

Gainsborough Central Public School  
JK News  
October 2009  
Mrs. Whitfield's Class



Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that a month of school has flown by already! The children are settling into the classroom routines and feeling more comfortable with school life.

During the beginning of the month of October, we will complete our unit on apples. For the next two weeks, healthy foods and things for which we are thankful will be discussed. Our field trip to Bry-Anne Farms pumpkin patch will occur on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. At the end of the month, we will learn more about pumpkins and we will end the month with Hallowe'en festivities. In math, we will be working on sorting, graphing, patterning and numbers to 5. In art, we will be making turkey hats and paper bag pumpkins. In science, we will learn about the growth cycle of the pumpkin.

You may have heard your child talk about some various people who are working with us in the classroom. Our children have Mr. Shatford who teaches them physical education and music (days 3 and 7). We enjoy books and stories in the library and will learn about computers later with Mrs. Haber (days 5 and 9). If you are confused as to which day of the cycle we are on, you can find it on the yearly school calendar. As well, our physical education days and library days will also be on the monthly calendar to help you know when these events occur.

One thing that would be good for you to practice at home would be to help your child become more independent with dressing. Children can practice putting on their own shoes, coats, zipping their backpack etc. Always have your child try first before you step in to do it for them. While it may take longer, it will help them learn these necessary skills. I help the children that need help at school, but with 21 children in the classroom, the more independent they are, the better! Children will also feel proud of themselves for their growing independence.

Bry-Anne Farms Field Trip

As was noted in an earlier letter with more details, our field trip to Bry-Anne Farms is Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. We are asking students to wear rubber boots, jackets and washable clothing for this field trip. Please remember to include in your child's jacket pocket a grocery sized plastic bag labeled with your child's name for the pumpkin they will bring home at the end of the trip. Children will come to school as per their normal entry time, but our trip to the farm will be from

11:15 to approximately 1:20. JK volunteers will be confirmed on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We appreciate all of the parents who are interested in accompanying us on this trip. We have two other field trips planned this school year where other parents will have an opportunity to join us if they are interested.

#### Jolly Phonics

We have learned the first two letters of the Jolly Phonics programme in September. If you refer to the calendar, in the Sunday column, you will find the letter we are learning each week. The children have enjoyed the opportunity to bring home their Jolly Phonics duo tang to share this part of our programme with you at home. PLEASE do not have your child move ahead to the other letters in the duo tang. We have a full lesson at school when we are introducing the letters followed by the printing of the letters. The extra pages are in the book so that we can save time by not adding new pages each week which can become cumbersome. Every two weeks, on a Thursday, the Jolly Phonic's duo tang will be coming home. Please send the duo tang back by MONDAY each time the book comes home, then your child will have their book at school for our instruction on the letter.

Our mystery bag show and tell is off to a great start! The children have been well prepared with their "clues" for the mystery show and tell and are quite eager to show their mystery item to the class!

#### Pizza, Hot Dog and Milk Orders

Since our children attend school for a full day, they are fortunate to be able to take part in the school's hot lunches and milk programmes. This year the school is ordering pizza on a weekly basis. Every **Thursday**, except for the last week of each month, is a pizza day at Gainsborough. Students may order a pepperoni or vegetarian slice of pizza for \$1 a slice. During the last week of each month, we have hot dog days. Hot dog days are on the **last Friday** of each month. A single hot dog may be ordered or a combination of a hot dog, drink and small treat are available for \$2.50. Pizza money and hot dog money may be sent in each week, but it needs to be **ordered by Tuesday** of the week that your child is ordering the hot lunch. Teachers organizing the hot lunches have asked us to let parents know that late orders will not be accepted. Our hot lunches are served to the class during second nutritional break.

Milk is continuing to be ordered for a month at a time. Look for these orders coming home from the office if you are interested in your child ordering these items. The form that we use is the same as the rest of the school uses, so you will need to refer to our yearly calendar to help you know which days our class attends school for ordering. Please send in your order with your child's name and money in a separate envelope or Ziploc bag and then send it in your child's mailbag. When money is loose in the mailbag, it is more prone to falling out of their bag. Thank you.

#### Nut Free School

Since we have some children in the school with severe allergies to nuts, Gainsborough is a nut free school. Some of the children who have these allergies have a life threatening allergy. Please make sure that the food you send to school is nut free.

#### Fitness Breaks

Every day our class goes outdoors to play for two time periods. September was an enjoyable warm month, but the cold weather is on its way! Our fitness breaks are outdoors every day

except in the case of rain or extreme cold. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor play.

### Portfolio

We do a variety of things in kindergarten to help children learn. Most of the activities that we do are experiential in nature and they do not always have a paper recording of the learning activity. Some of the work will have a paper follow up related to the activity. In order to see growth over time, each child has a portfolio of some of their work which will be kept at school until the end of the school year. Occasionally, other paper work that your child has completed will come home in their mailbag so that you can also see some of the work that they have done at school.

### Hallowe'en

We have a few Hallowe'en festivities planned for Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. On that Friday, all kindergarten children who wish to dress up for Hallowe'en are asked to come to school wearing their costume. The JK and SK children will be having a short Hallowe'en parade around the school during the first period. After our parade, children will be taking off their costumes and wearing regular clothes for the rest of the day to help make sure that their costumes do not get ruined. ALL children who are dressing up for Hallowe'en are asked to bring regular clothes for the remainder of the day. During periods 3 and 4, we will participate in the school's Harvest Hoot. Our intermediate students are planning different games in the classrooms. Kindergarten students will have an older buddy to walk them around to the different games. Later that day, we will be having a small Hallowe'en party when we will eat the treats that are sent in by the parents who are on the treat schedule for Hallowe'en. (See attached treat schedule) Please help ensure that your child's costume is not of a violent nature.

Thank you for all of your support in your child's education. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Whitfield

