



Glen Ridge Public School

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March, 2010



Principal's Message....

As the second term comes to a close, teachers are busy completing report cards which will be sent home at the end of the month. Reporting gives teachers, students and parents an opportunity to set goals for the final term. Once received, please take the time to discuss your child's personal development as well as academic grades. It is never too late to make improvements in study habits, organizational skills and attitudes toward learning. Our staff will do their best to assist students in these important areas of development throughout the final term.

The 2009-2010 Grade 3 and 6 assessments are only two months away. Students are busy preparing for reading, writing and mathematics assessments that are administered in the month of June. **Please be informed we have set aside the following dates to complete these assessments - May 31, June 1 through 4th, 2010 inclusive. Please avoid scheduling family outings or doctor or dental appointments on these days.** Your co-operation is appreciated.

In closing, I want to thank all of the Glen Ridge staff for their co-operation and assistance in providing the many activities for our students during the second term.



The winter has created a very optimistic hope for an early spring. I hope that you and your children are able to enjoy a restful and safe March break.

Educationally yours,

B. Harley,
Principal

A Glance Ahead to April 2010 "Caring" ...

Litterless Lunch Mondays	12, 19, 26
Green Team Meetings—Wednesdays	7, 14, 21, 28
School Council Meeting	6
Pizza Lunch	8
Grade 4 Swim Program continues—Thursday	1, 8, 15, 22
NF Art Gallery—JK/SK	8
NF Art Gallery—1-6	9
Education Week	19-23
1/2 Day PD Day	21
Sub Lunch	28
Character Ed. Assembly—a.m. Wacky Hair Day	30



Report Cards ...

We are rapidly coming to the end of the winter and that brings with it second term reports. We will be sending home reports to you about your children's progress on Friday, March 26th. Some of the teachers will be contacting you to discuss your child's progress during the time leading up to this date and after the reports are sent home. However, if you do not hear from your child's teacher and have concerns of your own, please do not hesitate to contact the school so that an opportunity to discuss your concerns can be arranged.



Parent Council

... J. Cawood-Fleury, Chair

March is here and exciting things are happening with fundraising for our kids here at Glen Ridge!

A great time was had by all who attended and helped out at our Cat's Night Silent Auction on February 11th. It was great to see parents of past students who attended Glen Ridge, as well. That says a lot when you see parents who don't have students at the school and are still coming out to support our kids. We raised \$3,586. Our kids had a great time dancing away to the music at our Dance-a-thon and they raised \$2,204.51 to date. The kids said that they loved the music and it showed with all of the dancing and running around in the gym. This has always been a very successful fundraiser and the kids take pride in the fact that they contributed to the school. Thank you to all who came out and helped make this a great success!

MacMillan's Fundraising information has been sent home and the campaign will begin February 22 and run through until March 12th. Delivery of the products will be March 31st. They have yummy treats to order as well. There are lots of cookie dough selections (peanut free!) that can be stored in your freezer for that last minute "Oh I forgot, I have to bring something to school tomorrow!"

*Upcoming Meetings

An additional meeting has been scheduled to discuss the Artisan Show and the Fun Fair. This will be on April 6th at 6:30 in the school library. Important decisions including changes to our council expenses will be discussed. We look forward to seeing everyone from council and encourage all who would like to come out and share your ideas and volunteer your time in planning for our Annual Fun Fair in June.

May 10th and June 15th are the next meetings after that.

The Fundraising Committee has met, and discussions took place about the possibility of the following fundraisers, which we look forward to receiving updated information:

Spaghetti Dinner, Bottle Drive, Magazine Fundraiser.

Thank you,
Jennifer Cawood-Fleury
Parent Council, Chair



Kindergarten Registration ...

Do you know a child who's turning 4 or 5 in 2010? A reminder that registration for new Junior or Senior Kindergarten students is now taking place. If you have a child who is of kindergarten age, or know someone who does, please contact the school as soon as possible for registration information at 905-685-9586.

Junior Girls / Boys Basketball ...

Both teams have been practicing hard in preparation of the upcoming season. Go Grizzlies Go!!!

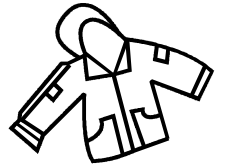
Playground Equipment ...

Please remind your children to remember the rules when using the climbing equipment on the playground. Recently, we have had several instances of people getting hurt because they were not using the equipment properly.

Students are not to climb up the slides nor are they allowed to slide head first down the slide.

Also at times, due to weather conditions, we need to close the climbing equipment. If a red pylon and flat are placed at the equipment, the climbers are not to be used.

Footwear / Outdoor Clothing: For safety reasons, students must wear indoor shoes in the halls and classrooms, especially during "boot" season. All students should dress for the cold weather with hats, hoods, scarves, coats and boots. Children will be outside for recesses unless extreme weather advisories are in effect.



Unannounced ...

In the interest of safety and to eliminate interruptions in our classrooms, please DO NOT walk into the school / classrooms unannounced. If you need to see a teacher or drop off something for your child, please see Mrs. Izzo in the main office. Please make sure items / lunches are clearly marked with the student's name.

Dance-a-thon—Results are in ...

Fun was had by all at the dance-a-thon! The students "strutted their stuff" and kept fit, while raising \$2,204.51 for the school—many thanks to the students of Glen Ridge for their enthusiastic fundraising. A huge thanks to all the parent volunteers who helped make it a very successful day.



The Book Fair ...

A big thanks to everyone who purchased books at our latest book fair. Some amazing titles were available and it was great to see so many parents and students take advantage of the deals at our fair. Thank you goes out to all the student helpers for running another very successful book fair.

Nut Allergies ...

Just a reminder that we have students in the school who are allergic to all nut products. Thank you to everyone who carefully packs nut-free lunches and snacks for their children. Below is a guide for identifying nut-free products.

Always Read the Label

Finding nut-free snack is a challenge, but carefully reading the product label will tell you what products to avoid. Read the ingredient listing every time you shop. Manufacturing and packaging practices may change without any warning and a product that was once nut-free may no longer be.

Steps to Take When Reading Labels

1. Look for any words on the list that could indicate the presence of nuts:
 - peanuts
 - mixed nuts
 - ground nuts
 - mande lonas
 - peanut butter
 - beer nuts
 - peanut oil
 - goober nuts
 - goober peas
 - peanut flour
 - artificial nuts
 - hydrolyzed peanut protein
2. Look for the type of vegetable oil that is used. If the vegetable oil is not identified, avoid the products as the manufacturer may have used peanut oil.
3. Look for a warning that this product "may contain nuts or traces of nuts".

Grade 6 Graduation ...

In an attempt to accommodate all families, we have tentatively scheduled the Graduation activities for our grade 6 students for Thursday June 24th at 6:00 p.m. If this creates a problem for your family, please contact the office at 905-685-9586.

Glen Ridge Daycare ...

Please remember that there are high need times at the daycare, and arrangements must be made prior if you need additional care at an unscheduled time. This ensures that there is an adequate staff to student ratio. Please feel free to contact Kim at 905-684-4770 and leave a message with any questions, concerns and/or changes to current child care. Thank you for your co-operation. As well, if you require care on early release days, and/or PA days, please contact the centre to make arrangements.





Green Team

... Mrs. Willey

We are happy to say that two compost bins are now being used on a daily basis for food scraps, napkins, paper towels, and tissues. Thank you to Kayla C. in grade 2 for being a responsible student and putting the compost outside every recess, every day. Thank you to the grade 3 students for following up and emptying the compost bins on a daily basis.

We are going to start a new, school-wide initiative since we have learned that the average school-age child's disposable lunch generates 67 pounds of waste per school year. EVERY MONDAY, STARTING IN MARCH, we are asking that students at Glen Ridge bring "Litterless Lunches". These lunches include:

- packing lunches in a durable lunch box or backpack instead of relying on paper or plastic bags;
- avoiding pre-packaged items and reducing food waste by using reusable containers that can be resealed to take leftovers home;
- storing food in reusable containers, which avoid plastic wraps, Ziploc bags, and aluminum foil;
- using reusable drink containers instead of juice boxes or cans.

Our second new initiative is something called "EARTH HOUR". Every week we will turn off (or down, depending on the type of weather we are having) the lights for 1 hour in the afternoon, one day a week. Did you know that if students and staff in 1000 classrooms turned off their lights for 3 hours per week, the school board would save thousands of dollars per year and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by tens of tonnes?

Each classroom has a weekly Green Team monitor to check that the lights are out at the end of the day, as well as, computer monitors being turned off. These efforts may reduce our energy consumption by 5-10 %.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT in both of these initiatives!

Be Clean! Go Green!

Public Health Department ...

Is your child up-to-date on his/her immunizations?

The *Immunization of School Pupils Act* requires every Public Health Unit to have one of the following on file for each child attending school:

- an up-to-date immunization record, or
- a legal exemption document (a statement of medical exemption, or a statement of conscience or religious belief affidavit).

In mid-March, suspension orders will be mailed to parents/guardians of those elementary school children who do not have complete immunization records (or legal exemption) on file with Public Health. **Parents have until May 3, 2010 to provide the necessary information to Public Health (otherwise their child will be suspended effective May 4, 2010).**

Parents may contact their health care provider to obtain immunization records and/or immunizations. Public Health also offers immunization clinics. To book an appointment for your child or for more information call 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

Robotics Club

... Mrs. Alcox

The Glen Ridge Robotics Club is over for another year. The students were engaged in many exciting challenges this year- from robo hockey to the "towers of doom." Mrs. Alcox was impressed each week with the critical thinking and the spirit of teamwork that our members consistently displayed. Many thanks to our robo-mentors, Peter, Krystian, Cain and Brandon for sharing their knowledge and time and for making the club run smoothly. Congratulations to all of our members for demonstrating their Grizzly character week after week! Thanks to the parents who accommodated our after school program.

Scrapbooking Club

... Mrs. Boccinfuso

Scrapbooking club will be coming to an end shortly. During our meetings we have made the following projects: a Valentine's mini album, a photo puzzle using wooden blocks, a winter page layout and a photo box. Members of the club are Bronwyn J., Charlotte R., Emma J., Sam H., Allison L., Sophie J., Matija S., Julia H., Georgia C., Gracie F., Alana K. and Alex C. Thanks to Miss James for her help with the club. Happy Scrapping!

Heritage Fair

... Mrs. Alcox

Once again the Glen Ridge junior students have created remarkable projects about Canadian history and culture. This year's Heritage Fair will take place on Thursday, March 4. The school day will be a culmination of weeks of research, critical thinking, and creative writing. Students will be involved in the adjudication of their projects, as well as workshops with an art or music based approach to celebrating our national pride. We welcome several esteemed judges to interview the students. Our grade three students have also been hard at work, creating Olympic themed projects which they look forward to presenting in their classrooms. All Glen Ridge students will have the opportunity to view the work of their peers throughout the day. It will be a truly memorable day!

We invite the Glen Ridge community to our Heritage Fair Open House from 5:00- 6:30 in the gym to view the students' work and congratulate their brilliant efforts.

Character Education Update ...

Wow what an assembly. So many students and teachers dressed as Olympians. The energy generated by everyone who attended was felt all the way to Vancouver.

The activities and discussion on the monthly character trait of perseverance was loud, joyous and very thought provoking.

Go Canada Go!!



Literacy ...

Until what age did you parents read aloud to you? 5? 8? 10? Did your parents ever read to you with a purpose *other* than putting you to sleep? Here's betting that the majority of you were lulled to sleep with a 'night time' story and that, once you were able to 'read' (decode) yourself, you read **yourself** to sleep.

Current research informs us that we, as 21st century parents, can do better. Not to place blame on our parents - it's a simple fact that we know more now than we used to about how to create effective readers. One conclusion that all kinds of researchers can agree on is *the importance of reading with children of all ages at home on a daily basis*.

Certainly, 'reading time' with a 4 year old will look and sound different than 'reading time' with a 13 year old. What's key is that children and parents understand that **reading is thinking**, not merely 'calling words.' Any reader of any age can struggle with specific texts (Ever try to read and comprehend tax forms? How about IKEA directions? A 19th-century poem by Baudelaire?). Reading at home can help all students consolidate both decoding ('calling' words with automaticity) and comprehension (understanding the message of the text) skills.

Why don't you give one of the suggestions below a try **tonight?**:

Pre- K to Gr.1	Grades 2/3	Grades 4, 5 & 6	Grades 7 & Up
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - model reading (show your child that <u>you</u> are a reader too...magazines, newspapers, novels, etc.) - read a variety of types of text to expose children to both fiction and non-fiction (explain the difference) - ask children to point out: letters, words, sentences and remark the different types of punctuation - when reading 'repetitive' texts, have children 'chime in' when appropriate - identify the cover, title, author, and back cover of the text - use the pictures to make predictions and have children try too - encourage school-age children to identify 'word wall' words (is, at, she, him, etc.) - 'think aloud' about the author's message (i.e. "I think the author was trying to tell us...") - broach difficult topics by selecting appropriate texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - model adult reading - encourage children to read alone and with you every day - read a variety of types of text to expose children to both fiction and non-fiction (ask your child about the difference) - ensure children get lots of decoding practice, but also spend time asking questions and modelling how to draw inferences - ask children to point out different uses of punctuation and different text features (e.g. italics, bold print, glossaries, etc.) - practice using a variety of reading strategies to improve comprehension (ask your child's teacher for ideas) - ensure you discuss the author's message - broach difficult topics by selecting appropriate texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - model adult reading - encourage children to read alone and with you every day - determine texts of interest to your children and engage him/her by selecting those text types. Every once in a while, introduce something new or different - depending on the decoding ability of your child, you may want to read the text separately and discuss it after (if fluency is an issue, continue to read 'out loud' with each other - discuss the author's craft and how the author made specific choices to enhance his/her message - practice using a variety of reading strategies to improve comprehension (ask your child's teacher for ideas) - ensure you discuss the author's message - broach difficult topics by selecting appropriate texts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - model adult reading - encourage children to read alone and with you every day - ensure text types that interest your child are in the house (graphic, magazines, poetry, etc.). Every once in a while, introduce something new or different - read texts individually and chat about them after OR read quotes aloud (e.g. from a newspaper article) and discuss - talk about which reading strategies you use to understand texts you've both read; discuss similarities and differences (e.g. "It helped me to visualize this scene. What strategy did you use?") - model how to 'stick with' difficult texts (e.g. a science text book) and how to 'abandon a book' (a novel from the public library) when you don't like it - ensure you discuss the author's message - broach difficult topics by selecting appropriate texts

March 2010

Character Trait—Integrity

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1		2	3	4	5
	MacMillan's Fundraiser - <i>Litterless Lunch</i> <i>Last Scrapbooking Meeting</i>	MacMillan's Fundraiser - <i>Litterless Lunch</i>	MacMillan's Fundraiser - <i>Litterless Lunch</i>	MacMillan's Fundraiser - <i>Litterless Lunch</i>	MacMillan's Fundraiser - <i>Litterless Lunch</i>
8		9	10	11	12
		MacMillan's Fundraiser - <i>Litterless Lunch</i>	MacMillan's Fundraiser - <i>Litterless Lunch</i>	MacMillan's Orders Due at School <i>Pizza Day</i>	MacMillan's Orders Due at School <i>Pizza Day</i>
15		16	17	18	19
		MARCH BREAK	MARCH BREAK	MARCH BREAK	MARCH BREAK
22		23	24	25	26
		<i>Dental Screening</i>	<i>Dental Screening</i>	Grade 4 Swim Program Begins 1-2 p.m.	Grade 4 Swim Program Begins 1-2 p.m.
29		30	31		
	<i>Litterless Lunch</i>		MacMillan Orders Ready for Pick Up at School Sub Day Green Team 3:30—4:15		