

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families



Next week your children will bring home their reports cards for Term 1. What an excellent time to sit down and have a conversation with your child. Ask him what he likes about school, what he finds challenging and where he thinks he might be able to improve or work harder? Hopefully, what you read on the report card will align with what he says. It is also an excellent time to set goals with your child. Review your expectations for her. Have her tell you what she would like to work on and what she might need your help with. Some helpful tips include: setting a regular routine for homework and keeping to regular bedtime routines and sleep and nutrition are direct influences on a child's ability to learn. This might also mean the family sits together at the kitchen table while everyone works on something, and the TV and video games are off. It might mean that everyone works in their own areas. It might also mean a set time that you and your child read together or that you monitor their use of a math program online such as Dreambox or Math Prodigy. Whatever plan you create, it is important to create it together. Working with our families for our students' continued success is one of our primary goals so please do not hesitate to contact the classroom teacher or myself if we can be of any help. Finally, this month we celebrate Family Day. I hope you will plan something special to do with your children that weekend to strengthen the important bonds of family. This could be a simple pajama and board game day, a meal you plan and prepare together or a nature hike on a local trail. Wishing you all the best!

Warm regards,

Lisa Kuyper

SHROVE TUESDAY AND ASH WEDNESDAY



February 28 is Shrove Tuesday. This year we will continue with our tradition and the students will be having their pancakes during our second nutrition break as a school community in the gymnasium. All students will receive 2-3 pancakes and syrup provided by the St. Basil Parent Council. Parent Council is asking for a goodwill donation of \$2.00 to help offset the cost. This item is posted online. If your child does not want pancakes, they can bring their lunch with them and join their class in the gymnasium. Our Ash Wednesday celebration will take place on Wednesday March 1 with Father Earl @ 9:15am. Families are invited to attend.

WINTER CLOTHING, INCLEMENT WEATHER AND TRANSPORTATION



Winter is here! Please ensure that your child has:

- ⇒ Boots for outdoors, and slippers with rubber soles or shoes for indoors (which can be left at school.)
- ⇒ Proper outdoor coats and snow pants, and hats and gloves too.
- ⇒ A change of dry clothing for primary children, labeled with names, is encouraged.
- ⇒ Our school is located in **zone 4**. However, our school bus picks up students in both zone 3 (Brant County) and zone 4 (Brantford). If transportation is cancelled in zone 4, then the school is closed too. If transportation is cancelled in only zone 3 and not zone 4, the school will remain open **BUT there will be no busing for any students at all.**
- ⇒ In the event of some nasty winter weather go to the transportation web site to check for delays and cancellations: <http://www.stsbhn.ca/>. Also listen to CKPC FM 92.1 for details about bus delays, bus cancellations and school closures. A synrevoice message will be sent out advising all families of school closures, in addition to information on Twitter, follow us @stbasilbulldogs and sign up for notifications.

Mark
your
Calendar

Important Dates for February



- ◇ February 2 - Pizza Day
- ◇ February 6 - **Family Math Night**
- ◇ February 9 - Sub Day
- ◇ February 10 - **Report Cards home with students**
- ◇ February 16 - Pizza Day
- ◇ February 20 - **Family Day**
- ◇ February 23 - Boston Pizza
- ◇ February 28 - **Shrove Tuesday—Pancakes**
- ◇ March 1 - **Ash Wednesday celebration—9:15 am in Gym.**
Families are invited to attend
- ◇ March 2 - Pizza Day
- ◇ Tuesdays & Thursdays - Popcorn

**** Hot lunches, milk and popcorn for March can be purchased on-line from February 6—22, 2017 ****



A NOTE FROM YOUR SCHOOL'S PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE...

Active Winter Fun for the Whole Family

Winter is here to stay for a while, but there is no need to hibernate indoors. Instead, go outside with the whole family and enjoy playing old games or trying out some new ones. Building a snowman, tobogganing, playing a game of hockey, going skating or participating in a winter treasure hunt are all great activities that will get the whole family moving. Before heading outdoors, keep these tips in mind:

- * **Dress warm and layer clothing.** Don't forget a warm hat, mittens and boots!
- * **Stay away from ponds and rivers.** They may look frozen, but the ice may not be thick enough to support your body weight. Play it safe!
- * **Pack a lunch and something to drink.** It's easy to forget that in the cold air you can still get hungry and thirsty.
- * **Wear Sunscreen.** You can get sunburn even in the winter!
- * **Watch for frostbite.** Kids get frostbite faster than adults. Signs of frostbite include a prickly or itchy feeling in the skin, numbness and/ or discoloration on the face, ears hands or feet. Stay protected, stay warm.



REGISTRATION FOR ELKP (KINDERGARTEN)

It is never too late to register for kindergarten for next year. Students who will turn 4 years of age by Dec. 31st, 2017 are eligible for JK, while students who will turn 5 are eligible for SK. If you know of families in our area who have children of this age, please pass this information along to them. They can register at any time, so have them contact the school for more information.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Students are encouraged to wear red, white and pink on Tuesday, February 14 to celebrate Valentine's Day.



FAMILY DAY

Monday February 20 is Family Day. There is no school that day. Enjoy a long weekend with your family.



FIELD TRIP AND LUNCH ORDERS

Please hand in all field trip permission forms in your child's agenda or to the teacher. These should not come directly to the office, as the teacher needs to track this information prior to sending it to the office. All payments can be made through school cash online so no cash needs to be sent to the school. Forms and money can be misplaced if they are going back and forth. Also, please be respectful of due dates. We have been receiving forms and requests after the due date and it makes things difficult when we have to preorder items. Thank you for your continued cooperation with this.



Board Guidelines for Cold Weather

The temperature guidelines are as follows:

- If the temperature is warmer than -10C then the children can be outside for the full recess.
- If the temperature, with or without the wind chill, is between -10C and -20C then the children will be allowed to be outside for 20 minutes at the most.
- If the temperature, with or without the wind chill, is colder than -20C then the children will remain indoors.

We monitor the weather conditions regularly throughout the day to determine how much time the children will spend outside or if they will remain indoors. As always, we would ask that you ensure your child is properly dressed for being outdoors with the usual outdoor winter gear (hats, gloves, boots, winter coats etc.)



REMINDER: ALLERGIES



Your cooperation is greatly appreciated once again in making our school a safe environment for all our students. **This is to advise you that we have we have students who are allergic to all tree nuts, peanuts, latex, mango, coconut, sesame seeds. It is requested that parents of all students do not pack any foods or send food items containing any of these, or anything containing latex.**

If your child has anaphylaxis and you have not yet made us aware of this, please contact us immediately.

Our schools have been directed by senior administration to not allow the product known as 'WowButter' into our classrooms. Children who have an anaphylactic allergy to nut products could easily be confused by which product is which, and this could cause a great deal of anxiety and confusion for both staff and students. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.