month and we are so excited to be taking part! Our event will be taking place on Friday September 22nd. We need your help to boost our student fundraising. This event supports vital cancer research while also building incredible school spirit for our students. The Terry Fox Foundation has created an online fundraising page customized for our school. Don't delay, let's start fundraising today! **Donate online at: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/33563>**. Click the [link](#) to donate or search for our school name at terryfox.org. Receipts are issued immediately to donors by email from the Terry Fox Foundation. We are very excited to be a part of this year's Terry Fox event. This is our opportunity to "Try Like Terry" and go the distance for this year's event. Please join us to support cancer research while building incredible school spirit for all of our students. Thank you in advance for your support!



**THE TERRY FOX
FOUNDATION**