



Dear Parents:

Now that March Break has come and gone, we are now entering the final portion of the school year. Now, more than ever, it is important for both parents and teachers to continue to monitor the performance of students to ensure for both a successful conclusion to this school year and for continued success in the year to come. Please contact your child’s teacher should you have concerns about their progress.

On my visits to classrooms, I am very pleased with the learning opportunities that students experience and the high level of student engagement on daily basis. It is also nice to see how staff is using technology in their classrooms. Items such as document cameras, data projectors, computers and iPads are being used to support student learning. I am also pleased to inform parents that we will be receiving an additional 20 iPad minis in the very near future which will be available for classroom use.

Just before the March Break, our School Council sponsored our Annual Dance-a-thon fundraiser. I am happy to report that we raised approximately \$4000. I would like to thank the members of Council for their efforts in organizing this event and for taking the time from their busy schedules to help out at the dance-a-thon. Monies raised by School Council through their fundraising activities support off campus activities and classroom enhancements (e.g., purchase of additional technology, resources). Please consider supporting Council’s Bag2School fundraising initiative in May. Additional information about this initiative can be found inside this edition of Panther Press. On behalf of our school community, I wish to thank Council for their work to support our students.

We have noticed an increased amount of parent traffic in our building both before and after school. The extremely cold weather has brought many parents into our building to seek shelter while dropping off and picking up children. Unfortunately, due to a lack of space, I am requesting that all parents remain outside to pick up and drop off students. On mornings where we have early entry, the only parents who should be in the building with students are those parents who have students in the FDK program as these students require a direct parent to teacher drop-off and pick-up. Thank you for your cooperation.

Glenn A. Kitamura,  
 Principal

## Dates to Remember

Apr. 7, 14, 21	Panther Hockey—5pm Conestoga College Recreation Centre
Apr. 10	Hockey Jersey Spirit Day—wear your hockey jersey today
Apr. 3, 17, May 1, 15, 29, June 12	Pizza Days (June 12th last pizza day for the year)
Apr. 17	Spring Photo Day/Sibling Photo Day—Wear your biggest SMILE
Apr. 18/21	EASTER Holidays—Good Friday/Easter Monday—No School
Apr. 23	PJ Day—Spirit Day—Wear your favourite PJs to School
Apr. 24	Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart Kick Off Assembly
May 9	Crazy Hat Spirit Day—Wear your craziest hat
May 9	JUMP ROPE/HOOPS FOR HEART FUNDRAISER FOR HEART AND STROKE
May 19	VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY—NO SCHOOL
May 20	School Council Meeting
May 20, 21	Humane Society Visits
June 13	Twin Spirit Day—Dress up like your twin
June 23	Grade 6 Graduation
June 27	Professional Activity Day—NO SCHOOL—summer holidays begin
Sept. 2	WELCOME Back to School



GET IN THE HABIT NOW.  
CHECK OUT THE NEWSLETTER  
ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE!  
<http://pio.wrdsb.on.ca>



## BAG2SCHOOL

Pioneer Park School council is pleased to announce that our school has organized another clothing collection with [Bag2School](#) to raise funds for the school on May 23, 2014.

These funds will be used to purchase a 'buddy bench'. The purpose of this bench is to provide a space for those students who are looking for a buddy to interact with while outside at nutrition break.

[Bag2School](#) provides **free fund raising** for schools, churches, and sports organizations and, since its inception in 2001, has helped raise over **\$20,000,000** in Canada, USA, Great Britain and Holland.

By getting involved with this clothing collection you have an opportunity to help raise funds for your school as well as **helping the environment** by diverting unwanted textiles away from land fill sites. In addition, it will help raise the students' awareness of the benefits of the 3 "R's"—**Reuse, Recycle and Reduce**.

Please donate any unwanted clothing - hats, belts, purses, footwear (tied in pairs please) - and soft/stuffed toys, bedding, drapes. If your donation bag is not big enough for all of your items, you can use any other type of bag(s) as well.



To help raise the maximum funds for your school, please ask your relatives, neighbours and friends to go through their closets too – a team effort makes all the difference!

**Start collecting your items for May 23 drop off!**

[Bag2School](#) will help you to raise funds by paying your school **\$200/ton**. Visit [www.bag2school.ca](http://www.bag2school.ca) for more information

# Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart



**Who:** Pioneer Park Students

**What:** Students at Pioneer Park will be participating in a Heart and Stroke Foundation fundraiser. They will jump rope or shoot hoops. Primary students will jump rope, and junior students will be able to choose either jumping or shooting hoops. This event teaches students about healthy, active lifestyles while raising money to support heart and stroke research.



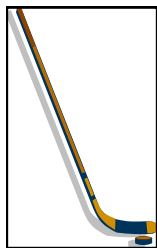
**Where:** Pioneer Park Public School

**When:** Kick off Assembly April 24, 2014  
Event Date May 9th, 2014



**Why:** Students will learn about healthy, active lifestyles. The school earns Heartsmart points to spend on school supplies and sports equipment. We work as a community to support an important cause.

**How:** Pledge forms will be sent home April 24, 2014. Students can collect pledges from friends and family. Please do not go door to door. We are hoping to beat last year's goal of \$3504.56. All pledge forms are to be returned May 9th, 2014. On the day of the event classes will participate in skipping or shooting hoops during the school day.



Congratulations to our Panther Hockey  
Hard Hat Worker Winners!!!

Ben Z. Emma T. Marley Q.  
Lara V. Tim F.





## REMINDER

Attendance line phone number

519-570-8115 X 3632

Report all absences and lates to this number.

Please take the time to update this number in your home phone directory or cell phone directory.

**PLEASE NOTE: you must press # after entering the ext number**

It is very important that you call the attendance line if your child is going to be absent or late. The Waterloo Region District School Board has a Safe Arrival program to ensure the safety of your child. This success of this program relies on a partnership with the school. Approximately 2 hours are spent on attendance each morning due to the number of students who are marked absent with no reason provided and calls must be made from the school to verify their absence.

## Library News



*A Silver Birch update:*

We have 90 students registered for the Silver Birch Reading Program and those students have read an amazing 311 books. The JK's to Grade 2's have been listening to the Blue Spruce stories. So far the favorite books are "This Is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen", "Sky Color by Peter H. Reynolds" and "Willow Finds A Way by Lana Button". The official voting day for both programs is April 23. The official winners will be announced mid May 2014! Stay Tuned!

Looking ahead to June all library books must be returned to the library on Friday June 13, 2014.

## Before and After School Programs

Each year, families express an interest in having their child(ren) attend a WRDSB Before and After School Program at their school. A minimum number of registrations are required to operate these programs. It is important for families to register between February 10th and April 30th to determine if programs will operate. Schools will notify families in early May if their school will operate the program.

School-based childcare programs offer you access to high quality programs in a convenient location, with no waiting lists.

Programs are offered from 7am-6pm Monday to Friday, PD Days, and at a reduced number of sites during March Break and the non-statutory week at Christmas.

All Programs offer:

- Ongoing Registration
- Nutritional Snacks
- Age-appropriate Programming and Resources

**Please visit [www.wrdsb.ca/beforeafter](http://www.wrdsb.ca/beforeafter) for online registration, program information and 2014-15 operating rates.**