

Glen Williams School



January Newsletter



Happy New Year to all our Families from the Glen Williams Staff!

Happy New Year and Welcome Back. I hope you have all had a restful, safe and enjoyable holiday season with family and friends.

Thank you for your fantastic support at our Holiday Concerts. The turnout was wonderful as usual.

The first term (as far as reporting purposes is concerned) is nearing its end. The students are working diligently at improving their learning and many students have set specific goals for themselves as part of the November conferences. I encourage older students to regularly remind parents of their goals as well as the steps that are needed to accomplish these goals. As homework, assignments and agendas go between home and school, we have excellent opportunities to help students work towards their objectives and to acknowledge their step by step accomplishments. What a wonderful way to spend quality time together!!

We are continuing our focus and deepening our understanding of the Teaching-Learning Critical pathway, a Ministry tool designed to create very precise assessments and teaching tools that support all learners. To that end, grades 1-5 homeroom teachers continue to participate in a teacher moderated marking process.

Thank you to all our parents who continually support Glen Williams. The students, staff and administration are truly appreciative.

V. Cundari, Principal

Student Arrival Reminders

Students are expected to be punctual for the beginning of the school day. If announcements have started the child is considered late. Students must wait at the office until after the playing of O'Canada before going to their class.

Parent Council Meeting

Everyone is cordially invited to our January Parent Council meeting. We will be meeting on Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 in the staffroom.

Principal - Mr. V. Cundari
Secretary - Mrs. A. Doraty
Superintendent of Education
Mr. M. Zonneveld
Trustee - Ms. G. Kutarna
Director of Education
Mr. . D. Euale
(905) 878-8451

Holiday Food Drive

Thanks to your generous donations this year we brought 20 boxes of food to the Georgetown Food Bank. Many thanks to Mrs. Boorman and her class for overseeing this very worthy cause as it will certainly help the less fortunate families in our area.

Coming events ...

Monday January 9	1st Day of School After Holiday Break
Monday January 9	Milk order form sent home
Friday January 13	Milk order forms due
Friday January 13	Pita Day
Friday January 20	Pizza Day
Friday January 27	Pita Day
Friday, January 27	Glen Gathering - 8:30 a.m.



January



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<i>Holidays</i>					
8	9	10	11	12	13 <i>Pita Day</i>	14
15	16	17 <i>Parent Council @6:30pm</i>	18	19 <i>Joint Parent Council Meeting @7:00pm</i>	20 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 <i>Glen Gathering Pita Day</i>	28
29	30 <i>Curling</i>	31 <i>Curling</i>				

Inclement Weather

We remind parents/guardians that updated information regarding school closures and bus runs will be available on a number of radio and television stations.



Please do not call the school—depend on radio station and TV updates.

We would also ask that students who are walking to school to please use the pathways provided at the front. Walking on the driveway is dangerous, especially when a snowfall has restricted our space and busses and cars are everywhere. We will endeavour to keep the walkways clear, however, our first priority is to clear entrance points. Your cooperation is appreciated.

We would remind parents/guardians that supervision of students in the morning does not begin until 8:00 a.m. We ask for your cooperation in this matter to ensure that students are not being dropped off any earlier.



French Immersion Registration

French Immersion programming is available to students in Halton beginning in grade one. This bilingual program is offered at the French center at George Kennedy Public School. The students receive half of their instruction in French and half in English. An information session has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 10th at George Kennedy school (75 Weber Drive, Georgetown) beginning at 6:30 p.m. More information will be made available to you in the weeks to come.

Holiday Concert

The Glen Williams Holiday Concert is always a celebration of our community and the holiday season. Parents, students and staff provided many positive comments about the event. Thanks to Mrs. Gombocz who ran our sound system during the concerts and Mrs. Allen for playing piano for the choir performance on Thursday evening. I would like to recognize our teachers and students who worked so diligently to make the concerts such a success. Finally, I extend a big thank you to Mrs. Milne who was our creative director. Her many talents and enthusiasm are appreciated.

In addition, our Christmas Concert DVD can be ordered until January 23. Forms to complete are in the front foyer.

Elementary Optional Attendance

Halton students seeking placement at schools other than their home school do so way of Optional Attendance.

Applications are being accepted at your home school from
December 1—**January 23, 2012**

Not all schools are open to optional attendance. For a list of schools open to optional attendance and to obtain a copy of the registration form (located in the Optional Attendance procedure) you can go to the Halton District School board website at www.hdsb.ca and click on Parent info,OptionalAttendance.



Kindergarten Registration

The Halton District School Board is now accepting registrations for Junior Kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year. Ads will be in community papers during the week of Jan 16 - 20th. Parents/Guardians should pick up registration forms from the office. Registration forms are also available on the board 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 forms. 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. Junior Kindergarten 2012-2013: Children must be 4 years old by December 31, 2012.

Please bring the following original documents with you to register:

- proof of residency via lease, purchase agreement or property tax bill.
- Birth certificate, passport or baptismal certificate for your child
- Proof of immunization, or philosophical or religious exemption forms (and completed medical authorization where necessary).

Please ensure your child is registered by February 17, 2012.

Please Note: The difference this year is a deadline of Friday Feb. 17th, 2012. Some families may register after that, but the hope is that the majority will register earlier giving all schools more information ahead of the staffing process.

Book Fair

Congratulations Glen Williams. With your support, our Scholastic Book Fair was another success this year! We raised \$2713.50 which means more books for the library! Thank you everyone for showing your support and participating in this exciting and educational fundraiser.

Many thanks,
Ms. Nielsen
Teacher Librarian

Safety At School

Now that we are in the thick of winter, I would like to remind our students of the importance of safe play. Snow piles found at the front of the school near the east parking lot and beside the hedge are to be avoided when coming and going from school. In the past students have slid down these mounds of snow and ended up on the driveway very near to moving cars. Ice patches will crop up on our property from time to time. We remind students to stay off the ice and play in safe spots on the play areas at the back of the school. Let's all play

Tribes Agreements

Attentive Listening

- means listening with your eyes, your ears and your heart.
- means acknowledging others when they are speaking by giving them your full attention and eye contact.
- means offering your comments, opinions after the speaker is finished talking.
- means using kind encouraging words to let the speaker know that they have been heard.
- means affirming through body language that the speaker is being heard.
- means paying attention to the words and also the feeling behind the words.

Head Lice Update

We Care Home Health Services provides screening for head lice. A student who has head lice must report to this service to receive an "All Clear" letter before the child is allowed to return to school. The number of this service is (905) 545-2273 or toll free at 1-866-577-4499.

In addition, families can now have their child's head checked by a medical practitioner as well with a brief note stating that the child's head is clear. Families bear the cost of this service at their physician's office, walk-in clinic or other checking source.

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 Collaboration. 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:

Collaboration

I will share ideas and materials in a nice way.

I will speak politely to others.

I will do my share of the work when working in groups.

HELPING YOUR CHILD TO ENJOY READING!!

Tips for Parents:

Make reading a part of your daily routine by setting aside a regular time for family reading.

Read to your child from a variety of sources to broaden interest and increase awareness of the many types of reading materials available.

Consider regular family visits to the library.

Ask your child's teacher to recommend appropriate books at your child's reading level.

Become aware of the reading expectations for your child's grade in order to ask questions and better understand report card comments.

If you are unsure how to help your child with reading, ask your child's teacher about the kinds of assistance you can provide at home

Set a regular time for reading each evening, keeping in mind your child's assigned homework.

Glen Gatherings

These Tribes based assemblies are held once a month on a Friday morning beginning at 8:30 a.m. Practice is that teachers contact the parents of students who will be receiving Tribes certificates. However the assemblies are open to all parents of all children. The January Glen Gathering is scheduled for Friday, January 27 at 8:30, "A" day.

Flu Season

To ensure that Glen Williams remains a healthy environment for everyone we ask that students who are prohibited from engaging in any school activities due to illness remain at home. When students are able to fully participate in all activities and go outside during nutrition breaks they are more than welcome to return. Students are reminded to practice coughing and sneezing protocol to reduce the spread of germs.

Proper hand washing is critical in the prevention of the spread of germs. All students should consider the following guidelines:

- ◆ Students should wash hands frequently throughout the day, especially after using the washroom facilities, after coughing or sneezing when possible and prior to eating.
- ◆ Rub the hands together vigorously with soapy water for 10-15 seconds to remove dirt and germs from the skin.
- ◆ Rinse the hands under running water for an equal amount of time to remove the lather in which the dirt and germs have collected.
- ◆ If we all do our part, we can help to keep Glen Williams a safe, healthy work place for all.

REMINDER FROM THE GREEN EAGLES:

Glen Williams Public School fosters environmental responsibility in our students. One of the initiatives is waste minimization. To this end, we do appreciate your daily support with litter-free lunches. Here are some helpful tips:



LITTER-FREE LUNCHES-

- A reusable lunch bag or box.
- Reusable containers for packing food. Hard plastic food containers or re-use of plastic tubs are suitable options.
- Reusable drink containers e.g. thermos, or reusable bottle. Recyclable containers (juice boxes) are discouraged.
- Organic waste like apple cores, orange and banana peels, other leftovers etc. go in our class green carts to be composted.
- Non-disposable cutlery (silverware) and a cloth napkin.

*Note: Bulk purchases reduce packaging. Also, fresh fruit and vegetables and unprocessed foods are healthier and produce less packaging.

Based on the results of our Green Eagles' Waste Audit, we would like to eliminate non-recyclables such as pudding cups and Koolaid Jammers.

Thank-you for helping to instill an environmental conscience in our community.

Sincerely,

The Green Eagles

Reading Strategies

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, over the next several months, I will be sending along reading strategies that are part of the All Star Reading concept. Share/try these to help support student literacy skills (if appropriate)

Previewing

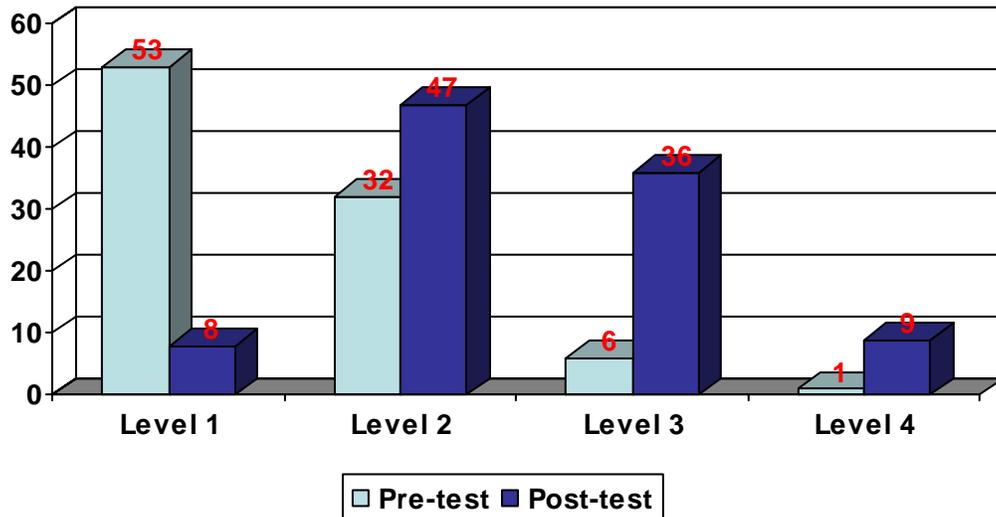
Each new book is "looked through" or previewed cover to cover prior to first reading. The student is encouraged to guess the content of the story and predict possible vocabulary. Vocabulary that is correctly predicted may be pointed out to corresponding print. This prepares the student for making valuable predictions when attempting to uncover/decode the print in new readings.

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 buses 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.

TLCP Cycle 1 School-level Results

Comparing Overall Student Achievement on the Pre- and Post-assessments (percentages)



The Teaching-Learning Critical Pathway

Our first TLCP (Teaching-Learning Critical Pathway) of this school year was dedicated to the area of reading and more specifically to Making Connections. Making Connections refers to the students' ability to make connections from a text they are reading to another text they have read, to their personal life and/or to the world around them.

First, our primary and junior students were given a pre-assessment task. Students independently performed the task, as best as he/she could, given his/her current skill level. The tasks were marked by grade (e.g., Grade 1, 2 etc.). After moderating (collaborative marking by grade divisions) the teachers identified the students' strengths as well as areas of need. Then, the teachers target taught those specific areas of need in whole group, small group and individual settings. At the end of the TLCP, students were given a post-assessment task. The tasks were moderated and as you can see by the graph (levels 3 and 4 representing the provincial standard and above) it clearly demonstrates our growth as a school in the Reading area of Making Connections. Keep up the good work staff and students!