

Wildcat ROAR!

December 2019-Harwich Raleigh Public School

Website: <http://harwichraleigh.lkdsb.net>. School Twitter: @harwichraleigh

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All the Good News from HRPS!

From the Office

Thank-you to our families who were available to meet with their child's teacher(s) for Student Led Conferences. We enjoyed having the opportunity to share your child's progress to date. Please feel free to connect with your child's teacher if you have any concerns about your child's progress throughout the year.

Christmas Holidays

The last day before the Christmas Holidays is December 20th and classes will resume again on Monday, January 6th, 2020. On behalf of the entire HRPS Staff, we wish our students and their families a wonderful and healthy holiday! See you in 2020!

Big Box Fundraiser

Thank-you to everyone who supported our Big Box Fundraiser! Proceeds from this fundraiser are used to help offset the cost of year end field trips and special events. **If your family ordered multiple boxes, you can pick them on Monday, December 9th from 2:00 -5:30 pm.**

School Spirit Days -Dec 16-20th

Student Parliament has planned the following spirit days for the final week of December. Here's the line up of events:

Monday-Red and Green Day

Tuesday- Christmas character

Wednesday-Reindeer day

Thursday-Christmas socks

Friday-Holiday Sweater Day

ROARS-Character Assembly

The next ROARS assembly will be on December 20th at 9:30 a.m. During this assembly we will honour the traits of Responsibility and Cooperation and we will also recognize the members of our fall sports teams. Parents and guardians are welcome to join us.

Art Club-Christmas Cards for Senior Centres

A huge thanks is extended to students in our Art Club who have been making a collection of Christmas Cards for Senior Centres in Chatham-Kent. Students have been writing thoughtful messages wishing others a wonderful Christmas season and decorating the cards with a variety of Christmas colours and designs. We appreciate our students' generosity for thinking of others. Thank-you to Mme. Woods, Ms. DeGelas, Ms. Massong, and Mrs. Roberts for leading our students with this initiative. Tis the Season!

V.I.P- Values, Influences, and Peers Program -Grade 5

The Values, Influences and Peers program has been very effective in establishing community-police relationships. Lessons taught to students such as shoplifting awareness, victims and vandals, the dangers of drugs and bullying, and the laws, are preventive in nature and allow students to evaluate the consequences of their negative behaviour before they arise. This program is delivered by Constable Koldyk of CK Police Services. Our Grade 5 students celebrated their participation in this program on November 19th. Congratulations to our Grade 5 students for successfully completing this program and promising to make good decisions. Thanks to Mme. Tscharke, Mrs. Houston, and Ms. Havens for organizing the details for this event and to all of the parents/guardians/guests that were able to join us.

School Playground

Please be advised that our playground equipment is closed and will not re-open until the Spring. The Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange advises the closure of school playgrounds due to the following reasons:

Freezing temperatures - At temperatures below 0 deg. C, very few types of protective ground surfacing remain resilient enough to offer any degree of protection to a falling child - regardless of depth. If the ground cover is frozen, the play equipment is NOT safe for use.

Snow build-up - Snow can cause two problems on a play structure - first, it can make play surfaces very slippery; secondly, it can create suffocation hazards if the openings at the end of tube slides or similar structures become closed in by drifting snow.

Ice or freezing rain - As noted above, ice or freezing rain can make play surfaces, hand grips and stairways very slippery, increasing the risk of slip and fall injuries.

Clothing - Winter clothing is much different than normal clothing. Synthetic materials, such as nylon, reduce sliding resistance, particularly on plastic slide beds. This can increase the travel speed on this equipment to a dangerous level, and if combined with frozen ground cover can increase the chance of injury. Winter clothing is also very bulky and is more likely to have drawstrings or hooks and clips which can become entangled in components of the equipment. Please remind your child to not use the school equipment outside of school hours during the winter months.

Choir News

The choir has been very busy preparing to perform a variety of Christmas songs at our December assembly. Thanks to Mrs. Stickney and Mme. Tscharke for working with our school choir. We can't wait to hear this group's wonderful talents.

Lost and Found Items

We have accumulated quite a few items in our Lost and Found Centre. If your child is missing some articles of clothing, you are encouraged to check our Lost and Found Centre with your child at your earliest convenience. These missing items are on display every day for our students. All unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity prior to the Christmas Break.

Parent Parking Lot-Speed and Smoking Concerns

We've had some parents express concern regarding the speed of some drivers' in our parent parking lot. Just a reminder to also back into the spots to ensure the safety of our Wildcats. As mentioned in the November newsletter there is signage in our parent parking lot to remind folks that smoking is not permitted on school property at any time, including in our parking lots (even if you're in your own vehicle). Thank-you for your cooperation so that we can keep our Wildcat families safe.

Sports Update

Good luck to our Senior Girls' and Boys' Volleyball teams as they compete in the upcoming Area Tournament. Thanks to our Senior Girls' Coaches; Ms. Havens and Mrs. Warriner, and to our Senior Boys' Team coach; Mr. Jackson. Go Wildcats!

Christmas Hampers

Thank-you to our families who were able to donate items for the Blenheim Ministerial Association Christmas Hamper/Toy Drive. Thank-you for helping to make Christmas a little brighter for others this year. Your generosity is certainly appreciated.

Bus Cancellations-Zone 7- Breakfast Club/Special Food Days

Just a reminder to listen to your local radio station or go to www.schoolbusinfo.com for any bus cancellations or delays. Our school is located in Zone 7. **Please keep in mind that our School Breakfast program does not run on the days that there are bus cancellations. Special food days will also not be offered on bus cancellation days but will be provided the next school day.**

Pediculosis Check

Sometimes students arrive at school infected with pediculosis. Spring and fall are the seasons when head lice is most prevalent in school children. Your assistance in early detection is greatly appreciated. Please check your child for head lice weekly. If you find evidence of head lice, please contact the school immediately. This will allow us to notify other parents in the classrooms affected, so that they may check their child. Infestation by head lice is an unpleasant nuisance, but not a health problem. Head lice do not carry or spread disease. If we detect head lice on your child, you will be notified and asked to come to the school to pick up your child. We then ask that you use the necessary treatment on his/her hair. Your child(ren) are welcome to return to school when the pediculosis is no longer evident. Hopefully by working together we can control the spread of head lice.

Parent Group-Food Days

Thank-you to our Parent Group Volunteers who have organized some successful Grilled Cheese and Hot Dog Food Days for our students. Special thanks to Mrs. Jaques for organizing these days with our volunteers.

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to our school! What better way to promote reading to our students than by supporting this important literary event? Your support of this vital literary event is a key part of helping us obtain new books and resources for our library and classrooms.

Make sure you hand in your ballot from the flyer sent home at the end of last week. You could win \$50 in books – \$25 for your family PLUS \$25 for your child's classroom! The draw will be made after the Family Event on Monday, December 9th and the winner will be announced on the school announcements on Tuesday, December 10th. We look forward to seeing you there.

Book Fair Dates and Times:	Friday, December 6 -	11:15 – 11:35 (FDK – Grade 4)
		1:45 – 2:25 (Grade 5 – 8)
	Monday, December 9 -	11:15 – 11:35 (FDK – Grade 4)
		1:45 – 2:25 (Grade 5 – 8)
	Tuesday, December 10 -	11:15 – 11:35 (FDK – Grade 4)
		1:45 – 2:25 (Grade 5 – 8)
		4:00 – 6:00

Family Event Date/Times: Monday, December 9 from 4:00 to 6:30

Location: Learning Commons