From the Desk of Mr. Peck

By the time some of you read this newsletter, we will be into the month of April. That is good news for so many reasons. It means that we really have made it to spring; we have the Easter Holiday to look forward to; we have warm weather and sunshine to brighten the longer days, and summer is just around the corner. And I do mean, “just around the corner”. These next three months always fly by. We get very busy with EQAO testing, planning for next year, Track and Field, field trips, and our School Community Fair, to name a few. Ensure that your children play hard after school and on the weekends in the warmer fresh air and sunshine. Encourage them to work hard and be students of good character at school during the week. As a staff, we are already contemplating our focuses for improvement for next year. We will look at both caring and learning, or character and academics, if you prefer. Both are important at school and at home.

Please continue to maintain good communication with your child’s homeroom teacher. We may be on the home stretch, but we haven’t arrived yet. Your children need your support, and so do the teachers. These last few months are a time for serious learning to be completed as students get ready for their next grade, or in some cases, for high school.

It’s not Great to be Late

School starts at 8:55 AM. **Students need to be here no later than 8:50 AM** so they have time to walk to their entrance door. In the afternoon, school starts at 1:35 PM. **Students who go home for lunch should aim to return by 1:30 PM** for the same reason. By insisting on punctuality, we are trying to form good lifetime habits. Adults are not permitted to show up late for work, and even teenagers with summer or part time jobs won’t be kept on the payroll if they regularly arrive after their shift begins.

School Council

The minutes of our last School Council meeting are posted on our website. Please consider joining us on Thursday, April 7th at 7:00 pm in our school library. This year we have maintained excellent attendance and would like that to continue. The more parents we have in attendance, the more good ideas that are generated.

French Concert – April 15th

W. H. Day will be hosting a French Concert by Jacquot on Friday, April 15th at 1:45 PM. Grade 3 to 6 students will be attending, and parents are welcome to join us too. Please mark this day on your calendars.
Rumours of Extended French

Some parents have been asking about whether or not the Extend French Program from Fred C. Cook is coming to W. H. Day in September. The simple answer is, “We don’t know.” As soon as we receive confirmation one way or the other, we will inform both school communities.

Terry Fox Foundation

We received a thank you letter from The Terry Fox Foundation, signed by Terry’s parents, Betty and Rolly Fox. They are grateful for our support over the last nine years and thank us (which is really you) for your generous support.

Community Spirit Day

If you’re planning a Spring weekend getaway or even a wedding, try not to plan it for June the 4th. School Council is asking all of us to set aside June 4th from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm for Community Spirit Day at W. H. Day. Stay tuned for exciting details…

W. H. Day School Clothing Sale – Cheapskate Eight!

We are overstocked with W. H. Day School Wear. During the first week of April, all clothing will be on sale at a discount. This is a chance to outfit your child with a W. H. Day shirt for an excellent price. School wear can be worn at home, at school during the day or for gym class. Wherever you are, it’s a simple way to help boost school spirit. We have a few hats for $5.00 and all shirts, any size, any style, will be sold for $8.00 each!

Kindergarten Registration – let your neighbours know

Is your child starting school in 2011? We invite you to register your child now for Kindergarten which begins this fall. Upon registration, you will receive our “Welcome to Kindergarten” package. To be eligible, your child must be four years of age by December 31, 2011. NOTE: W. H. Day is NOT an all day every day early learning site. Please call the school at 905-775-9691 in order to set up an appointment to register your child for Kindergarten for September 2011.

April is Food Drive Month at W. H. Day

Bradford’s Food Bank really needs our help. We hope to give the Food Bank a boost for Easter, April 24th this year. Please send in non-perishable items starting tomorrow. We will run our drive until Wednesday, April 26th so we have time to get the donated food to the Food Bank. Some items needed include: peanut butter, canned soup, baby food, formula, pasta, canned vegetables, canned fruit and canned beans. Let’s work together to make April’s Food Drive a great success for our community. The class who is able to bring in the greatest amount of food will be rewarded with an ice cream sundae party.
Teasing or Taunting – it depends

Below is a mini version of a poster you may have seen at our school. We find that ALMOST EVERY physical skirmish or problem between and among students begins with words. We make an effort to teach students the difference between fun teasing and hurtful taunting. We also try to make it clear that it’s different depending on how well you know someone or even the circumstances of his or her day. Please help us discourage taunting by reviewing these concepts with your child.

Are you **teasing** or **taunting**? **Teasing** is sometimes OK, but **taunting** is **NEVER** acceptable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THE TEASER</th>
<th>THE TAUNTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ uses humour</td>
<td>• uses power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ swaps roles</td>
<td>• won’t swap roles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ is light-hearted</td>
<td>• tries to hurt feelings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ maintains others’ dignity</td>
<td>• means to humiliate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ pokes fun</td>
<td>• laughs <em>at</em>, not <em>with</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ has innocent motives</td>
<td>• intends to be nasty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ stops when asked to</td>
<td>• doesn’t stop when asked to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ says, “Sorry. I won’t say it again.”</td>
<td>• says, “I was just joking.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Important Upcoming Dates

April 6-8  Chocolate Fundraiser begins
April 7    School Council Meeting at 7:00 pm in our library
April 13   Grade 3’s to Black Creek Pioneer Village
April 15   French Concert in our gym at 1:40 pm; all parents welcome
April 19   Grade 7 and 8 vaccinations
April 20   Grade 7 and 8 Trip to Toronto
May  3     Grade 7 to Scanlon Creek
May  4     Triple P Parenting begins right here at W. H. Day