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“Achieving Success Together”

General Vanier School

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PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

While the weather may be nice now, it won't be long before we're wearing jackets and the leaves begin to change. September and early October are always very busy times as we gather new information, set up our schedules and get back into a rhythm.

After examining our EQAO results and class marks from last spring, we will begin the processes needed for planning for our school, classrooms and students. Part of that start-up process involves determining Individual Education Plans or I.E.P.s, which specifically mark out the specific goals for our students who need additional time and support. As partners in that process, parents are encouraged to speak with their child's teachers so that we are all working together for the same purpose.

One of the unique strategies we are trying this year involves combining Mr. Gunning and Mr. Campbell's math classes for a period each day in the library. Their plan is to support working with smaller groups by taking advantage of some extra staff available at that time and the use of our computers and SMART Board. Each of our DSBNI schools has a chance to apply for support for an Inquiry Project this year and this is in fact our application. We look forward to seeing great things.



Coming up soon this month will be a full day P.A. Day on Oct. 7th, attached as it often is, to the Thanksgiving weekend. The planning staff does on that P.A. day will be important to setting up our school and personal goals for the upcoming year. And it will be just a month after that, on Nov. 15th, that your child's first report will come home – the Fall Interim Report Card.

Finally, the Accommodation Review process has begun its work here in Fort Erie. I encourage all parents and interested community members to make the effort to come out, so that you can hear the information discussed and have input into the decisions being made. A great first step would be to plan to visit each of the four schools affected during their Open Houses set for Wed. Oct. 19th; see schedule attached for details. This is your chance to be an active part of the future of public education here in Fort Erie. I look forward to seeing you there.



EQAO Spring 2011

Late in September all those parents whose children wrote either the grade 3 or grade 6 E.Q.A.O. tests last Spring will have **received an individual report on their** results. Parents wishing to see a more comprehensive School Report that looks at all our results can plan to be at the Oct 5th School Council meeting or speak with Mr. King. Staff will be examining all our results on the October 7th P.A. day to help plan out our students and teacher learning goals for 2011-2012.



Report Cards

This is the second year of the new report card cycle. Parents can expect an Interim Report card, which will report on the Learning Skills and initial progress in the subject areas, on Tuesday November 15th 2011. The new reports are to be written in more parent-friendly language and should be more specific to your individual child. Parent Interviews will be set up the week following their issue, including a session during the evening. Should you, or your child's teacher, wish to discuss your child's progress at another point in the school year, a phone call is all it takes to set up a meeting.



P.A. Day – Friday October 7th 2011

In order to begin that planning process, there will be no school on Friday October 7th as it is a Professional Activity Day. Our staff will be examining our grade 3 and grade 6 EQAO results from last Spring and mapping out our schools academic focus for the upcoming year.

Fort Erie Accommodation Review Process

The Accommodation Review of the four schools within the immediate Town has begun. The first meeting was an introduction of the members to each other and an explanation of the process that will unfold over the next six months. There are two meetings each month: the first is where the A.R.C. meets as a small group to set up the next step in the process, while the second is an open meeting where the public is invited to provide input to those plans. While all meetings are open to the public to observe, it is at the Public Meetings that parents and community folks can share their thoughts. All meetings, with the exception of the Open House Night are at General Vanier, beginning each time at 6:00 PM.



The committee is comprised of two Fort Erie community members, two Board trustees, and one School Council member from each of Fort Erie, Garrison Road, General Vanier and Rose Seaton schools. Chaired by Superintendent Marilyn Hyatt, the committee also includes all four principals of the schools involved. The A.R.C. met for the first time on Wed. Sept 21st and was followed a week later by our first Public Session on Wed. Sept 28th. Both those sessions were devoted to laying out the A.R.C. process and to setting out how we would gather information on each of the four schools. At the Oct. 12th session each school will present a report followed by reports from Board officials regarding population, planning and each of the buildings. The following week, on Wed. Oct 19th, each of the schools will be holding an Open House where the public can review all that information and tour each building. The evening begins at Garrison Road at 5:00 pm, followed by Vanier at 6:00 pm, Fort Erie at 7:00 pm and finally Rose Seaton at 8:00 pm.

At the meeting following the Open House on Thurs. Nov. 3rd the A.R.C. will begin to consider their options and choices, including hearing the suggestions of Senior Admin. The community will have their chance for input on the Wed. Nov. 16th Public Session. Everyone who has an interest in the process and its outcome is encouraged to come out. The full schedule of meetings and times is available on the link at our school website.

K2Y After-School Program

What was called the Kids Quest Program, but is now known as the Kids to Youth [K2Y] Program, is up and running each Tuesday after school.

One of the many programs offered by Big Brother / Big Sisters of Fort Erie, the focus of the program will be more than just homework help, and will also include some snack and activity time as well. As not all of those originally invited to participate have signed up, we do have a few spaces still open. If you would like your child to participate, please contact Mr. King.

K2Y

Homework Club

From 3:15 to 4:00 PM each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday our school library will be open for an after-school Homework Club. Homework Club is a chance for students needing extra help or support to remain after school to use school resources to help them complete work assigned to be done outside of class time. This could include using the library or computers to help with research, to work on projects, to complete homework or simply find a quiet place to do some reading. Students may stay voluntarily or participation can be recommended by a teacher, but will be supervised by Educational Assistant Ms. Eves and Mr. King. Those students planning to stay will need to sign up at least the day before **AND** have prior written permission from their parents, such as a note in their agenda. Any teacher requesting a student's participation in Homework Club will also be asked to communicate with both the student and parents beforehand. The Club will open for business after Thanksgiving.



Celebration Assembly

During Period 6 of Fri. Sept. 30th we recognized some of our students for their special contributions during the past month. Student award winners were: Emily F., Charity E., Chandler C., Olivia M., Vanessa M., Tessa J., Tori C., Sydnee K., Carmen B., Kyler J., Enrique R., Cole P. & Cassidy D. Our next assembly will be on the morning of **Friday October 28th** in the school gym. Parents and family welcome.



Spirit Days

Our spirit days return this Fall with two scheduled for October. On **Rock Star Day, Fri. Oct. 14th** students are welcome to dress up as their favourite musical performer for the day – keeping in mind that we need to do so tastefully please, i.e. no inappropriate slogans or outfits, so that the day is an enjoyable one for all involved. Our second event, **Black & Orange Day** will happen on **Fri. Oct 28th**. As our students in grades 1 to 8 do not come to school dressed for Halloween, we ask instead that each of our students come dressed in the colours black and orange. Members of our Student Council will come by to each homeroom and tally up the number of participants by “colour team”, i.e. the team each student has been assigned to for intramurals and spirit events.



Terry Fox Walk 2011

During Period 3 on Friday September 23rd, our Early Release Day, students participated in our Annual Terry Fox Walk fundraiser. All students completed several large laps about the school yard and neighbouring Douglas Park in honour of Terry Fox's efforts some thirty years ago. We asked our children to bring in a toonie or loonie to donate to the cause of cancer research and are happy to announce that, with a small donation from the school, our total topped \$200.00. In recognition of our long-term commitment to Terry's cause, the school was also awarded a banner, which we have displayed in our main hallway. Congratulations to all who helped out this worthy cause one again.

Yard Supervision

A reminder to parents: our teachers are on yard supervision starting at **8:35 each morning**. When walking or sending your child(ren) off to school please work their arrival after that time.

Late Arrivals or Early Pick-up

Should you bring your child to school after classes have begun, we ask that you bring them into the office. There, Mrs. Walpole can record their arrival and issue them with a late slip. Likewise if you are picking your child up for an appointment, we also ask that you come into the office to sign them out. If this happens during our secretary's lunch hour (12:30 to 1:30) Mr. King and/or a student secretary will be happy to assist you. If you are meeting your child after school, please avoid doing so in the Main Office, entrances or hallways. Instead **we ask you choose a place outside of the school to meet your child.**



Second Nutrition Break - No Crossing Guards

We remind parents that new this year, there will be no crossing guards at Central Ave or Catherine Street during 2nd Nutrition Break.

We are therefore expecting that ALL students will remain at school for both breaks, unless:

- they are picked up by and signed out by an authorized adult or
- we receive written permission from a parent allowing their child to go home.



Fire Prevention Week

The first week in October is Fire Prevention Week, so we can expect that our local volunteer fire department will be stopping by to conduct an 'unscheduled' fire drill. Board policy requires us to conduct three fire drills each Fall and another three each Spring.



Walking to School Day October 5th

Last year our School Travel Plan committee worked hard to encourage as many of our students as possible to get in the habit of walking or biking to school. We returned to the same theme on Wed. Oct 5th which was National Walk to School Day. To make things interesting Bridges Community Health is putting up a \$1000.00 prize to the Fort Erie school who has the largest percentage of their students who walk or bike to school on that day. So besides competing with each classroom, we now have an incentive to compete with other schools as well. All participants are asked to sign up by Fri. Sept 30th so we can enter as many names as possible. Stay tuned to see how we do!



Annual Magazine Fund Raiser

Our major school fund-raiser, the QSP Magazine Campaign, wrapped up on Sept. 26th. Students were encouraged to ask family & friends to purchase subscriptions to their favourite magazines at prices well below newsstand and earn some nifty prizes for themselves in the process. Thanks to Mrs. Walpole, all the orders have been tallied and the prizes ordered. Our thanks to all who participated and helped us out.

Fort Erie Meteors "General Vanier Appreciation Night" - Oct. 29th

On October 29th, our General Vanier community will have a unique opportunity. On that Saturday night, the Fort Erie Meteors Junior B Hockey Club is hosting "General Vanier Appreciation Night" where Vanier will be the featured school at their hockey game. The Oct 29th game is also Halloween Dress Up Night, so wear your costumes as there will be prizes for best costumes and raffle draws just for Vanier students. Students who bring in their permission forms will be given a packet of five tickets to sell to their family and friends for the flat rate of \$7.00 each. If a student sells all five, they get free admission to the game. It's that easy. Besides that, from each ticket sold, two dollars comes back to General Vanier as a fundraiser. If you are interested in



having your child(ren) participate, complete and return the form. The Meteors will be here for an assembly on Wed. Oct. 5th and tickets can be available for the Thanksgiving long weekend. **Tickets & money are due back to the school by Monday, October 24th, 2011.**



Photo Day

Our photo day is Thursday, October 13, 2011. Edge Imaging provides a wide selection of products to capture your child's true personality. Your child should be bringing home a flyer containing all of the details. Feel free to visit www.edgeimaging.com for answers to frequently asked questions. Retakes will be done on Wed. Nov. 9th.

Student Vote Oct. 5th

On the morning of Wed. Oct. 5th each of our students in grades four through eight had a chance to participate in a 'mock' provincial election, as organized by Student Vote. We set up Room 3 as our own polling station, complete with voters' list, ballots with all the local candidates' names, voting booths, DROs and Polling Clerks. Besides giving students a peek at what the process looks like for voting adults, it also got them talking about the candidates and issues in the election. After the voting we emailed our numbers in to the organizers, who shared the totals on the night of the Provincial election – to show who the students would have selected if their votes could count. All in all it was a very realistic and educational process, and fit nicely with our Junior social studies units on government.



Student Council

Nominations will open the week of Oct. 17th for the 2011-2012 Vanier Student Council. Any grade four to eight student can be nominated for any of the five Minister positions [Finance, Culture, Information, Environment, & Sports], all of which will be elected using a ranked ballot by all of our Junior & Intermediate students. **Nominations will close Fri. Oct. 21st**, to be followed by **speeches and voting on Wed. Oct. 26th**. Following the election of ministers, each class will select one female and one male rep from each class. At their first meeting the Council will elect the two Consuls who will act as co-presidents for the year. One of their first tasks will be to organize the Halloween dance on the afternoon of Oct 28th.



Waste Reduction Week Oct. 17th to 21st

During Waste Reduction Week we will be taking a closer look at what we eat and how we package it. We will be challenging our students to be more conscious about where their food comes from and reducing the waste we produce at snack time. Parents and students can not only help the environment but also their wallet and their health by making good eco-choices when it comes to packing lunches and snacks for school.

By using reusable containers, parents can help their children bring a Waste-Free Lunch that will be easier on our environment. For example:

- Bring your sandwiches and other main dishes, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and treats in a reusable lunch container
- Bring a cloth napkin and stainless-steel forks and spoons
- Use a reusable drink container like a thermos or plastic water container
- Compost your fruit and vegetable leftovers and
- Bring it all in a reusable lunch bag or box.

Lunch food items bought in larger quantities and repacked for daily use will reduce extra unnecessary packaging, which can then be left at home for reuse or recycling. Waste-free lunches are not only a wise environmental choice, but they are less expensive as well. Let's see if we can't take the first step during Waste Reduction Week!

School Council & Parents Group

At the first meeting on Thursday September 15th, Mr. King went over the steps and stages that the Fort Erie Accommodation Review Committee [A.R.C.] will follow in their evaluation of the four schools in town. He also outlined the process for selecting the School Council rep on the A.R.C. and for preparing the school's Valuation Report – a summary of all the programs and offerings at the school.

The first order of business was the election of the 2011-2012 School Council and Parent Group. Those elected were: Lesley Kinghorn (Chair), Susan Taylor (Treasurer), Katherine Foster (A.R.C. rep), K. Foster, Heather Thomas and Karen Bredin (Members at Large). Ms. MacInnes will serve as the staff rep, while the positions of Community rep and Secretary remained open. The Parent Group consists of Lesley Kinghorn (Bingo/Chair), Susan Taylor (Treasurer), and Heather Thomas and Karen Bredin (Directors).

Our 2010-2011 year-end financial report has been completed and submitted to the Board.

Our Bingo dates for this quarter were Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17 & 31 and several new helpers signed up at the Open House. The Parent Group set out a preliminary 2011- 2012 as follows: \$300 for sports equipment & uniforms, \$1200 for in-school presentations, and \$3800 for school trips for a total of \$5300. Council next meets on Tues. Oct. 4th prior to 2nd round of ARC meetings where we will discuss the A.R.C. process, EQAO results and the Board's new Assessment & Evaluation policy.



Breakfast Club

Our school Breakfast Club is up and running again, thanks to our fabulous community volunteer, Mrs. Lorraine Spencer and E.A. Ms. Eves. Each morning in Room 3 starting at 8:15, they offer dry cereal, toast, selected fruits, juices and cheese to those who need a great start to their day. While we are funded by generous grants from the Niagara Nutrition Partners, we also welcome parent donations – either food, money or time. If you would like to offer either your time or a donation, please give us a call [871-5962].



Milk Program

We will continue to offer white & chocolate milk for sale at 1st Nutrition Break. Students are asked to pre-purchase a milk card that entitles them to 20 half-pint cartons, usable whenever they choose, at a cost of \$15.00. Cards can be purchased for your child or another if you wish, through the Main Office.

School Sports

All of our neighbouring Fort Erie schools were here on the morning of September 26th for our Area One Cross Country meet. Unlike last year, the weather was as heated as the competition, as more than fifty runners competed in four age categories for both boys and girls. And while no Vanier students finished well enough to move on, more than a dozen runners were off to try their legs at the DSBN Cross Country meet on October 12th at Fireman's Park in Niagara Falls. Our thanks go to Mr. Campbell for his work in planning and running the event.



Soon our Intermediate boys and girls will also begin practicing for their upcoming volleyball tournaments. While events prevented us from participating in full league play again this year, we have been assured that they will represent Vanier well on tournament play.



And sometime after Thanksgiving, once the weather turns cooler, we will begin our indoor intramural program. Running at nutrition breaks, the teams will be made up of students from our school Colour Teams.



Developing in Your Child the Skills & Habits Essential for Success

Helping children develop positive work habits is an important part of their learning. The six learning skills listed on the new progress reports and report cards are a key part of your child's success in school and in their work pursuits after school. In the classroom, teachers work with your child by explicitly teaching these learning skills. Throughout the school year, they provide opportunities to



deepen your child's understanding of each skill, guide your child in setting goals for personal growth, and provide feedback about successes and next steps your child might take.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP THESE CRUCIAL LEARNING SKILLS AND WORK HABITS?

RESPONSIBILITY

Students are responsible for fulfilling commitments, completing assignments on time and managing their own behaviour.



Help your child learn to plan ahead by asking questions such as, "What do you need to pack for school tomorrow?"

ORGANIZATION

Students develop and follow a plan and process for completing work and achieving goals. Students complete tasks by identifying, gathering, evaluating and using information, technology, and resources.



Track your child's assignments and activities on a wall calendar. Children benefit from visual reminders.

INDEPENDENT WORK

Students develop independence by following instructions, monitoring progress, assessing and revising plans. Class time is used effectively to complete tasks and meet goals with minimal supervision.



Involve your child in making age-appropriate decisions, such as healthy food choices for their lunches and picking out their own clothes.

COLLABORATION

Students share information and fulfill various roles within a group to achieve goals. The group works together to solve problems while respecting the ideas and opinions of the other group members.

Play interactive games to practice sharing and taking turns.



INITIATIVE

Students seek new ideas and opportunities for learning. The student willingly takes risks and demonstrates a positive attitude while respecting the rights of self and others.

Promote your child's interests and support them by providing them with related experiences such as a nature walk or a trip to the library.



SELF-REGULATION

Students set and monitor individual goals based on strengths, needs and interests. Appropriate learning opportunities are identified and the student perseveres to achieve these goals.

Encourage your child to set goals of personal interest. Help them to make a plan to achieve their goal such as earning/saving enough money to purchase a desired item.



Halloween Safety

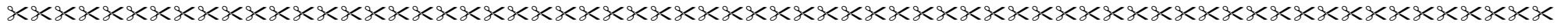


Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe. Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.

- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.
- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.

You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats

Celebration Assembly – September 2011



October Newsletter Draw

My child(ren) _____ brought home this newsletter and I have read it.

Signature of Parent / Guardian



October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Hep B – Gr. 7's HPV – Gr. 8 girls	4	5 Walk to School Day	6	7 P.A. Day	8
9	10 Thanksgiving Day	11	12	13 Picture Day	14 Rock Star Day	15
16	17	18	19 <u>Accommodation Review</u> 5:00 – Garrison Road 6:00 – General Vanier 7:00 – Fort Erie PS 8:00 – Rose Seaton Garbage Bag sales begin today	20	21	22
23	24 Meteor tickets & money due today	25	26	27	28 Celebration Assembly - AM Garbage Bag sales end – - orders & money due today Black & Orange Day	29 General Vanier Appreciation Night - Fort Erie Meteors
30	31					