



THE ECHO

Forest Glen Public School



Fall 2024

437 Waterloo St., New Hamburg ON N3A 1S9
519-662-2830

Welcome back Falcons! And welcome to all of our Forest Glen Families to the 2024-2025 school year. We hope that everyone had a wonderful and safe summer and you are excited to be back at school! We are excited to embark on a new school year and look forward to providing a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment where we treat all who walk through our doors with kindness and respect!

We understand how important open communication is between home and school. Please feel free to call us or your child's teacher to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about your child. **Please be sure to regularly check your School Day messages.** This is the best way for us to safely share information from the school, the classroom, and school council about the many activities, special events, trips, fundraisers, and other important announcements.

This newsletter contains a great deal of information that is important to ensuring a safe as well as a strong start to the school year. Please read all of the information in this newsletter carefully, as it contains a lot of information. Four newsletters will be shared over the school year, two each term. They will be shared in the months of September, December, March and June through School Day as well as posted on our school website.

The Teachers, Early Childhood Educators and Educational Assistants have worked hard to prepare the school and classrooms to welcome our 'Falcons' back to a new year of learning and growing together. A special thank you to our custodial staff, Mrs. Ricketts and Ms. Schmidt who worked diligently during the summer months to prepare for our September return. The school looks great and it was a real team effort to make sure it was ready for opening day! Thank you also to our wonderful secretaries, Mrs. Witmer and Mrs. Pietras-Gorczewski. They have worked hard to make sure everything was organised and ready for the new school year! Thanks to the efforts of our amazing Forest Glen Staff and wonderful Falcon students we have had a very successful start-up! It is so wonderful to see all of our fabulous students excited about the upcoming year!

Looking forward to a great school year together!

Yours in education, Sherry Lawlor Alexander, principal

Staff Changes

We have some staff changes as we begin the new school year. We are happy to welcome the following new staff members to Forest Glen:

- Ms. Dionne, Intermediate Core French
- Ms. Steckly, Grade 3

- Miss Kneisel, DECE
- Ms. Berwick, planning time coverage
- Mrs. Collins, Kindergarten
- Mr. Dempster, Grade 6
- Ms. Paisley, Grade 7
- Mrs. Hoy, Grade 2/3
- Mrs. Lifchits, Intermediate Math
- Mr. Donofrio, Grade 7

Welcome to Forest Glen!

<u>Important Dates</u>			
Sept. 24	Photo Day	Mar. 31	PA Day (Professional Activity Day)
Sept. 27	Terry Fox School Event	Apr. 18	Good Friday
Oct. 11	PA Day (Professional Activity Day)	Apr. 21	Easter Monday
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving!	Apr. 22	Grade 7 Immunizations
Oct. 29	Grade 7 Immunizations	Apr. 28	Class Photo Day
Nov. 1	PA Day (Professional Activity Day)	May 19	Victoria Day
Nov. 12	Retake Photo Day	May 30	PA Day (Professional Activity Day)
Dec. 23 - Jan. 3	Winter Break	June 25	Grade 8 Celebration!
Jan. 17	PA Day (Professional Activity Day)	June 26	Last Day of School
Feb. 17	Family Day	June 27	PA Day (Professional Activity Day)
Mar. 10 - Mar. 14	March Break		
Mar. 21	Grade 8 Milestone Photos		

Bell Times 2024 - 2025

8:05-8:20	Supervision of students
8:18	Warning Bell for <u>ALL</u> students (JK-Grade 8)
8:20	Instructional Day begins
10:20-11:00	Nutrition Break 1
12:30-1:10	Nutrition Break 2
2:40	School Dismissal

School Day

Once again, parents will have the option of ordering and paying for trips, hot lunches, gym t-shirts, etc. on-line using School Day.

School Council 2024 - 25

The School Council wishes to extend a warm welcome to all the students and families for this 2024-25 school year! Your School Council meets once per month to discuss fundraising opportunities for the school. Fundraising activities rely on the help of our fabulous volunteers. Should you wish to try a meeting, our next meetings are Monday, Oct 21 and Monday, Nov 18 both at 6:30 in the library. For inquiries and volunteer opportunities, please email Kelly Durst (chair) at forestglencouncil@gmail.com.

Safety Drills

We are mandated to conduct various safety drills throughout the school year, including fire drills, violent intruder drills and tornado drills. These drills allow us to practise our procedures should an emergency situation ever arise. The drills will occur throughout the school year, and several of those drills will be conducted during the months of September and October. Please refer to our Threat Risk Assessment Fair Notice form on the board website for more information on this process.

Photo Day

Photo day will be on Tuesday, September 24th. More information has been sent home through School Day.



Celebrations

Due to allergies and our promotion of healthy eating, we ask that food is not sent in for whole classes for birthdays etc. If you wish to send something to celebrate, please consider items such as fun pencils, erasers etc. **NO NUT PRODUCTS, please!** Please be aware that several of our students have severe **life-threatening allergies that** cause a severe reaction to specific foods and can result in death within minutes. Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, please send foods to school that are **free from nut products, including products that resemble peanut butter, such as Wow Butter. If your child has a severe allergy or medical condition, please notify the office immediately.**

Pick up and Drop off of Children

For the safety of our students, especially our younger children, we ask that parents drive right into the **back of the parking lot and let students off by the far gate** or as close to the back playground as possible, and supervise your children as they cross the parking lot. **Please keep the bus loading loop free of cars!** We ask that **ALL children gather at the back** of the school before the arrival bell, where teachers are on supervision duty.

Crossing Guard Times

Crossing Guards will be in place at the following times and locations:

Waterloo St. & Forrest Ave.

7:45 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

2:40 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Waterloo St. & Steinman St.

7:45 a.m. - 9:20 a.m.

2:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Safe School Arrival

Please call or email the school **as soon as possible** when your child is going to be **absent or late**. You can email attendance information to **fglattendance@wrdsb.ca** or call the school number - **519 662-2830 and press 1 for attendance**. This number is accessible 24 hours, 7 days a week.

Students MUST check in at the office if they arrive late, after 8:20 AM. Students will sign in and a staff member will accompany your child to class if necessary. Student absences and lates are monitored, and chronic absences and lates will be addressed. It is really important to strive to be on time each day!

There are times when students forget their lunch or backpack. If this happens, please buzz at the main office door and we will have the student pick it up here in the office. Also, please remember that if you are here volunteering, **sign out** in the office before you leave. It is important that the staff is aware of any visitors in the school. This helps to keep all of our students safe.



Student Drop off Times:

Please note that our **supervision in the morning does not begin until 8:05 A.M.** We would ask that students do not arrive at school prior to this time as there is no yard supervision in place. As well, it is not permissible for students to be dropped at the main office or their classroom prior to this time to be supervised. This is especially important during inclement weather as we do not want students to be standing outside in the rain/cold for extended periods of time. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in adhering to our drop-off times.

Leaving School Property

Grade 7 and 8 students are not allowed to leave school property without written parent permission. If *your child is leaving to purchase lunch* at our second Nutrition Break (12:30 – 1:10) **a dated note is required every time**. Your child will be required to take it to the office where it will be filed as they sign out. **Students will not be able to call home for verbal permission.** Students who leave at the second nutrition break **must return by 1:10 p.m.**

News from the Library

Welcome to another year of reading in our Forest Glen Library! I look forward to having your child(ren) visit the library often. The library will be open Monday to Friday from 9:45 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. We encourage students to visit the Library Learning Commons from home at: <https://wrdsb.insignails.com/> You will find an extensive online collection of research tools, our e-book collection and streamed media tools. Students are responsible for the books that they borrow from the library. To avoid loss or damage, we encourage students to:



- Carry books in a book bag (bags provided for students in Kindergarten to grade 3)
- Keep food and liquids away from books
- Store books in a safe place away from young children and pets.
- Return all books by or before the 3 week loan period

If a book becomes lost or damaged, please notify Mrs. Pietras-Gorczewski. A small fee will be charged to help with some of the replacement cost. The fees are standard and are as follows:

Soft cover book: \$5.00 Hard cover book: \$10.00

Parents are welcome to stop in at the library to sign out a book from our Parent Resource

section. I am looking forward to a great year in the Forest Glen Library!

Happy Reading! ~ Mrs. Pietras-Gorczewski, Library Clerk

Gym Construction Update

We will be able to use the gym next week, September 23-27, but without the wall divider. As a result, we can use the gym for our Photo Day! However, the following week, September 30 to October 4th we will not use the gym as a company will install the gym floor lines and they need time to dry. The gym should then be completed for use starting on October 7th. Thank you to the students and staff for their patience and flexibility through this construction!

Grade 7 & 8 Gym Clothes

We're thrilled to share some exciting updates from our sports programs! First off, we have a **gym clothes sale** happening online—a Forest Glen gym shirt is required for phys ed for grades 7&8, please **check school day for more information**.

Intermediate Sports Teams & Clubs

Our **Boys and Girls Football Teams, Girls Field Hockey, and Running Club** are already up and running! It's so great to see our students getting involved and having fun. Looking ahead, we'll soon be kicking off the **volleyball and basketball** teams for our Grade 7 and 8 students, along with a club team and intramurals. Thanks for all your support, and GO FALCONS!!!

~ Mr. Walkey

Personal Property

We recommend that cell phones or any electronic devices, valuable jewellery, sums of money, valuable apparel or other treasured possessions not come to school. **Please leave these items at home. If it is necessary to bring phones to and from school for safety reasons, please be advised that your child is responsible for the phone. Phones must be turned off and left in your child's locker for the entire day.** Items brought to school and used inappropriately during the school day will be held at the office until the end of the day.

Lost and Found

We always end up with numerous items in our Lost and Found bins. It would be very helpful if coats, sweatshirts, gym clothes etc. would be labelled with student names inside. This would help to minimise the number of items in our Lost and Found and ensure students aren't losing items of clothing. Thank you for considering this.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will be running again this year at Forest Glen on Wednesday mornings, starting Wednesday, September 25.

Hot Lunch

Hot Lunch will be running again this year at Forest Glen in late October. We are looking for Hot Lunch volunteers. If you are interested please contact Mrs. Witmer at the office. **Watch for a School Day announcement for the start date and ordering!**



Bikes and Scooters

Walking or biking to school is a great idea! Just a reminder to please walk all bikes and scooters once you arrive at the edge of the school property. This helps to keep everyone safe.

Dogs on Property

Pets are a welcome part of many of our families' homes but please remember that some students may be fearful of animals or possibly allergic. For the protection of all of our students and parents, **we ask that dogs not be brought onto school property during school hours or during school events.** We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.



Medication at School

If your child requires medication (ie. Epi-pen, puffer, etc.) at school, you must provide the school with a properly completed medication form available through the school office. Board policy also requires that all medication be kept in a locked cupboard in the office. Parents, with children who have life-threatening allergies, requiring an epi-pen, are asked to make sure this information has been communicated to the office.

Student Accident Insurance

Each year, thousands of families are left unprotected when their children are injured at school or while participating in non-school activities. The Insuremykids Protection Plan costs just pennies a day and provides financial protection for expenses not normally covered under government health or group insurance plans. You can apply online now at **www.insuremykids.com**

Strong Start

Our Grade 1 and SK students are fortunate to have the support of trained volunteers to help with their reading skill development. These volunteers work with one student at a time for half an hour a week over several weeks. **Please contact Mrs. Weicker at the school if you are interested in volunteering to help.**

School Website <http://fgl.wrdsb.ca>

Please keep an eye on the school website listed above and at the top of the newsletter for **updates.** We encourage you to **subscribe to the website.** If you are a subscriber, any posts to the website will come automatically to the email you provide.

Bringing Community Together Through the HERO GEM Character Traits!

We strive to create a feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common values, attitudes, interests and goals. Falcons strive daily to be an safe, caring and inclusive community of learners through practice of our HERO GEM Character Traits:

Hope

- Hope is knowing there is a way to reach your goals and believing that you will get there.
- Hope is about goal setting, planning how to achieve it, and taking actions to do so.
- Hope isn't only wishful thinking – it's about working hard towards your goals

Efficacy

- Self-efficacy is about believing in yourself and knowing you have the skills to achieve what you set your mind to.
- Self-efficacy is your belief in your own abilities to deal with different situations; your confidence in your control over your own motivations, behaviours and social environment.

Resilience

- Resilience is the ability to bounce back or bounce forward after failure or challenge and try again.

Optimism

- Optimism is about seeing the best in yourself, in others, and in your surroundings.

- Optimism is a way of thinking; looking on the bright side, expecting positive outcomes and thinking happy thoughts.

Gratitude

- Gratitude is about noticing, acknowledging and appreciating the things in your life.
- Gratitude is about being thankful.

Empathy

- Empathy is placing yourself in another person's shoes and thinking about how others may be feeling.
- Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another person.

Mindfulness

- Mindfulness is about being purposefully aware of what is happening as it happens.
- It is a state of active, open attention to the present moment.
- Mindfulness means paying purposeful attention to the present moment in a nonjudgmental way.

We believe these **HERO GEM** character traits are at the centre of everything we do and are the foundation for positive relationships between staff, students, caregivers and the community.