



Centre Peel Polar Express

“Helping Hands, Caring Hearts, Learning Together”

7623 Sixth Line • RR #2, Drayton, Ontario • N0G 1P0 • Telephone # (519) 638-2668 • Fax # (519) 638-5530

NOVEMBER 2016

Principal’s Message

Welcome to November! Our students at Centre Peel Public School are busy and enjoying learning in all of our learning spaces both inside and outside of our school building. On October 28, teachers worked together to learn more about our students’ strengths, learning needs and created our next steps for our School Improvement Plan.

As a school community, we continue to focus on the character traits of **Respect, Honesty, Compassion, Fairness** and **Responsibility** and continue to combine these virtues with our Equity School Planner themes that coincide with many of our widely recognized and celebrated events. November’s indicator is: “The curriculum encourages learning through action, especially by working together, making a difference in the world”. Bullying Prevention Week takes place during the week of November 21 – 25 and students will be involved in learning activities that will reinforce positive interactions and proactive strategies. November is a time where we focus on **Peace** and participate in a Remembrance Day Assembly on November 11. Please join us for our Remembrance Day Assembly at 11:30 a.m. if you are able, as we gather as a school community where we are reminded that, “To Remember, is to work for Peace”.

We are looking forward to welcoming you into our classrooms when families join us for our Student/Parent Teacher Conferences that will take place on either November 24 or 25 after Progress Reports are sent home on November 15. New this year, a letter is attached to this newsletter asking you to complete a form in regards to these conferences. Please complete the form and return it to the school as soon as possible so that we are able to schedule these conferences. Thanks for your cooperation.

Thank you for continuing to support your children as we all work together to provide our students with a very rich and rewarding learning experience at Centre Peel. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions, comments or concerns.

Rhonda Gingrich
Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

Recognizing and building upon the primary importance of family and community, the mission of Centre Peel Public School is to provide for every student a quality education which cultivates honesty, respect and responsibility through effective use of resources and a responsive learning environment.

Picture Retake Day



Friday, November 18 will be picture retake day. You must return your complete package if you are having your picture retaken. Also, if you were away on picture day you may have your picture taken on this date.

Student Absences



Thanks to our parents who continue to phone us or send a note to let us know that their child(ren) will be absent from school. As part of our Safe Arrival Program, we must have contact with a parent or guardian when a child is absent. Students who arrive at school late must report to the office before going to class.

Please remember that regular attendance at school is important. Thanks for supporting your child's learning by ensuring regular attendance.

Chocolate Fundraiser



Thank you to our families who participated in our school chocolate bar fundraiser that supports school activities such as track and field events, graduation and class trips. This year our school sold **84** boxes of Lamontagne chocolates!

Our top sellers were announced at our October assembly. We had a tie for first place with each family selling 5 cases of bars and our second place family sold 4 cases. These families received gift cards for Walmart. All families that participated in the fundraiser had their names entered for draw prizes. Thanks for your support!

Winter Use of Playgrounds



As of November 1, our creative playground will be closed for the winter season. It is the position of the Upper Grand District School Board that all playground equipment cannot be safely operated during winter conditions.

Volunteers for the Month of October

Thank you very much to the following volunteers for their assistance during the month of October:

Amy Diefenbacher and **Kristine Brubacher** for assisting with pizza orders.

Jolene Weber, **Nancy Thiessen** and **Anna Bergen** for assisting in the Grade 1A classroom with Pumpkin Day Activities.

Sam Alexander for assisting in the Grade 23A classroom.

Anna Hildebram for assisting the 3B class with their home reading program.

Sandra Gingrich and **Marilyn Martin** for assisting in the KA classroom.

Mrs. Pace for assisting the 12B class with Pumpkin Day Activities.





Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet

NOVEMBER 25TH IS BUY NOTHING DAY!

It is vital to teach our children to respect and take care of the environment.

Celebrate Buy Nothing Day on November 25th!

Buy Nothing Day is an awareness day highlighting society's habit of buying too many things.

Founded by Vancouver artist Ted Dave, *"The first Buy Nothing Day was organized in Canada in September 1992 as a day for society to examine the issue of over-consumption. In 1997, it was moved to 'Black Friday', which is one of the busiest shopping days in the United States."* <https://en.wikipedia.org>



Image from <https://www.permaculture.co.uk/articles/buy-nothing-day-2012-approaching-could-you-stop-spending-one-day>

Repair, reduce, re-use, recycle – 4 R's are best!

"It's time for a new kind of materialism, based on an economy of better, not more... that makes things which last and can be repaired many times before being recycled, allowing us to share better the surplus of stuff we already have, from furniture to tools, cars, fridges, clothes and food. 'Repair, reduce, re-use, recycle', could be the basis of a new economic model." <https://www.theguardian.com>

Some great ideas for your family on Buy Nothing Day!

- Instead of shopping, enjoy a day in the great outdoors by walking trails or going to the park.
- Recycle school supplies such as binders, workbooks, pens and pencils instead of buying new.
- Donate clothes, books, toys and games your family does not need any more.
- Think of things you can make or do for people as gifts without spending any money.

"Either way, there's no doubt that going without buying anything for an entire day is quite a challenge in the modern world, and will serve to make you think about what your life is really about."

<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/buy-nothing-day>

Remembrance Day Assembly



Our Remembrance Day Assembly will be held on Friday, November 11, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. This assembly will involve student presentations. A moment of silence will be observed. Parents are welcome to attend.

Special Class Placement in UGDSB

Students who require special education programs and services receive support through the classroom teacher and the special education resource teacher at their home schools. However, in some circumstances, students can be referred to a special education class placement where focused instruction in the area of need is provided. These classes have smaller numbers and can provide targeted instruction to meet student needs. In elementary there are four specialized class placements for the following exceptionalities: Learning Disability, Mild Intellectual Disability/Language-based Learning Disability, Developmental Disability (Intellectual Disability), and Intellectually Gifted. Students need to have a diagnosis of an exceptionality before they can be eligible for class placement, and parents and the school team should feel like the placement would best meet the student's learning needs. Contact your school team if you would like to have more information on special class placement options.

Helping your child with difficult situations

Life is full of things that are hard to deal with. Sometimes children need help in dealing with these events. "Resiliency" is what helps adults and children to "bounce back" from the difficult events in life. The best way to help your child be more resilient is to model the skills for them. Here are some ideas that you can try:

1. Starting at birth, respond to baby's smiles and cooing by smiling and cooing back often.
2. Comfort your child when he or she is upset. Hugs and a quiet voice can go a long way in calming a child.
3. Teach your child to take deep breaths to calm down when they are upset and then talk when they are relaxed.
4. Help your child to see another way of looking at things: "I know that you want to play with that toy. Tom waited for the toy and now it is his turn. He would be sad if you took it away."
5. Instead of making your child say "sorry", talk about his or her feelings and the feelings of the other person involved in the event.
6. At night when you put your child to bed ask them to think of one positive thing that happened to them that day. You could share something too.
7. Point out your child's strengths: "Hey you rode that bike by yourself!"
8. Encourage your child to keep trying even if something is hard.
9. Read positive, happy stories together.
10. Give your child lots of time to play. Help them play with other children in a positive way.

If you would like more ideas and information on raising a resilient child go to <http://www.reachinginreachingout.com/resources-parents.htm>

Just a Reminder

On the School Supplies List for September 2016 it was listed that **every** student must bring their own Kleenex box. Please make sure your child has brought in their box. If they run out during the school year they will need to bring in another box. The school does not supply classes with Kleenex boxes.



Talking About Mental Health November 2016 – Technology and Video Games

Between checking text messages and playing the latest video game, how much time do you and your children/youth spend on technology?

“Technology is not really the problem, the lack of balance is,” says Doriann Shapiro, Social Worker, Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario (PGIO). “Because we are in a technological age, youth are often also using tech for writing and research. But when they are totaling over seven hours a day, finding balance between that is the challenge.”

“Problem video gaming has harmful effects on an individual’s social, occupational, family, school, and psychological functioning,” says Lisa Pont, Social Worker, PGIO. “It can result in a loss of control, withdrawal, and escape from difficult feelings.”

Here are some tips from Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (www.camh.ca) and Problem Gaming Institute of Ontario (www.problemgambling.ca) that can help:

1. Consider how you use technology. You are modelling behaviours for your children/youth.
2. Before giving your children/youth access to technology, talk to them about safe use. Communicate openly and honestly. Discuss possible effects and the dangers of using the Internet and social media.
3. Talk to your children/youth about how to integrate technology into their lives in ways that respect others. For example, some families have “no texting” rules during mealtimes and family events.
4. Be aware of your children’s/youth’s Internet activities and what they access. Create rules that both you and your child agree to, based on their age and past Internet use. You can also consider V-chip technology for the TV, which can block access to programs and channels, and parental controls for smartphones and computers.
5. Spend time learning about the Internet and video games popular with youth. Participate with your children/youth in these activities. They are more likely to listen to you if they think you know what you’re talking about.
6. Have your children/youth use a shared computer in an open area of your home where you can monitor what they’re doing.
7. Help your children/youth lead balanced lives. Set limits around your children’s/youth’s use of technology. Encourage them to take part in “offline” activities such as sports, music, drama and in-person get-togethers with friends and family.
8. Help your children/youth set priorities. For example, doing homework comes before spending time texting or playing video games.
9. Remember that you own the equipment (e.g., computer, cell phone) your children/youth are using—or you’ve likely given them the money to buy it. If your children/youth are not using the technology in ways that you approve, you have the authority to cut off access or control their use in other ways (such as using a secret password to set the administrative rights on your home computer).

10. If you have seen signs that indicate your child/youth may be developing a problem from their technology use, (such as: increased time playing/online, avoiding other activities including other interests and school, sleep problems, poor hygiene, less time with friends/family, lying about their gaming/internet use) talk with your child/youth about your concerns. You could also contact your family physician to get guidance and support for the whole family.

Homewood Community Addiction Services provides support for youth and families with gaming addictions: 519 836 5733.

Here are some useful resources.

Books:

My Parents Aren't Noobs by Michelle Nogueira and Anthea Helps

Sofa Boy by Scott Langteau

Doug Unplugged (book and DVD) by Dan Yaccarino and Chris Patton

Websites:

www.problemgambling.ca

www.camh.ca

Have a mentally healthy November!

Dr. Lynn Woodford is the Mental Health Lead for the Upper Grand District School Board.

Follow me on Twitter @drlynnwoodford.



Winter Clothing for Students in Need

Students need warm coats, boots, hats and mitts during the winter months. Unfortunately many children in our schools do not have proper warm clothing for our frigid winter weather. Consider making a donation to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation **Free to Achieve Fund** that provides needed winter supplies for children who would otherwise go without. Tax receipts are provided for donations of \$20 or more. For more information visit the [UGLF website](http://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.ca) at www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.ca

School Council 2016 – 2017

Mark Brubacher (Chair)

Brian Gingrich

Ken Martin

Paul Weber

Dennis Diefenbacher

Abram Janzen

Melvin Martin

Jacob Zacharias

Wayne Frey

Gerald Martin (Vice)

Paul Martin



Don't forget to complete your Newsletter Draw Form and return it to the office for a chance to win a free book up to the value of \$10.00 from Scholastic Book Orders.

Board Wide Fundraising Initiative for Syrian Newcomers in our Community

We have been pleased to welcome almost 75 Syrian newcomer students into our Upper Grand schools since last January. We are hoping that you will consider helping us in a board wide fund raising initiative to raise funds to help Syrian newcomers settle into our schools and community. We have partnered with Orca Book Publishers to raise funds by selling their newly published book entitled, “Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family’s Journey” by Margriet Ruurs through our school and board websites. For every book that is sold through our board or school websites, Orca will donate \$10 to our local settlement agencies to support Syrian refugees.

This unique picture book was inspired by the stone artwork of Syrian artist Mizar Ali Badr, who was discovered by chance by Canadian children’s author Margriet Ruurs. She was immediately captivated by the strong narrative quality of Mr. Badr’s art, and, using many of Mr. Badr’s already-created pieces, she set out to tell a story about the Syrian refugee crisis. Stepping Stones tells the story of Rama and her family, who are forced to flee their once peaceful village to escape the ravages of the civil war raging in their homeland. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama and her family set out to walk to freedom. Mr. Badr’s stunning stone images illustrate the story. This book is a dual-language (English and Arabic) edition.

To order this book, please visit your school’s website or the board website and click on the buy button to place your order. Payment is made directly to Orca and the books are shipped directly to your address from their warehouse. Payment for the order will go through at the time of purchase and it will include shipping. Orca will keep track of how many books are sold in our board and will send us \$10 for every book sold, which will then be donated to a local resettlement agency.



For more information, please see the attached flyer or contact Bonnie Talbot at bonnie.talbot@ugdsb.on.ca or 519-824-4420.

Thursday, October 27, 2016

THIS LETTER IS IMPORTANT. PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY.

The Junior Kindergarten registration process for the upcoming 2017-18 school year has changed. The changes are as follows:

- The JK registration window for ALL new JK registrants for the 2017-18 school year will begin on January 9, 2017.
- Parents will now need to indicate on the registration form whether their child is registering for 'Regular English Track' or 'French Immersion'. This section of the Registration Form is pictured below:

	THE UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD STUDENT ADMISSION FORM
IMPORTANT! You MUST check one box. <input type="checkbox"/> Regular English Track registration <input type="checkbox"/> French Immersion registration	

The remaining changes apply only for parents/guardians wishing to register their child for the UGDSB's **French Immersion program**.

- Junior Kindergarten is the only access point to French Immersion as of September 2017. For the 2017-18 school year, those are children born in 2013.
- A deadline has been created to determine on-time JK French Immersion registrations. An on-time JK FI registration is one that has been fully completed with supporting birth and address documentation by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday Jan. 26, 2017. Registration forms that are completed after the deadline passes will be considered 'late' and will only be processed after all on-time registrations have been processed.
- A Junior Kindergarten FI enrolment cap is in place for each of our French Immersion sites.

École Arbour Vista – 40	Edward Johnson – 46	FA Hamilton – 35
École Guelph Lake – 60	John McCrae – 46	École King George – 46
Paisley Road – 46	Victory – 30	École Harris Mill – 30
James McQueen – 50	Princess Elizabeth – 90	Brisbane – 40
	Palmerston – 30	

- If the number of on-time JK FI registrants exceeds the school's enrolment cap, a school-based random selection process will be initiated. Siblings of students currently enrolled in French Immersion in UGDSB will be prioritized during this process.
- If needed, the school-based random selection process will occur on or before Friday, February 10, 2017. A list of schools that require the initiation of a random selection process will be posted on the Board's website at www.ugdsb.on.ca.
- The random selection process will take place in the presence of a 3rd party scrutineer to maintain process integrity.
- Parents will be informed of their child's registration status as either registered at their home FI school or on a waitlist on Tuesday Feb. 28, 2017, by email.

Registration for French Immersion Junior Kindergarten IS NOT prioritized on a first-come, first-served basis. As long as a French Immersion Junior Kindergarten registration is FULLY complete and submitted to the school office before 4:00 p.m. on Thursday Jan. 26, 2017, it will be considered on-time. On-time registration can occur anytime between Monday Jan. 9 at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday Jan. 26 at 4:00 p.m.

A Junior Kindergarten French Immersion Registration **information night** has been scheduled at Palmerston Public School on November 14, 2016 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Please visit our Board’s website at www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi for information and updates on JK Registration. You may also subscribe to the French Immersion site to receive notification when the site has been updated. Finally, a dedicated email address has been set up at fsl@ugdsb.on.ca to answer any general questions you may have regarding the new JK FI registration process.

Regards,

Rhonda Gingrich
Principal

Peter LeBlanc
F.S.L. Lead

NEWSLETTER DRAW

Thank you for your feedback and suggestions. Please feel free to call Mrs. Gingrich at 519-638-2668 at any time.

Comments, Concerns, Suggestions, and Compliments

Congratulations to **Adam F.** in KB who is our October Newsletter Draw winner! Adam will receive a book of his choice, up to the value of \$10.00 from Scholastic Book Orders. Please complete, detach and return this form for the November Newsletter Draw. Thank you!

Student’s Name

Grade

Parent’s Signature