

The General Brock April Newsletter

April has arrived! Our weather continues to still be unpredictable, varying from extremely cold conditions to spring like temperatures. We encourage students to dress in layers whenever possible and to label all clothing.

With the recent changes in direction around Covid-19 protocols in schools, our Bulldogs continue to be respectful of each other's choices around masking while continuing to follow safe hygiene and physical distancing practices whenever possible. Although the restrictions have gone away, Covid-19 remains. With the additional ability to mix our cohorts throughout the day, a positive difference can be felt in both our school spirit and sense of community.

In advance, thank you for your support with our 'Little Caesars Pizza Kit' fundraiser. This, together with pizza days, popcorn days, and Loonie license days we can support a variety of programming that meets the needs of all of our learners!

A friendly reminder - if your child will be absent from school, please call the school or enter the absence on Edsby. Also, please have your students arrive after 8:20 – supervision begins at this time.

The entire Bulldog staff wishes all our families a safe and relaxing Easter Break – April 15-18.

Sincerely,

Mr. Callow and Mr. Johnson

Important Dates

April 1 – Spirit Day in support of Autism Awareness

April 5, 12, 19, 26 – Pizza Days from 'Pizza Plus' - all Halal - \$3/slice or two for \$5

April 8, 22, 29 – Popcorn days \$3/one bag or two for \$5

April 8 – Little Caesars fundraiser ends

April 15 – Good Friday – no school for students

April 18 – Easter Monday – no school for students

April 20 – WECHU Dental Screening – Grades JK/SK, 2, 4, 7

April 22 – Loonie License day – teachers will send home options closer to the date

April 25 – Graduation pictures

April 25 – WECHU ‘Pop-Up’ clinic in our gymnasium for 1st, 2nd, booster shots – 3:00-6:00 pm

April 27 – Little Caesars pick up your kits day in the gymnasium - 12:30-4:00 pm

April 29 – Spirit Day – Wear your favourite pattern

April 29 - Student of the Month - Fairness / Month in Review Assembly beginning @ 1:30 in the gymnasium

Kindergarten News

It has been great seeing so many new Bulldogs register with us during these past several weeks. If you haven't already, please take some time to visit our Kindergarten YouTube video – search General Brock Public School. If you have any questions, please reach out and give us a call at 519-254-2571.

We look forward to meeting our future Bulldogs! A ‘Welcome to Kindergarten’ event will be held later in April. More details to come.

Mental Health Support Services

Student mental health and well-being is a crucial part of student success. This is a priority at the GECDSB especially as we continue to deal with the impact of COVID-19.

As such, the GECDSB has been able to provide a comprehensive list of agencies and services that are available to support both students and families.

Detailed information can be found at - [Mental Health Resources](#)

April News from the Windsor Essex County Health Unit

Sometimes children don't eat lunch because their sandwich is soggy, their fruit is crushed, their drink is warm, or they are bored with their lunch. For some simple ideas, go to:

<https://www.unlockfood.ca/en/Articles/School-Health/Articles/Simple-Lunch-Solutions.aspx> are

Children need to know that feelings and emotions are a normal part of life. Talk to your children about how they're feeling, why they may feel this way, and what those feelings mean. Let them know it's normal to feel different things, and that talking can help. For more information on children's mental health, visit <https://ontario.cmha.ca/documents/child-and-youth-mentalhealth-signs-and-symptoms/>

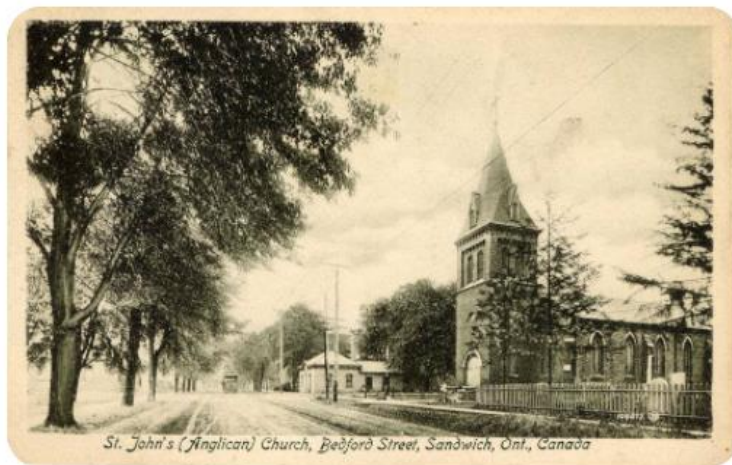
Sadly, only 28% of children walk to school. Active transportation – like walking or biking to school - is an easy way to be more active. Active transportation also keeps roads and parking lots clearer for kids' safety. If you don't live close to school, think about driving part way, then walking the last few blocks. Or, think about starting a walking school bus with other families in your neighbourhood. Help make your neighborhood more active!

Children are often outside when the sun's rays are the strongest. This exposes them to harmful UV rays. Protect their skin by using a "broad spectrum" and "water resistant" sunscreen with SPF 30 or more. Wearing a hat and sunglasses adds extra protection for the face and neck. Being outside is important for children and practicing sun safety will help keep kids healthy!

A Little Bit of Local History

Many of our Brock families and students pass by the St. John's Church cemetery each day, most of them unaware of the rich history that lay under the ground. In those five and a half tree-shaded acres directly across the street from General Brock School are the final resting places of some of the most prominent men and women who helped to build the Sandwich community and the Windsor-Essex region. This cemetery is the oldest Anglican cemetery west of Niagara Falls.

The bones of an estimated 3,500 individuals, dating as far back as 1793, are resting in that small chunk of land, even though only about 500 stone markers are visible today. Many of the stones were vandalized in 2004 and many more have been lost to nature. Over time, many stones fell over and were literally swallowed up by the ground as they eventually broke apart and turned into dust.



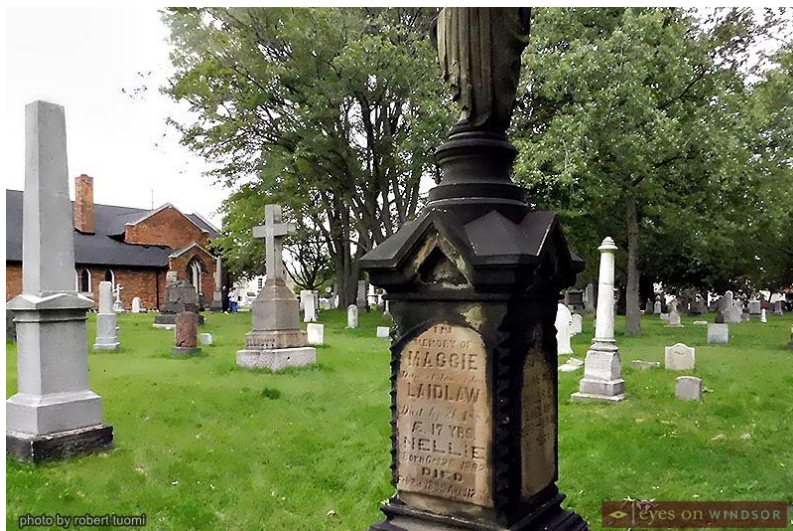
The above postcard from the 1800's shows St. John's Church. The cemetery lies beside and behind this historic church. There is a wonderful view of the church and cemetery from the second floor of our school, looking out from the south facing windows in Ms. Mattina's classroom. Note from the postcard that Sandwich Street was originally named Bedford Street.

Notable individuals that are interred there include pioneers, soldiers, escaped slaves from the American south, magistrates, sheriffs, veterans, preachers, and politicians. The oldest surviving marker is a four-sided monument for the members of the Mears family and was placed in the cemetery in 1793 following the death of a family member, Margaret Wilson of Amsterdam, New York (now known as New York City).

Other stones mark the burial locations for local leaders, such as J.L. Forster (yes, that's who the now-closed Forster High School was named after) and Howard Watkins, who was the second black detective in all of Canada. There's also a stone to mark the resting place of the Hon. Alexander Grant (1734-1813), a senior member of the executive and legislative councils of Upper Canada.

Another well-preserved stone, from 1903, is that of Frederick Bouteiller, a warden of Essex County who fought at the Battle of Gettysburg in the U.S. Civil War as a captain in the 5th Michigan Infantry.

Speaking of military history, 75 of the stones have been linked to individuals with military service, and it is believed that many more are within the cemetery. With veterans from as far back as the Seven Years War (1756-1763) buried at St. John's Anglican Church, the cemetery serves as a who's who of Sandwich Town's past.



The cemetery includes Sgt. William Lees who served under the Duke of Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 (Sgt. Lees was witness to the surrender of Napoleon). Also, of note are the markers for Dr. James Hume, killed during the Battle of Windsor in 1838. It includes a veteran of the Battle of

Bunker Hill in the American Revolutionary War. The cemetery also includes graves of local men who fought alongside British regulars in the War of 1812 as members of the “buckskin militia.” Then there’s the sad story of Louis Porter, a U.S. Army corporal in the Korean War, who came back in one piece but was killed in 1963 by a bolt of lightning while fishing at the foot of Brock Street.

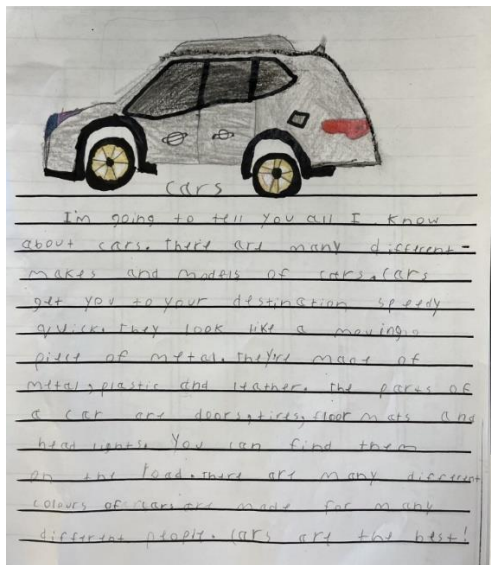
Thanks to the efforts of local individuals and community leaders, such as the Harbour Master and friend of General Brock School, Mr. Peter Berry, work is being done to properly uncover, catalogue, and preserve the fascinating history that lays beneath the corner of Brock and Sandwich Streets. Bottom line? This cemetery is a historic marvel and a key piece of the revitalization of Sandwich.

For more information, click on the link to view a CBC news story with Peter Berry and the revitalization efforts that continue in St. John’s cemetery. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JowlwNldOho>

Grade 3 students from Mrs. Molenda’s sharing their hard work below...



Ahyan -



Ahyan: “I learned that a paragraph should look like a burger. It needs a topic sentence, juicy details and a closing sentence. I wrote my descriptive paragraph about cars. I drew my dad's car which is a 2022 Toyota Highlander. I think I'm a good writer!”



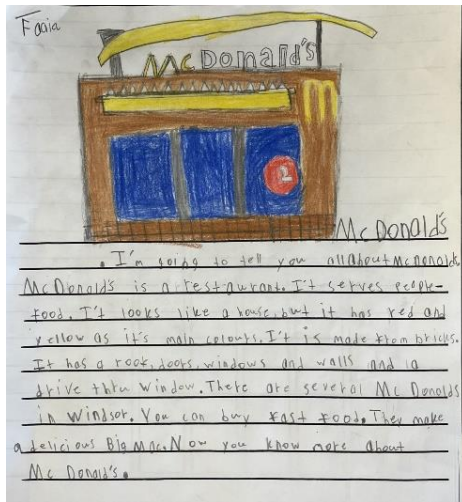
Aniyah –



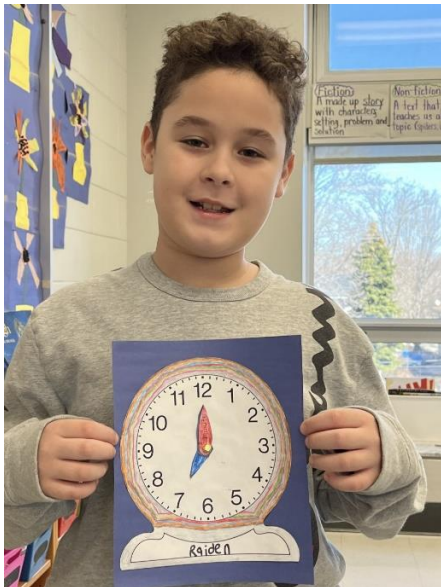
Aniyah: "This is my Van Gogh sunflower art. This is one of Van Gogh's most famous paintings. I enjoyed creating a 3D effect using chalk lines."



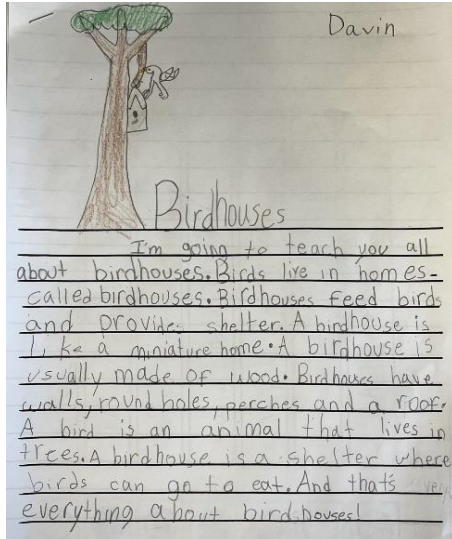
Donald: "We are learning about fractions. I know that this pizza is cut into fourths. If I ate 2 of these slices, I would have eaten one half of the pizza!"



Faaig: "I like McDonald's because they serve good food. I love to order their Big Mac, fries and a Pepsi. Some McDonald's have a play centre and you can have parties there. My paragraph describes McDonald's. I love to write!"



Raiden: "This is my analog clock. It says 7 o'clock. At 7 o'clock, I am usually playing with my little sister in the basement or playing video games."



Davin: "I learned something new about birdhouses! I learned that the peg on a birdhouse is called a *perch*! Birds stand up on the perch and they can peck away at their seed and be safe from predators."



Carson: "In Social Studies, I learned that Ontario is divided into 3 landform regions. The Canadian Shield is the biggest. The Hudson Bay Lowlands region is flat and wet. We live in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Lowlands."