

Wildcat ROAR

Harwich Raleigh Public School

<http://harwichraleigh.lkdsb.net>

@harwichraleigh on Twitter

519-676-5481 (phone)

519-676-5482 (fax)

December 2023

Our final month of 2023

Our students and staff have been working hard and are looking forward to having some much-needed rest and relaxation, as well as connecting with family and friends over the upcoming holiday break. This time of year, is a great time to reflect upon how much you have achieved as a student or parent in the 2023 year. Having goals, whether they are academic, social, athletic, or in personal growth and development, are good things for everyone to have. This process is something that our teachers complete with their students at report card periods, where the students reflect upon their achievements and set goals for themselves moving forward. Don't forget, sometimes the best learning comes when we don't succeed at something and need to try an alternate approach, maybe try a second or third time, and then be able to achieve success. We remind our students about growth mindset with phrases such as "You can do hard things," and the power of yet.

Typically, the holidays are a time for seasonal traditions, to share some comradery and have some time to rest and relax before classes begin on January 8th, 2024.

From the entire Wildcat staff, we wish everyone a happy holiday and all the best in 2024.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Head lice is a nuisance and difficult to deal with both at school and at home. During the winter months, it is not unusual to see increased cases of head lice because of the winter gear such as coats, scarves and hats that are kept in classroom closet areas. To help minimize these problems, we ask that parents routinely check their children for head lice. If your child happens to be affected by this nuisance, please inform the office and we will help you with the next steps. Following the notification to the office, our staff will perform those classroom checks to make sure there are no other students in the class affected. Correspondence will be sent from the office if there is a case within the class that you need to be made aware of and then continue to monitor your child(ren). We certainly appreciate the cooperation that we have from our families at home.

Family Movie Night

As a fundraiser for their year-end field trip, the grade 8 students will be hosting a Family Movie Night on Thursday, December 14th. Families can watch Happy Feet on the big screen in the gym, purchase snacks and enjoy the show ahead of the holidays. Cost for entrance is \$10 per family (any other donations are welcome) and each family needs to have at least one adult accompanying their children. Details about the event are attached to the newsletter in a separate advertisement. Dig out your yoga mats, your sleeping bags and whatever else you want to bring to be comfy and cozy!

Vaccination Records with CKPHU

Parents and guardians have the responsibility to report their child's vaccinations to the Chatham Kent Public Health Unit, as part of ensuring that all school aged children are up to date on their vaccinations. If this process is not completed, students' risk being suspended from attending school effective March 5th, 2024. To avoid this headache and give families plenty of time to report the vaccinations which have already taken place, or to schedule to receive the vaccinations in time, information is being shared with all parents and guardians now. In the same location on the school website where the monthly newsletter is posted, and being sent home in the same School Messenger broadcast is more in-depth information about this process. For any questions, please contact CKPHU directly at 519-352-7270 ext. 2457.

Progress Reports and Student Led Conferences

Progress reports were sent home November 10th. We are appreciative to the families who attended the Student Led Conferences during the afternoon and evening on November 16th and the morning of November 17th. If you were unable to attend the conference dates because of scheduling conflicts or illness, please reach out to your child's teacher and plan to have a conference when the two schedules will allow.

Keeping our students and school healthy

Again, this year, the rate of illness amongst our students and staff is elevated. We are hopeful that in the coming weeks and months, parents will please refer to the provincial government website regarding COVID 19 as well as other illnesses. We are asking that you please be responsible in keeping your child(ren) home until they are well enough to return to prevent as much spread as we can. Additionally, consider increased hand hygiene as well as temporarily masking if someone in your household is less than well.

Lost and Found

We have a very large collection of items which have been lost by students, and were on display during recent Student Led Conferences. Our staff has worked at organizing them and displaying them for students to be able to claim. We hate seeing these items remain unclaimed and then end up being donated to local programs. We are asking that parents please label clothing items before sending them to school and then we will do our best to get them returned to the rightful owner.

School Playground

Our school playground is now closed for the winter. The playground equipment becomes too dangerous during the fall and winter months with the accumulation of snow and ice, as well as with students wearing winter clothing such as scarves that can potentially get caught in the equipment. While at school, students will be directed to find other areas to engage in play during their before school and nutrition break times. We appreciate the reinforcement from parents regarding this policy.

Christmas Hampers

We recognize that there are families in our community who are less fortunate and around the holiday time we are hoping to bring some joy and light into their world. Our school Multidisciplinary Team has set up boxes at the end of each corridor to collect items which students wish to donate. Items such as toys, gift cards, winter wear, hygiene products as well as non-perishable food items with long expiry dates are suggestions as to what is most useful and will not go to waste. Our collection will wrap up Friday, December 8th when the items will be donated to the Blenheim Ministerial Association in time for them to get the items sorted and packaged for the holidays. We appreciate any support we receive.

December Spirit Days

Our school Multidisciplinary team is very involved with improving student wellbeing within the school environment to make students feel part of a community and foster positive experiences at school. This team has organized a series of spirit days leading up to the holiday break. The themes and dates are as follows:

December 18th – Ugly Sweater Day

December 19th – Christmas Character Day

December 20th – Festive Sock Day

December 21st – Winter PJ Day

December 22nd – Red and Green Day

School Council Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 30th 6:30 pm** in the Learning Commons/Library. ***Parents who are interested in volunteering to organize and run a school wide event to engage students and families will be meeting at 5:45 pm, ahead of the council meeting, to brainstorm ideas, and determine responsibilities for this event which will be held in the springtime. We would love to have as many parents and guardians as possible to assist with this event.***