

The Glenwood Gazette

Glenwood School

150 Lower Horning Road

January 2014

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would like to begin the New Year (2014) as I do each year, by thanking our families and school staff for teaming together to make good things happen for the wonderful students of Glenwood School. Thank-you to all of our families for the many thoughtful words, greetings and gifts received over the last week of school in December. They were certainly appreciated (though not necessary). We wish for each of you and your family members good health, happiness and all the best throughout the year, 2014, and beyond.

As I look to our parents, I would like to thank you for your guidance and responsiveness to the messages we send home and the special events that are held for students. And as I turn to the staff, I must thank them for their creativity and the energy they put into making "fun things" happen at Glenwood. Let me assure you that our students have some wonderful activities and experiences at school. From special assemblies, dances, movies to special activities both in class and around the building there is so much happening. The front hall is lined with pictures of students engaged in all kinds of exciting things and the smiles on their faces tell the story...They're having fun!

Many of the special shows and presentations that have been enjoyed are thanks to School Council which has worked so hard to raise the money, and then make it available to invite quality performers and presentations into the school. Thank-you to Sara Rogers, Elaine Renault, Trudy Bruulsema, Tara Fowler, Lori Gamble, and our teacher representatives, Jane Jones and Cathy Rowe for their participation and efforts. We also have a number of others to whom we should extend thanks, including the spouses of members, their families and many supportive friends.

Christmas Blizzard (formerly called our Shopping Spree)

This event was held again this year and we trust that family members were pleasantly surprised by gifts acquired for them at this special Glenwood event. (Your contributions were also greatly appreciated.) Thank you to Amanda Kyle and Marc Johnson for their leadership in setting this up, and to the host of others throughout the building who worked to make this event a wonderful success. Congratulations Team!

Thursday Morning/Day Four Activities

I want to acknowledge and thank everyone who assists with our special event morning each week. To Katy Gurman, Jan Kooren, and Susan MacMillan, thank-you for all the planning, creativity and effort you put into making this activity so exciting and enjoyable for everyone. A quick tour of the picture gallery in our hallway tells the wonderful story of what these activities mean to our students (and staff).

So Many to Thank

I could and probably should go on thanking people for the great things they do that make Glenwood a wonderful place for students to achieve their full potential, while enjoying themselves. However, I would inevitably miss an event or a person, so let me thank everyone for everything! You are all amazing people, worthy of acknowledgement and thanks! If you want to hear and know more, just ask me!

The following statement has been shared at times before, but I share it again with a couple of notations. I believe that it describes our Glenwood families and the staff at Glenwood who work with our students each day.

It takes a special person, with patience and wisdom to share, to unlock the treasure awaiting within children everywhere! You are certainly those special people working (with us) to unlock the treasures within your children.

OTHER IMPORTANT MESSAGES!

PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH US AS WE SHARE SENSITIVE MESSAGES AND UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE NOT SHARING THEM TO UPSET OR ANGER YOU. WE ARE NOT INTENDING TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR CHILD IS “BAD”. It is JUST a message that we feel needs to be shared.

Here are a few examples:

Lunches – The Board has a nutrition policy that encourages everyone to have healthy and nutritious snacks and lunches. Clearly a healthy, well balanced lunch diet will include foods that are appropriate. If a child is regularly bringing a lunch filled with sugary or packaged treats they may be missing out on adequate sized portions of healthy types of foods (fruits, vegetables, sandwiches, soups, etc.) Please make an effort to ensure that your child is bringing appropriate snacks and lunches.

Illness – VULNERABLE / FRAGILE STUDENTS ARE AT RISKS OF SERIOUS, LIFE THREATENING ILLNESS OR TRIPS TO THE HOSPITAL AS A RESULT OF SICK CHILDREN ARRIVING AT SCHOOL. If your child comes to school with a fever, cough or sneezes that could be enough to cause illness to spread to other students and staff. We really do want our students healthy and well, and we want the same for the people who work with them daily (the staff). Help everyone by keeping your child home if they have symptoms of illness. *We may need to call and request a pick-up if your child shows symptoms of illness.

Behaviour – As many of you know, on almost a daily basis, staff members at Glenwood report injuries related to the aggressions of students. Our calls for help are not meant to annoy you or to criticize you or your child. They are simply a call to inform and to ask for your help. That help may mean – PLEASE COME AND GET THEM. There is a limit to what we are able to manage and your help is needed.

Phone numbers (and addresses) – PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE ALL OF YOUR PHONE NUMBERS, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY GET CHANGED. MAKE SURE THERE IS SOMEONE WE CAN DEFINITELY CONTACT IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. Believe it or not, we have had to send students to the hospital and their parents did not know, because we were not able to contact the family or emergency contact. (Giving us your home number as the “emergency contact” is NOT SATISFACTORY. – If you don’t answer it the first time, calling it as an emergency number won’t work either. Please be sure that there is someone we can contact.)

Requests for ? - Sometimes we “run out” of something that is needed in the care of your child. Extra clothing, additional diapers or wipes, a larger lunch, a different or extra snack may be requested. Your patience and prompt assistance is appreciated.

THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LIST OF POSSIBLE MESSAGES YOU MAY RECEIVE. SUCH MESSAGES ARE NOT INTENDED TO ANNOY, INCONVENIENCE, ACCUSE OR EMBARRASS YOU! They are simply presented as another way in which we may support one another in the task of doing what is best for our students.

We thank-you for your understanding and help! If you have any questions please contact us at the school.

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Remember: COMMUNICATION with the OFFICE

Have you met Leigh? Leigh Boyter came to us as our new Office Administrator in September, following Barb Pottier's retirement. I don't know if she realized what she was getting into when she came, but she does now. We are thankful to have her with us. When you visit or call Glenwood Leigh will greet you at the front office or answer your call. Please don't hesitate to give her a call if you have questions or need help from us. Please be sure that you have the school phone number readily available. If we need to be aware of a situation regarding your child, call us. If your child is absent or will be coming from or going to "Alternative Care" let us know. Calls regarding absences can be made between 8:00 and 8:45 a.m. to speak to Leigh, or earlier if you just wish to leave a message as our answering machine is 24 hours.

Glenwood's Phone Number is: **905-525-2140**

Your Phone Number is: ???-???-????

PLEASE BE SURE THAT WE HAVE ALL NUMBERS AT WHICH YOU MIGHT BE CALLED IN TIME OF EMERGENCY OR NEED.

If you need to speak to the teacher:

Please note that when you call, your child's teacher may not be able to come to the phone immediately to speak with you. The class is his or her first responsibility and getting to a phone may not be possible. However, we welcome your call. Teachers will make an effort to get back to you as soon as possible.

News from Room 1

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday, with lots of good food and visits with friends and family.

Room 1 is starting back with a unit on nutrition and good health - to help us get back on track. We are making some yummy, healthy snacks & lunches and are planning a trip to the bowling alley later this month. It should be fun!



ALLERGIES ARE REAL!

As you know, there are many kinds of allergies and conditions that affect the health of individuals. Among the common and recognized allergies are: nuts (peanuts), lactose (milk), latex (rubber). Did you know that we have two individuals at Glenwood with other allergies that affect their health, and require epi-pen treatment? In some cases, individuals have been known to have allergies to perfumes, odours, mould. One of our teachers has had to be treated in hospital because an anaphylactic reaction to “carrots”. While we can’t possibly anticipate all potential allergies and respond to them, all families are asked to remember: GLENWOOD SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A “NUT FREE” FACILITY Food that has or could contain “nuts” or “nut products” should not be included in snacks and lunches that students bring to school.

BUS BITS! – Don’t forget to call!

Please remember that buses cannot wait long for students in the morning or for someone to take them off the bus at the end of the day. SOMEONE should accompany students to/onto the bus in the morning and meet them to take them off at the end. Please help the driver and other families by being on time.

IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT CONTACT THE
BUS and/or CAB COMPANY TO LET THEM KNOW!

ATTRIDGE – 905-690-2632

HAMILTON CAB – 905-777-7777

Thursday Activities

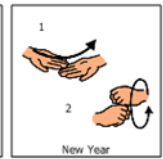
*A great big
Thank You to
School Council for
your contributions
to our weekly
activities!*



COMMUNICATION FROM OUR CDA



Happy New Year! Welcome to 2014!



This year, I'm resolving to get even better at encouraging our students. Here are 5 ways that you can encourage an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) learner, or any learner. (adapted from 5 Ways to Encourage AAC Learners by Carole Zangari of practicalaac.org) I hope they help you become better encouragers as well!

- 1. Accept their responses without judgment.** Presuming competence (believing the student is delivering a message intentionally) is a key to encouraging further communications. Also the video *The Dot* <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5mGeR4AQdM> is a great reminder to us all of how our responses to a learner's attempt can make ALL the difference in how they see themselves.
- 2. Use the language of communication.** Instead of 'show me on your board' or 'point to what you want,' use communication-oriented verbs, like 'tell' or 'say.' "Tell me what you're thinking." "I like what you said."
- 3. Don't ask questions if the answers are already apparent.** Asking questions like "Is that a dog?" (when shown a dog) or "Is your name Mia?" (when everyone already knows her) are insulting, demoralizing, and often result in the learner tuning out or answering incorrectly just to amuse themselves. Either way, it's not good, so we try to avoid those kinds of questions. Find a way to ask questions that target the same skill but in an authentic way.
- 4. Acknowledge struggle.** Things can be really hard when someone is first learning a new tool or skill, and that can sap our motivation to put forth good effort. Sometimes, it makes sense to acknowledge how difficult something is and talk about it candidly. "Jaysin, I know this is tough stuff." "This next one is going to be hard." Follow it up with a good dose of encouragement.
- 5. Relate back to past successes.** Talk to AAC learners about things they've done well and hurdles they've overcome. Even better, talk to OTHER people about the AAC learner's successes. It feels great when people brag about us to someone else, doesn't it? When we know that our achievements are important enough for other people to notice and discuss, it can inspire us to greater efforts.

And to start the New Year off with a bang, a gift for you! The Visuals Engine from connectability.ca is a great resource to help you make visuals for use at home! It has many Boardmaker symbols (like we use here at school), real photos, and you can add your own photos as well. You can use them for visual schedules, choice boards, labels, first/then boards, and much more. Visit <http://connectability.ca/visuals-engine/> to try it out yourself!

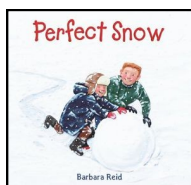
From Glenwood Library

Here are some books and apps to help get us through the cold winter months

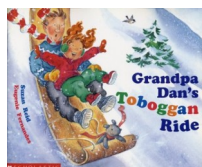
Book Shelf



Snowballs
By Lois Ehlert



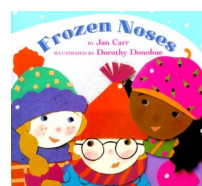
Perfect Snow
By Barbara Reid



Grandpa Dan's Toboggan Ride
By Suzan Reid



Winter is the Warmest Season
By Lauren Stringer



Frozen Noses
By Jan Carr



Snow Day
By Werner Zimmermann

Apps for the iPad

Into the Snow: A Stella and Sam Adventure



Play alongside Stella and Sam and their dog Fred as they go outside to look for their toboggan. Make pictures in the snow, decorate a snowman and discover what's hidden under the snow. The Stella and Sam Interactive Adventures combine stunning animation with three elegantly-designed activities.

Winter Is



Teach your child about the joys of the winter season in this interactive kid's book by Ann Dixon

It's Winter



Stay warm this season with 'It's Winter!', featuring many exciting activities including puzzles, matching games, search games and more.

	GLENWOOD SCHOOL			
January 2014	150 Lower Horning Road Hamilton, ON L8S 4P2 905-525-2140			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 New Years Day NO SCHOOL	2 NO SCHOOL	3 NO SCHOOL
6 <i>Day 1</i> First Day of School after Christmas Break	7 <i>Day 2</i> Mary Moore – Westdale Library	8 <i>Day 3</i> School Council Meeting 7pm	9 <i>Day 4</i> <i>Day 4 Activity</i> Winter Campfire Sing-a-long	10 <i>Day 5</i>
13 <i>Day 1</i>	14 <i>Day 2</i>	15 <i>Day 3</i> Jesse Visits 	16 <i>Day 4</i> <i>Day 4 Activity</i> New Year's Dinner	17 <i>Day 5</i>
20 <i>Day 1</i>	21 <i>Day 2</i>	22 <i>Day 3</i>	23 <i>Day 4</i> <i>Day 4 Activity</i> Wii Dance	24 PA DAY
27 <i>Day 5</i> Jesse Visits 	28 <i>Day 1</i>	29 <i>Day 2</i>	30 <i>Day 3</i>	31 <i>Day 4</i> <i>Day 4 Activity</i> Valentine's Craft