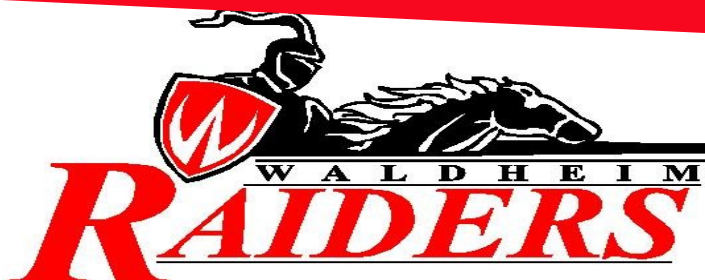


April/May, 2017

## WALDHEIM SCHOOL

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Waldheim, SK  
S0K 4R0  
Principal: Bruce Mellesmoen  
Vice-Principal: David Cameron  
Website: [www.blogs.spiritsd.ca/waldheimschool](http://www.blogs.spiritsd.ca/waldheimschool)



PLEASE



NO PEANUTS  
OR  
NUT PRODUCTS

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### From the Administrative Team

I think last month I talked about the weather in my message, and it appears I may have jinxed us, so I'll avoid the topic, even if it is frustrating! We are entering the final two months of what has been an incredible year at Waldheim School that has been full of so many amazing learning opportunities. I feel so lucky to be able to walk the halls and visit classrooms, having an opportunity to hear the students share what they are learning with such enthusiasm. The other day I came across a group of girls using writing prompts to create wonderful stories, and I sat with a student who was crafting a story about Wilma the blue whale. Our conversation shifted from Wilma the whale to Wilma from The Flintstones as this student shared with me that her family has the old shows on DVD at home. This warmed my heart as I was reminded of my days as a child running home from school at noon just in time for a bowl of soup, a sandwich, and the latest adventures of Fred, Barney, and the gang. I was also reminded of my youth as I toured the grade 8 science fair, marveling at the incredible projects the students had worked on. Growing up in Watrous, we always had an annual science fair in the elementary school, and the highlights for me were anything to do with space, chemistry, or cooking hot dogs under a light bulb.

I cite these two examples, not because they were all that happened, far from it! Rather, they are another reminder of how important the home and school connection is. The student who talked about The Flintstones was beaming with pride, being able to share an important piece of her home life with the school's principal. The work that the grade 8's had to do for their science fair projects extended beyond the school, and involved discussions with parents, relatives, or friends. Again, this is a wonderful example of how important it is to connect what is being learned at school with what can be discovered outside of the 9:00 - 3:05 timeframe. I have always believed that great teachers know more about their students than they see in the classroom. How well do you feel your teacher knows your child? Have you asked your son or daughter that question?

With April quickly disappearing, our thoughts turn to spring and summer activities, such as track and field, final exams, and graduation. It is an exciting time as students begin to dream about summer vacation, but it can also be a stressful time as students begin to realize their classes are almost done. It is important for all of us to continue to work as hard as we can as the finish line approaches. As of writing this, our staffing has not been finalized other than knowing that the number of teachers we have this year will be the same next year. This is helpful information when anticipating class sizes, high school electives, and building a timetable in general. When all our professional staffing has been determined we will then begin to put all the pieces in place to continue to build on what has been a successful year. If you have any questions regarding this process, please feel free to contact the school.

I know I said I wasn't going to mention it, but I do hope Mother Nature can bring some sunny days for our farmers and gardeners alike.

Until next time, take care!  
Mr. Mellesmoen, Principal,  
Mr. David Cameron, Vice Principal

#### DATES TO REMEMBER!

**April 6 - Subway Sale!**

**April 7 - Day in Lieu of conferences, NO CLASSES!**

**April 10 - Spring Arts Matinee Performance @ 1:00 pm!**

**April 11 - Spring Arts Performance @ 7:00 pm**

**April 14 - Good Friday, NO CLASSES!**

**April 17-21 - Easter Break, NO CLASSES!**

**May 17 - Grade 7-12 Track and Field Conferences @ Griffiths Stadium**

**May 19 - Teacher Prep, NO CLASSES!**

**May 22 - Victoria Day, NO CLASSES!**

**May 25 - Elementary Track and Field meet! Events Starting approximately 9:30**

**May 26 - Grade 7-12 District Track Meet @ Griffiths Stadium (for those that qualify from Conferences)**



## What's Happening? Grade 9

Grade 9 is a very important year for students as they work their way towards graduation. As students progress through middle years, they take classes from numerous teachers who are specialists in the subjects that they teach. That makes the idea of a "home room" teacher somewhat less significant. As the grade 9 home room teacher, I do not actually work with all the 9's as they get to choose between

Industrial Arts and Home Economics. Because I only ever see part of the group on any given day, writing a meaningful piece that sums up their year in grade 9 is difficult. So, thanks to Mr. Kitchen, the ELA teacher, we decided to give the grade 9's a series of writing prompts to get their feelings about how their year has progressed.

After reading through all the responses, grade 9 students really enjoyed the special events that have taken place this year. The ski trip to Wapiti Valley and the high school hockey tournament were real hits with this group. Extra-curricular activities also were enjoyed by the grade 9's. Participation in the various sport opportunities continue to be popular. I also notice a number of students carrying guitars and other musical instruments to their lockers. This is great to see.

While academic work is important in grade 9, students have varying views on the classes they take and how they are progressing in these classes. What impressed me is that most students see value in what they are learning. However, what students seemed to value the most was their classmates. Most of the grade 9's indicated that what they would miss the most about school was the friendships that they have formed over the years. Grade 9 is also the year when Laird students join the class. This provides a unique opportunity for students to expand their circle of friends.

I have really enjoyed working with the grade 9's this year. I would like to thank Mr. Kitchen for giving the grade 9's the time to organize their thoughts through various writing prompts and the grade 9's for participating in this exercise and providing valuable feedback.

Mr. Glen Friesen

## What's Happening? Grade 5/6

A huge thank you to Mr. Guenther for filling in for Mr. Heidt for the month of March! Kids' comments about him included:

- "really nice"
- "bushy beard"
- "awesome jumbo chocolate chip cookies"
- "fun building rockets & air-powered vehicles"

Mr. Heidt is happy to be back.....he missed his kids! The Spring Arts presentation happens this week, and the kids have been hard at work rehearsing with Mrs. Lapierre! A big thank you to Mrs. Lapierre. That is a huge undertaking! Well done!

We had a lot of fun on the ski trip recently. If only Jack could keep both of his skis on at the same time!!



With the gym closed the past two weeks, we have been sharing some phys ed activities with the grade 7 class! Thanks for joining us!

Mr. Heidt



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## Priscilla Derksen...

It really is great for me to be working at a school that tries very hard to help children, from Kindergarten right on up to Grade 12, enjoy reading books! As a youngster I really

did not like to read - I was just too busy to sit still - but I loved hearing stories. When I actually read my first mystery novel, I was hooked! Nancy Drew was my hero who solved all the problems of the world. As I read my mind would be cataloguing all the little details of the story and the race was on with the author to see who would solve it first. I still enjoy reading old English mystery novels (and I still try to solve the mystery before the author does).

One of my favorite things to do is read with students in the library or in the classroom and listen to their experiences with their books. Soon summer will be here; what a great opportunity for us all to take time to get immersed in a book, or two, or three!!

## Brittney Scherr...

My favourite genre of books to read are mystery thrillers. I enjoy trying to figure out the twists and turns that come with each chapter - and I especially love when the ending shocks me. My favourite book that I've read in the past year is Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins - the movie adaptations rarely live up to their source.

## Jamie Boschman....

The first person that came to mind when I was asked to tell about my favourite book/author is James Herriot. He writes about his life as a country veterinarian in North Yorkshire, England. He does it in a humorous way, where he talks about his everyday journeys with all types of animals & also their owners.

I got hooked on James Herriot from my husband, Dean. Dean said his mother introduced him to James Herriot books when he was a young boy. Because I love animals, Dean thought I would enjoy them too—which I do! I've learned lots from the stories, which in return has helped me with my own animals.



## Reading Aloud to Build Comprehension

When you share books with your children, they are learning to think and act like good readers — without even knowing it! You can help them get even more from reading time when you talk to them as you read.

Children learn when they make connections between what they hear and what they know. One method parents can use to help make these connections is called a think aloud, where you talk through your thoughts as you read. Here are three ways to use think alouds, with examples from some of our favorite kids' books. Try these ideas to expand learning and to improve reading comprehension.

**Think Alouds connect the book to your child's own life experience**

Example: *A River Dream* by Allen Say

"This book reminds me of the time my father took me fishing. Do you remember the time we went fishing?"

**Connect the book to other books they have read**

Example: *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* by John Steptoe

"This story reminds me of Cinderella. Both stories are about sisters. Do you know any other stories about nice and mean sisters? Let's keep reading to find out other ways the stories are similar."

**Connect the book to big ideas/lessons**

Example: *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon

"This story helps me understand that we are all the same in many ways, but it's our differences that make us special."

In these examples, you are "thinking aloud" many of the connections that good readers make naturally as they read. Modeling these types of connections will help young readers know how to do it when they read alone.



### Schedule of Events for Waldheim Library



**April 7- Story Time, 10:30am**

**April 20-Risen: The Movie 2pm**

**April 29- 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration 2-4pm**

**May 1- Create Kit Launch 7pm**

#### **50 Years: We've Come a Long Way, Baby**

2017 marks the fiftieth year of operation for Wheatland Regional Library, & the Waldheim Branch is set to celebrate on Saturday, April 29th from 2-4pm with everything from an appearance by Hootie, buttonmaking, slideshow, Sphero-bots, to cupcakes. Make sure you come out to celebrate with us. We're not just getting older-we're getting better!

#### **Is There a Robot in Your Future ?**


You never know what's going to be happening at the library these days but if you keep your eyes open you just may get in on the fun because there's going to be a whole lot of robot action coming to the library in the near future ! Like us on Facebook & subscribe to our events or check out the calendar on our Page on the town website. ([www.waldheim.ca](http://www.waldheim.ca)) for more details.

Maureen Driedger



KATIEDAISY.COM

# April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>K1 - Mrs. June Kitchen's kindergarten class</b>  <b>K2 - Mrs. Michelle Fong's kindergarten class</b></p>						1
2	3 Day F (K2)	4 Day A (K1)	5 Day B (K2)	6  Day C (K1)	7 Day D (K2)	8
9 Please note: Mrs. Kitchen's class Attends Monday!!!	10 Day E (K1)	11 Day F (K2)	12 Day A (K1)	13 Day B (K2)	14 Good Friday	15
16	<p><b>EASTER BREAK</b></p> 				21	22
23	24 Day C (K1)	25 Day D (K2)	26 Day E (K1)	27 Day F (K2)	28 Day A (K1)	29
30						

# May 2017

**K1 - Mrs. June Kitchen's  
kindergarten class**  
**K2 - Mrs. Michelle Fong's  
kindergarten class**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Day B (K2)	2 Day C (K1)	3 Day D (K2)	4 Day E (K1)	5 Day F (K2)	6
7	8 Subway sale forms due by 3:00 pm! Day A (K1)	9 Day B (K2)	10 Day C (K1)	11 Day D (K2)	12  Day E (K1)	13
14	15 Day F (K2)	16 Day A (K1)	17 Conference Track Meet, Griffiths Stadium (grade 7-12) Day B (K2)	18 Day C (K1)	19 Teacher Prep Day, NO CLASSES!	20
21	22 VICTORIA DAY, NO SCHOOL	23 Day D (K2)	24 Day E (K1)	25 Elementary Track and Field Day F (K2)	26 District Track Meet @ Griffiths Stadium (for those grade 7-12 students that qualify) Day A (K1)	27
28	29 Day B (K2)	30 Day C (K1)	31 Day D (K2)			

# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

April 2017

Sponsored by your School Community Council

## SHORT NOTES

### Keep up attendance



Good attendance matters all year. Show your youngster that going to school every day is job number one. If you plan to visit relatives or take a vacation this summer, check the school calendar to make sure your trip won't overlap with the end of this school year or the beginning of the next one.

### Siblings as roommates

Have more than one child? Consider letting them share a room—even if they don't need to. Sharing space can help siblings bond and teach them about cooperation and respect. Plus, youngsters may be comforted and find it easier to fall asleep with someone else in the room.

### Build observation skills

Boost your child's powers of observation during your next walk. Together, gaze at a scene (say, a playground) closely for 1 minute to observe as many details as possible. Then, turn around and take turns asking each other specific questions, like "How many swings are there?" or "What color is the slide?"

### Worth quoting

"It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop." *Confucius*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** What do clouds wear in their hair?

**A:** Rainbows.



## Bring learning home

Help your child feel proud of the skills she's learning by giving her opportunities to use them outside of school. You'll boost her confidence—and she'll see that reading, math, and science are useful in everyday life. Pose questions like these for her to answer.

### How can we organize our cabinets?

Your youngster may enjoy giving your kitchen cabinets a makeover. Suggest that she draw a "blueprint" for organizing dishes, pots and pans, canned goods, and other items. Review it together, and try some of her ideas—perhaps arranging spices in alphabetical order or stacking plates by size.

### What will we do this weekend?

Let your child plan a fun outing for your family. She could start by checking the weather forecast. Then, encourage her to read newspaper listings and community websites to find activities, such as an arts and crafts fair, a free concert, or a minor-league baseball game. She'll need



to read for details like times, locations, and prices before she presents her idea.

### Where should we keep the bread?

Ask your youngster to conduct a science experiment to discover how to keep your bread fresh and mold-free the longest. She could use what she's learning in science class to set identical slices of wrapped bread on the counter, in the pantry, and in the refrigerator. What does she find? She'll be excited when you use her results to decide where to store bread. ♥

## Develop good money sense

Now is the time to help your youngster manage money wisely—before he gets his first job or has bills to pay. Try these kid-friendly ideas:

- Have regular conversations about money. You might say, "Chicken is on sale this week—we'll save money if we buy extra to freeze," or "I want new curtains, but our car will need tires soon, and I need to save for them."
- Suggest that your child give a stuffed animal a pretend allowance and write a budget for how to manage it. Explain that it should include savings and put *needs* before *wants* (so his stuffed monkey might buy bananas to eat or a tree to live in before purchasing one more ball to play with). *Tip:* If possible, give your youngster a small weekly allowance to work on real-life budgeting. ♥



# Practicing patience

In today's world, youngsters often have instant access to information, songs, and movies. As a result, they might not learn patience. Encourage your child to get better at waiting patiently with these tips.

**Set an example.** Let your youngster see you waiting calmly during challenging situations. In a traffic jam, you could say, "It looks like we'll be sitting here for a while. Would you read your story to me?"

**Discover strategies.** What does "wait a minute" or "wait 5 minutes" look like? Look at your watch, and have each



faster? Your child will learn that staying occupied will help him be patient.♥

family member raise his hand when he thinks 1 minute has gone by. They should raise their hands again when they think it's been 5 minutes. Repeat the activity, but this time, ask each person to do something he enjoys like reading or drawing. Does the time seem to go



## PARENT TO PARENT

### Write a winning argument

My daughter Lucy has been asking for a cat for months. So when she told me that she was learning to write "arguments" in school, I asked her to write me a letter arguing why we should get a cat.

A few days later, Lucy handed me her letter. She had stated her claim — "Having a pet helps kids become responsible." She even gathered evidence. She talked to three friends and wrote about how they care for their animals.



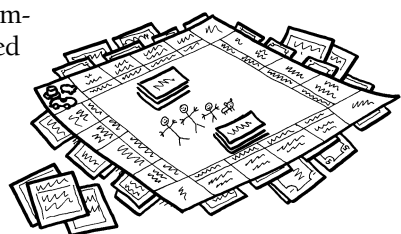
Finally, she considered my side, saying she knew I was worried I'd end up doing all the work. So she proposed a rule: She would have to feed the cat and scoop out its litter box before going out to play.

Lucy's letter worked, and we're going to the animal shelter this weekend to adopt her cat. Now she sees that writing a good argument can pay off!♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Make a personalized game

What's more fun than family game night? Playing a game your child designed herself! Consider these suggestions.



**1. Family-opoly.** Have your youngster create a personalized Monopoly game. She might name properties after people, places, or things that are important to your family (say, her grandparents' native country or her brother's college mascot). After she makes the board and property cards, use Monopoly money and game pieces to play her version.

**2. Trivia, Family Edition.** Encourage family members to write questions about your family on index cards, with the answers on the backs. *Examples:* "What breakfast dish is Dad famous for?" or "How did we celebrate Mom's 40th birthday?" Stack the cards with the answers facing down. Your child draws one and reads the question aloud. The first person to answer correctly keeps the card and asks the next question. When all cards have been used, the player with the most wins.♥

## Q & A Believe it—or not?

**Q:** My child believes everything in TV commercials. How can I help him understand what's accurate and what's exaggerated?

**A:** Try this eye-opening activity. Let your son take photos around your home. Half should make your house look good, and the other half not so good. For example, he could snap a shot of a freshly vacuumed room with the bed made and one of an overflowing trash can and a dirty wall.



Now, look through the pictures. Have him imagine he is "selling" your house by showing only the flattering pictures. Is he giving the full story?

Explain that this is how commercials work, too — advertisers want to show their products in the best light. Together, watch commercials, and talk about the "other" side that you're not seeing.

You could also read product reviews to get a more complete picture. Your son will learn to think critically about information he sees and hears.♥

**OUR PURPOSE**

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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# Home & School CONNECTION<sup>®</sup>

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May 2017

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## SHORT NOTES

### Thank you, teacher

Encourage your youngster to decide how she wants to thank her teacher for a great year. Maybe she'll make a card that tells what she liked best. ("The engineering projects were cool. I really had fun building a bridge.") She can hand-deliver the card along with a homemade gift, perhaps a bird feeder or a pencil jar.

### Middle school ahead

Do you have a child moving on to middle school? He will feel more confident if he knows what to expect. Make sure he attends orientation, where he'll meet staff and begin to learn his way around. He might also ask older kids for advice about getting from one class to another on time or finding a seat in the cafeteria.

### Happy parent, happy child

A happy parent equals a happier household. To increase your family's overall happiness, try to find time every day to do something that pleases you. *Examples:* enjoy a hobby, spend time with a friend, read a book.

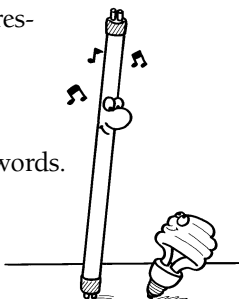
### Worth quoting

"Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others." *Plato*

## JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Why do fluorescent light bulbs always hum?

**A:** Because they don't know the words.



## Explore the outdoors

From sunny mornings when dew sparkles on the grass to dark nights when stars appear in the sky, the great outdoors is the perfect summer "classroom" for your child. Enjoy these activities together to help him appreciate nature and learn more about it.

### Observe nature

Have your youngster put together an outdoor exploration kit. He could fill a shoebox or a reusable grocery bag with a magnifying glass for examining bugs, binoculars for gazing at constellations, and a sketch pad and colored pencils for drawing and labeling what he sees. Let him use his kit all summer long in your backyard, at the park, or on hikes.

### Count collections

Encourage your child to gather leaves, nuts, seeds, and other objects from the ground. He'll practice math skills as he counts, sorts, and graphs his "finds." He might make a pictograph to compare the number of seeds, nuts, and leaves he collected. *Idea:* Suggest that he research his



discoveries in nature guides and display his collection with facts on index cards. ("A sweetgum ball is the fruit of a sweetgum tree.")

### Take poetry walks

Go on poetry walks. Your youngster can jot down notes on what he sees, hears, feels, and smells. Perhaps he'll walk barefoot across damp grass, sniff a patch of honeysuckle, or run his hand over the bark of a tree. Then, he could use his notes to write a poem, such as:

*Dew is cool under my bare feet  
The honeysuckle smells so sweet.♥*

## Celebrate learning

Let your child know how proud you are of her efforts this school year by holding a learning celebration. Here are suggestions:

- Be your youngster's audience as she reads aloud stories or reports she wrote. Asking questions will show you're interested.
- Help your child make a hallway gallery of her artwork. Hang up favorite pieces, and invite family members to take a tour.
- Show her all the progress she has made! Pull out samples of her homework or projects from early in the year. She will enjoy seeing how much she has learned and improved.♥



# Expressing empathy

How can you help your youngster develop empathy? Encourage her to be aware of how others feel and to take action with these ideas.

**1. Recognize.** This activity lets your child see the world from various points of view. First, have her cut out magazine photos of a dozen faces. Take turns choosing one and making up a story about how the person feels. Say your youngster picks a frowning child gazing out



the window on a rainy day. She could say, “He feels disappointed that he can’t go out and play.” Continue until you’ve used up all the pictures.

**2. Act.** Now explain that it’s time to put this knowledge into action. Ask your youngster to imagine how people feel in real life and then express empathy for them. As she goes about her day, she should keep an eye out

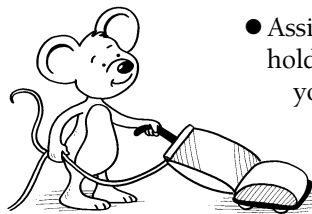
for people’s feelings. Perhaps she will spot a girl on the playground who looks anxious for a turn on the swings and offer to let her go first.♥



# Routines that work

Sticking to routines in the summer makes it easier for your child to adjust to school routines in the fall. Try these tips:

- Have your youngster get up and go to bed at around the same time each day. That way, early school mornings won’t be such a big change.



- Assign household chores so your child stays in the habit of having regular

responsibilities, just like he does in the classroom. He could vacuum, sweep, or dust, for example.

- Eat regular meals together when possible. You might enjoy an early breakfast before work and reconnect with a family dinner in the evening.

- Play outdoors every day. Your youngster will stay active and burn off energy—and work toward the 60 minutes of daily recommended physical activity.♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER

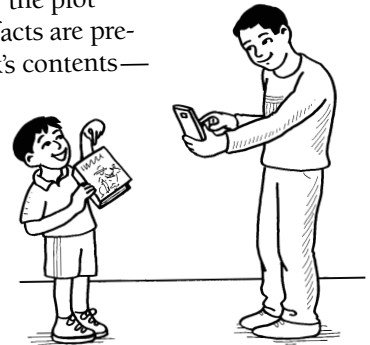
### My book trailer

“You’re going to love this book! Here’s why.”

Let your child introduce friends or family to books he reads by creating his own “book trailers”—videos that give sneak peeks into books the way movie trailers do for movies.

He’ll need to think about a book’s details, how the plot unfolds, who the main characters are, and what facts are presented. Remind him to give clues about the book’s contents—but not give away the ending or any plot twists. He could practice speaking while holding up the book to show pictures.

When he’s ready, record him with a camera or cell phone. He can watch the video and re-record until he’s pleased. Then, have him share his trailer with others. Anytime he reads a book he thinks friends would like, suggest that he make a new trailer.♥



## Q & A

### Prevent summer math slide

**Q:** I’m concerned that my daughter’s math skills will get rusty while school is out. What should I do?

**A:** Keeping math “muscles” strong is fun!

Look for ways to add math to outdoor games. For instance, write math facts like  $7 + 8$  or  $9 \times 6$  in hopscotch squares. As your daughter jumps to each box, she calls out the answer. If she’s “It” during hide-and-seek, she could count to 100 by 2s, 5s, or 10s while players hide.

Also, give her opportunities to estimate. Cut open a watermelon, and ask how many seeds she thinks it contains. Or have her estimate how many people are in the deep end of the swimming pool or in your row at a baseball game. Then, she should count to check her answers. As she estimates and counts, her skills will improve.♥



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