



Amherstburg Public School

# Eagle Pride News



## Principal's Message

**Amherstburg Public School**

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Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that it is already November. We thank you for your partnership in learning. Your assistance with the daily agendas, attendance at school events and volunteerism assist our students in doing the very best they can.

Our focus continues to be on improving student achievement, building a sense of community and educating our students to be eco-friendly. Our ECO Team recently celebrated their Gold certification for the second year in a row. They celebrated with their parents and Mrs. Cadarette at Essex High School. We had a large group of students attend that evening. This shows the dedication and importance of our ECO initiatives. Way to go Eagles!

Progress reports will be going home on November 14<sup>th</sup>. These reports will provide you with information on your child's Learning Skills and Work Habits and also on how they are progressing in the subject areas. Interviews will take place on the evening of November 17<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the school to schedule an interview.

We are pleased to announce the results of our EQAO assessments for the 2010-2011 school year. Our students have shown improvement in 5 of the 6 areas and we continue to show an upward trend in our scores. Please refer to the attached community report.

Our fundraiser was on overwhelming success. Thank you to Ms. Alexopoulos for organizing and to our community for your continued support. Our top earners from each division were Rylee Varney for our primary division, Jordan Wingerden for our junior division, and Taryn Storm from our intermediate division. Rylee received a portable DVD player and Taryn and Jordan received a bike. Congratulations also goes out to 57 of our students who fundraised \$120 or more and who were also recognized at our October assembly. Cookie dough and catalogue orders will be available for pickup the afternoon of November 29<sup>th</sup>.

There were many activities going on for the students of the school during the month of October. Volleyball, chess, and cross country just to name a few. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of teachers at the school. Our Remembrance Day assembly will take place on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. Our grade 6's are working very hard and it is sure to be a memorable assembly.

Once again I would like to thank the parents, students, staff and community for their support of all the wonderful things that take place at our school.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me at the school.

Sincerely,  
C. Mills

## HOMework HELP

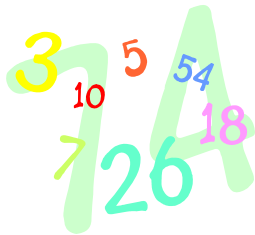
### FREE MATH TUTORING FOR GRADES 7-10

The Greater Essex County District School Board, the Independent Learning Centre and the Ontario Ministry of Education are pleased to partner together to bring the Homework Help Program to students. **Homeworkhelp.ilc.org** focuses on math help for students in Grades 7, 8, 9 and 10. Ontario certified teachers will be available from 5:30pm – 9:30pm on Sunday to Thursday evenings.

Key areas of the site include:

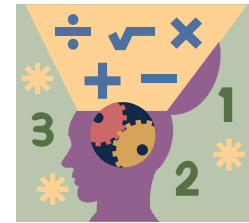
- *Ask a Teacher chat rooms*
- *Listen & Learn presentations with certified teachers*
- *Interactive tutorials*
- *A Variety of other sessions*

The eLearning Contact for the Homework Help Program will be visiting your child's school to help them register and begin to use the Homework Help system.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

*Email*  
homeworkhelp@gecdsb.on.ca



## A few reminders...

### **Yard Supervision**

Please do not send children to school before **8:45 am**. There is no adult supervision on the playground until 8:45. We want to ensure the safety of all of our students.

### **Parking Lot**

Our parking lot and the front of the school are very busy at dismissal time due to the many cars and school buses. Please be sure to park your car in a marked spot and walk your children to and from the school. Thank you for assisting the staff on duty and Ms. Alexopoulos and I by walking your children to your cars. We would also like to thank you for not parking in the middle of the parking lot or in the drop off area, when picking up your child, especially on rainy days. This can create safety issues and we appreciate your cooperation. The safety of our children is our utmost concern. Our Drop-off area provides safe passage for our students from their cars in the marked area on the parking lot to the school yard every morning. Please be sure to use the crosswalk when walking your children from the parking lot.

## *Promoting Courage and Confidence Anti-Bullying Strategies*

Sometimes parents feel they have little control over their child's relationships outside of the home. However, research indicates that there are key interactions between a parent and child that have a significant impact on their child's peer relationships. With respect to problematic relationships such as bullying, research has found that bullying behaviours are a learned pattern of behaviour. Children who bully are learning to use power and aggression to control and distress others. Victimized children may begin to feel increasingly powerless and stressed. Below we have listed 10 proactive strategies identified by PREVNet, [2007] that parents may use to support their children in dealing with relationships, positive and negative.

### **Consider Your Own Behaviour**

- Model respectful, empathic behaviour
- Remember you always have an audience

### **Establish a Code of Conduct**

- Set clear guidelines with consequences for unacceptable aggressive and bullying behaviour
- Monitor bullying behaviour between siblings

### **Use Consequences that Teach**

Consequences should send the message that the behaviour is not OK, but also help the child learn the skills they are lacking

### **Encourage Children to Report**

Let your child know that you want to hear about every incident of bullying and encourage them to talk to you or another adult they trust

### **Catch Children Being Good**

- Praise respectful and cooperative behaviour whenever you see it
- The more you praise the behaviour the more often you will see it

### **Create Friendship Opportunities**

Having friends and experiencing positive peer relationships in different settings e.g. clubs, sports can help to minimize the impact of bullying

### **Give Your Children Scripts**

- Role play what your child can say and do in a bullying situation
- Children who bully need help with learning different problem solving strategies

### **Build on Your Child's Strengths**

- Encourage them to participate in activities they enjoy so they can start to feel good about themselves
- Build self esteem with positive feedback re; a job well done

### **Be Ready to Listen**

- If your child reports being bullied, listen right away
  - Acknowledge their strength and courage in telling you
- Be willing to respond to all reports and keep communication lines open

### **Be Your Child's Champion**

- Take action if they come forward with concerns regarding bullying
- Make connections with significant adults in your child's life to see if they are aware of the problem and determine what steps will be taken to ensure the bullying stops

*Submitted By: Social Work and Attendance Counselling Services - GECDSB*

## COATS FOR KIDS



Thank you so much to all of our school community for all of the coats sent in for kids. Your generosity provided the dry cleaners with eight large bags full of coats for distribution to needy children this upcoming winter.

The Parent Involvement Committee will be selling school spirit wear and candles for Christmas. Watch for a memo to go home with more details.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS

Once again this year the students and teachers at Amherstburg Public School are participating in an International event called **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**. This project is sponsored by an organization called Samaritan's Purse. "Shoe Box gifts" provides an opportunity for children in developed countries to prepare shoe boxes filled with gifts for underprivileged children in various parts of the world. The shoe boxes can be obtained from Mrs. Breshamer in the office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school at (519) 736-2189.



## Random Acts of Kindness Day

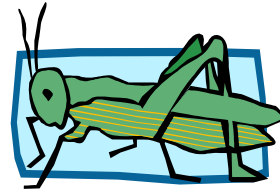
Random Acts of Kindness Day is coming November 4th! We should keep in mind that kindness improves students' self-esteem and the school climate in general. Whether academically proficient or not, students are given a way to excel through kindness. Kindness is empowering for our students. It is one of the most powerful interpersonal tools that they can use to connect with one another. When they sense someone's need, they can either choose to help in some way or choose not to help. If they act with EMPATHY (our October Character Trait), they are using positive power. These actions of kindness can help them feel power, when they feel powerless.

Our children deserve to learn and experience this life skill of kindness. Our goal at APS is to have kindness flow in our classrooms and in our school, not just on November 4th but every day!

### STUDENT CORNER

My friend is a grasshopper  
He does not stay  
He will go away  
And come to my house if the toads take him there.  
He can fly and jump and come find me.  
I hope he doesn't spit on me.

Written by Kaiden S. in 1/2 Loggie



**Monthly Newsletters and calendars will be on-line this month. Check us out at [www.gecdsb.on.ca/schools/elem/aps](http://www.gecdsb.on.ca/schools/elem/aps)**

**Newsletters will be sent to e-mail addresses submitted to the school starting this month. If you would like to receive newsletters to your e-mail, please send us your e-mail address.**

(Should you require a paper copy, please contact the school.)