



Glen Williams Public School

512 Main Street, Glen Williams, ON L7G 3S8 905.877.9112



Newsletter - February 2013

Principal's Message

FAMILY STORIES

Children can develop better writing skills when they know that stories come from real people and are about real events. This also helps children see these oral stories as a resource for their written work.

When children listen to their family members tell stories, they also hear the voice of a storyteller. This helps them hear the words when they learn to read aloud or read silently. The storyteller's voice also helps them to visualize what is happening in the story.

Here are some activities that you can do with your child.

- > Tell your child stories about your parents and grandparents. You could show them pictures from photograph albums and tell the story behind the picture.
- > Have your child tell you stories about what happened on special days such as holidays, birthdays and family vacations. A photograph or a memento might serve as a great memory prompt.
- > Reminisce about when you were little. Tell your child about what happened at school and about your family members or friends.
- > Write a journal with your child to create a new family story. You could record the day's events and paste photographs into the journal or have your child draw pictures. The story could simply be about going to the grocery store or to the playground.

Student Drop-off

A reminder that parents who are dropping off students for grades 1-5 are to do so at the Junior doors where supervision is provided beginning at 8:00am. Cars should pull over to the side to quickly let out students. This will help to keep traffic flowing. Parents are also reminded that students are to remain outside the school until the second bell rings at 8:15 a.m. unless they are directed inside by the supervisor due to weather conditions.

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How Can I Help My Child With Reading?

- ◆ Continue to read to your child every day. Vary the type of books read, e.g., short stories, poems, books of different genres, etc.
- ◆ Emphasize with your child the importance of making sense from their reading. Encourage them to take risks and 'have a go' at a word.
- ◆ De-emphasize the need to get 100% accuracy and try strategies other than sounding out.
- ◆ When reading to your child stop sometimes and ask 'what do you do next?' Accept the child's answers even though they may not seem right.
- ◆ Occasionally ask some 'why questions about the story, e.g., 'Why do you think the author put that bit in the story?'
- ◆ Talk about books your child has read at school.
- ◆ Take your child to the local library regularly and to any story telling sessions that are advertised.
- ◆ Buy books as presents to commemorate special occasions.
- ◆ Talk about the things you read; newspapers, magazines, books etc.
- ◆ Browse together in bookshops.
- ◆ Discuss and point out how to locate particular books in bookshops e.g., travel books, cooking books, computer texts.
- ◆ Talk about books you are reading together. Compare characters with real people.
- ◆ Accept your child's efforts with praise, concentrate on all the things he/she does right, not on the few errors.
- ◆ Have plenty of scrap paper, pencils, felt pens and crayons on the child's table or desk.
- ◆ Talk about illustrations to see if they match what is in the child's or your mind.
- ◆ Leave notes around the house or under your child's pillow.
- ◆ Point out the author's name before reading a book and encourage your child to read other books by that author.
- ◆ Encourage your child to write messages to other family members.
- ◆ Encourage your child to write letters, postcards, lists, messages. Accept spelling mistakes.
- ◆ Buy your child games that provide simple instructions to read and follow. Play word games.
- ◆ Look at the TV guide together and choose a program to watch.
- ◆ Encourage your child to keep a diary or journal when you go on holidays. This is particularly valuable if you are traveling and your child is missing school.
- ◆ Play number-plate games in the car, e.g., 'silly sentences' - FCF could be 'Fat Cows Flying'.
- ◆ Encourage children to retell stories. Involve the family in swapping stories, e.g., 'I'll tell you a story if you tell me one'.

Parent Council Meeting

Everyone is cordially invited to our February Parent Council meeting. We will be meeting on **Wednesday, February 13** at 6:30 in the staffroom.

Family Day Holiday

Monday, February 18, 2013 is a statutory holiday, known as Family Day. As a result, all schools and school board offices will be closed.



Student of Excellence Award

At this time of year, it is always a pleasure to announce the recipient of the Student of Excellence Award. This award is presented to one student in each Halton school who demonstrates commitment to academic achievement, citizenship, and extra-curricular activities. It is with great pleasure that I announce the 2013 recipient of the Student of Excellence Award for Glen Williams Public School, Alycia Hepburn. Alycia was selected because of her exemplary effort, attitude and academic achievement. She demonstrates all the components of our Tribes agreements and treats everyone with respect and courtesy as well as being a positive role model for her peers. Congratulations, Alycia !!

Reminder Notice: Parking Lot Concerns

As I am sure you are aware, our parking lot space is very tight at Glen Williams. We have many cars and busses trying to negotiate their way around and we have children and parents walking to school and then home again. This all makes for a busy lot. To help alleviate congestion and to ensure the safety of our children, I encourage parents to park off school property when dropping off and/or picking up their child. Parents can then accompany their children onto or off the school grounds. Furthermore, I am asking that all drivers follow the correct entry and exit signs and procedures. Entry to and exit from the parking lot must be through the appropriate areas only. No one should be backing in to the exit area. Thank you for keeping our children safe within the confines of the parking lot.

Mary's Cold

Mary had a little cold, but wouldn't stay at home

And everywhere that Mary went, the cold was sure to roam;

It wondered into Mary's eyes and filled them full of tears.

It jumped from there to Bobby's nose, and thence to Jimmy's ears.

It painted Anna's throat bright red, and swelled poor Jenny's head.

Dora had a fever, and a cough put Jack to bed.

The moral of this little tale is very quickly said,

Mary could have saved a lot of pain with just one day in bed!

It can be expected that "cold" weather and "Mary's Cold" go together occasionally.

As important as regular attendance is, there are times when a day at home is the best cure.





Labels for Education

Our school has been participating in Campbell's rewards program, "Labels For Education". By saving and counting the labels/UPCs from eligible products, we amass points to be redeemed for books, art supplies and gym equipment. Kindly encourage your family and friends to help out with our project. Labels may be deposited in the box outside the office door.

Eligible Products:

Campbell's Condensed soup
Chunky soup
Campbell's Hearty Noodles
Campbell's/sauce & broth
Goldfish crackers
Pace salsa

Habitant soup
Healthy Request/ ready to serve
Gardennay soups
Prego sauce
V8 vegetable cocktail
V8 Splash juice drinks



Snowflakes

They say that every snowflake is different I found out that it's true. Just one snowflake can make a kid happy. Just like me! Every year the trees get covered with snowflakes that get pushed together. That's why we call it snow! When snow drops it may melt. I love catching snow in my mouth

Snow flakes are awesome!

By Madisson Anthony

Let's Explore Math! Activities for the Home

Mathematics is everywhere, and every day is filled with opportunities to help children experience it. The following activities are designed for home use so that you and your child can explore math and have fun at the same time. They are reproduced from the U.S. Department of Education publication, *Helping Your Child Learn Math*, and are available online at: www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math/

Total It Grades 3-5

Materials: License plates, paper, pencil and calculator

What to do:

As you are traveling in your car, or on a bus, each person takes turns calling out a license plate number.

All players try to add the numbers in their heads. Talk about what strategies were used in mental math addition. Were the numbers added by 10's like 2+8? Were doubles like 6+6 added?

Try different problems using the numbers in a license plate. For example, if you use the plate number 663M218, ask "Using the numbers on the plate, can you make 5?"



Learning Skills and Work Habits

As we all know, Learning Skills are an integral part of student achievement. One of the six learning skills on the Progress Report Card and the Provincial Report Card is Independent Work. Each classroom has a poster and teachers speak to it and students can access it to remind themselves of what they can do to demonstrate this skill to their teachers. Here is what is posted in each classroom:

- ◆ I will listen attentively so that I know what to do.
- ◆ I will follow instructions.
- ◆ I will think about my work and try it before I ask for help.

Safe Schools Action Team

Members of this committee are:

Mrs. Boorman - Grade 5 Teacher
Rev. Orear - Community Member
Mr. V. Cundari - Principal

Mrs. Racinsky - Educational Assistant
Mr. R. Preston - Parent Representative

Foci for the SSAT include:

- A) Revisions to our 2012/ 2013 Safety and Well-Being School Improvement Plan.
- B) Submission of our Bullying Prevention and Intervention Action Plan Template

Belongingness Survey

In October, our grade 2-5 student body took part in a school generated Belongingness Survey and Questionnaire (grade appropriate). This is part of our School Improvement Plan for Safety and Well-Being and serves as a pre-assessment piece which will help guide future decision making at our school. Here are some findings:

- A) Overall Participation: Grades 2-5 (129 students took the survey.) 52% were boys. 48% girls were girls.
- B) Overall, 87% of students indicated that they feel safe at Glen Williams. This is consistent with the May 2012 survey finding.
- C) Exclusion was the most prevalent type of behaviour identified by both boys and girls, up 2.2% from the May 2012 survey. (May 2012 at 14.2%, October 2013 at 16.4%)
- D) Although the playground is still an area of concern, it did drop by 4.9% since the May survey. (May 2012 at 9.5%, October 2013 at 4.6%)



Tribes Agreements

Attentive Listening: This agreement calls for all of us to pay close attention to one another 's expression of ideas, opinions, and feelings, to check for understanding and to let others know they have been heard.

Kindergarten Registration

The Halton District School Board is now accepting registrations for Junior Kindergarten for the 2013-2014 school year. Parents/Guardians should pick up registration packages from the Office. Registration forms are also available on the board website and the school website. Families who currently have students in the school and want to register a child for Kindergarten should also pick up and complete the registration package. Parents/Guardians will need to bring proof of age and the immunization record of the child to the school when they register. The Board is requesting that registrations be completed by Tuesday, February 19, 2013. If you are aware of any families in the Glen Williams catchment area who have eligible children for Kindergarten and might not be aware of the registration process, please pass this information along.

2013 Live Free Campaign.

On **Friday, February 22, 2013**, several schools including Glen Williams will join together and raise funds for breakfast, snack or emergency lunch, High School Meal Card and Farm to School programs throughout Halton. Live Free asks students to donate a toonie or donate online in support of Halton Food for Thought. The Live Free website address for donations is: <http://www.livefreehalton.ca>. Simply click on the 'Canada Helps donate now' button and it will direct you to the Canada Helps page. Look for a flyer sent via an email blast and/or posted on our website *closer* to February 22. We truly appreciate your participation in Live Free, our largest fundraising event. If you have any questions about Live Free, please contact our Community Relations Manager, Kelly Stronach at 905.315.6842 x5515 or Kelly@haltonfoodforthought.ca.

Thanking you in advance for your generous contributions!!

Inclement Weather

It may be necessary for the Halton District School Board to cancel busses and/or close schools due to inclement weather. These decisions are made by Board personnel, usually prior to 6:30 a.m. Check the Board's website and/or the radio/television stations for updates. If busses have been cancelled, and the school remains open parents are responsible for getting students to and from school.

Changes in Bussing

Please be advised that parents are responsible for notifying the office at the school at least a week in advance of any bus change requests. The Halton Student Transportation Services needs this turn around time for the safety of our students. Thank you for your consideration to this matter.



February 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 PA Day	2
						
3	4 Taekwon'do	5 Healthy Snack Taekwon'do	6	7	8 Pita Day	9
10	11 Healthy Snack Taekwon'do	12 Taekwon'do	13 Parent Council Meeting at 6:30	14 Valentine's Day 	15 Pizza Day	16
17	18 Family Day 	19 Healthy Snack Taekwon'do	20 Taekwon'do	21 Help Kids Live Free From Hun- ger Campaign	22 Sub day	23
24	25 Term 1 Reports Home Healthy Snack Taekwon'do	26 Taekwon'do	27	28	March 1 Pizza Movie Night (Wreck It Ralph)	