



# Gator Gazette

## February 2025

### Principal's Message

Hello Billy Green Families!

The month of February is upon us and soon the birds will chirp once again in the sun. Here at Billy Green we have been focused on our goal of supporting student well-being in order to develop positive achievement in literacy and math. Our primary students are focused heavily on learning strategies needed to decode texts and become readers. Our junior students are engaging in math conversations to explain thinking, and our intermediate students continue to build their understanding of Human Rights and the conditions they need to learn in a collaborative space.

We are also focusing on understanding how you our parent and caregiver community feel supported and engaged by us. Stay tuned for a survey where we are looking for your voice.

Our next school council meeting will be held this **February 4th at 630 pm**. All are welcome.

Student report cards are being prepared for our students and families. Please review your child's report and identify strengths and next steps for goal setting moving forward.

Thank you for everything you do to support Billy Green.

Sincerely,

Ms. S. Beatrice



### Upcoming Dates February

Feb 4 - School Council

Feb 6 – Holocaust Speaker grade 6a, 67a, 8A

Feb 6 – Camp Wahanowin Parent Info Session 5:30pm

Feb 11 – Lockdown drill 2

Feb 13 – Intermediate CoEd Soccer Tournament

Feb 17 – Family Day – No School

Feb 26 – Pink Shirt Day

Feb 28 – PA Day – No School

- Kernels
- GLOW
- Big Brother & Sisters Mentorship
- Intramural Soccer

### Equity Corner: Supporting Mental Grit

Times are not easy for our youth and the world of technology and social media adds a different dynamic to their daily lives that we as the adults did not quiet experience. The world of our youth is instantaneous: **everything is fast and quick**. While there are benefits to this, there does come a time when the skills of **mental grit and stamina** don't always align with this fast-paced world. These skills are important because they relate to building **resilience, maintaining a positive mindset and pushing through challenges** – no matter how tough it feels. In a school setting, this might look like *taking the time to break down steps of what looks like a really long word problem, using feedback to produce a finished product that is edited in multiple ways, taking on a challenge of getting lost in a novel or pausing to think about a social situation before reacting*. In a fast-paced world, resilience and optimism need to be taught. Supporting students in developing the skills for resilience is something that occurs each day when we model breaking down steps, set reminders for available strategies, build in conversation about the type of classroom community we want to have. As a school community, it is important that these conversations continue. **Some strategies you can talk about at home are:** Reflecting on what can be done differently the next time, prompting question with “what do you think?” and reinforcing the idea that “missteps” are how we grow. It always take a community to support our youth and together we can support them to respond in a world that needs fast-paced thinking with perseverance too.





# Gator Gazette

## February 2025 Continued

### Nutrition Policy

A reminder that the HWDSB follows a nutrition policy as mandated by the Ministry. Please do not send in snacks/treats into the classroom unless it is permitted by the classroom teacher. If you wish to celebrate a milestone for your student, please feel free to share items such as pencils, erasers and stickers.



### Student Voice Committee: Pink Day

We are so very excited to announce our Student Voice Committee. The Committee is being led by Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Ott. This team of students is working hard to plan future spirit days and to support our school in getting Healthy Schools Certified. Their first task will be leading Pink Shirt Day on February 26<sup>th</sup>.



### Personal Device Policy



As you know, at Billy Green we follow the Ministry policy on personal device use. This means that personal devices such as personal iPads, cell phones can only be used with teacher's permission for the purpose of instruction. Recently, we have had a significant number of students using their devices without permission. What is more concerning is that students are using social media apps like SnapChat throughout the school day posting pictures of one another without permission and even posting pictures of educators. This is problematic as it is in breach of the Board's personal device policy and it also breach's policy regarding the use of social media in such a way that negatively impacts others or the school climate. **Please remind your child that the use of personal devices during the school day is not permitted and will lead to suspension.** Also, it is important that they understand the risks that apps like SnapChat can pose when they are invited into groups with others who they don't know. In March we will be welcoming Paul Davis, a social media expert, to speak with our junior and intermediate student.

### Congratulations to ....

In **December** we recognized students who demonstrated our values for Compassion, Trust, Dignity and Joy.

M Brown	L Hempstead	I Ames
M Young	Z Moffatt	Daniel O-A
H Ousso	D Purohit	J Raworth
R Ingham	O MacDonald	O Badiru
K Wade	Z Khan	E Rogers
D Phang	M Jancar	J Abraham
W Al Sarajbi	K Crockson	K Robson
S Banwait	G Toor	N Hempstead
B Ames	A Yatham	H Lobana
T Hardy	D Brintnell	N Tanabe
E Carruthers		

### School Council Update

We are delighted to say that after a successful trial run of our Subway Day in December, we will be continuing to run Subway Days once a month until the end of May!

Our next Subway Day will be February 26, and ordering will be open on School Cash Online on February 4 for two weeks. Thank you for support!



Stay Tuned...

Carnaval is coming...more info coming soon

