

Amherstburg Public School

Eagle Pride News

Principal's Message



Amherstburg Public School

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Dear Parents:

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We wish all of our families a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. We are all ready to get back to work after a well deserved rest. There are many exciting things happening this month. Soon we will have the Oral Communications Festival. Students will be busy writing and presenting speeches. Basketball is in full swing and chess club continues to be a popular activity among our students. Our Ecoteam will be doing some training early in January as they continue to work hard to sustain our Gold Certification.

We have been chosen as a Learning Through the Arts school for the 2011-2012 school year. Staff and students in our primary and junior grades will be working with dancer, Louise Paquette as they explore all areas of the curriculum through dance.

'LTTA is a rigorous, structured curriculum program that impacts the classroom on a daily basis. The program's comprehensive format incorporates ongoing professional development of teachers, professional development of artists, writing of lesson plans, curriculum development, in-class delivery and continuous assessment. LTTA offers lesson plans for all academic subjects.'

LTTA establishes long-term partnerships between teachers and specially trained artist-educators who serve as change agents within the schools, promoting collaboration, risk taking, and continuous learning by teachers and students alike.'

For more information about this program please visit their website at <http://www.ltta.ca/> Kindergarten registration will take place from February 13th – 24th, 2012 and our Open House will be on Wednesday, February 15th from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Please spread the word about all the great things that happen at APS. We look forward to meeting all of our future 'little eagles'.

Our teachers continue to be generous with donations to local charities. In November the staff 'Dressed down for Charity' and raised money for Cystic Fibrosis. In December the staff raised money for The Canadian Clinic for Integrative Medicine. We are very proud of their efforts.

We are in the process of partnering with Chapters at Devonshire Mall. We are exploring a grant opportunity that would help support our school and classroom libraries. In the meantime we will be partnering with Chapters for some special events. Look for more information to come home later in January.

We know this will be a great new year at APS. As always thank you for your support and encouragement. Please consider volunteering at the school. We are always in need of an extra set of hands to help out. If you have any questions or concerns at any time please call 519-736-2189 to speak with me.

Looking forward to a great 2012 at APS! Go Eagles!

Sincerely,

C. Mills

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.

No Parking Zones

Please be sure to abide by the no parking signs in our parking lot. This is to ensure the safety of our students. We would also ask that you do not park in the drop off area in the morning. If you are going into the school with your child please park in a space in the lot.

Safety Reminder

We ask that all parents dropping off their children to please use the crosswalk. Before and after school there is always a teacher with a stop sign to assist you in crossing. Please assist us in assuring the safety of all our students by emphasizing the use of the crosswalk with your children. Thank you for your assistance and co-operation.

STUDENT CORNER

We had an amazing presentation at our school. It was by Eric Walters one of my favourite authors of all time. In this presentation he talked about all of his books and the characters in them. He told us about all of the animals that he saw in Africa and all of the people he met in Africa. Some of the animals he saw while he was there were elephants, giraffes, monkeys, snakes and scorpions...and he was about two feet away from a lion! Did you know that Eric Walters has written more than eighty books? That's more than you'll ever read in a year!

Mr. Walters runs with such an extraordinary team called Impossible 2. This team ran across the desert in 52 days! His presentation was so delightful. He also talked about animals and showed us pictures of tigers on his front lawn. I know it sounds crazy, but it's true! He also told us about how polar bears can hear from more than a mile away. The thing I thought was really funny was the slide Mr. Walters showed where the polar bear hugged the dog as if they were friends forever.

I just thought his presentation was so interesting. The reason he came to our school was to give people a joy for reading his books and to encourage kids to read.

Written by Abby O.

ENCOURAGING COOPERATION IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Sometimes as parents and caregivers, we find our children becoming resistant to our requests. We may begin to doubt our own judgment or become intimidated by their emotional reactivity and at times we may even feel overwhelmed. It is important for us to understand that changing our approach may help children and adolescents change their behaviour and respond more appropriately to our requests. This is not about abandoning our attempts or making drastic changes, but rather subtle shifts or variations in how we approach difficult behaviour. The following are a few suggestions which take little effort and can produce significant results.

Children are **MORE** likely to cooperate when:

- their ideas and opinions are respected;
- they are given choices;
- they are allowed to help make decisions;
- their good behaviour is noticed and appreciated;
- they are valued as a member of the family/school community;
- we use “I” messages;
- we use natural and logical consequences;
- we **respond** to a situation in a calm manner vs. **react** with emotion;

Children are **LESS** likely to cooperate and more likely to engage in power struggles when:

- cooperation is demanded;
- they are interrupted without warning from an activity they are enjoying;
- their routine is changed unexpectedly;
- they hear “no” often from adults and caregivers;
- they get their way after arguing about it;
- a caregiver punishes them harshly or hurts them;
- they don’t know how to do a task or are confused as to what they are being asked to do;
- they are asked to cooperate too often;
- caregivers react with anger, hostility or ridicule.

Parenting can be a challenge, as we strive to support our children in becoming, responsible, caring adults. We need to be able to learn from our mistakes and our triumphs.

“At the end of the day, a loving family should find everything forgivable.”

Mark V. Olsen and Will Sheffer

Submitted by: Social Work and Attendance Counseling Services

MUFFIN BATTER FOR SALE

****Please call the school and check for availability as there are limited quantities of each one.**

****Cheques can be made payable to Amherstburg Public School**

Muffin Batter \$16

Lemon Poppy Seed (2)

Golden Raisin Bran (1)

Blueberry (2)

Banana (1)

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration: February 13th – 24th, 2012

Open House: Wednesday, February 15th from 5:30 – 7:00 pm.

Please spread the word about all the great things that happen at APS. We look forward to meeting all of our future 'little eagles'.

Monthly Newsletters and calendars will be on-line this month. Check us out at 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.)