



West Ottawa Public Schools

Preparing Students to Be College, Career and Life Ready!

Great Lakes Newsletter

January 15th, 2021

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From the desk of Mr. Stefanich

It has been amazing being back in school for the past two weeks. As you are well aware, COVID has made many of the things inside of school a bit tricky this year. However, I am so proud of our students for the flexibility that they have shown. One upside to this year has been the ability of both our teachers and students to grow their technology skills. I have been so impressed, especially with our youngest students in their ability to login to their Chromebooks, find their Google Classroom and start learning. I believe that this skill will open the door for our students to learn at high levels and be engaged in the learning process.

You may not have fully realized this, but we now have a 1 to 1 ratio of Chromebooks to students at Great Lakes. This means that every student has their own Chromebook. Although students do not get to take their Chromebooks home on a daily basis like they do at the secondary levels, they are using the Chromebooks daily and no longer have to share with their peers. I am so excited to see how the second half of the school year unfolds as are students are now able to learn differently than they have in previous years.



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Important Dates

January 18th
MLK Day

January 22nd
Half Day of School

January 25th
Start of 3rd Marking Period

January 28th
Kindergarten Virtual Showcase (6-7 pm)

February 1st
WIDA Testing Begins



PTO Board Members

We do not have volunteers for our PTO this year. We are in the process of dissolving our PTO with hopes to start it back up next year.

President— Leslie Franklin
Treasurer— unfilled
Co-Treasurer— unfilled
Secretary— unfilled

KINDERGARTEN SHOWCASE

We are moving forward with Kindergarten Showcase on January 28th, 2021. This year our showcase will be one virtually in order to honor the safety of our staff and families. If you have a child who will be in Young Kindergarten or Kindergarten next year, this is a very important meeting for you to attend.

The meeting will be held over Google Hangout and you can join this meeting by using the below link.

meet.google.com/xvy-uxoo-ono

The purpose of this meeting is for families to learn a bit more about Great Lakes and West Ottawa as well as have ample time to have their questions answered. There will be a virtual tour of our building and our kindergarten teachers will be at the meeting to help answer any questions that you

STAY Connected

Stay connected with us at Great Lakes by following our school on Twitter. You can follow @GreatLakesWO for the most up to date information on what is happening at school.

Also, many of our teachers are on Twitter. Ask your child's teacher what their Twitter Handle is so you can stay current on what is going on in their classroom.

Finally, be sure to checkout our new PTO website. <http://greatlakespto.weebly.com/>

COVID Protocols Still in Place

As a vaccine for COVID is slowly becoming available, we are still remaining diligent in our efforts to provide a safe learning environment for all of our students. I have been impressed with our student's ability to wear their masks and keep themselves protected.

We will also continue the practice of having a daytime custodian to keep the building clean and wipe down common areas throughout the day. In addition we have added hand sanitization stations around the school and teachers have students wash their hands or use hand sanitizer frequently. Our lunches continue to be done one grade level at a time and students sit in assigned seats with other students from their class.

As the year goes on, we will continue to make decisions that put the wellbeing of our students and staff at the forefront of all that we do. However, we do look forward to the time when things open back up and our school community can start to feel a bit more normal.