



Gator Gazette

October 2025

Principal's Message

Hello Billy Green Families!

Welcome to our First 2025-2026 edition of the Gator Gazette! September has been a busy start full of learning routines, making new friends and getting to know all of our educators. The students have shown maturity and care as we returned to our Billy Green family.

This month our classes focused on creating collaborative agreements for our classrooms. Discussions focused on knowing ourselves and understanding one another so that we can build expectations that help us to always feel like we belong. In the end, each class cocreated these agreements and have these posted in the classroom to remind us of our commitment.

We have also celebrated so many successes as we learned that compassion, trust, dignity and joy are the center of our school. We learned that compassion doesn't mean I need to understand what you are experiencing – but it does mean I can show heart for how you are feeling. We are very excited to recognize many students for our Be You Be Excellent awards as well.

Although we do love our school community, a smaller community meant that our school did have to reorganize. In many classes, students needed to be shifted to new classes. While change is hard, we will continue to support this transition and are confident that our students will thrive in their new classrooms.

We have many things to celebrate! Please take a read of our first Gazette!

Sincerely,

Ms. S. Beatrice



Upcoming Dates October

*These are accurate as of today's date.
Always check our website for our most up to date events.*

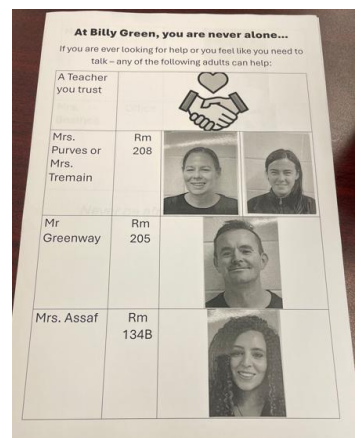
- Oct 2 – Senior Boys Vball Tryout
- Oct 3 – Picture day
- Oct 3 – Spirit Wear Order Deadline
- Oct 3 – Senior Girls Vball
- Oct 6 – Mad Science Kick Off Assembly
- Oct 7 – Fire Drill
- Oct 7 – Junior Swim Team Practice
- Oct 9 – Grades 3-8 Cross Country Meet
- Oct 9 – SK Visions Screening
- Oct 14 – Fire Drill
- Oct 14 – Junior Swim Practuce
- Oct 24 – PA Day No School

Ongoing throughout the month...

- Popcorn
- Game on
- Glow

Equity Corner: Creating Belonging

Over the last two years, we have placed a strong focus on supporting student well-being. We have gathered student voice to understand what students wanted to see in our building. This led to physical changes to our space. Last June, we again gathered student voice and asked what they needed to feel like they belonged at Billy Green. These voices have focused on ensuring there is a strong focus on mental health, that compassion drives how we act and that adults provide a safe space. As a staff, we spent time looking at our data in order to define goals for this academic year. This year, we are placing a strong focus on BELONGING by honouring the various voices in our spaces, creating collaborative agreements, and offering texts and tasks that give us insight into not only who we are but also into the experiences of others. As part of our goal, we have created the "You are never alone" chart for students to access when they feel like they need to speak to an adult but they are not sure who to go to. These are posted throughout the school.



Every Brick Belongs

In keeping with our focus on BELONGING, our students created individual profile bricks. The brick included their name and images of how they see themselves. These are displayed in our front entryway in order to reinforce that although we are uniquely us – we all fit into Billy Green where we come together to grow.





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Because you Asked...

Our monthly "because you asked" question was "What was your favorite thing about starting school when you were a kid?"



We Play Ball!

We are so incredibly proud of our junior Boys and Girls 3 pitch Teams who represented Billy Green so amazingly well! We received such positive feedback from onlookers about the maturity, sportsmanship and positivity our students showed. The Boys Team Brought home GOLD by having an undefeated day and scoring over 50 runs! Between sportsmanship and play – we are beyond proud of these students!!



PARKING Morning Entry

We have a very small parking lot and our priority is keeping our students safe as they enter into the playground in the morning. We ask for our families to support us in limiting traffic flow in the parking lot **by not using this during morning and afterschool entry** so that we can prioritize student safety and the entry of our staff and our busses as well. A reminder to please abide by street signs and be respectful to our community members. Kindly do not park on Paramount where it indicates no stopping or parking, and park on streets without blocking private driveways. Most of our school population lives in areas that are easily walkable, please consider using this mode in the morning. Thank you for your cooperation.



Reorganization NEW Classes

As I mentioned in my notice of September 19, each fall, the HWDSB reviews elementary student enrolment in schools and reorganizes staffing if actual enrolment differs from spring projections. It is typical for student enrolment to fluctuate. For our school, this resulted in a number of changes to our junior and FDK classes. This is never an easy process. We have planned a transition day for Thursday October 2nd so that students can meet their new teachers and classroom.

Please know that these decisions are made with careful consideration and respect for the needs of all students, and we are committed to making the transition as smooth as possible.

New classes begin on Friday October 3rd, 2025.

No Personal Devices

Thank you to our families and students for supporting the Ministry's direction to eliminate distractions in classroom. It is important that we work as a community to support our students in avoiding cell phone use during the school day. A reminder that cell phones are to be out of sight for the entire school day unless permission to use them for instructional purposes is given by the classroom educator. If you need to get a message to your child throughout the day, please direct your message to the main office who will then connect you with your child. Let's continue to work together to support engagement and well-being at Billy Green



Indigo for the LOVE OF READING

We are so incredibly fortunate to have a community as strong as we do! Thank you to all of our families who came to visit us at Indigo on Sunday September 28th. Even Billy the Gator was there to support. Your donations are helping us to reach our goal to support new books in our library and in the classrooms. It is still not too late to donate! You can do so by making a financial donation directly to Indigo Stoney Creek or you can purchase a pre-selected book that will be part of a classroom library. Every little bit helps!





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School Council 2025-2026

On Tuesday September 30th, we held our 2025-2026 School Elections for School Council. Thank you to all parents and caregivers who came to support our council. Minutes of the meeting can be accessed on our website at the following link: [School Council | Billy Green Elementary School](#)

A congratulations to our school council members:

Chair – Katrina Hempstead

Vice-Chair – Dejana Lucic

Secretary – Jen Brown

Treasurer – Christine Baxter

Teacher Representative – Tiffany Starr

Members at Large - Angelka Lazarevic, Sameera Mohammad, Brittani Spencer, Natasha Benson, Jenine Salim, Ombolanle Giwa

Even if you are not part of council, meetings are always open! Our next meeting will be **Tuesday November 4th at 6:30pm** in the library. All are welcome!

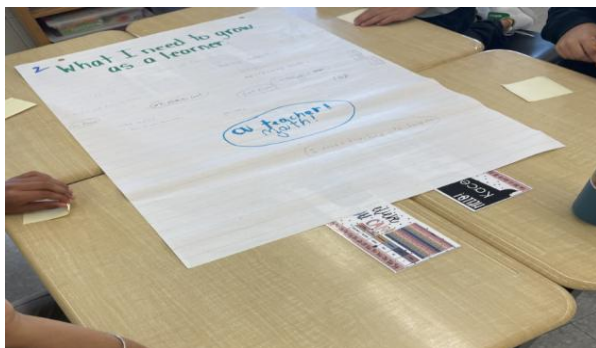
Understanding our Indigenous Relationships

A key focus at Billy Green is committing to understanding indigenous ways of being in knowing. This is part of our commitment to reconciliation where we learn from the past as a way to strengthen our future. This month Mrs. Lubertino's grade 7 class learned about the Pillars of the Palisade: where each of us is a pillar in our community playing an important role in the well-being of all of us a Billy Green. The values of peace, love, respect and friendship are pivotal to our palisade and guide us in showing compassion and creating a positive learning environment. Once students learned about the Pillars of the Palisade they created their own banner that hangs proudly at their classroom door to remind everyone of the space they are walking into each day.



Check this out!

Mrs. Ott's class had a busy month of September as they worked together to create their own Collaborative Classroom Agreement. They worked in teams to identify first what makes them feel safe and what it feels like, sounds like, looks like. They then used this information to create their agreement. The purpose of this agreement is so that they all feel like they Belong in their space.

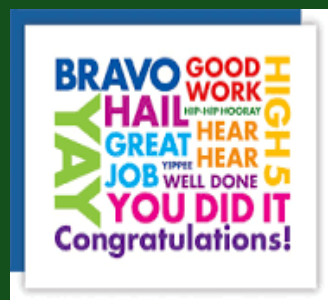


Congratulations!

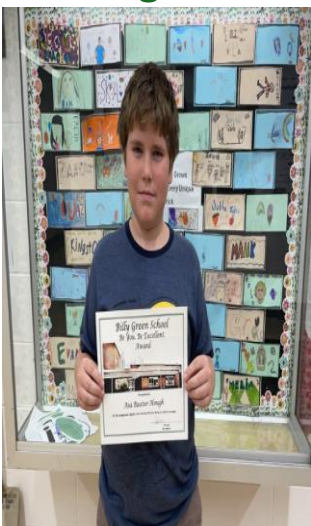
To our Be You Be Excellent Award Winners for the month of September who demonstrated dignity, trust, compassion & joy!

Ivy 3A
Mason 3A
Satya 12A
Brody 12A
Mouaz 56A
Yinka 56A
Keira 1A
Nathan 1A
Ella JSC
Kate JSC
Evie 12B
Oliver 12B
Armaan 67A
Naomi 67A
Sonita JSA
Milla JSA
Heer 34A
Sukhmehar 34A

Rahaf 23A
Leah 23A
Sadie 7A
Rylan 7A
Olayiwola 4A
Ryleigh 4A
Kacey W FSL
Samara D FSL



Way to go Asa! Showing Trust!



When we talk about showing trust we understand this to mean being a risk taker and looking out for others. This month Asa did just that for Billy Green. Asa is part of the 26th Hamilton Scout Group. Every three years members of the group are asked to complete a project that helps the community. Asa decided to run a bottle drive where he went to friends and neighbours collecting empty bottles. He then turned these in to make \$201.10. Asa has donated these raised funds to our Indigo Love of Reading Fundraiser so that new books for classrooms and the library can be purchased.