



Griffin Gazette

W.J. Baird Public School
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November, 2019 All the Good News from W.J. Baird

Please Be Careful....

Parents who are dropping off/ picking up their children before and after school are asked to park in the gravel parking lot across the road from W.J. Baird. This will result in better sight lines and increased safety for all. Students can then use the crosswalk to safely enter the school yard. This will also help to avoid interfering with busing. Again, thank you for your support in keeping all our Griffins safe and sound!

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will go home on November 15, 2019. We will be hosting Student-led Conferences on Thursday, November 21st from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00-11:30 a.m. A detailed note will be sent home with this newsletter as well as a paper copy to each family. We have also included some information below to help you make the most of your conference. Notification of your conference time will be sent home in your child's report card envelope (Nov. 15)
If you cannot attend please feel free to phone your child's teacher to make alternate arrangements.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

We believe strongly that student-led conferencing meets ministry expectations and provides students with the opportunity to assume a leadership role, practise communication skills, evaluate and accept responsibility for their own achievements, develop organizational skills as well as be **RESPONSIBLE** for their behaviour and educational goals. Hopefully, parents and students alike will emerge with a clearer understanding of individual goals and a way in which each can work together to accomplish these goals. These conferences are an alternative to the traditional parent-teacher format. Teachers will be present during the conference providing clarification if necessary or addressing any concerns that parents may have. This will be an opportunity for you to display a positive interest in

your child's progress and provide your child with support and encouragement for his/her work at school. If you wish to talk with the teacher privately, this may be done at another pre-arranged time or on the phone. We are hoping for 100% attendance!

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Please feel free to join us to pay tribute to those Canadians who fought and worked for the peace and freedom that we enjoy today. Our Remembrance Day Ceremony will take place on Friday, November 8th at 10:30 a.m. It will take place in the gym. Mrs. Johnson's Grade 4/5 class will be hosting the Remembrance Day event and Baird's choir under the direction of Mrs. Pfaff will be helping with the programme as well. Poppies will be distributed to all students to honour and remember our veterans. Donations will be accepted. Parents are welcome to attend.

On Monday, November 11, our choir and Mrs. Johnson's grade 4/5 class have been invited to attend the town's Remembrance Day ceremony at St. Mary's Hall.

GRIFFIN SPORTS ROUND-UP

Congratulations to the **Senior Boys and Girls Soccer** teams on a season which saw them steadily improve in skill and in team play. Thank you to Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Hoskins, and Mrs. Pickering for coaching the boys and girls teams, respectively.

Congratulations to all **Griffin Cross-Country** athletes on an outstanding season! Thank you to Mrs. Hough and Mrs. Johnson for coaching! Our Grade 6 boys team finished 5th overall. Everyone ran with their legs and their hearts! You are Griffin pride!

The **Junior Girls and Boys Volleyball** teams had a short, fun season. They learned new skills and demonstrated perseverance. Thank you to our coaches Mr. Longpré and Mrs. Jones-Taylor.

GRIFFIN PRIDE

Every month, students and staff will be focusing on one of the character attributes posted on the LKDSB web-site (<http://www.lkdsb.net>), and exploring how they can model this behaviour to do their part in creating a safe school community. November's focus is courage.

SWAT members will be organizing the Griffin Pride Assembly on Tuesday, November 5 to recognize Respect winners: Primary assembly at 11:50 and Junior/Intermediate at 12:20.

SOARR MONTHLY WINNERS

Baird staff and students continue to focus on acronym SOARR as a way to incorporate our code of conduct, the learning skills from the Provincial Report Card and the 10 character traits that the LKDSB focusses on each year. The acronym stands for:

SAFETY- We will ensure the health and well-being of all.

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.

RESPECT - We will care for self, each other, and our community.

Baird staff and students embody the SOARR spirit!

SOARR recipient names are read over the PA every day to acknowledge student efforts. At the end of every month during our Griffin Pride Assembly, names of SOARR recipients for the month are drawn and winners receive the following prizes- Captain Positive left us with 2 Cpt. Positive capes which the primary and junior monthly winners can wear at school for the entire month. Intermediate winner receives a free slice of pizza. Class winner chooses a class activity.

HOMEWORK TIPS

Homework is an important part of learning. When you support your children's homework routine, you can help them do better at school.

1. **A routine is good.** Homework can be habit forming and that's good news for you and your child. Work out a homework schedule and make sure children adhere to it.
2. **Give space for homework.** Distractions and homework don't mix. So do your best to create a bright and quiet space where your child can

concentrate on schoolwork. Make sure it's away from distractions like TV, music and loud siblings.

3. **Practice makes perfect.** Repetition reinforces learning. That's why it's helpful to have kids practice reading, writing and math with you every day. Ten to 15 minutes a day can work wonders!
4. **Check in occasionally.** When kids do their homework all alone, their concentration can often wander. Check in once in a while and see how it's going. Sometimes kids just need to talk about a homework problem to figure out the answer.
5. **Know what's going on at school.** Unfortunately, kids don't always tell parents everything. Make a point of staying in touch with teachers, especially if you have a question or concern.

SEASONAL INFLUENZA

It is that time of year again! It doesn't take much to pass on a cold or the flu. Follow these tips for staying healthy.

- Wash your hands frequently and well, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Cough and sneeze into your sleeve/elbow or use a tissue.
 - Discard tissue after use and wash your hands .
 - Clean shared surfaces.
 - Stay at home if you are sick—which includes staying home from school, day care, and activities you participate in outside of school hours.
- Check out the Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit blog at www.ckpublichealth.com;
 - Call Clinic Services at 519.355.1071 ext. 5900.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

October 28-November 15

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser proceeds go towards special programs and equipment for student use. Additional order forms are available at the office. Pick-up will be the week of Dec. 2.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We would like to invite all interested parents to our next meeting on Tuesday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m. Please feel free to check it out and support our students with your attendance. Parent involvement is key in creating a successful school community. Parents interesting in helping with a Spring Fundraiser, please contact Laura Van Helten at 519-350-1981 or dr.laura@hotmail.com or leave a message at the school. More details to follow.

TREATY RECOGNITION WEEK

November 4-8

To kick off this week, Herb Snake will be visiting us on Monday to show students various Indigenous dances. Throughout this week, students will be involved in various classroom activities to support their learning around Indigenous culture and treaties in Canada.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

November 18-22

WJB students will be engaged in a variety of activities to promote anti-bullying.

FAIR NOTICE COMMUNICATION

As always, student safety is our first priority; however, in extreme cases when a student's behaviour poses a potential threat to their own or others' well-being, The Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA) supports principals in taking further steps to safeguard everyone.

The link below provides information and notification to parents regarding the existence of the Protocol and its application if situations warrant.

Link to Fair Notice Communication Regarding Violent Threat Risk Assessment Protocol:

[https://www.lkdsb.net/Pages/newsitem.aspx?ItemID=236&ListID=1cb83139-1d39-452b-8ab2-b6cfab6c2ba7&TemplateID=Announcement_Item#/
=](https://www.lkdsb.net/Pages/newsitem.aspx?ItemID=236&ListID=1cb83139-1d39-452b-8ab2-b6cfab6c2ba7&TemplateID=Announcement_Item#/)

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CHRISTMAS CHILD PROJECT

We will be participating, once again, in the Christmas Child Project from November 18 to December 6, 2019. We will gather small gifts such as toys, clothing, and hygiene accessories for our sponsored children ages 0-16. The project benefits families in need across Chatham-Kent. With our help they will have a Merry Christmas! Thank you to Ms. Cofell for organizing the project 😊

SKATING SAFETY

Beginning December, our classes will be going skating. In order for students to participate, they must have a CSA approved ice hockey helmet that fits properly. A properly fitted helmet is designed to guard against skull fractures or lacerations. A helmet cannot prevent concussions. There is no such thing as a "concussion proof" helmet. Wearers of helmets may feel that they are not at risk for a concussion when wearing a helmet and may adapt a more aggressive playing style, thereby putting

themselves at a greater risk of injury. It is important students remember to respect the arena skating rules and those outlined by the teacher.

NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 1 – Fall Picture Retakes
- 6- Grade 7 & 8s to BDHS
- 8 – Remembrance Day Program @ 10:30
- 15 – Reports go home!
- 18 – School Council @ 6:30
- 21-22 – Student-led Conferences
- 22 – PA Day
- 26 – Alex Hyndman visit
- 27 Immunizations Grades 7

