Glen Stewart Primary School

Issue # 7 March 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 4            Inside out Day - Easter Seals Fundraiser
March 11           Crazy Hat Day - Easter Seals Fundraiser
March 17           School Spirit Day - Be Seen in Green Day - Easter Seal Fundraiser
March 18           Report Cards
March 21-25        March Break

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

On behalf of our staff, please accept our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for a wonderful celebration during Staff Appreciation week. The many cards, prizes for draws and the extraordinary luncheon made for a very special week. We are so blessed and thankful for the tremendous support from our parent community.

Our school community is a great one.

Report cards will be going home on March 18. We encourage you to celebrate the successes with your child to build on their confidence and feelings of self-worth. Please collaborate with your child’s teacher to identify how you can support your child in those areas needing improvement or more practice. Hope everyone has a fabulous March Break.

GRADE 1 PARENT LITERACY NIGHT

Our Grade 1 Parent Literacy evening which was held on Wednesday, February 23 was a great success. This evening was organized by our school’s Literacy Team and was intended to stress the importance of building literacy at home. As part of our School Development Plan, we are working towards having students read regularly each night as homework. We want homework to be a positive and enjoyable experience. As a way of wrapping our literacy evening the following Grade 1 students each read a quote emphasizing the important role parents play: Abby Ives, Maggie Callaghan, Andrew Clow, and Jordan Cummings.

“Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.” (1994)  
- Emilie Buchwald-

Thank-you so much to the parents who came out to learn more about the important role they play in helping their child learn to read and to learn how they can support their child at home with their reading.

“Books to the reading child are so much more than books – they are dreams and knowledge, they are a future, and a past.” (1940)  
- Esther Meynell -
GSP HOME & SCHOOL NEWS
Thank you to all parents and guardians who have helped to make Teacher Appreciation Week a success! The contributions of food and volunteer hours were much appreciated by the teachers and staff of Glen Stewart Primary. Many thanks to Patti Lynn Jenkins, our Teacher Appreciation Week coordinator.

Please plan to attend the (rescheduled) Glen Stewart Primary Annual General Meeting, March 1st, 7pm, literacy lab, at Glen Stewart Primary. This is the most important meeting of the year for GSP Home and School! See you there!

Glen Stewart Primary Home and School Executive

FRIENDSHIP ASSEMBLY
On Friday, February 18, we held a Friendship assembly. As the students entered the gymnasium, they watched a slideshow presentation depicting pictures and music on the theme of friendship. Students then linking their friendship chains together into one big chain around the gym. The entire school body then recited the following poem:

We are different - not the same,
Different languages, different names,
From different places around the globe,
Different dreams, different hopes.
Yet we share a common bond,
A friendship between us - deep and strong,
We are one family under one sky,
Let's celebrate our common tie.
Here we are linked together,
Friends with one another.

Our Grade 1 students, under the leadership of Mrs. Irvine, then performed a song on friendship. This was followed by the introduction of our new school song by Ms. Carmody and the Grade 3 choir. Ms. Carmody then shared the book called “Hug Book.” Only assembly concluded with the introduction of our new school mascot, “Francis the Fox” and the entire student body doing the “ChaCha Slide” dance lead by our Physical Education teachers, Mr. Meuse and Ms. LeGrow.

BOOK FAIR
A huge thank you goes out to everyone for their support during our February Book Fair. The winner of the $25 Book Fair credit drawn as part of our Grade 1 Parent Literacy evening was Aidan Arsenault and his mom, Danielle. The winner of the $25 worth of books for the Family Event door prize was Silas Fancey. His teacher, Ms. Kilfoil-Duffy, also won $25 worth of books for their classroom library. Congratulations to these individuals. As part of our profit from the Book Fair we were able to purchase $1106.72 worth of books from the Fair for our library. We also raised $1660.08 which will be put towards the purchase of new books this spring. Thank you so much to our fantastic volunteers. Without you we would be unable to run such a successful fundraiser.

NEW SCHOOL MASCOT
Our new school mascot is "Francis" the fox. Francis has been out and about our school visiting all of the classes. Francis also made an appearance at our Friendship assembly. He’s certainly a big hit with staff and students alike.
LUNCH PROGRAM Menu from Borrowed Kitchen
* For parents with Children at Stratford Elementary, please note that the menu is reversed at the other school.

Tuesdays: Soft Taco Wrap with Homemade Salsa
- 10” tortilla with lean ground beef, homemade taco seasoning and cheddar cheese...served warm and with salsa.

Fridays: Pancakes and a Mini Fruit Cup
- 2 whole wheat pancakes made with whole wheat flour, eggs, milk, honey, baking powder, & salt.
Served with one ounce of syrup, and fresh cut-up fruit in a mini cup (served warm in foil with paper plate & cutlery).

***Please note Borrowed Kitchen's School Storm Cancellation Policy: In the event of a school closure, the preorder, prepaid, prepared food by Borrowed Kitchen will be donated to the Upper Room Hospitality Ministry, (The Soup Kitchen).

EASTER SEALS
This year's Easter Seals Ambassador is Hannah MacLellan, former Glen Stewart School Student. Hannah is now a student in grade 6 at Stratford Elementary School.

Every year, the students at Glen Stewart raise money to support the Easter Seal's campaign. This year is extra special for us as Hannah has a very special place in our hearts as a former student.

We have a number of activities lined up to raise money so we can make a significant contribution to present to Hannah when she visits our school in April.

Coin Collection Our school leaders in grade three will be organizing a coin collection for each grade level. Students may bring in their coins to place in the plastic containers in the lobby.

March Madness Each week in March, we will have a dress-up day, where students can dress-up in the given theme. If they could bring in a loonie for these dress-up days, it would be greatly appreciated! Please note the following dates:
- Friday, March 4th -- Inside-out Day
- Friday, March 11th -- Crazy Hat Day
- Thursday, March 17th -- St. Patrick's Day – dress in Green!

Toonie Treats Treat bags will be for sale for students to purchase on Friday, March 18th, to celebrate the last day of school before the March Break!

Canadian Parents for French Bingo Night.
Thank you to all the kids and families that supported our first CPF event, since reforming the Glen Stewart Primary Chapter. The night was a great success, with over 50 kids and families enjoying the games. It was a fun way to practice numbers up to 75 in French, and we will try at all our future events to think of more fun ways to bring French into our children's lives. Our next event will be helping celebrate French week in the third week of March and we will have some more information for you soon. Thanks again.

Kate Sharpley, CPF Chair for Glen Stewart Primary Chapter.
PARENT SURVEY

In the coming days you will be receiving information regarding a Parent Survey that will be conducted in all schools in the Eastern District. We encourage all of our parents to take the time to do the survey as the information will be very useful to us for future planning.

A variety of questions related to communication, and support for student learning are asked. Your responses provide valuable information for schools and will be used to assist us in meeting student needs. The information to access the survey as well as a username and password will be sent to you electronically, if you have shared your family e-mail with the school, through your student(s), or in some cases by mail. One survey access code will be provided per family in each school. Parents should complete one survey for each school where they have children attending. For example, if you have two children in one school and one child in a different school, you would have the opportunity to complete two surveys. Your responses in each survey would be specific to that school. In the case of parenting from two homes, additional survey codes may be obtained by contacting the school. The survey is anonymous. The school, the Eastern School District, and the survey provider have no means of tracking responses back to individuals. Also, you may skip any questions you do not wish to answer. The survey will take about 20 to 30 minutes to complete. If you are interrupted while completing the survey, your partial responses will be saved and you can resume at the page following the last one you submitted at a later time. When you have completed the survey and submitted it, your results are combined with those of other parents in the school, and your results will remain anonymous. We look forward to receiving your valuable input and we are hoping for a very high response rate.

LITERACY BITS FOR PARENTS

How can I help my child with speaking?

Model good conversation.

- Make storytelling of a shared activity a regular activity with your child.
- Share your opinions, hopes, fears and childhood experiences with your child.
- As your child shares an experience or opinion, ask questions to clarify or tell and retell what they are saying, e.g., I understand that......

How can I help my child expand their vocabulary?

Expanding our vocabulary is a lifetime experience.

- Praise your child for recognizing an unfamiliar word and asking what it means.
- Show how a word can be the same or sound the same, but mean two or more different things, e.g., ring, road/rode
- Show how words can help us predict what is going to happen, e.g., The mischievous boys.....

The more that you read
The more things you will know
The more that you learn
The more places you'll go.

- Dr. Seuss