



# École Grosvenor-Wentworth Park Elementary

## Principal's Message

### Twitter Pics



February was a fantastic month for the students of EGWPS! Finishing off Literacy Week, students learned how to create 'comic book' art from the professional artists at FreezeDNA. Our breakfast team continued to work to support our students with nutritious breakfast snacks that offer an opportunity to sample different cultural cuisine from around the globe. Maritime Marionettes visited the school and workshops were held for each class. Following the workshops, students had the opportunity to participate in an interactive marionette show. A number of other special learning experiences occurred in classrooms during the month. More details can be found by following our Twitter feed, which is found on our main website page.

A special thanks to our entire community for their generous contribution to the Barho family fundraising effort. As a school, just over \$1000 was raised from EGWPS.

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### Learning Number Facts

It is important for students to know their number facts. This hasn't changed but what has changed is the way number facts are taught and learned. The traditional methods of learning number facts through "skill and drill" and "rote memorization" do not help students develop the level of understanding of numbers and operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) they need. It is more effective for students to learn and practice their number facts through classroom activities that are meaningful and connected to real world situations. In doing so, students learn to manipulate numbers and solve problems in many ways.

While learning their facts, students are encouraged to look for patterns and use what they know in many different situations. For example, if a student forgets the product of  $6 \times 7$ , students who truly understand the process of multiplication will have several strategies to get to the correct answer. They might think about 3 groups of 14 ( $7 \times 2$ ) + ( $7 \times 2$ ) + ( $7 \times 2$ ) or use what they know about  $5 \times 7$  and add 1 more group of 7. Initially, students develop and use strategies to develop quick recall of the facts. Through meaningful practice over time, students will achieve automaticity; that is, they will have instant recall without using strategies. Both the strategies and the facts themselves are the foundations for the development of other mental mathematics strategies. To help your child practice number facts at home, we recommend you ask them how they arrived at their answer, rather than only focusing on how quickly they were able to recall the fact. You might also ask them if there is another way they could solve the problem. This type of interaction with your child helps them to think about numbers in different ways and practice different strategies for knowing their number facts.

**Parent Opportunity Available**

*The School Advisory Council will have two parent openings beginning in the fall of 2019. If you think that you may be interested, please email the school at*

**[gwp@hrce.ca](mailto:gwp@hrce.ca)**

*More information is available online at*

**[www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/school-administration/school-advisory-councils](http://www.hrce.ca/about-hrce/school-administration/school-advisory-councils)**

***March Break  
March 18-22<sup>nd</sup>***

***Students return on  
March 25<sup>th</sup>***

**It is better to know  
some of the  
questions than all  
of the answers.  
-Thurber**

## New Primary Meeting Invitation

We have scheduled meetings for our new Pre-Primary and Primary parents/guardians in April . We are hosting a **Parent Meeting** on the evening of **April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm**. This meeting is for parents/guardians only of Pre-Primary and Primary.

The new **Primary** students are invited to visit our school on **Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm**. Public Health Nurses will be here for vision screenings during this time as well. Please note, there is no parking in the school parking lot during these times. Please follow signage on Downing Street and surrounding areas for parking as this will be close to dismissal and the loading of the school bus.

**Pre-Primary** will be hosting an open house on April 11<sup>th</sup> during the afternoon. More information forthcoming from our ECE team.

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## Field Trip Volunteers

As Term 3 nears, schools beginning to make plans for field trips for their students. The HRCE requires that reasonable precautions be taken to screen volunteers who may be working with students, with and without direct supervision of staff. To ensure the safety of all students, **any volunteer who will be working directly with students** is required to provide the Principal with a **current Police Records Check** and **Child Abuse Registry Check**. Forms can be picked up from the office. The RCMP Criminal Records Check can be processed quickly, but there is a turnaround of several weeks for the Community Services check.

Please note that if we do not have enough parent volunteers who have been screened, some field trips may not be able to proceed.

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## Intimate Images and Cyber-protection:

The rapid growth of smart phones, social media and the anonymity of the online world has created increasing opportunity for cyberbullying and the unwanted sharing of intimate images. The impacts of these behaviours can be devastating for victims. Supports are available. For more information please visit [novascotia.ca/cyberscan](http://novascotia.ca/cyberscan) . If you believe your child is a victim of cyberbullying, or that an intimate image of them was shared without their consent, call CyberScan at 902-424-6990 or toll free at 855-702-8324.

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## Report Cards

As part of our communication plan to provide ongoing documented feedback about your child's progress, report cards for second term will be sent home the week of April 8th.

## Provincial Survey Pilot

Grosvenor-Wentworth will be working with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to pilot and test a new survey related to academics and overall well-being. The target group are students in Grades 4-12.

Students in all of our Grade 4-6 classes are eligible to participate but the pilot requires a sampling of the student population at GWP. The date for this survey is March 27<sup>th</sup>.



Halifax Grade 4 student Cassidy Megan created the idea of Purple Day in 2008, motivated by her own struggles with epilepsy. Cassidy's goal is to get people talking about epilepsy in an effort to dispel myths and inform those with seizures that they are not alone. Students, staff, and volunteers are encouraged to wear purple on March 26<sup>th</sup>!

### **Toonies for Autism**

*In partnership with Autism Nova Scotia, EGWPS will be holding a Toonies for Autism fundraiser on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Half of funds raised will support EGWPS students with Autism and half will go to Autism Nova Scotia. Students are also encouraged to wear blue on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

