

GATOR NEWS

Chris Popofski, Principal | Linda Brooks, Office Coordinator

Balanced Day

Start of Day - 8:35
8:35-10:15 Instructional Time
 10:15-10:35 Nutrition Break
 10:35-11:00 Outdoor Recess
11:00-12:40 Instructional Time
 12:40-1:00 Nutrition Break
 1:00-1:25 Outdoor Recess
1:25-3:05 Instructional Time
End of Day - 3:05

Spring Fest Save The Date:

On **May 18**, Gateway Drive will be hosting Spring Fest 2016 (**6:00pm to 8:00pm**). The evening will showcase many of the great things taking place here at Gateway. All family and friends are welcome to attend and we look forward to this amazing night. More information will be coming home closer to the date.



Principal's Message:

We have been experiencing some extremely cold weather days, but rest assured that when a wind chill warning is issued, we don't keep students outside for the full recess. Please be sure, however, to continue to send your child to school with all the essential winter clothing required to enjoy the outdoors. We have seen many children come to school without mittens or hats and sometimes even coats! Our back field is quite open so the wind is always a factor to consider when dressing your child for outdoor recesses. It is also a good idea to send an extra pair of dry socks in the backpack.

Finally, a reminder that March Break starts on Monday, March 14th this year. We hope you enjoy this special week and that you have the opportunity to spend extra time together as a family!

Thanks

Chris Popofski



Junior Basketball Tourney:

Junior Boys and Girls basketball took place on February 19th at Willow Road Public School. Each team played three games, with the Gateway boys winning two of their games, and the girls winning all their games. All team members were great competitors, and had a fun time at the tournament. Well done Gateway!

Intermediate Basketball Tourney:

On February 11th, the girls and boys Intermediate basketball teams participated in the tournament at Centennial High School. Both teams put forth a lot of effort throughout the day! They demonstrated good team spirit and good sportsmanship. Gateway is proud of their performances.



Inform Us:

Please notify the school if there are any changes in your child's information (such as your work numbers and emergency contact numbers). This is really important should we need to contact you during the day. Also, this is a reminder to **please call the school attendance line to notify the office if your child will be late or absent.**

Parent Council Meeting:

Wednesday April 20th at 6:30pm

Follow us on Twitter:



@GatewayDrivePS

Check us out online:

www.ugdsb.on.ca/gateway

Milk & Pizza Forms:

Milk & Pizza orders are back.

- Milk forms are due March 4 and you can order online.
- Pizza forms are due March 9 and you can order online.

Winter Carnival:

Snow! The primary students participated in the winter carnival on Friday, February 26th. Fantastic winter weather allowed students to have fun outdoors rotating through stations. Students went sledding, played hockey, raced in a dogsled relay and enjoyed a hot chocolate with a cookie. Everyone had a wonderful time!



Kindergarten Registration:

It's not too late to still register.

Parents registering new students are required to complete the "STUDENT ADMISSION FORM", which is found on our School Board website in PDF version - <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/schools/article.aspx?id=> and provide the following: Proof of Birth Date, Proof of and full address, Immunization Record, Custody documentation (if applicable).

If you have any questions at all please contact the school (519-824-4300).

Live Free:

Could you give up something for one day and donate a toonie or the value of that item to our student nutrition program? Live without your coffee or dining out for a week or live without chocolate? Whatever you choose, you will be helping kids “Live Free” from hunger and directly supporting Gateway’s Nutrition Program. For some students, the snack/breakfast program is their only food of the day. For others, it is an extra pick me up that they need to get through the rest of their day. Please remember to send in a donation for what you are giving up on Friday March 4th.



Transition Plans:

While it may feel like it is early in the year to think about moving on to the next school year, plans are underway to ensure that students have a successful transition in September. For students that are changing schools, visits may have already begun. Specific transition plans are often particularly important for students with an Individual Education Plan and therefore are a required component of any IEP. For many students, the support provided to the whole class is all they need to have a successful transition, however other students may need more specific goals and support to help them deal with a variety of changes throughout the day.



Common transitions that can be addressed on a transition plan include:

- entry to school
- move to a new school or new grade/teacher
- transition to post-secondary: workplace, apprenticeship, college, university, community etc.
- in school transitions could include: starting/stopping activities, leaving the classroom, going to recess/gym, going on field trips

As a parent, you can play an important role in transition planning for your child by:

- working together with school staff to discuss the transition goals
- providing visits to the new school
- talking about the transition in a positive way
- looking at pictures of the new teachers and school building
- reading social stories to give your child the reassurance they need

Preparation is crucial for transitions to be successful, and a team approach between home and school is key.

Environmental News: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The environmental theme for this month is not a new one. We are talking about Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. These are the 3 R's of environmental stewardship and by practicing them we will help planet Earth. Did you know all of them are not created equal? The best one of the three is: Reduce.

Reduce means to use less of something. This is the best of the 3 R's because we don't even use our natural resources to begin with! What could we use less of? There are many things you can think of. Use less water, or use less paper, or – very important - buy less 'stuff'.

Recycle is critical if we want to keep things out of the landfill. More and more items are starting to be recycled, so be responsible and put them in the proper containers provided. If you don't, they end up in the regular garbage and harm nature by forcing us to create more garbage dumps that pollute our planet. We also need to make sure toxic items like paint and batteries don't end up in the garbage, but are brought to the hazardous waste depot. And never throw our old smart phone. Take it back to your cell phone company for recycling. It contains minerals that are being mined in areas that are destroying precious habitats.



The Möbius loop is the universally recognized recycling symbol. It consists of those 3 circular arrows. We can put compostable items into our organic bins, like food scraps including fruit & vegetables, dairy, meat, breads, as well as paper tissues and paper towels. We can recycle containers including plastics, glass, metals and tetra paks and milk cartons. And we can also recycle paper, boxboard like Kleenex boxes, and cardboard. So DO NOT throw these items into the garbage at home or the garbage containers here at school. Find the right recycling bin. Let these items be turned into something new again!

Slogan of the month: *Don't trash our future! Recycle!*

Engaging Your Child in Mathematics At Home :



As parents we have the wonderful opportunity and responsibility for nurturing our children's growth.

Parents play a key role in the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of their child. As

parents we can usually find time to read a story to our children, thereby instilling a love of literature, but we are often at a loss as to how to instill a love and appreciation for mathematics.

Like reading, mathematics is a subject that is indeed necessary for functioning adequately in society. More than that, mathematics is a subject that should be more enjoyable than it is perceived to be. Parents' attitudes towards mathematics has an impact on their children's attitudes. Children whose parents show an interest in and enthusiasm for mathematics around the home will be more likely to develop that enthusiasm themselves.

Activities in the Home

If you have dice, playing cards, and a bit of time....oh the "number sense" fun you can have.

1. Work on Place Value-use a grade appropriate number of dice and use the numbers rolled as digits to "make the biggest number you can, make the smallest number you can, make a number close to 100" etc.
2. Work on Number Sense-use 2 die to add numbers together....to make it harder, you can use the 2 die to subtract, and multiply.
3. War-Use a deck of cards to compare numbers. Each person flips their cards at the same time, the person with the higher number gets both cards.
4. What's my number? Someone holds a card on their forehead and asks the other person questions to try to guess their number (for example, is it greater than 5, is it odd or even).

Give it a go and have fun building number sense fluency together.

Talking About Mental Health:

Kids Do Well If They Can - Collaborative Proactive Solutions

In our schools we use a positive supportive approach with all our students. One such approach that we follow in our schools is Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS). This is a very effective way to help children and youth who are struggling by working with them to building skills and resources.



Dr. Ross Greene, who developed Collaborative Proactive Solutions, believes that **Kids Do Well If They Can**. If they are not doing well it is because they're lacking the skills not to be challenging. If they had the skills, they wouldn't be challenging. Dr. Greene also stresses that **Doing well is always preferable to not doing well** (*if a kid has the skills to do well in the first place*).

When children and youth are faced with challenges that are too much for their skills and resources, they often engage in challenging behaviour because they do not have the skills to engage in positive behaviour.

Challenging behavior in children and youth is best understood as the result of lagging skills (in the terms of flexibility/adaptability, frustration tolerance, and problem solving) rather than as the result of

lack of motivation on the child/youth's part. And second, the best way to reduce challenging behaviour is by working together with the child/youth – collaborating – to solve the problems setting them in motion in the first place.

Dr. Greene's Collaborative Proactive Solutions is a very successful approach for children and youth presenting with a variety of challenging behaviours, which is why we use this approach in our schools.

Dr. Greene also has many tips for parents, so they can use Collaborative Proactive Solutions at home. If you are interested in learning more, please see his website:

<http://www.livesinthebalance.org/parents-families>

Information for this article has been taken from Dr. Ross Greene's website.

Dr. Lynn Woodford, Psychologist, is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board

Follow me on twitter: @drlynnwoodford



UGDSB - Digital Saturday:

The Upper Grand District School Board is hosting an open house featuring displays and workshops on how students are using technology to learn.

“Digital Saturday” takes place on March 5, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Westminster Woods Public School in Guelph.

“In the last few years there has been exponential growth in the use of technological tools and resources in Upper Grand schools,” said Brent McDonald, Superintendent of Education

responsible for Information Technology. “Students don't stop using what they're learning as soon as the bell rings at the end of the day. A good number of these resources are available 24/7, so they're used at home and school.”

A presentation on technology in the classroom to the board's Parent Involvement Committee was the inspiration for the idea of hosting a technology open house for all parents.

“We thought a Saturday morning would be the best time for both parents to come out and see what we're doing,” said McDonald. “Students can come too.”

Digital Saturday will be an opportunity to explore and learn about:

- New technologies in the classroom like Chromebooks, UGCloud

- Assistive technologies to support all learners including Kurzweil and Read&Write for Google
- Robotics and coding and virtual reality in the classroom demonstrations
- Online digital resources for assisting student learning such as UG2GO, UGCloud and Homework Help

There will be lots of opportunities for interaction and co-learning. Older children (8 and up) may find the display tables and workshops informative and engaging.

We hope to see you there as partners in education!

Event details:

- **DATE:** Saturday March 5, 2016
- **TIME:** 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Open house closes at 12 p.m.
- **LOCATION:** Westminster Woods Public School, 140 Goodwin Drive, Guelph

For more information:

Heather Loney, Communications and Community Engagement Officer

519-822-4420 ext.725

heather.loney@ugdsb.on.ca

Request For Consent - CASL

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) came into force on July 1, 2014. As a result, the Upper Grand District School Board, would like to ensure that we have your consent to receive newsletters, school and Board updates, announcements, event invitations, and other electronic messages which may contain advertising or promotions regarding school fundraisers, field trips, the sale of yearbooks, student pictures, uniforms, books, prom or dance tickets, or similar events and offers.

If you wish to receive the above communications from us, please visit our CASL registration website at:

www.ugdsb.on.ca/CASL



By registering your email on this webpage you will receive electronic communication from the school which may or may not contain commercial electronic messages as described above. **If consent is not provided, you will not receive electronic messages containing commercial content and may find it more difficult to be aware of the activities that take place in school, and which your child may have an interest in participating.**

If you have any questions or if you wish to withdraw your consent at any time, please click the link at the bottom of email messages you receive from the school, or visit the same site and click on

“Unsubscribe” to remove your name from our contact list.

For additional information on Canada’s Anti-Spam Legislation you may visit our board’s website at www.ugdsb.on.ca.

**Please make sure to check out our school calendar on our school website:
www.ugdsb.on.ca/gateway/**