



Gordon Price School

Special Interest Articles:

- Student Leadership Council
- School Council
- Emergency Procedures
- Chapters Ancaster Books

November, 2011

From the Principal's Desk ~

Thank you to the following parents and community reps who have volunteered to be on our School Council for the 2011-2012 School Year:

Milinda Alexander—Co-Chair, Roger Cameron—Co-Chair, Laura Menard — Secretary, Kelly Bryant, Tammy Van Aken, Sylvia Thomas, Karen Mockler, Michelle Nogard, Wendy Fillion, Candace MacLeod, Yvonne Kwan, Harriet Lutu, Carrie Majer, Georgina Martin, Mahmood Qasmi, Scott Collier, and Sandra McLane.

These parents work very diligently on your behalf to help improve student achievement at Gordon Price and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. We are also very fortunate that Kristina from Umbrella Daycare is our community rep and child minding services for all School Council meetings are provided by Umbrella Daycare.

Our Progress Reports are coming home on **November 15th, 2011!** This will be followed by parent/guardian and teacher conferences which are co-organized between teacher and parents/guardians (teachers will be interviewing at various times, but all teachers will be interviewing on **the morning of November 18th (P.A. Day)**). Please mark these dates in your calendars. Further information regarding interviews will be coming home shortly. Prior to receiving your child's 1st term report card you should

be well aware of how your child is doing. Using the agenda, notes and/or phone calls as communication tools with teachers is a good way of keeping informed about your child's progress.

This year our School Improvement Planning continues to focus on the Ministry Mandated School Effectiveness Framework and the Teaching/Learning Critical Pathway. During each Teaching/Learning Cycle teachers work on analyzing student data (including EQAO), determining our greatest area of need and then establishing a SMART Goal for improved student achievement. We will report the results of our first cycle in the December newsletter. Thank you to all of our teachers and EAs for helping our students improve their achievement results!

Thank you to the following staff and parent who have volunteered to be on our school's Nutrition Committee: Mrs. Palcik, Mrs. Scott, and Mr. Cameron (parent). As one of our tasks, the committee helps to recommend any days that our school is NOT required to follow the Nutrition Policy (each school has a maximum of 10 such days). So far, at Gordon Price, we have allocated two days that we have not followed the Nutrition Policy (Sept 13th—Meet the Teacher/Parent and Oct 28th—Halloween Activities).

V. Stephens-Brockbank
Principal

V. Stephens-Brockbank
Principal

G. DiFrancesco
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Information Update:
In Situations where Information comes to the Principal/Vice Principal that a Student or students may be in violation of the Safe Schools Act, parents need to Be aware that the School has a right to search school property e.g. lockers, desks.



Picture Retake Day

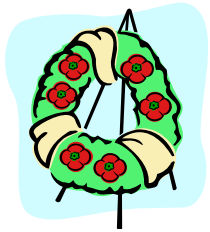
Thursday, November 24th, 2011. Retakes will begin at 9 a.m.

School Council

The next meeting of our School Council is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in our Library.

Thank you

A big thank you to Ken Aimes for donating a bag of soccer balls to our phys-ed program!! Also, thank you to all families who made a donation to our Gordon Price Snack Program.



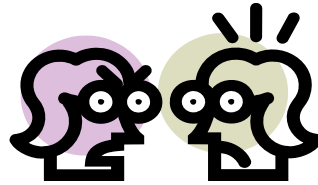
In Remembrance

In Canadian tradition, the poppy is worn by many members of society during the two weeks prior to November 11th. The eleventh hour of the eleventh month marks the signing of the Armistice, on November 11th 1918, to signal the end of World War One. At 11:00 a.m. on November 11th, 1918 the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years continuous warfare.

Remembrance Day is a special day set aside to remember all those men and women who were killed during the two World Wars and other conflicts.

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

November 14-18 2011



Bullying Stops When Awareness Begins

At Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, results of the Safe Schools Survey suggest that *at least once a week* 8 per cent (2,742) of our elementary students are physically bullied, 16 per cent (5,485) are verbally bullied, 9 per cent (3,085) are socially bullied, and 3 per cent (1,028) are targeted online or by text message.

Chapters Ancaster Books



In September, we were notified that Gordon Price had been adopted by Chapters Ancaster for their Love of

Reading program. Annually each location chooses a school to support their literacy needs. Because our school was chosen, all donations made to the Love of Reading for a period of time and proceeds from a barbecue held October 1st went directly to our school. Also, for every Twitter, Facebook and email share where the recipient ``adopted`` Gordon Price or purchased an e-gift card, our school earned `books`. As a result of Chapters` amazing

support of our school, and through very little effort on our part, we managed to earn \$1303.98, (or the equivalent of 135 books), for teachers to purchase books and other literacy-based resources for the classrooms. Thank you to all parents, students, staff and community members who supported this initiative!

Emergency Procedures Practice

On Tuesday November, 22nd, in the afternoon, staff and students will be practicing our "Lockdown" procedures. Gordon Price School Hold & Secure, Shelter in Place and Lockdown Procedures have been developed for staff and students to follow in the event an extraordinary situation arises at the school, which may have the potential to place students or staff at risk. In such instances staff and students are required to follow a process that will ' minimize the risk' to personal safety. Like fire safety, which is embedded into current school operations, staff and students are required to practice school emergency procedures. As we continue to provide for student safety here at Gordon Price School, teachers will have class discussions at a level appropriate to the students they teach to review the Hold & Secure, Shelter in Place and Lockdown Procedures and answer questions students may have. **Terminology: Lockdown** 'Lockdown' – used when there is a major incident or threat of school violence within the school or in relation to the school.

- * Threat is inside the school, or is on school property, and poses an immediate threat to the students and staff;
- * All movement in and out of the school and within the school is restricted;
- * Doors remain open to permit police immediate entry;
- * All staff exercise critical judgment to maximize safety for self and others.

Student Leadership

The Dance Committee had been hard at work, planning a Halloween Dance for the grades 6, 7, and 8's. Thank you to the Dance Committee for their continuous effort to have another year of successful dances! Our Spirit and Charity Committee's are still planning and coming up with ideas for the near future.

Important Dates

Please check the November calendar for more information.

Reminder to Kindergarten Parents

Only persons 12 years of age or older may be authorized by the parent/guardian to pick up Kindergarten students.

Gordon Price Website



Don't forget to check out our new and improved Gordon Price website at

www.hwdsb.on.ca/gordonprice

Thank you to Mr. Ciardelli and students Alex B., Erik V., and Sara M. for adding the new Sports section to our website!

The Lunch Connection

Last year's Gordon Price Nutrition Committee decided to approve the selling of hot nutritious lunches once a week by The Lunch Connection Company. We started this program in February 2011. The school received \$78.50 in profit from this endeavour from February to June. We are continuing to offer this program for the 2011-12 school year.

School Photos

All students who had their pictures taken will receive proofs in approximately two weeks. The proofs will list prices and due dates for the photo packages.

Samko Fundraiser



As we are all too aware, Christmas is fast approaching, and with it comes shopping! In December, the ever-

popular Samko Toy Sale is coming back to Hamilton. Although not an official fundraiser, we are registered again with Samko to receive a percentage back of all sales made by Gordon Price community members.

After paying for any purchases at the sale, tell the cashier that you belong to Gordon Price and he/she will stamp the back of your receipt. As the date gets closer, more information will be sent home as a reminder.

Gordon Price Volunteers

Volunteers have a positive impact on the lives of students. They give the extra time, attention, assistance and encouragement that many students need in order to meet their full potential. As a classroom teacher, it is with great fondness and appreciation that I recall the many dedicated volunteers that greatly contributed to the success of my students.

Thanks to all the Volunteers who attended the Volunteer in-service on October 13th. For every skill that our volunteers share, we at Gordon Price, have students who can benefit greatly from the additional support that they provide.

At the meeting, we shared information about volunteer needs at Gordon Price and individual strengths and interests that our volunteers have. We will soon have our schedule ready for all our volunteers. Thank you for helping our students learn.

Ms. DiFrancesco Vice-Principal Gordon Price