

BRANT AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2011

L. BEALE, PRINCIPAL

From the Principal's Desk

The school year is going well and Brant Avenue continues to be a very busy place. The rainy weather has meant a lot of indoor recesses which make it difficult for students to run off excess energy. We would welcome the donation of any board games or any decks of cards that you are not using at home. Please send them to the office or to your child's classroom.

We are all busy settling into new classes and new routines. As students work to make new friends, continue with old relationships and expectations, we work to help with problem solving. I have always been very thankful for the way that parents are willing to listen and to assist with resolving an issue.

Through the Board's policies and procedures, we have developed plans for several emergency situations including fire, tornado and strangers in the school. There are several ways that we ask parents to help us to keep our students safe.

- Always call to let us know that your child will be absent.
- Report to the office when you come to the school.
- Please sign the book in the office to indicate that you have taken your child, time and date.
- We cannot release them to meet you in your car in the parking lot.
- Please be extra vigilant when driving in the school zone. Please slow down and watch carefully for children.
- Set a good example ie crossing at the crossroads etc.

- Help your child to follow the patroller's instructions.

There are 182 students in the school and each activity means lots of work. We ask that anyone who can volunteer some time to help, to please contact the office/or or their child(ren)'s teacher, to indicate when they are available.

Thank you, as always, for your strong support of our children and programs.

Library Update

It's hard to know where to start!! The library has been bustling with activity this month. We have had a new circulation desk and shelving installed and our new chairs have arrived. When visiting the school, please drop in to see the changes.

Cross Country

On October 18th the junior cross country team headed to Margaret Greene Park for a fun filled afternoon of running competition. All of our students ran hard to represent Brant Avenue. Each of our team did a fantastic job. We are all very proud to have had such wonderful athletes represent our school.

School Council Meeting

The next school council meeting is Monday, November 7th at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!

Remembrance Day

Our Remembrance Day service for students and parents will be held in the gym on Friday, November 11th at 11:45 am. Poppies will be handed out prior to the assembly. Money donations for the poppies may be handed in to homeroom teachers.

Thank you for remembering our past and present members of the armed forces and Peace Corps.

Progress Report Cards/Interviews

Progress Reports will be going home on Thursday, November 10th. This Progress Report will provide students and parents with early and specific feedback on the progress made during the first two months of the school year. It will tell you how your child is doing in all subjects using words: “progressing very well”, “progressing well” or “progressing with difficulty”.

Interviews will be held on Friday, November 18th. Please contact Mrs. Smith, our school secretary, at 519-824-2671 to set up your interview appointments.

Cold Days – Wet Weather - Outdoor Recess

It is getting chilly out and the snow may fly soon. Please remember to assist your child in wearing the proper clothing to school. This includes a warm jacket, hat, mitts, and waterproof footwear. Thanks for sending extra socks in your child’s backpack just in case. All students are expected to participate in outdoor recess, as this important, active break aids concentration and success in the classroom. Indoor shoes are essential to help keep our classrooms clean and dry.

Brant Annual Christmas Concert

The concert will be held on Tuesday, December 13th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. If the weather doesn’t co-operate, the alternate date will be Wednesday, December 14th.

Inclement Weather

It is the parent’s responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for his or her child to leave for school in inclement or severe weather. A parent must be aware of the following;

- When a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice, snow conditions, it will NOT travel that route in the afternoon
- While we have an excellent transportation system, buses may be delayed in the morning due to traffic, poor road conditions, mechanical breakdowns etc. To ensure your child is not stranded at his/her pick up point, please make sure they know what to do and where to go if their bus is more than 15 minutes late
- Remember to listen to CJOY 1460 AM or Magic 106.1 FM in the event of inclement weather. They will broadcast bus cancellations or school closures.

Procedures are also in place to ensure the safety of students during their outdoor breaks during periods of extreme cold.

In the event of inclement weather, the Director of Education will make the decision to close schools. Announcements are made by local radio stations and this information is also posted on the Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation System website.

Website: www.stwdsts.ca

Fall Fundraising

Thank you for all of your support during our fall fundraising drive. We had sales of over \$5,000.00. Our goal is to put the monies raised will go towards our playground.

Fire Drills and Lock Downs

In the interest of student safety, the Upper Grand District School Board has directed all schools to conduct 6 fire drills, 2 lock down drills and 1 tornado drill each school year.

Students have become quite accustomed to our different drills, including the lock down drill. During our drill we strive to minimize anxiety by reassuring students that the activity is a “pretend” situation and we are only practicing just like we do with fire drills and tornado drills. Detailed drill procedures have been developed in conjunction with our local police services and provided to all schools as part of our emergency procedures manual. All emergency procedures are reviewed throughout the year.

In a lockdown, students and staff are directed to secure areas where doors can be locked and the children are kept out of sight, such as a classroom.

If a student is not near their own classroom when a lock down is initiated, they will be collected and placed in a safe area. Please note that during a lock down drill no one will be allowed to enter or leave the building, including visitors to the school. In the event of a real lock down, only emergency responders (police etc.) will be allowed to enter the building and no one may leave their secure area until they receive an “all clear” from the authorities.

Practicing these drills is just one more way that helps us continue to ensure the safety of our staff and students. Regular practice helps to keep our students informed of how to maintain calm in case of a real event. Our visitor’s sign in badge system also helps maintain the security of our building so please always display your visitor’s badge if you are anywhere in the school or on the yard. Also know that all of our exterior doors are kept locked except for the main front door to control access. If you have any questions or concerns, we would be happy to discuss them with you.

Full Day Kindergarten Capital Plan

The Upper Grand District School Board has approved in principal a capital plan to complete, by September 2014, the construction and/or renovation of classrooms required for full day kindergarten (FDK) students. The plan also includes the proposed construction of new schools in Guelph, Centre Wellington and Orangeville.

To view the board’s FDK Capital Plan, media release and Q & A, visit www.ugdsb.on.ca/fdk.

EQAO Results

We are very proud of our grade 3 and 6 students. As a staff, we continue to examine student data and assessment to help inform us how to improve teaching and learning as a school. Please see attached the information sheet.

Name Change

Occasionally, parents may wish their child to assume a name other than the name that appears on the birth certificate. If this is the case, we must have legal documentation or a written request (Change of Name by Repute Form) with appropriate signatures for this to be done. Please call the school office for full details.

Recording School Events & Privacy

It is wonderful to take pictures of your child while they participate in school events. However, we ask that you remember that personally recording school events and then subsequent public posting of those recordings on social networks like Facebook or You Tube is not respectful of the privacy rights of all those parents, staff and particularly students whose images you share without their knowledge or permission.

Child Custody

Unless otherwise directed by a court of law, both natural parents have full access to their child and their records. If for some reason these rights are restricted, it is important to notify the Principal with a photocopy of any legal documents that outline a parent's access rights (e.g. Custody Order). Should the situation change, please ensure that the Principal is notified.

Head Lice

Here is our friendly annual head lice reminder! As you are aware, having head lice is not an indicator of poor hygiene – lice like clean hair best! They can happen to anyone. If there was a report of head lice in your child's class, we will send home a head lice notice. Please check your son/daughter's hair regularly, and contact the school if you discover your child has lice or nits. If your child has head lice, please treat them with a remedy from the pharmacy that kills the live lice and then using a special comb or other technique; remove all nits from the hair before the child returns to school. Since no product can effectively kill all nits, you will then need to check for nits and remove them from the hair every day for 7 – 10 days at which time treatment is redone with a pharmacy product. If you miss even 1 nit – it can hatch – and the problem can recur.

Bullying messages from the John Howard Society

Thanks to Greg from the John Howard Society who has been at Brant weekly delivering the bullying programs, "The Power Within & One by One We Get Along" to all classes grade 1-6. It is very important the students distinguish the difference between bullying and bad choices and what to do in both situations. Please let us know at the school if there are any issues with bullying so that we can help!!!

Snack Program

There are many different reasons a student comes to school hungry. Did you know that a dedicated group of teachers here at Brant Avenue help to alleviate hunger for our students by providing a Food and Friends healthy snack program?

In September we served on average 135 students a total of 1,994 snacks. Our program runs every day and all students in need are welcome to choose a healthy snack from the food bins in their classroom. In-Kind and monetary donations are always needed! Please contact Kim Booth for more information, or donate directly to Food and Friends, a program of the Children's Foundation. You may specify which school you would like your donation to benefit.

Kelso

Kelso the frog represents all of the choices that we can use when solving small problems!

I have been in the classrooms discussing the difference between small problems that the students can handle on their own by choosing some of the choices from the Kelso Wheel and Big Problems where an adult is needed to help solve the problem. Big problems are defined as scary or dangerous and if someone could get hurt. All students will have a laminated copy of the Kelso Wheel to bring home and we will continue to use the Kelso wheel at school to assist with conflict and problem solving.

Early Brain Development

The Upper Grand District School Board presents an evening presentation – “Early Brain Development” on November 24th at Ken Danby Public School from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

It’s Time 2 Read!

A team of Brant Avenue teachers are again offering the 5 week parent and child reading program called “Time2Read”. On 5 consecutive Thursday evenings, beginning November 10th, parents will learn about reading strategies, word skills, how to fit learning into a busy day and more! Children who are enrolled in the program will be supervised while they do crafts, play games and have a snack.

This program is targets to Senior Kindergarten and Grade 1 students and their parents. Others may be included if there is room available. Invitations were sent home the week of October 24th and parents are asked to register by November 1st. If you have any questions, please ask your child’s teacher or Mrs. Crandall, Miss Davidson, Mrs. Lightfoot, or Mrs. Pye-Clifford.

Storm Tickets

Thank you to “Casey’s Bar and Grill” for sponsoring Brant Avenue P.S. in the “Adopt-A-School” program. Families at Brant Avenue may have the opportunity to attend a Guelph Storm hockey game by completing the newsletter tear-off and returning it to the office to be entered into the draw for 4 Storm tickets. Good luck everyone!!

Treasure Books

Treasure Books will be on sale in November. Order forms will be sent home next week and are due into the office on Friday, November 17th. The cost of each book is \$35.00. All monies raised will be put towards our playground.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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| Tuesdays, November 1, 8, and 15 | Read4Success 6:30 pm |
| Wednesday, November 2 | River Run –Grades 1 and 1/2 |
| Thursdays, November 10, 17 and 24 | Time2Read 6:00 pm |
| Thursday, November 10 | Progress Reports Go Home |
| Friday, November 11 | Remembrance Day Service – 11:45 am |
| Friday, November 18 | P.A. Day – Pre-Arranged Interviews |
| Friday, November 17 | Treasure Orders Due |
| Friday, November 25 | Brilliant Bear Assembly/ Backwards Day |