

# Wildcat ROAR

Harwich Raleigh Public School

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**October 2023**

## Blasting into 2023

Our wildcats are off to a wonderful start and many activities are in full force.

We were fortunate to add one homeroom class to the English stream, so we welcome Mrs. Broadwood who had joined us from Tecumseh P.S. who is now teaching grade 2/3 as our newest Wildcat. In addition, Mrs. Charlton who has been teaching Grade 6 English and Math to our French Immersion class will now also be teaching in the mornings, doing a combination of different subject teaching to different grade levels in the school. Congratulations to both teachers and best of luck in your new roles at HRPS.

Through the help of Cathy Smaith at Waste Connections in the Blenheim community, HRPS was the recipient of a generous donation, a heaping crate of pie pumpkins to our school. It is estimated that over 280 locally grown pumpkins were delivered. The pumpkins were grown by Brush Farms and delivered with the help of Ralph Dick. This local fruit will be used by students to create art activities, to learn through mathematics problems and even explore using some scientific skills. We are very thankful for the generosity of this community effort.

### **School Sports and Spectators**

Our school staff are very dedicated to the students and the athletic opportunities that are provided for our athletes. We also have a very beautiful building that we want to ensure stays that way. When athletics are happening in the gym, the focus of the coaching staff is on their athletes on the court, and they cannot supervise students as spectators. As part of a universal policy, we will be requiring students to leave the school at the end of the day and are welcome to return with parents who will accompany their student spectators to any athletics in the gym. If a parent can be at the school before the dismissal bell rings, meeting your child to attend the event is possible. Younger siblings of student athletes are included in this policy.

### **Updated Attendance Support**

As part of providing support for students and families, the LKDSB is looking to enhance communication between the school and home with regards to attendance of students. Not only are prolonged absences from school concerning, but students who arrive late to school or miss days are also problematic. Our teachers may be reaching out to parents with communication about your students' absences and how we can get your child back to school. Also, at 5, 10 and 15 consecutive days absent, contact from the principal will occur and offers given to assist in getting your student back to learning and attending.

### **Food Days**

Our pizza days have gotten off to a great start, and we are adding sub days from the Subway in Blenheim. We are asking that each family please use School Cash online to place orders and pay for the food days. If this is not possible or if you need help with this process, please contact the office. Some parent volunteers have discussed the opportunity to offer alternate food days, such as hot dog day, nacho day, etc. at points down the road. Your support on these days is a way that the school can raise money for field trips, guest speakers, supplemental resources for classroom learning as well as playground equipment.

### **Cross Country Team**

Under the direction and coaching of Mrs. McNear and Mme. Roman, our students have been using some breaks throughout the week to improve their running ability and stamina in preparation for some upcoming events. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a 'Fun Run' here at HR for students. The following week, October 19<sup>th</sup>, we will host an area qualifying run, where depending on the order students finish, they may qualify to attend the meet in Sarnia on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. We are hopeful that all who are participating can gain some skills and progress in their own ability.

### **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation**

Throughout the week of September 25<sup>th</sup> through September 29<sup>th</sup>, students received information about the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation which falls on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Teachers also had students engaging in learning activities around residential schools, recognizing that First Nations people were taken from their homes and families and forced to live at residential schools where their names were changed, their hair was cut and their native language was taken away from them. Some of these children never made it home to their families. This day is meant to remember the children who were never returned home from the residential schools and how this impacted their families.

### **PA Day and Thanksgiving**

Staff will be involved in a Professional Activity Day on **Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>**. Please make a note in your calendar to the change in the regular schedule. This will allow families an extended weekend as Thanksgiving is observed on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> this year.

### **School Council Meeting**

School Council HRPS met for the first time this year on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a wonderful group of parents who met and had a chance to hear about how the school year has started and brainstorm some ideas of how to support the students and teachers in the building. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** in the Learning Commons/Library. If you are interested in participating and don't want to commit to the whole year, you are always welcome to come to a single meeting. The council is always looking for new members as well as folks who are willing to give of their time for special events.

### **Terry Fox Run**

On Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, our school held the Terry Fox run and the weather couldn't have been better. Our school goal was to reach \$1000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Through online pledges and donations directly to the school, we fell shy of the goal, but were still able to donate \$781.55. Thank you to everyone for their support.

### **Black and Orange Day**

On Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, we are encouraging students to participate in our Black and Orange day by wearing those colours. Please do not allow your child to wear their Halloween costume nor bring the costume to school to wear during the day. This also includes wearing masks and hats. Parts and pieces of costumes can get lost or damaged over the day, and having these pieces to keep track of is too much to ask of our staff. Also, should you want to send treats with your student, please ensure two things: they are safe for school and without any type of nut products, and they are individually packaged so that handling can be safe. Your help with this is appreciated.

### **ROARS – Character Education**

Our school staff will once again focus their instruction around the ROARS character traits. This means that at the end of the month, we will celebrate one student from each class who demonstrates Respect and one student who demonstrates Honesty. Teachers will connect with parents/guardians for award winners so they would be able to attend the assembly if they can.

**Respect-** We will care for self, each other and community.

**Ownership** – We will be accountable and take pride in positive behaviour and actions.

**Attitude** – We will be courteous and committed to doing our best.

**Responsibility** – We will meet personal, classroom, school and community expectations.

**Safety** – We will work to support the health and well-being of all.

