

Wildcat ROAR

Harwich Raleigh Public School

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March 2023

Ready for a Break

Typically, the school year calendar includes some religious holidays such as Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Thanksgiving. These holidays are mostly Christian holidays, and we are aware that our families may well observe other holidays and occasions throughout the school year. In our announcements, we try mentioning some of these religious days to be inclusive of all learners and community members. We also do this to share knowledge with students about how different cultures have different celebrations throughout the year. If your child requires being absent from school due to a holiday or spiritual event, please let the office know and we will do our absolute best to accommodate religious needs. In the upcoming season of Ramadan, if students require a specific location at some point in the day, please speak with the office and we can problem solve and come up with a solution together.

The athletics at HRPS are moving along nicely. Our Sr. Boys and Sr. Girls Basketball teams are involved in playoff action beginning this week. The teams have had an opportunity to participate in tournament play as well as league play and these times have allowed for much improvement, excellent skill development and fostering a sense of being a committed team member. The coaches are proud of all these athletes have accomplished this season knowing that the past two years have been completely without athletics. Congratulations on successful seasons, Wildcats! And, a huge thank you to the coaches who give up their own time to ensure these students have athletic opportunities.

March Break is a time when families can spend time together, creating, exploring, playing, and most importantly, recharging their batteries before the final portion of the school year from mid-March to the end of June. Please take note that March Break is March 13th to 17th, and students will return to regular classes on Monday, March 20th. We are busy planning for next school year already by welcoming our newest Wildcats to the school during our KinderSTART events. If you know of any families who plan to move to the Blenheim or south CK area in the spring or over the summer, please let them know we would like to plan for their arrival by being aware they are coming. Have them call the school office at 519-676-5481.

Our second KinderSTART event is coming

Registering your child for Kindergarten is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Log onto and find our school.
2. Complete the online registration form www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten in advance.
3. Come and meet our caring staff on Wednesday, April 12th, 2023 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm.

Remember to bring:

- Birth certificate or proof of Canadian Citizenship or Residency Status (if appropriate)
- Proof of residency (e.g. utility or tax bill, lease/rental agreement, etc.)
- Your child

We look forward to meeting our new Wildcat families and students!

Wildcats celebrated Black History Month

Throughout the month of February, our students were exposed to many Chatham Kent locations and personalities who have played an integral part in the rich Black history in our area. Our daily announcements featured significant individuals, both past and present, who have helped to make their ancestry known and the dreams of their forefathers and mothers alive. On two different occasions, we welcomed Shannon Prince, the curator of the Buxton National Historical Site and Museum to the school. Shannon brought with her items and artifacts from the early settlers at Buxton, including allowing our students to try on authentic shackles which would have been used to keep slaves from running away from the owner's property. Brock Greenhalgh was born and raised in the Chatham area and wrote a book entitled "The Hard Road to Victory" which tells the story of the Chatham All-Stars baseball team from the 1930's and their attempt to be inducted into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame. Brock joined the students through video presentation to learn about his motivation to write his book, the process of writing, and how the voices of students have assisted to have the team added to the Canadian Sport Hall of Fame in the "Trailblazer" category.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Head lice is a nuisance and difficult to deal with both at school and at home. Periodically throughout the year, typically following a break, the staff will perform head checks to ensure that no students have either live head lice or the nits that lead to live head lice. 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.

Spring Fundraiser is coming

To raise funds for field trips, guest speakers, enhanced technology and the like, we continue to fundraise throughout the school year. In the spring, we will be partnering with the Flowerbed Greenhouse to allow families, friends, neighbours and relatives to purchase tickets for annuals. Then, the tickets will be distributed and redeemed at the garden centre to help add some colour

and interest in our desks, porches, patios and gardens for the spring and summer ahead. More details will come next month.

Dental Screening

On Thursday, March 9th, the Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit will be at the school to conduct dental screenings for students between JK and Grade 4, as well as the Grade 8 students. Information was sent home with all students in the school to help parents understand this process. Also, if your child is not within the group that has planned screenings and you feel this is something that you would like to happen on March 9th, please contact the dental health program at 519-355-1071 to request an appointment.

Popcorn Sales at Nutrition Break

Our Grade 8 students are working hard at raising funds for their year-end trip. In a continued effort, Kernels popcorn will be sold in prepackaged bags during second break on Wednesday and Thursday each week, beginning this week. Popcorn will be available in four flavours: Butter Salt, White Cheddar and Dill Pickle, and Salt & Vinegar. Each bag will cost \$2.50 and can be purchased with cash, no need to use School Cash Online. Students will receive more information through daily announcements at school.

IEPs and Universal Supports

Families of students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) will receive proposed updated plans on or before March 24th. This is an important part of the school year. As students with the greatest learning needs are prioritized, undoubtedly every student receives what they need. Often accommodations found on IEPs are great universal supports for all learners. As educators strive to make the accommodations on IEPs come alive, students without IEPs benefit from these universally beneficial learning accommodations as they are just great teaching practices. Every learner has unique needs. Even if your child doesn't have an IEP, consider contacting your child(ren)'s teacher(s) to discuss your child(ren)'s unique learning needs and how they are being met in the classroom. Consider providing insight into things you have discovered about your child while learning with them in your home. Remember, you are always the expert on your child, and we become better at supporting your child as deep, rich conversations between home and school take place.

Upcoming Important Dates:

March 12th – Daylight saving time begins, Spring forward

Monday, March 13th to Friday, March 17th – March Break

March 21st – First day of Spring

March 22nd – Ramadan begins

April 7th – Good Friday

April 10th – Easter Monday

School Council Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for **March 28th at 6:30 pm** in the Learning Commons/Library. The council is always looking for new members as well as folks who are willing to give of their time for special events. Please contact Heather Vander Pol by email (Heather.VanderPol@lkdsb.net) if you have questions.

