



Glen Williams Public School

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Newsletter - March 2014

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Parent Council Meeting

Everyone is cordially invited
to our March Parent Council
meeting.

We will be meeting on Tues-
day, March 4 at 6:30 in the
staffroom.



March 10
To
March 14



MY CHILD, THE WINNER

The greatest gift we can give children is the knowledge that they can first rely on themselves for the answers to their problems. A child who develops an attitude that says, *"I can probably find my own solutions, and if not, adults will be willing to give me some advice,"* becomes successful. This child usually has the edge in learning, relating to others and making his or her way in the world.

People often ask how they can support their children to ensure they excel. This often means, *"What can I do to make sure my child gets ahead or is a winner?"* Sometimes, it means, *"What can I do to help my child be successful, feel secure and lead a happy life?"* It doesn't matter which question is asked. The answer is the same.

The foundation for success lies in the belief that the best solution to any problem comes from within. Then if you don't find the answers ask for advice from others. Parents and teachers can help children develop this attitude by being understanding and sympathetic each time a child has a problem. This can be done in a variety of ways such as, *"I bet that really bothered you,"* or *"Wow! I bet that makes you feel mad,"* or *"If that happened to me, I would really feel..."*

These types of statements usually bring about some kind of response that conveys that the child is relieved that we understand. As soon as we see that response, it is time to ask one of the most important questions children ever hear, *"What do you think you are going to do about it?"* This is a powerful statement because it implies that we know the child is capable of doing his or her own thinking.

This question is often answered by, *"I don't know."* This is a good time to offer some different kinds of solutions. We discuss the possible consequences with the child, and then allow him/her to choose the solution he/she likes best, even if it means that the child decides not to solve his/her problem.

Children have too few opportunities to learn about and practice for the real world.

These opportunities present themselves most often as problems to solve or decisions to make. Each time I move into the situation, solve the problem or rescue the child, **I have taken away one of my child's growth experiences.** He or she is now less prepared to face the real world than if I had been there with understanding and the question, *"What are you going to do about it?"*

STEPS

1. Show understanding.
2. Ask, "How are you going to solve the problem?"
3. Share some choices.
4. Help him/her look at the consequences.
5. Give permission to solve it or not solve it.



But Johnny Doesn't Like To Read

Parents can get very discouraged when children do not want to read. These same children can get very discouraged about their reading abilities and truly dislike reading because they haven't MET many books they have liked. Here are some tips that might be helpful in increasing your child's interest in reading. **THINK ABOUT YOUR CHILD** - What are his/her interests? Write them down and put the list on your fridge.

Ask:

- ⇒ Do they like fiction or non-fiction?
- ⇒ Do they need pattern books? (similar words on each page)
- ⇒ How much picture support do they need/enjoy?
- ⇒ How many words can be on each page?
- ⇒ How long is the book?
- ⇒ What is a **JUST RIGHT** book for my child? (one that they enjoy/can read 95% of the words/understands)



GATHER/USE THE RESOURCES - What books in your child's interest areas do you already have? **PUT THEM IN A GOOD SPACE & A GOOD PLACE.** Are the books in a container that keeps them organized? Is the container highly visible (in a very well-used room in your house)?

WHERE CAN I GET MORE RESOURCES? Your local libraries are a great place to start. Feel free to ask the librarians...they will decrease your hunt time!! Bring in a book from home that shows your child's interest and ability level...that **JUST RIGHT** book. The librarians will show you sections for you to start your treasure hunt!

a. Check to see if the books are leveled (usually on the upper right hand corner of the front cover). The levels can be Step, Level or Grade. But these can range, two books at *Grade Two Level* can have very different difficulty levels. Ask...Can my child read this?

b. Does the book belong to a series?

You can also check out other local libraries to get different resources.



P.S. More boys are slower to show an interest in reading. Often they respond to non-fiction books (true life, fact) - especially science related information much better than fiction (pretend). Did you know that 80% of non-fiction books sold in large bookstores (i.e., Chapters) are sold to males??!!

Unfortunately, it is more difficult to find appropriate reading levels in our homes and even in local libraries that are non-fiction. However, much more of these types of books are in libraries now. Express your interest and needs to your librarians to see if they can put them on their purchasing list.



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.



School and Student Safety

The increase in temperatures associated with this time of year brings potential danger. As the river ice begins to melt, it becomes less stable and children are at risk to fall in the water. The melting ice also creates a faster flow which makes playing anywhere near the river very dangerous. Let's be extra careful during the March break and keep our children safe.

Late Students

When students arrive late to school, please remember to remind them that they are required to sign in at the office. This also applies to students leaving early. Parents must check-in at the office before picking up a child. Informing the office and the teacher of the entrance (e.g., late arrival) or exit (e.g., leaving early) of a student helps us with our attendance records.

Dogs on School Property



For the safety of our students, if you must bring your dog with you when picking up or dropping off your child at school, we require you to leash your dogs and keep them "close at hand". Even well behaved dogs can become "argumentative" when they encounter another dog, and this can pose a serious problem when that encounter occurs on school property. This has happened in the past and we encourage your co-operation in keeping our children safe. We would also like to remind the community that dogs **are not** allowed inside the school building (this includes doorways). It is our intent to keep all our students safe.



Healthy Snack

Due to the impending construction for Full Day Kindergarten, please note that the Healthy Snack program will cease to run after the March break as the staffroom will be part of the construction. The program will run again for the 2014/15 school year.

Special Lunches and Bus Cancellations

Please note that if buses are cancelled on a special lunch day, that particular special lunch day will be honored at a later date. If you intend to bring your child (ren) to school on bus cancellation days, please ensure a lunch is packed.

Pick Up of Students on Bus Cancellation Days

Please note that all students will assemble in the gym at the end of the school day, 2:35pm. All parents will enter through the front doors to pick up their children from the gym.

Lost and Not Yet Found

Unclaimed clothing is piling up in the Lost and Not Yet Found box located in the gymnasium. Please take a look when you have a moment. Items will be displayed from Monday, March 3 to Thursday March 6 in the foyer. Items that remain will be donated to local charities. In addition, items are also out on display the last Friday of each month.



Volunteers Needed

We are in need of parent volunteers to help with the following areas/programs for our school: Milk and Special Lunch Programs, Healthy Snack Program (for 2014/15), maintaining garden by front door and office support. If interested in any of these support opportunities, please call or e-mail Mrs. Doraty (doraty@hdsb.ca) and your name will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

Moving???

If your son or daughter is not returning to Glen Williams for the September 2014- 2015 school year, please notify the school office. This helps with our class building and planning for September. If you know of families with school age children moving into the Glen school area, please advise them to contact the school office.





Our Tribes Agreements

The Right to Pass/The Right to Participate

This agreement means that a student has the right to choose when and to what extent he/she will participate in a **group** activity. If choosing not to participate actively at that time, students are expected to observe quietly and then choose whether to offer observations later to a **group** when asked to do so. The right to pass does not apply to test taking or when an adult asks a student to do something. The more that students participate in all facets of school life the richer their experiences at school will become!! Being a silent observer is still a form of participation and can also lead to great learning.



Green Eagles and Boomerang Lunch Day

Every Thursday for the month of March will be designated as Boomerang Lunch Day. It is a great day to use re-usable containers and water bottles instead of food items wrapped in individual wrappers that are thrown in the trash or juice boxes that are recycled. Any garbage produced from nutrition breaks will be returned home except compostable items such as banana and orange peels, apple cores and milk cartons from the milk program. Our goal for Thursdays is to eliminate lunch garbage at school and give an awareness of how much garbage we produce in our lunches. To support our goal, the use of re-usable containers and water bottles would be ideal. The class with the least amount of waste will receive the Green Eagles Banner for the month!

GO GREEN... EAGLES

Glen Gathering

Our March Glen Gathering is scheduled for Friday, March 28 at 8:30am. This is an 'B' day for our kindergarten friends.

Everyone is welcome!!



All the Tribes Agreements

By: Luca and Troy

Mutual respect is when you're kind to others and treat people how you want to be treated. Treat your things and other people's things with care. Respect things in the classroom. Look out for other students. Lend a helping hand.

Participation is when you join in an activity or chat with a group of people. It's when you share ideas with the group. You don't interrupt when someone is talking. You take turns. You try to get involved in the group and make a suggestion of something.

Appreciation is when you say thank you when someone helps you. It's when you appreciate somebody. It's when you help others like when you help the teacher with stuff and she says thank you. It's when you're nice to people. People like it when someone does nice things.

Listening is when you are hearing what the other person has to say. You don't interrupt others when they speak. You pay attention to the speaker. You do not talk while somebody else is talking. You listen to your teacher at all times.

MAGICAL STARS COME TO GLEN WILLIAMS P.S!

By: Nick Bahen and Alex Gombocz 

On Friday January 24 *IncrediBrent* and *Super Sarah* came to Glen Williams P.S to do a magic show focusing on bullying. They taught us:

Anything is possible!

Don't let bullies tell you what you can't do.

You're not alone

If you are being bullied tell someone about it

And believe in yourself, If you believe in yourself you will never lose

Find your magic and never forget that you have magic in you

We liked it when Charlie Winsor went up to the front as a volunteer and we all yelled "you can't do it", then when he tried to do the magic trick and it didn't work. So we yelled you **can do it** and the magic trick worked!

This taught us that if you believe in yourself and surround yourself with friends who believe in you and have confidence in you, you will succeed!



Earth Hour Events

Earth Hour: Saturday March 29, 2014 @ 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Hour on Saturday March 29, 2014 between 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The global Earth Hour event highlights the need to conserve energy and taking action on climate change. Everyone is encouraged to take simple steps to reduce energy use, including turning off any unnecessary lights, while staying safe. Since starting to participate in Earth Hour, the Halton Hills community has saved enough electricity to power about 17,200 homes for one hour!

For tips on how to participate, connect via: Website: www.haltonhills.ca/initiatives/earthHour.php

Twitter: @ImagineHH Facebook: ImagineHaltonHills e-mail: sustainability@haltonhills.ca

Phone: 905.873.2601 ext. 2290.

Halton Hills Library News

The Halton Hills Public Library runs a number of programs throughout the year for parents and preschool children. Programs that support our students' literacy are also ongoing. For those of you who will be at home for the holidays, the library will offer programs for our students during the March break. To check out all the great programs offered by the Halton Hills Library, go to www.library.hhpl.on.ca or call 905 873-2681.

Reading Strategies

Over the next several months, I will be sending along reading strategies that are part of the All Star Reading concept. Share/tray 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.

Shadow me:

With shadow reading, the coach reads at the same time as the student. The coach slowly lowers his/her voice and allows the child's voice to be louder. When unknown words are encountered the child will hear the coach/parent say the word and will be able to continue to read the story without stopping the flow of reading.

March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Parent Council @ 6:30pm	5 Volleyball vs Robert Little	6	7 No School for Students	8
9	10	11 	12  	13 	14 	15
16	17	18	19 Volleyball vs Harrison 	20	21 	22
23	24	25	26 Volleyball vs Jo- seph Gibbons	27	28 Glen Gathering @ 8:30am	29
30	April 1					

