



Edna Staebler Public School

# Storm Watch

450 Bernay Drive, Waterloo, Ontario, N2T 3A3  
Office: 519-880-2646  
Attendance Line: 519 570-4359 ext. 3161  
Web site: <http://est.wrdsb.on.ca>

**W.R.D.S.B.**  
**May 2013**

*From the  
Administrators' desks...*



## **We are a growing school**

The neighbourhood is growing up around Edna Staebler. In many ways this is a wonderful thing to behold, as we meet new people and are exposed to a larger variety of points of view. It also poses some challenges.

Our school yard is a case in point. As the spring weather finally arrives, we have physical education classes outside using our fields. With a larger number of parents coming at the end of the day to pick up their children, we run into an increasing risk of collisions between our students and parents or younger siblings. It is for this reason that we are now asking that those waiting for their children at the end of the day stay off the field, creative playground and the paved area at the back of the school. We encourage families who pick up their children behind the school to please wait until the bell rings before coming around into the back.

This year we have also been asking that families allow their children to enter the school on their own. This is a step towards independence for your child. It also minimizes crowding in the halls and limits the number of non-staff adults that have access to our students.

Thank you for your support as we work to keep your children safe and adjust to our growing reality.

Jeff Parliament  
Principal

Jan Hansen  
Vice-Principal

## **Dates to Remember**

**Grade 7 and 8 Track and Field Day**  
• Monday May 13

**Grade 4, 5 and 6 Track and Field**  
• May 16 and 17

**Victoria Day**  
• Monday May 20; school closed

**School Council**  
• Tuesday May 21, 6:30-8:30

**Wacky Hat Day**  
• Friday May 24

**Professional Activity Day**  
• Friday May 31; No school for students, teachers are learning

**Grade 6 EQAO Assessment**  
• May 28, 29 & 30; June 3, 4 & 5

**Fun Fair**  
• Thursday May 30, 5:30-8:00

**Grade 3 EQAO Assessment**  
• June 3, 4, 5 and 6

**Caring Assembly**  
• Friday June 7 at 1:15

**Grade 8 Graduation**  
• Wednesday June 26, 6:00

**Last day of school for students**  
• Thursday June 27

**Professional Activity Day**  
• Friday June 28  
• No school for students, teachers planning for next year

## Full Day, Every Day Kindergarten is coming in September 2014

We are in the process of thinking about the implications of the coming of all day every day kindergarten. A big change is that we will no longer be able to use the same room for two different classes. This means that we will be having construction at Edna Staebler to accommodate more kindergarten class rooms. Currently they are thinking that we will be breaking ground next April, but the start date is very tentative and can shift substantially depending on many factors, most of which are out of our control.



We are hopeful that next September we will be able to use the park beside the school, and that part of the fence between our yard and the park will be taken down, which will help with the fact that our yard will be shrinking as the footprint of the school grows. In addition, we expect to get a larger fenced in area at the front of the school for kindergarten recess. Stay tuned for more details.

## Zehrs Save-A-Tape Fundraising

Throughout the school year, we ask you to send in your grocery receipts from Zehrs to help with fundraising for our school. For every \$450 in receipts, we receive \$1 for our school. Last month, we received a cheque from Zehrs for \$216.



It is amazing that the small action of sending in a grocery receipt can make a difference in our school community!

Please keep sending your Zehrs receipts! We really appreciate it!

## Attendance Line 519-570-4359 Ext 3161

If your child is going to be late or away from school, please call the attendance line before 8am the day of the absence. The attendance line is available 24 hours a day. We really appreciate your call. This lets us know that your child is safe.

If your child is late, please remind them to report to the office before heading to their class.

If your child is going to be away for 5 or more days, please contact the office. A Temporary Student Withdrawal form needs to be completed. They are available at the office.



## May's Healthy Tip

From the Lunch Lady

May's Healthy Tip is really a collection of 4 simple tips for feeling good

**Eat More good stuff.** Instead of worrying about what you are eating now, take action and make fruits and vegetables more available going forward. Baby carrots and apple slices make good mindless nibbling, are inexpensive and available year round. You'll feel good because your body is getting more of the vitamins and minerals it needs.

**Sleep More.** The body heals and is revitalized when you sleep. If you cannot do eight hours, just do your best.

**Exercise More.** You don't need expensive exercise equipment to turn on some music and dance. It feels good!

**Giggle More.** Laughter is the best medicine – Nothing beats a funny movie or a good joke when life gets bumpy. Keep some favourite comedies on hand.

## Math Evening

We had a wonderful math evening at the school on May 2. Over a hundred parents were in attendance and learned about the way we are teaching math to your children.

The problem solving model of teaching math turns traditional math teaching practice on its head. Rather than instruct students how to do something and then give them practice, they are presented with a problem and work to solve that problem in small groups. Lastly, the teacher asks various groups to present their solution and as the class works to understand each other's presentation, and debates the process, they develop solutions which both answer the question and have meaning to them. Our goal is that students think creatively in math.

## Tips for Parents to support their children in Math

Be positive. Everyone can learn math.

Connect math to real life through shopping, cooking, construction, time management, etc.

Be less helpful. Always try to have math come from your child and not the other way around. Use questioning to try to understand your child's thinking. Telling your child the way you learned to do math may not make sense to them.

Encourage your children to question and wonder with them. If you aren't familiar with the math your child is learning, ask your child about it and learn together.

Set high expectations. Children need to learn to persevere, to adjust thinking and strategies if their first attempt at a solution is unsuccessful.



Parents in one of the break-out groups at the math evening work their way through a problem solving exercise, presenting their results to the group.

## Fun Fair

Thursday May 30 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.

This is a fantastic opportunity for you and your family to come out and enjoy a night at the school with your friends and neighbours. There will be music, games, raffles and a barbecue.

There is also a group of eager grade 5 students who will be setting up a table to raise funds for the World Wildlife Federation.

## Busses for Next Year

The construction of St. Moritz Ave directly to Bernay Drive is complete.



This will affect bussing eligibility for next school year. Please check your child's eligibility for next year by visiting their website at [www.stswr.ca](http://www.stswr.ca).

The Board's distance policy for bussing is 0.8 km for JK and SK students, and 1.6 km for students in grades 1 to 8.

For more info, call Student Transportation Services at 519-650-4934 ext. 229.

## Green Storm

Edna Staebler is growing, and greening! A group of parents and teachers have assembled 'Green Storm', a committee dedicated to enhancing the "green factor" on the grounds of Edna Staebler P.S.

This year, the committee is focusing on the junior yard (grades 1 to 8). The kindie area will be next on our list, after details are finalized about the changes in the school after all day, every day kindergarten comes in (Sept. 2014).

The main purpose of the junior grove project is to add shade to the playground, involve the students in the naturalization project by creating inviting areas to sit, play and learn, and naturalize the landscape with locally indigenous trees.

We are thrilled to announce that funding has been provided by Hydro One to plant 11 new trees around our play structure, and heading out towards St. Moritz park! We will also be adding large rocks in the area to encourage students to read, write and visit with friends in a shaded area.

We are also pleased to announce that a grant has been awarded to Edna Staebler P.S. from the Region of Waterloo to plant 4 new trees in the back corner of the playground, near the pond! Large rocks will also be placed among the trees so students can take advantage of the new grove area.

The Green Storm committee appreciates the support of Dennis Wendland, greening consultant with the Toyota Evergreen Fund. Dennis has negotiated with Hydro One for our grove project, and has been an immeasurable support and mentor for the past several months. School Council also supports this project, and has allocated funds for the upkeep of the trees.



Students were invited to submit entries for a new name and logo for the committee, and the winners are Tegan and Briana from Mrs. Bishop Payne's Grade 5 class. Their logo and name will proudly be associated with our committee

in the years to come! Thanks also to Matthew Carter, Mr. Carter's son, for digitizing Tegan and Briana's logo so we could include it online, and in brochures.

The trees and rocks will be added to the playground throughout the month of May. Several classes at the school will take part in watering our new trees until summer vacation arrives, and then we will be asking families to come out to water the trees once a week throughout the summer. Stay tuned for sign up information and more ways to help this important initiative.

Let's not forget about the front of the school! On Saturday, May 25th, from 9 to 11am, we are asking families to come out to revitalize the front gardens of the school. Mr. Parliament will bring donuts and coffee, and volunteers can bring garden tools and lots of enthusiasm to clean up our front garden. A reminder note will be sent home.

## Cyber Conflict

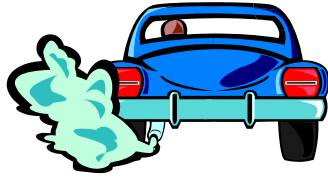


We recently had a police officer address our grades 5 to 8 students about cyber conflict. It is important that families educate themselves about how to keep safe as well, so that they can help their children navigate these waters.

A key thing to coach your child about is not to type something into a device about a person that they would not say to that person's face. They should also avoid sending messages that they do not want a possible future employer to see.

## Idling at School My Thinking

By Hima (student)



I have been thinking about how idling can affect us and our school. I think parents should be informed about what happens when they do things like idling for personal comforts and personal reasons, especially to people near schools.

I think people aren't looking at the consequences as much as they are thinking about themselves and their own personal reasons. Idling makes you waste money on gas and it makes fixing global warming even harder than before.

Global warming is already a big issue and idling just makes it worse. This will make it harder to breathe, our climate will change ... everything will change.

Most people think about things that have no way to be true. People think that by staying inside a car they are protected from air pollution, but scientists say pollution is found more inside.

Idling doesn't only affect our environment, it also affects children. Children are more vulnerable to air pollution because children breathe faster and inhale more air.

So, you can see, idling is not just a problem to you. It's a problem to our city, our country, the citizens of our world, our environment, our world.



## Jump Rope For Heart

We will be doing Jump Rope for Heart this year, which gives you children an excuse to be active and raise funds for the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation. Stay tuned for more information. The actual event will be June 10.

## Remember fire safety during your spring cleanup

From the Waterloo Fire Department

Spring cleaning can seem like a daunting assignment, but a few tasks on the list can help eliminate potential fire hazards to your home. Following these tips will help reduce the chances of a fire starting inside or outside of your home.

Beyond the usual tasks such as eliminating unused items, cleaning the garage and starting to work on the garden, don't ignore these areas to help make your home fire safe:

- Check and clean filters above stove.
- Pull refrigerator out and vacuum or dust the coils.
- Always keep stairs and landings clear for safe evacuation.
- Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, make sure that they operate properly and change the batteries once a year.
- Install smoke alarms on every story and outside all sleeping areas.
- Make sure that you have a home escape plan for your family and that you practice it. Always have two ways out of every room in the home.
- Perform this three-step safety check before you start to use your barbecue for the first time:
  - o Clean: use a pipe cleaner or wire to make sure the burner ports are free of rust, dust, dirt, spider webs or other debris.
  - o Check: examine the hose leading from the fuel supply to the burners. Replace if cracked or damaged.
  - o Test: find leaks by applying a 50/50 solution of water and dish soap to all fuel and hose connections. If bubbles appear, tighten the connections and/or replace the damaged parts. Always re-test.
- Never store propane cylinders indoors.
- Ensure that your address number is clearly visible from the street.

