



Principal: Mrs. D. Opersko Secretary: Mrs. H. Epp Contact us at (519) 688-2110



Important Dates for the Month:

Tuesday, October 4th	Young Canada Day at the Norfolk County Fair, no school for students and no buses running
Wed., October 5th	Mrs. Willson's class and Mrs. Fearon's class trip to the Fair
Friday, October 7th	PA Day, no school for the students
Monday, October 10th	Happy Thanksgiving! No school for staff or students
Tuesday, October 11th	Hep B and HPV needles for some intermediate students, dental screening for Kindergarten students
Wednesday, October 12th	MacMillan fundraising orders due, both Kindergarten classes go to Brantwood Farms, dental screening for Grade 2 students
Thursday, October 13th	Boston Pizza hot lunch orders due
Friday, October 14th	Cross Country meet for the school team at Memorial Park in Simcoe
Tuesday, October 18th	COPE Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the library
Wed., October 19th	Boston Pizza hot lunch for those who place an order
Thursday, October 20th	Primary Cross Country meet at the school
Friday, October 21st	Dieleman Fundraiser orders due
Wednesday, October 26th	Picture retakes, Macmillan order pick up in the gym from 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the gym
Monday, October 31st	Happy Hallowe'en! Orange and Black Spirit Day

As September draws to a close, it's hard to believe that we have been back into school routines for an entire month. Thank you to our staff, students and parents for getting us off to a great start! It was fantastic to see so many families at Meet the Teacher Night. A sincere thanks to COPE Council for providing free water, juice and ice cream and subsidizing the cost of the hamburgers and hot dogs for this special evening.

Our school nutrition program is off and running, providing nutritious food at 8:45 a.m. each day. We've already had three successful fire drills, practicing how to exit our classrooms safely from our usual and alternate exit. We also had an evacuation drill to Grace Family Bible Fellowship Church next door and we will be having our first lock down drill of the year this month.

Congratulations to our soccer teams who made us proud this month with their sportsmanship and amazing team play! Our Junior team won the A Division pennant. Thanks to Mr. Smith and Mrs. Fearon for coaching our teams.

We've had lots of parents requesting volunteer forms and dropping off police checks at the office, as well. This month we are looking for parent volunteers to help beginning readers and for parents to help us with lice checks. Let us know if you can help!

Don't forget to check out our school art at the Norfolk County Fair and to cheer on our road race team at 9:30 a.m. on October 4th at the Grandstand.

On behalf of the staff, I wish all of our families a Happy Thanksgiving. We have so many blessings and much to be thankful for.

Mrs. Opersko

Head Lice:

Even though it is very common, many parents have never dealt with head lice and are not sure what to look for. You may be frustrated and confused by the myths about it and not sure how to treat it. Head lice are tiny, greyish insects that live and breed on human hair. Nits and eggs appear as tiny white specks attached to individual hair shafts. They cannot jump, fly or be spread by pets.

Please check your child regularly. Please notify our school office if you find that your child has head lice. We understand parents' and students' need for confidentiality but we are obliged to inform parents of other students in the same class of the presence of head lice. Once head lice has been found, students may not return to school until they have received proper treatment and all nits have been removed from the hair. Parents must bring their child to the office to be checked by a school staff member prior to returning to class.

Mrs. Opersko is looking for parent volunteers to assist with lice checks. Our school health nurse will provide training. Please fill in the attachment to this newsletter and return it to the office if you can help.

Toys and Personal Items:

Students are asked not to bring toys, balls, trading cards, stuffed animals, electronic games, special hats or any other personal items to school. These items can be lost, stolen or broken and can be a distraction to others during learning time. The school and/or the staff are not responsible for any student's personal items.

The Grand Erie District School Board's Safe Welcome Policy:

It is important to us that you feel welcome at the school. Just a reminder that due to Board policy, our school doors remain locked for safety. Please enter the school through the front door, using the buzzer to the right of the door to signal that you would like to come in. We do our best to open the door as soon as possible. You may have to wait if Mrs. Opersko or Mrs. Epp are helping someone elsewhere in the building. Mrs. Opersko is sometimes away at meetings and Mrs. Epp takes her lunch break from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. each day.

Setting a New Direction in Grand Erie:

Grand Erie trustees approved a new strategic direction to guide the work we are doing. In the centre of this 2016-2020 Multi-Year Plan is SUCCESS for Every Student. We will achieve this through a focus on students and staff in a culture of high expectations. The indicators that will support our goal include Achievement, Well-Being, Equity, Environment, Technology and Community. For more information, visit www.granderie.ca/board/multi-year-plan.

COPE Council News:

Congratulations to the following parents who were elected to serve as the 2016-2017 COPE Council executive:

Chair: R. Vanderven Vice Chair: M. Riches Treasurer: A. Robinson Secretaries: L. Townsend and S. Jones

Attached to this newsletter you will find COPE Council's fundraiser package from Dieleman fundraising. Get started on preparation for Christmas with a wide variety of exciting products to choose from. Also new from COPE Council this year is a Boston Pizza hot lunch, scheduled for Wednesday, October 19th.



Attendance and Punctuality:

If your child is will be absent from school, please call the school prior to the absence. You do not have to wait until office hours to inform us as we have voicemail. When you leave a message please state your child's name, your child's teacher's name and the reason for the absence. Regular attendance at school is necessary if a student is to achieve satisfactory progress at school. Plenty of rest, good nutrition and physical activity are key ingredients for a healthy lifestyle, along with good attendance.

Illnesses or family emergencies can prevent a child from attending school. To ensure a full recovery and to avoid the spread of germs to others, we respectfully request that parents keep children at home until they are feeling well enough to participate fully in all school activities. Under normal circumstances, children who are well enough to attend school are expected to participate in outdoor play.

If a student will be absent for longer than 15 days for reasons other than illness, parents are asked to fill out our school board's *Request for Temporary Absence* form which can be obtained from the school office.

Accepting responsibility for being punctual is an important life skill. Students are expected to arrive promptly for school. Late students interrupt classes, disrupt others and often miss routines, announcements and classroom learning. Students with frequent lates and/or absences will be referred to the school's attendance counsellor for follow up.

If your child is going to be late, please call Mrs. Epp in advance. Students who arrive late for school for any reason, should enter through the front door, report to the office and receive a late slip before going to class.

Loveable Labels:

With class in session make sure your kids don't lose a thing this year. Label your kids' stuff - we can help. Order your Loveable Labels for all your label needs and support Courtland Public School - COPE! This is an on-going fundraiser. Check out the website often as the sales often change! Shipping is ALWAYS Free! Shop at www.Courtland.loveablelabels.ca!

Parents/Guardians/ Community Members on the School Yard:

Although parents, guardians and community members are always welcome at the school, the safety of the children is of utmost importance. We ask that parents, guardians and community members do not come onto the yard without first signing in at the office to make your presence known. Parents are asked to wait outside the fence before or after dropping students off at the beginning or ending of the day. Pets are not permitted on the yard. The area directly in front of the school is a no parking zone. This space must be kept free of vehicles at all times. This is the place emergency vehicles will park in the event of a fire.



Growing Excellence... Inspiring Success



Our school's Tiger Tales Blog can be found at <https://courtlandpublicschool.wordpress.com>

Recent Posts: An electronic copy of this newsletter can be found there, as well as our school's 2015-2016 EQAO results.

Congratulations to our 2016-2017 Student Government Executive!:

Prime Minister: Leanne Robinson Deputy Prime Minister: Ethan Wiebe Minister of Social Events: Arden Tedford
Minister of Communications: Addi Bartik Minister of Scheduling and Recording: Madelyn DeLaere
Minister of Finance: Amber Buyse

Hallowe'en Activities and Treats From Home:

Your child's teacher will send information to you about class plans for Hallowe'en. We invite all staff and students to wear orange and/or black on Monday, October 31st to earn a point for their school families. Pay 50 cents to participate, with all proceeds going to the Haldimand-Norfolk United Way. We are happy to accept snacks and treats for special occasions (birthdays, Hallowe'en etc.). However, the Ontario Public Health Association no longer supports home baked or prepared food for students; therefore, food sent to school has to be purchased from a recognized facility that has been approved by public health inspectors. This means that we can no longer have bake sales at school, nor can we give students cupcakes, cookies etc. that have been made in private kitchens. We can only accept pre-packaged, purchased treats from grocery stores on special days. **Please remember that we are a nut free school.**



I, _____, would like to help with the Letters, Sounds, Words program. I understand that I will need to attend mandatory free training in order to assist. I have checked off the days of the week I am available to help:

Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____ Friday _____

My phone #: _____ My e-mail address: _____



I, _____, would like to help with lice checks. By volunteering, I agree to attend training provided by the school's health nurse. I have checked off the days of the week I am available to help:

Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____ Friday _____

My phone #: _____ My e-mail address: _____

Volunteers Needed:

We are fortunate to have support from our community to offer a unique program called Letters, Sounds and Words. Volunteers from our community help children aged five to seven learn the names of letters, the sound each letter represents and a list of commonly used words in print. This program co-ordinates well with our school curriculum. It has been designed specifically for volunteers, who work with one child at a time, and enjoy watching the great gains that are made in only ten weeks. This program is offered to us by the Strong Start Charitable Foundation which is funded through donations from individuals, businesses, foundations and community groups. You can read more about Strong Start on its website: www.strongstart.ca.

This program would not be possible without the financial support and the generous gift of time and talent from our volunteers. The Letters, Sounds and Words program is a ten week program in which volunteers work one on one with a child for thirty minutes each week. If a volunteer is available for more than 30 minutes each week, more students will have the opportunity to take part in the program.

Volunteer training sessions are available in two different, 2 hour sessions. Part One is available at Elgin Ave P.S. in Simcoe on October 14th from 10am-12pm or Sacred Heart School in Langton on October 17th from 10am-12pm. Part two is available at Elgin Ave P.S. on October 21st from 10am-12pm or Sacred Heart School in Langton on October 24th from 10am-12pm.

If you are interested in registering to become a volunteer in this program, please fill in the section about this in this newsletter and return it to the school addressed to Mrs. Zelem.

Primary Cross Country:

The primary cross country runners (grades 1&2) are off to a great start this year! Our school's "mini meet" will take place on Thursday, October 20th at 1:45 p.m. The rain date will be Friday, October 21st (same time). Students from each grade will compete against others in the same grade and boys and girls will run separate races. Every runner will receive a ribbon in celebration of his/her efforts. Parents are welcome to come and cheer on the participants. Parents, please remember to sign in first at the office and then meet us on the back playground. See you there! ~ Ms. Swayze and Mrs. Lafleur

Our School's Belief Statement: At Courtland Public School we believe that our students come first in all of our decision making.

Our Daily Challenge for all members of our school community is to create and maintain a learning and working environment which:

- is inclusive, welcoming and safe
- fosters respectful and responsible relationships
- has high standards for achievement
- is engaging and encourages each member to reach his or her potential
- recognizes the interests and qualities which make each member unique and valued
- encourages leadership, problem solving, critical thinking, and effective communication
- includes the use of computer technology throughout the learning day
- inspires an open mindset and a passion for learning