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December 2015

Thank You!

We must thank our students, parents, staff and larger school community for the wonderful response to our Christmas Families Baskets.

Year after year we have a great effort put forth. Whether it is the "Gator Giving Days", buying tickets to the gift basket, making contributions to the bake sale, attending the school dances or giving a direct donation, our school community succeeds in making it a wonderful Christmas for the families selected to receive our Christmas Baskets. Our school community's generosity is second to none.

A very special thank you must be given to Brenda Meisner and her terrific committee. They go above and beyond to see that this effort is a success.

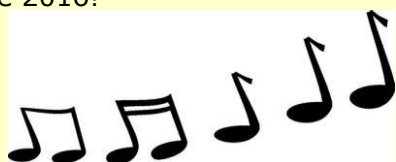
Congratulations to Kevin Gallant who was the winner of gift basket!

Music News

Congratulations to our Wee Gators on their hard work with exceptional creativity and team player attitudes throughout the concert practices and performance. Each child chose what part he/she wanted to play and did their role in Great Gator fashion! They truly did shine like stars on concert day!

Many of our oldest Gators in Grades 3-6 are preparing carols with ukulele accompaniment to share with our community at Wedgewood Manor this week. This will be an exciting new adventure of giving this Christmas.

Enjoy a very Merry Christmas and an awesome 2016!



Important Dates

December 17th

Christmas Dance – Grades 3-6 (3:00 -4:15)

December 22nd

Last School Day for 2015

January 4th

First School Day for 2016

January 14th

Home and School Meeting – 6:30

February 2nd

Professional Development Day - No school

Scholastic Book Fair

This year's first Book Fair was a success. Sales were over \$4500.00 which allows us to purchase lots of new materials for the school library.

There will be another Book Fair in the spring. Thank you to all who purchased books and we hope you are enjoying them!

In the Gym

Gymnastics team tryouts will begin right after the Christmas Break. Boys and girls from grades 3-6 are eligible to try out for this school team. Please have your child prepared for the tryouts with a change of proper Phys. ed. clothes. No children will be permitted to tryout without these. The Zone meet will be scheduled sometime early in February, but has yet to be announced.

Counsellor's Corner

Presents or Presence?

With Christmas coming, I started thinking about gifts....about things...about materialistic things. In a culture where the focus is always on "I want" and "I want more," what can you give to your child(ren) that will really mean something to them? What will they appreciate?

Adults know, and children are learning, that "things" do not make us happy. Perhaps for a brief moment, that thing we just got will provide us with some distraction that appears to us as happiness....but it soon fades...we are looking for the next thing. Actually, researchers have pinned down just how long material things make us happy; it's only between six and 12 weeks. They even have a phrase for this temporary fulfillment for adults; it's called retail therapy...for children, it's called trash after three months. A renowned spiritual teacher, Adyashanti, offers a theory as to why getting new possessions provides only a temporary feeling of happiness. He explains it this way:

"When we make a purchase and/or get what we want, we are temporarily happy and fulfilled. But the reason for happiness is not because we got what we wanted, but because for a brief period of time, we stopped wanting, and thus we experience peace and happiness."

In this life, some things are necessary....food, clothing, shelter...but most things are not...the latest toy, the hottest fashion, the newest technology. In fact, you should consider the reasoning for purchasing these things...you may find that it's more for your sense of self than any sense of need. Unfortunately, we live in a culture that continually tells us that your worth as a person is based on your bank account and what you own...and your children are getting the same message. One way to change that message is to give back as a family. Give them a purpose and direction: **we are here to help others.** Give your child(ren) the opportunity to discover how good it feels to help others. What can you and your kids do? Bake pies or cookies together to donate, sort food at a food bank, let them help you deliver Meals on Wheels, organize a book drive, the

possibilities to help others are endless...but it's more than just dropping money in a charity bowl...it is being actively involved.

Children remember and appreciate experiences more than things. They will remember what you did with them, not what you got for them. As the old saying goes, **children thrive when you give them half as many presents and twice as much of your presence.**

The great gifts of the Christmas season can't be put under the tree; you can't wear them or eat them or play with them. The great gifts are the memories of time spent together...time spent helping others...Merry Christmas everyone!!

Norcard

Thank you to all students and parents who helped with the Home and School major fundraising campaign this year. As we had to start later, due to a shipping error of our brochures, we have also had difficulty getting our orders in as they too headed to another Greenfield Elementary (in Nova Scotia).

Our sales were on par with last year – just over \$19,000.00. Our top sales person, Brooke Matthews in Grade 5, sold \$909.00 in product. Great job, Brooke! The second top sales person was Miranda MacEachern, in Grade 6, who sold \$759.00 worth of product. Congratulations to both – they each received a Walmart gift card for \$125.00. Draws were made for bikes donated by the PEI Police Association. The winners were Clarke Wood (Grade 6) and Sydney Cameron (Grade 5).

If you have any questions about your orders, please call the school and ask for Mrs. Finniss or email her at hgfinniss@edu.pe.ca.

Quote of the Month:

"Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store."

Dr. Seuss

