

THE VIEW



GLENVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2009

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The Homework Dilemma!

It is with pleasure that we welcome you back after the holiday break. We hope that you enjoyed a happy, family time together and are looking forward to an exciting New Year. Staff and students will revisit goals set out after first term reports and continue their efforts to achieve success. It is vital that all students continue to use their agendas daily to record assignments and daily homework. Students and parents should check their teacher's web pages regularly for updates regarding expectations. Thank you for using the agenda as a venue for communication between the school and home.

As educators, we are constantly broached with the issue of "too much" vs. "too little" homework. Over time, there has been a clear fluctuation on the value that society has placed on the concept of homework. We all understand the merit of meaningful homework assignments, as it supports student achievement of the *Ontario Curriculum Learning Expectations*. It also allows students to consolidate into their own thinking, the concepts learned in class.

One of the questions that frequently asked is "how much homework is appropriate?" In the Halton District School Board's *Homework Guidelines*, it states that students should be allocated approximately 5-10 minutes per night per grade level. Therefore, a student in Grade 3 could expect an **average** of 15-30 minutes per night. This is consistent with what is found in the educational literature on this topic. There is little doubt that homework time puts an added stress on families that are already struggling with balancing their many obligations and activities. In an article in the *Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Educational journal*, John Franklin points out that rather than viewing homework as a chore, parents should view it as a chance to help their children grow and learn. The sense of achievement is the critical learning skill that is involved in the completion of homework. These experiences should promote and encourage children to make the effort to practice and learn. They should not be ones that instill negative feelings towards learning outside of the classroom. Franklin's main point is that regardless of how one views homework, what is most important is that parents take an active interest in their children's learning, whether in class or at home. "You have to cheer and support, but always remember that for your children to learn, they have to do things themselves."

As always, we encourage you to maintain close and open communication with the staff at Glenview. If you should have any questions or concerns relating to the welfare of your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Deborah Renton
Principal

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FRIENDLY REMINDERS...

Security at Glenview

All visitors, volunteers and support staff are required to enter the school via the main door, sign in at the main office, and wear an identification tag whenever in the building. This procedure enables us to be aware of all persons in the building and continues to ensure the safety of our students and staff with consistency.

Morning Safe Arrival and Afternoon Pick-Up

Student arrival may begin after 9:00 a.m. every morning. Students should proceed to the blacktop area where they will be supervised by Glenview staff. Parents are always welcome to walk their children to school and wait on the blacktop until the morning bell rings at 9:10 a.m. At that time, we ask that you not enter the building via student doors with your child. Once students enter, our expectation is that they independently proceed to their classroom and prepare for the day under the supervision of their teacher. This procedure enables us to promptly take attendance and verify the safe arrival of all students in our building.

If you wish to communicate a message to your child's teacher in the morning, please do so via the agenda. Staff will reply to notes brought to their attention in a timely fashion. In the afternoon, we ask that you kindly wait for your child on the blacktop. All students will exit the building at 3:45 p.m. via the same door they entered in the morning.

Late Arrivals

Punctual arrival is a key component of the responsible learning behaviours that we will encourage throughout the year from all Glenview students. Students entering class late disrupt the learning environment for both students and staff. All students are expected to enter the building at 9:10 a.m. so that our instructional day may begin promptly. With this in mind, please ensure that your child arrives on school property by 9:00 a.m. so that they may proceed to their designated homeroom line and are prepared to enter the building at 9:10 a.m. From time to time, we realize that appointments or unforeseen circumstances may cause students to be late. On those rare occasions, students are to bring a written explanation directly to the office where they will sign in and their attendance is recorded in the school register. **At no time should a parent sign out another child, without signed permission from the child's parent.**

Leaving the School for Appointments

Kindly send a note in your child's agenda if they are to leave during the day for an appointment. We will continue to follow the procedure of students signing out at the office and signing in at their return. **All parents are asked to wait in the office area for your child to complete this process. Please do not go to your child's class; this causes a great deal of disruption to the class.**

Students can become very confused with last minute plan changes. Please try to have arrangements made in the morning before school.

Principal Absence

As of January 21, 2009, Mrs. Deborah Renton, our principal, will be absent due to surgery. During her absence retired principal, Mr. Rod Collard, will be our acting principal.

NEWS ABOUT RECYCLING

Our student committee for the Recycling Program deserve recognition. These students continue to coach students with Mr. Pacheco's help in discarding materials into the right boxes.



LUNCH SUPERVISORS NEEDED!

Supply lunch supervisors are needed at our school to fill in for our regular ones when they are absent. Please contact the office at 905-634-6789 if you are interested. Thank you.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

Thank you for helping to keep the driveway at Glenview safe. While there are still a few parents who are letting their children out to cross the parking lot unsupervised, I have noticed that more are parking and walking their children to the playground. Our parking lot is not designed to be a flow-through lot and bringing students into it causes unsafe situations with cars turning around while people are walking. We have a crossing guard, Mrs. Halford, who safely guides students before school across Townsend to the school property, which is supervised from 9:00 a.m. until 9:10. Please drop your children off so that they have access to the crosswalk rather than driving into the parking lot before school. Townsend Ave. at either Filman or Glenwood also provide drop off points with a sidewalk passage straight to Glenview. If you are running late after 9:10. please either drop older students off at the side door quickly or park your car in the lot and sign your child in at the office. No children should ever be unaccompanied in the parking lot.

MARCH BREAK March 16-20

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for Kindergarten beginning Sept. 2009 has started in all the schools. Please let neighbours and friends who live in the Glenview attendance area know they may come and register now.

Glenview's boundaries do not include homes in Tyandaga or homes east of Gallagher and north of Plains Road. These areas are part of Maplehurst's attendance area.

To register you will need :

- * Original birth certificate
- * Health card
- * Immunization record
- * Proof of address (not a driver's license)
- * Direction of school support (tax bill)

The Halton District School Board is asking parents to have their children registered by February 9, 2009.



JUNIOR SKI TRIP!

Students in Gr. 4-6 continue to benefit from the interest and time their teachers take to balance academics and physical/social activity. There is a ski day planned for Friday, February 20th at Glen Eden. Mr. DeJong has organized a great day!

PIZZA AND SUB DAYS

It's time to offer our thanks to the parent volunteers and coordinators of the Pizza and Sub Day programs. The students look forward to Friday breaks. Time and effort is taken to count money, order, deliver and assist with any glitches. These volunteers work hard and we thank you.



VOLLEYBALL IS ALIVE AND WELL...

On behalf of the Gr. 6 students, we would like to thank the teachers and volunteers for providing a terrific tournament experience to our Girls' and Boys' Volleyball teams. Mme. Henry is coaching the girls. The team has demonstrated excellent team spirit and sportsmanlike conduct during all their games. The girls have represented Glenview so well and had fun doing it.



Mr. DeJong is coaching the Gr. 6 boys who have also participated in tournaments. This type of tournament experience is not common practice in a JK-Gr.6 school. Our teachers have dedicated time and interest in offering the students this opportunity. Thank you also to a great number of parent volunteer drivers who have attended the tournaments to cheer on the Hawks.

EMERGENCY CLOSING

It is sometimes necessary to close early due to emergency situations (severe storms, loss of heat, water, power). In the event that the schools do not open because of a severe overnight storm etc., the decision will be made and announced by 7:00 a.m., or if the school will close for the afternoon, the announcement will be made by 11:00 a.m.

The following radio stations are a few of the stations that will report the decision frequently:

CHML 900
K-LITE 102.9
CHWO 740
CHFI 98.1
WAVE 94.7

CFRB 1010
CKOC 1150
CKFM 99.9
CING 95.3



CHTV will also carry announcements.

Please tune in to one of these stations if you suspect that the school may be closed. In the event that the schools need to be closed during the day, we will also initiate the Glenview Emergency Telephone Network. Students will be kept at the school until a parent or designate picks up the child from the school.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

1. **When the school is "open" but the buses are "cancelled"**, parents of children who take the bus **DO NOT NEED TO CALL THE ABSENCE CHECK.** Parents of children who walk to school **MUST CALL ABSENCE CHECK.**



2. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they are cancelled for the entire day.** So if parents drive their child(ren) to school, there must be a plan in place for pick-up at the end of the day because the buses will not be running at this time either.

NUT ALLERGIES

Just a reminder that there are students at Glenview who have **severe allergies** to: **peanuts, peanut flour, nuts and products containing peanut oil and peanut flour.**



The allergy is so severe that ingesting a trace amount of these products by eye, nose or mouth will trigger a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. Emergency treatment involves an immediate drug injection using an Epi-pen and an ambulance response.

We appreciate parents making every effort not to send snacks or lunches that contain peanuts, peanut butter, nuts or peanut products. Please take a few moments to talk with your child about how they can be helpful to these students by following the teachers' directive: **do not share/trade any food with one another, wash your hands before and after eating.** The parents of these children appreciate your support.

Special Learning Announcement

Glenview is excited to announce that the Halton District School Board has selected our school to become part of the Ontario Focussed Intervention Partnership (OFIP). This program is a Ministry of Education initiative whereby funding is given to our school board, to support selected schools in its region.

The Halton District School Board has identified 42 schools that demonstrate an academic need for support, or a readiness for focussed program support. Schools were identified as having a clear need for academic support, based on their overall performance on the EQAO tests (declining or "flat-line" results).

Following our analysis of our school's performance of the EQAO tests, the Glenview teaching staff determined the areas requiring focussed academic support. Together, we formulated a plan to address the needs of our students, teachers and programs. With a comprehensive plan in place, we were able to demonstrate a readiness for entry into the OFIP program.

OFIP schools are provided with program support for teachers, through the use of consultants and specially trained personnel. We will also receive funding to support the training of an OFIP leadership team of Glenview teachers. This team will be trained and then provide support for all teachers at Glenview. By creating in-school experts, we will be more able to ensure that specialized learning from the OFIP program will trickle down into every classroom. Funding will also be provided to allow teachers time to coordinate as grade teams to formulate focussed planning, and allow teachers time to mark student work as teams. This process ensures alignment among all teachers in the programming, implementation and assessment/evaluation that occurs in our school, for the purpose of focussing on the learning needs in our school. In addition, we will receive further training for our teachers in High Yield Teaching Strategies. My daily visits to classrooms clearly show that the teachers at Glenview are already using many of these strategies. My task will be to align teacher programs at each grade level. Doing this will eliminate teaching variables, and allow us to identify student improvement at each grade. Our teachers are looking forward to this opportunity to further serve the students of the Glenview community. Please feel free to call with any questions you may have about this process.

Assessment of Reading and Writing and Mathematics

In response to recommendations from educators across the province, the provincial assessment for Grade 3 and 6 has been renamed the Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Junior Division (Grades 4-6). Although the assessments will continue to measure the expectations in language and mathematics articulated in The Ontario Curriculum up to the end of Grade 6, the change is meant to reflect the important fact that EQAO tests measure the cumulative knowledge and skills acquired by the end of two key stages of a child's education.

We will conduct the primary assessment (Grade 3) and junior assessment (Grade 6) on **June 2, 3, 4th**. Please make certain that your child is in attendance for all 3 full days of the assessment by planning for appointments exclusive of the assessment days. Completion of all components of the assessment by all students ensure that the most accurate data for your child and the schools is gathered. The results of the EQAO assessment provide important data on individual student achievement in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics. These results are used by staff to identify areas of strength and need for individual students and the school. These areas of need are addressed through the School Effectiveness Plan and through ongoing planning of day to day programming for our students. Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions regarding the use and importance of the data collected through the assessment or questions regarding the dates.

Early Optional Attendance - New Timelines for Optional Attendance

The Optional Attendance process has been revised. This year we are starting the process earlier in the year in order to accommodate more students sooner. For the 2009-2010 school year, Optional Attendance applications are due by January 30, 2009.

“Toonie Tuesday”

Tuesday, February 10th is the 3rd annual Toonie Tuesday “Give a Little, Help a Lot” in support of the Halton Learning Foundation’s Eliminating Barriers Fund. The Foundation, the charitable foundation that supports the Halton District School Board students and programs, initiated Toonie Tuesday to raise money to assist individual students and families. We have children who come to school hungry or cold every morning, and adolescents who are tired and unfocused because they work part-time to help support their families. We have situations where parents are chronically ill or unemployed, or where moms are living in shelters with their children. Our school system witnesses the full range of personal challenges and tragedies that take place every day in the wider society. Raised funds are purchasing such items as warm clothing and shoes, grocery vouchers and supplementing field trip costs. Please consider supporting Toonie Tuesday on February 10th.



TRIBES—The Right to Participate and to Pass

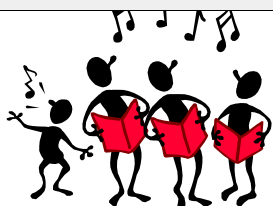
The four key components of building an inclusive learning community are:

1. **Attentive Listening**
2. **Showing Appreciation (No Put Downs)**
3. **The Right to Participate and to Pass**
4. **Showing Mutual Respect**

Last month we discussed the need to Show Appreciation and eliminate Put Downs. This month we feature the third community agreement: **the Right to Participate and to Pass**. Only too often, people refer to their rights with little or no understanding that with their rights come responsibilities. We must teach our children that there must be a balance between rights and responsibilities. Every student has the right to learn. With this right comes the responsibility to participate in a positive way—in a way that does not negatively impact the rights of the other students.

At the same time, each student has the right to choose the extent to which her or she will share in a group activity. Choosing the right to pass means that the community member prefers not to share personal information or feelings, or to actively participate in the group at that moment. This protective agreement is essential within all organizational and group settings because it provides control to members. It encourages students to be self-determining and responsible for their own well-being among peers. It gives members the practice and courage to stand back from situations that are uncomfortable or contrary to their own values. This is the first step in teaching our children appropriate refusal skills, e.g. “Just Say No To Drugs!” To be “me” and to know that “I” do not have to go along with the crowd, is an essential resiliency strength for life. The agreement does not apply when individual accountability is required on learning tasks. Students do not have the right to pass on homework, writing tests or responding to the teacher.

Healthy human development and resiliency depend upon young people becoming inner-directed rather than remaining dependent upon outer control from others.



Primary Choir News

Our Primary Choir is starting on Tuesday, January 20th during the first break. We will practise every Tuesday after the children finish eating from 11:20-11:45. All students in Grades 1, 2 and 3 are more than welcome to join. Anyone, who loves to sing and be a part of a group of singers, is invited to join the Primary Choir. We look forward to performing at many outside venues and events at Glenview! Hope to see you at Choir practice!

Happy Singing, Mrs. Mifflin

Congratulations to Alexander P!

Alexander, with the help of his brother Ben and sister Sarah, has been very busy making and selling handmade crafts since mid November. He decided to start a campaign to help buy materials to build a two room house and textbooks for classrooms in an impoverished country. On December 3, 2008, Alexander presented his cheque of \$4468.50 to the World Vision Headquarters. This is so generous and giving of these children. We are very proud of them. Alexander, Ben and Sarah were recognized for their achievement and contribution to World Vision in a recent school assembly.

Silver Birch

It's Silver Birch Season again! The Silver Birch (Gr. 5 and 6) and Silver Birch Express (Gr. 3 and 4) Reading Clubs have started this month and will continue into the beginning of May. Children who have signed up for the club agree to try to read 5 out of 10 titles from a list of the best fiction and non-fiction titles according to the Ontario Library Association. Students in this club will read, discuss and rate these books so that they will be able to cast a vote for their favourite book in this provincial wide event. Last year there were over 50,000 students who participated in this program making it the largest recreational reading program in Canada. Students will meet weekly to complete a variety of activities all connected to these new and exciting titles. Readers are Leaders here at Glenview! If you have any questions or comments please contact either Mrs. Whale or Mrs. Wigle at the school.

Triple P - Positive Parenting Program

Triple P is a positive parenting program that promotes good communication and strong relationships between parents and their children. Triple P seminars and groups will be provided by practitioners in your community on the following dates:

Seminar for Parents with children ages 2 - 8 years: Session 2: Raising Confident, Competent Children

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2009

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm

Location: Alexander PS, 2223 Sutton Dr., Burlington

Seminar for Parents with children ages 5-11 years: Session 3: Raising Reliant Children

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Time: 7:00-8:30 pm

Location: Burlington Central Library, 2331 New St., Burlington

Small Group Series For Parents with children ages 2-10 years

Date: Every Tuesday for five weeks (plus optional final session)

March 24, 2009 to May 12, 2009

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Location: East Plains United Church, 375 Plains Road East, Burlington



For more information or to register for a Triple P program, call Halton Region at 905-825-6000, 1-866-442-5866 or visit www.halton.ca

At Home Alone Workshop "Is Your Family Ready?"

At Home Alone is a free workshop designed to help families prepare their 10-14 year old to be at home alone safely. Child(ren) and parent(s) **MUST** attend together.

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Burlington Central Library - Builder's Room, 2331 New Street, Burlington

Date: Monday, March 2, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Location: Halton Region Administration Building - Auditorium, 1151 Bronte Rd., Oakville

Space is limited and registration is required. To register for one of these workshops please call Halton Region at 905-825-6000, 1-866-442-5866

Snack Program for February

Feb 1st	Tue	Yogurt, broccoli & cauliflower with dip
	Wed	Jam sandwich halves, grapes
Feb 8th	Tue	Arrowroot cookies, orange slices
	Wed	Tortilla Pinwheels-(tortillas with cream cheese & raisins) Banana halves
Feb 15th	Tue	Whole wheat bagels with strawberry jam, watermelon slices
	Wed	Yogurt, apple rings (cored and sliced into rings with cream cheese and cheerios sprinkled on top)
Feb 22^d	Tue	Yogurt, pineapple slices or banana halves
	Wed	Pitas with cream cheese, sliced cucumbers

HOME OF HOPE

Mrs. Wigle is happy to announce that the children at the Home of Hope Orphanage in Malawi, Africa enjoyed a wonderful Holiday Dinner because of the generous donations made by the parents and students of the Glenview community. The orphanage staff had enough resources for the children to have a whole apple for their holiday dessert as well as another apple for a New Year's celebration. We hope to soon have pictures of this special event that we can share with the students and our community.

Christmas gifts given to teachers in the form of donations were also gathered before and after our holiday break. This money has also been sent to the Home of Hope. These funds will help to purchase their day to day needs such as powdered milk, vitamins and medications.

We would also like to thank the Glenview community as they continue to bring in donations of items/articles that will be sent to the Home of Hope. These items will be gathered, organized and shipped via a large container all the way to Africa! We have received bundles of children's toys, clothing, school supplies, soccer balls and other needed resources. Please contact Mrs. Wigle at the school (905-634-6789) if you have any questions regarding our Container Drive for the Home of Hope.

THE SPIRIT COUNCIL

We thank our students for promoting the Christmas mitten and food drive collections. Thanks to all the families who donated items.

