



W.E. Gowling P.S.

The Word

February 14, 2019

Dates to Remember

Feb 11-19	- Middle French Immersion Registration Day
Feb. 14	- Report Card Day
Feb. 15-22	- Ottawa Kindness Week Begins
Feb. 15	- PA Day (no school for students)
Feb. 18	- Family Day (no school)
Feb. 21	- Final day to submit cross boundary transfer applications between schools - Pizza order due in office by <u>10am</u> (No late orders will be accepted)
Feb. 22	- Pizza Day!

News

1. **We are welcoming Mr. Shawn Hocking** as our new Vice-Principal. He is joining us from Chapman Mills PS. He comes with several years of administrative experience.
2. In the next few weeks a request from school will be sent home with Senior Kindergarten students regarding the choice of program families will be making for their grade 1 year. **Will it be French Immersion or English Programming?** This is not always a simple decision as both choices are viable options for children. Some things to consider:
 - a. Was your child an early talker? Does she/he notice things about words like initial sounds? Rhyming words? Patterns in words? Some letter recognition and sounds?
 - b. Is your child comfortable with learning risks? A child who is comfortable with making mistakes (that's how we learn, afterall) will find French Immersion less intimidating.
 - c. What is your child's experience to date in half day french / english kindergarten? Is he/she enthusiastic about the experience? Are new words in French coming home from school?

- d. Are you ready to support homework in french at home? Look into opportunities outside of school to practice French? Parents do not have to be proficient, but they themselves should be interested in speaking french.
- e. Are you prepared to give language development the time it needs for a child to become proficient in speaking? Learning a language takes time and children need to be allowed to develop their vocabulary and comprehension.

Keep in mind: Early French Immersion begins with all but sixty minutes a day in french. Starting in grade 2, children in EFI have 60 minutes in English language and 60 minutes in Math instruction in English. Middle Immersion begins with 280 minutes a day in french (English and Math are taught in English for 60 minutes each). For students who choose the English stream, they will receive 40 minutes of core French instruction per day.

Classroom teachers will not tell you what program is the one you should choose. They will discuss your child's progress in their program and describe the successes and challenges that are being experienced. Learning French as a second language is important for all children living in Canada. Support in any French program (Core French, Early French Immersion or Middle Immersion starting in grade 4) from home ensures that the program is valued by families and successful development of language skills can occur. If you would like to discuss the programs that are available through the OCDSB, please feel free to speak to your child's teacher or school administrator.

3. **The Junior Girls Tripleball team** recently competed at a tournament. The team worked very well together, displaying excellent teamwork and sportsmanship. The girls won three of their five games, and placed third in the tournament. Way to go girls! Go Gowling! Congratulations to our Girls team: Abigail, Lisa, Kimberly-Ann, Maimoona, Bwami, Diana, Faith, Lillian, Nora, Najwa, Sofia and Isabella.



The boys tripleball tournament was in February. Our team played exceptionally well in all four games and ended up in fourth place. Every game was a real nail biter. The team should be proud of their dedication to coming out to all of the practices and how much they improved over the season. They worked well as a team, encouraged each other and showed amazing sportsmanship! Great job Gryphons! Congratulations: Jackson, Jayden, Charlie, Musa, Gavin, Ellis, Mustafa, Adam, Alamin, Lyden, Tareq, Cameron and Shepherd.

4. **Being Late Every Day Adds Up.** Children are in school for 6 and a half hours Monday to Friday. They follow a scheduled program that covers all parts of the provincial curriculum. If a child is late every morning by 20 minutes, the child is missing the equivalent of a 100 minutes a week of school. That is equal to the first learning block on the schedule. Over a month the child has missed 400 minutes. That is equal to 1 and 1 / 3 days at school a month. Over a year that is the equivalent of 13 days + of missed school. This does not include the number days missed for appointments or illness. Recent research indicates that the learning of a child who misses 19 days of school will be negatively impacted. This frequently means that the child could require remedial support in their learning. The research also indicates that if a child develops the habit of being tardy or absent from school in the earliest grades, they are more likely to develop habits of absenteeism and tardiness in the older grades. Children need to know early that their education is valued. They need to understand that education is important and that to have a solid foundation for learning they must attend daily from kindergarten onward. If you are having challenges in getting your child to school on time consider calling your child's teacher to discuss tips for getting children motivated and prepared for coming to school.

Five Quick Tips for Being on Time for School

1. **Get ready the night before – pack the backpack the night before.**
2. **Get lunches ready together the night before.**
3. **Set aside some time for homework each night – 10 minutes per grade ex. Grade 2 – 20 minutes.**
4. **Write down the morning routine with pictures and put somewhere your child can follow.**
5. **Make sure your child is getting enough sleep – if your child is finding it hard to wake up, try changing bedtime.**

Looking for Experts

Are you interested in volunteering to be an 'expert' mentor for Genius Hour?!?

The grade 4, 5, and 6 classes are experiencing Genius Hour again. We are looking for interested adults who have talents in areas such as baking, research skills, hairstyling. Sports such as hockey, football and soccer, also playing the piano, and are willing to donate some of their time. If you are interested in learning more, please email Esther Watson at Esther.Watson@ocdsb.ca

Reminders for the family

1. **Occasionally families request a transfer between two schools.** This may be done for a variety of reasons. Often they have to do with a change at home such as a move from one address to another. Students may register to attend their *designated* school (the school in which the child's home address falls within the boundaries) at any time. If a family wishes to make a request for registering at school that is outside of the designated boundary, the family must fill in an application and submit it to the school to which they would like their

child to attend. Families may find out more by visiting the school board website and reviewing the Transfer process for elementary school.

2. **When your child is absent** - Please take the time to call our absence line, **613-723-3537**. **You will be asked to press 1 to go to the answering system to leave a message. Please speak clearly and leave the student's FULL NAME and reason for the absence.**
3. **Has your phone number changed?** Please notify the office as soon as possible if your contact information has changed so that we may update our records accordingly.
4. **Kindergarten Registration for 2019** - We ask that you do not leave the registration of your kindergarten aged child to the last moment. If your child is turning 4 years old by the 31st of December, 2019, please register before the end of February. If you know of a family who is looking to register in their child, suggest they call WE Gowling PS for an opportunity to tour the school and meet with Ms Conroy, our principal.
5. **Is your child in grade 3 this year?** Are you considering the Middle French Immersion Program for your next year? Hilson Ave PS offers the program for students beginning grade 4 in September, 2019. For information call Hilson PS @ 613 728-4607.
6. **Help us to keep all of our students safe at school** - We ask that parents do not send foods containing tree nuts and peanuts to school in lunches. Because of the large number of children with food allergies attending school, we also ask that parents do not bring food (such as cupcakes or cake) to school as part of a birthday or other celebration.
7. **Pizza Days** - These two easy steps will help ensure that your child(ren) receive(s) their pizza on pizza day:
 - 1) send a completed pizza order form with the **student's full name, teacher, grade and payment**
 - 2) ensure you **order by the order deadline**



Pizza information, including printable forms and a link to the MunchaLunch website is available on the school website:

https://wegowlingps.ocdsb.ca/news/what_s_new/next_pizza_day_-_friday_january_18_2019

PLEASE NOTE:

The office will no longer be processing orders for families who are late with their orders.

Learning

How do you teach your child to be kind?



Today is Valentine's Day and in amongst the hearts and the candy there is a sentiment. Kindness. Kindness (and for that matter: empathy) is a part of an individual's character. In the June edition of Psychology Today, it was reported that individuals who do kind acts for other people have a much higher sense of self worth and well-being than those who do not act in the interest of others. Kindness can be nurtured and learned through modelling acts of kindness and words of kindness, talking about acts of kindness (what did you do that was kind today), noting it when it is seen on TV or in a story, or making it a habit (doing things that are simply done out of kindness, for example: shovelling a driveway or cleaning off a car for a neighbour, checking in on an elderly friend or relative or making a point of greeting someone as you meet). At school we often speak of kindness and empathy for others. This is done through direct teaching embedded in lessons or through discussion when addressing unkind behaviour. We work hard at this everyday because we believe that raising children who have a positive sense of self is important for not only the individual child but for the school community.

Words, words, words. Practicing Academic Language at Home

Children are constantly developing their language skills at home and at school, in social groups and when pursuing hobbies and activities. Each environment demands different levels of language, different vocabulary and different purpose for communicating. Academic language refers to the language used in school, technical settings and professional settings. It is the language that is used in writing when communicating knowledge and learning. It takes 5 to 7 years for children who are learning a second language to develop the fluency to use it with ease. Children who grow up in homes where english is spoken, are also developing academic language skills. Encouraging your child to talk about new words associated with core subjects such as Math, Social Studies, Science and French, helps them to use the language with greater ease. When children are completing assignments at home or reading in preparation for the next day, talking to them about it and asking them to explain their understanding helps them to deepen their own thinking. When visiting the school, you will notice word walls in the classroom or in the hallway. Ask your child about the words. Where do they use them? What do they mean? Or show them where you use this language throughout your day.



What can I do to help my child practice reading and writing skills?

Learning to read and write happens in many places and under many different circumstances. While the bulk of formal instruction happens at school, children need to know that learning to read and write is something that is valued at home. Knowing that their parents support the work of their teacher and that they share the same expectations for practice and development, helps them to feel comfortable about school. When the idea that read, like all skills, needs to be practiced regularly, is shared at home and at school, children are more likely to use free time to read. In:

Reading and Writing with Your Child

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentguideliten.pdf> Four easy tips are shared with parents:

1. Talk to your child - about things they are interested in, help them learn new words
2. Build Habits of Understanding - encourage questions, model making inferences
3. Read Everyday - not just books and stories, but signs, notes, letters, directions for cooking
4. Make it fun, Make it Matter - choose a book together, read a joke, poem, email

Looking For

Has your child outgrown the books, puzzles or board games that use to be favourites? WEG would be happy to accept any gently used pieces / intact items that you are looking to donate. Items may be dropped off at the main office. Please indicate that they are a donation.

The Extended Day Program Corner (EDP Corner)

The Extended Day Program (EDP) has many different projects and activities going on after school. This month the Red Raptors and the Blue Lightning will be starting a book club. Our school librarian will be supporting the club by selecting books for children to read. This will provide some much needed quiet time for students who have been busy all day and support children's need to practice their reading skills with self-selected books.



The weather has been very changeable of late. Students in the EDP would benefit from having a spare pair of mittens, extra socks and pants to help them deal with "soakers".

Coming up in March: Minute to win it March-Students will participate in challenges similar to the game show. Stay tuned for more information.

Community Events

Check out Councilor Riley Brockington's website for family activities

<http://rileybrockington.ca/event/free-movie-night-paddington-2/>



River Ward | Quartier Rivière
PADDINGTON 2
Free Family Movie Night!
Soirée cinéma familiale gratuite!

Saturday, February 16, 5:00pm | Le samedi 16 février, 17 h

<p>Alexander Community Centre 960 Silver Street</p> <p>Hot Dogs at 5:00pm Movie starts at 5:30pm</p> <p>Popcorn and juice will be available during the movie. All Free! Bring a blanket/yoga mat and enjoy this family-friendly movie. Children must be accompanied by parents.</p>	<p>Centre communautaire Alexander 960, rue Silver</p> <p>Hot-dog à 17 h Le film commencera vers 17 h 30.</p> <p>Nous vous proposerons du maïs soufflé et du jus de fruits pendant le film. Et vous n'aurez rien à payer! Apportez une couverture ou un tapis de yoga, et venez profiter de ce film qui plaira à toute la famille. Les enfants doivent être accompagnés de leurs parents.</p>
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FREE
Clothing Giveaway

During the movie night, there will be an opportunity for families to look through the available clothing from the **Carlington Community Association's** recent Clothing Exchange. Most items remaining are for infants, children, youth and women.
Quantities are limited and all are available at no charge.

