From the Desk of Mr. Peck

It seems that Spring is finally here; the mud in the field is drying up, the plants are greening up, the students are cleaning up and we can all take advantage of fresh air and sunshine without the need for a winter coat.

Over the last week or so, there has been some concern voiced from some parents about the presence of police officers on and around school property. During this time we also had a lock-down. Such events create a wonderful breeding ground for rumours and misinformation. With texting thrown into the mix, it’s not hard for false information to spread rapidly.

We have our community police officer, Constable Elizabeth, visit our school on a regular basis; she goes out of her way to develop positive relationships with our student body and staff members. Last week we had a lockdown practice. A lockdown is a procedure we follow if an unwanted and dangerous intruder enters the building. Thankfully, this has never happened here. Last week, we also had police officers and a camera crew here filming for the South Simcoe Police Services. They are adding some local material to their website. Finally, and unfortunately, we occasionally do require police assistance for various matters, or in some cases, they require information from us. Required police assistance is rare, but we take precautions to ensure that our students are safe, up to and including calling the police.

Sharing specific information about such calls with the entire community is not common practice for many good reasons, but if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to call the vice-principal or me for clarification. The truth beats a rumour hands down.

William Day Loses and William Osler Wins

Mrs. Jamieson, the friendly secretary who seems to know everything, is leaving W. H. Day Elementary School and moving to Sir William Osler Public School. This Friday, April 26th is her last day with us. We are going to miss her greatly. She’s always in a good mood, always knows who to call or what to do, and certainly works harder than she needs to. We do not yet know who will be replacing her, but she’ll be difficult to replace. We wish her well in her new school setting. The Osler staff are lucky to be getting her.

Children’s Mental Health Week

Children’s Mental Health Week is being recognized all across Ontario May 6-10, 2013. During this week, a number of activities will be taking place at the school to raise awareness of the mental health issues facing children and youth. Such an important issue with youth today deserves to be spoken about so stigmas do not continue.

The message is clear:
- One in five youth in Ontario struggle with mental health issues
- Treatment interventions work, especially when provided early
- Programs and services are available to support children, youth and their families

As Mental Health week approaches, we will be sending home a description of some of the activities taking place within the school as well as ideas for discussion at home. Join us in working together to develop healthy minds, healthy kids, and healthy communities.

**School’s in for Summer!**

Join us for summer school, where you will improve your Numeracy skills in an interactive and engaging environment. **Students entering grades 7, 8, or 9 in September 2013** may be interested in attending summer school in order to prepare for the up-coming school year. The program runs Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, August 12-23, 2012. Summer school sites are established in six locations throughout the county and limited bussing is available.

Please contact your child’s teacher or school administrative staff for registration forms and information. You can also contact your local learning centre or visit [www.theflearningcentres.com](http://www.theflearningcentres.com) for more information.

**Students New to Kindergarten**

Parents of students NEW to Kindergarten in September 2013 are invited to join us for a Kindergarten Orientation Session on Wednesday, May 15, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at our school. Please join us with your three or four year old. Each child attendee will receive a gift bag, get a chance to meet the teachers, have tour of the school, and be given some important information. We hope to see everyone here on May 15th.

**Important Upcoming Dates**

- **April 30**  Grade 8’s to Georgian College
- **May 1**  School Council Meeting in our Library, 7:00 pm
- **May 9**  Be the Change Day, grades 6 and 7
  Grade 8’s to Young People’s Theatre and Old Spaghetti Factory
- **May 10**  Walk for Mental Health/Hotdog Day
- **May 15**  Students new to kindergarten orientation, 6:30 PM at W. H. Day
- **May 23**  Students new to grade 1 French Immersion, 6: 00 PM at W. H. Day
- **May 24**  Students new to grade 5 EFSL orientation, morning only at W. H. Day
- **May 27**  2 weeks of EQAO testing begins for our grade 3’s and 6’s
  Jungle Gym comes to W. H. Day for the entire week
- **May 31**  Grade 8’s to Circus School in Newmarket
- **June 1st**  Saturday Family Fun Day – stay posted for details