 **GRIFFIN GAZETTE** 

| **W.J. Baird Public School**  **182 King St.**  **P.O. Box 70**  Blenheim, Ontario N0P 1A0 | Phone: 519-676-5407  Fax: 519-676-5408  <http://wjbaird.lkdsb.net/>  **Zone 7** | Principal: Mrs. Zondag  Secretary: Mrs. McTavish  Head Custodian: Mrs. Payne |
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**January 2020, All the Good News from W.J. Baird**

# RE-STOCK, RE-SUPPLY, INDOOR FOOTWEAR

This is a reminder that January is a great time for fresh starts and new beginnings. This holds true for school supplies and indoor footwear. Please take the opportunity to check with your child to ensure that:

a) they have indoor footwear

b) the footwear they have fits

c) the footwear is appropriate for wearing during physical education periods with non-marking soles

It is essential that all children have appropriate indoor footwear for safety reasons. In cases of emergency and fire drills, students without footwear do not have time to seek outdoor footwear and could find themselves standing outside (perhaps for an extended period of time) without appropriate or sufficient protection for the elements.

Also, many students have used up or misplaced their pencils supplied for them in the Fall. It is a good time to re-stock pencil cases and make sure that your child(ren) have the necessary supplies to complete their work at school. As always, we recommend that all   
supplies **(and clothing!)** be individually labeled with your child(ren)’s name so that they may better be able to keep track of their belongings.

# **SAFETY REMINDERS TO PARENTS**

* Please communicate transportation changes to your child’s teacher.
* Please report to the office to sign in & out when picking your child up early.
* Please drop your child(ren) off in the gravel lot across the road in the morning as to not block bus drop offs. When you pick your child up, please wait outside at the parking lot or outside your child’s corridor door to allow students to move freely to their exits/buses.
* Yard supervision begins at 8:55 a.m. so please remain in the car with your child until that time.

# INCLEMENT WEATHER

At this time of the year, if it is announced that “busses are not running” or “busses are cancelled” due to snow or poor road conditions, that is for the ENTIRE DAY. Arrangements have to be made to have your child picked up at school at 3:30 p.m. It is always the parents’ decision as to whether it is safe or not to send their child(ren).

On **fog** days, when busses do not run in the morning, they will run in the afternoon. Listen to the local radio stations for accurate information.

Our school is located in **ZONE 7**.

If your child is not a bus student, they are expected to be at school and will be marked absent if they do not attend. If they are not able to attend, please contact the office at 519-676-5407, so that we know they are safe. Our phones are busier than normal on these days so feel free to leave a message.

Please refer to *www.schoolbusinfo.com* for any transportation concerns or listen to CKSY (94.3 FM) or Cool FM (95.1 FM) for any announcements as to bus cancellations or school closures.

# COLD WEATHER PRECAUTIONS

Weather and temperature this time of year can be quite unpredictable and is therefore monitored closely by the Lambton Kent District School Board and individual schools. When extreme weather and temperatures occur, schools will follow safety protocol which may result in shortening the recesses or keeping students inside during recesses. Please check the weather and ensure that your child(ren) is dressed with appropriate clothing each day.

# GRIFFIN PRIDE ASSEMBLY

On January 30th we will be recognizing our Empathy (December) and Honesty (January) winners. Primary Assembly: 9:30 am

Junior/Intermediate Assembly: 10:00 am

Parents are welcome to attend.

# NEW YEAR HOMEWORK TIPS!

1. Study the same things in different ways and places— i.e. talk about new vocabulary words several times over the course of the week, in different settings.
2. Mix up the study time—i.e. if your child prefers to do a little math, a little reading, a little word study, and then back to math, that’s okay!
3. Space out the learning—i.e. study a little each day rather than cramming the night before the test.
4. Help your child get organized with the necessary tools and materials.
5. Show your child that you think homework is important— Ask about homework each day and check to see that it is completed.
6. Help your child without doing the homework for them.
7. Find out what the teacher’s homework rules are—if there’s a problem completing or understanding the work—contact the teacher.

# BOOK FAIR-A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thank you to all who had helped to make this year’s Book Fair a success! The profits from the merchandise sold will be used to purchase new books for the school library and resources for our STEM (science/technology/engineering/

art/mathematics) activities. Many thanks to parents who purchased books for the classrooms! Special thanks to Mrs. Hough for organizing the event!

# CANNED FOOD DRIVE AND CHRISTMAS CHILD

The staff and students would like to thank the W.J. Baird community for their generosity in   
helping us collect canned goods (465) and   
Christmas gifts for the less fortunate! Thanks for your continuing support of this worthwhile project. Well done, Griffins!

# HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Grade 8 students and their parents are invited to the following Open Houses:

**BDHS** – January 29, 2020 from 6:30-8:15 p.m.

**JMSS** - January 15, 2020 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the School Council will be held on Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. New members are welcome!

# kindergarten logo reminding parents of the process and date of registration.

# kinderSTARt

kinderSTARt is a one-day registration event in each school for parents and children who are beginning Junior Kindergarten in September 2020. (A child who is 4 years old on/before December 31, 2020.) This event serves as a school visit to meet the staff and engage in activities in preparation for Full Day Kindergarten. This is also a chance to bring younger siblings (18 months to 3 years) to participate in the Ages and Stages developmental questionnaire. If you have a child or know someone in our area that will be attending Junior Kindergarten in September, you are asked to attend registration on Wednesday, February 26th from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Please bring proof of residency (i.e. utility bill, rental agreement, etc.). birth certificate or proof of Canadian Citizenship, and emergency contact information when registering.

# PEDICULOSIS-HEAD LICE

We do school-wide head checks for head lice after lengthy breaks (return to school in September, in January after holidays, following March Break). 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. Children who are suspected of having head lice will be excused until appropriate treatment has been administered.

Infestation of head lice is an unpleasant nuisance, but not a health problem. Head lice do not carry or spread disease. By working together, we can control the spread of head lice in our community.

# JANUARY DATES OF IMPORTANCE

**6**– School begins – Welcome back!

**14**- BDHS visits our Grade 8s

**15** –JMSS Open House from 6:30 to 8:30 PM

**24** – Family Literacy Day at WJB

**29**-BDHS Open House from 6:30-8:15 PM

**31**- PD Day (No School)

**31-1** BoysGriffin Hoops Tourney @ BDHS

# FEBRUARY DATES OF IMPORTANCE

**7-8** Girls Griffin Hoops Tourney @ BDHS

**11**- Lifetouch Graduation Photos

**17**-Family Day (Holiday)

**26**-kinderSTARt registration from 9-5:30 PM

Pink Shirt Day

**Happy New Year!**

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