

GATOR NEWS

Chris Popofski, Principal | Linda Ellis, Office Coordinator

Balanced School 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

Safe Arrival

During the school day your child's safety is of the utmost importance to us. Please remember to contact the school before 8:30 a.m. If your child is going to be late or absent in the morning and before 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon. If your child is arriving late to school, he/she must sign in at the office. For your convenience we have an answering machine which allows you to contact the school at any time during the night, over the weekend and early in the morning. The number is **519-824-4300**. When you leave a message please be sure to note your child's full name, homeroom teacher and the reason for absence.



Principal's Message:

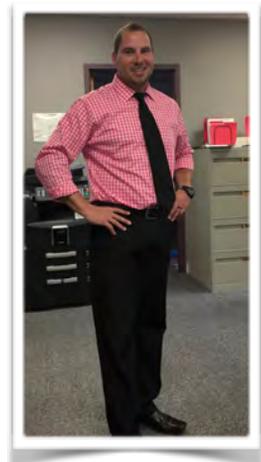
The first month of school is over and it's beginning to feel like fall. Our students are all settled into their classroom routines, and clubs and teams have started.

It was great to see so many families out at Fall Fest on September 22nd. Thanks to teachers and students for preparing their classes and to Mrs. Francis and Mrs. Hall-Sayer for all their work making the school shine. Also thanks to our amazing Parent Council and all of their volunteers, which the night would not of happened if it were not for all your efforts.

The whole school was bursting with pride as students took their parents on classroom tours to meet their teachers. This is a wonderful community and your support is greatly appreciated. We encourage you to continue to actively participate in your child's education throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Chris Popofski





Asthma Friendly Schools Policy:

Asthma is a very common chronic lung disease that can make it hard to breathe. The Upper Grand District School Board adopted a new policy in June 2016 to provide support for students with Asthma. If your child has asthma, the policy requires an Asthma Management Plan (AMP) to be completed by parents, a child's doctor and the principal of the school. A copy of this plan is available on the Board's website under Policy 516. Parents are requested to complete the AMP and return it to the school office as soon as possible at the beginning of the school year.

Smoke-Free Environment:

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke-free environment for its students, staff and others while on school Board property, in accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. This policy refers to all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed, including e-cigarettes.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of the indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents will be informed using the school's usual forms of communication when smudging is going to occur in our school. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.

Follow us on Twitter:

@GatewayDrivePS



Life-Threatening Allergies:

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies (called anaphylaxis) to various foods and other materials.

Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students.

Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you are aware that we aim to create an allergy safe environment at our school.

If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, or your child has anaphylaxis, you will be contacted by the classroom teacher.

Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.

Gateway Drive School Council:

Being a member of School Council is an excellent way of having input into our school's activities and becoming involved in your child's school life. Our next **meeting will be on Wednesday, October 19th at 6:30 pm in the Teacher's Lunchroom.**

Library News:

We are very excited as our Gateway library starts to transform into a new learning commons environment. With new furniture, technology, makerspaces activities and more, students will get a chance to engage in more hands on learning.



First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-identification:

If your child is a member of a First Nation, the Métis or the Inuit, then please consider having him or her self-identify.

Self-identification helps in several ways:

1. Students will have access to more culturally relevant programming and opportunities for unique cultural and academic experiences.
2. The school system will have an opportunity to focus efforts and resources, as well as an increased awareness of the diverse needs of indigenous families.
3. The school community will have an opportunity for building relationships to increase student success and well being.

Share your pride in your heritage!

Please come to the office (or have your child do so) to get a card that can be filled in and submitted if you wish to self-identify.

Data will be protected and governed by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Gateway Orchestra:

It's not to late!

When: Tuesday October 4th, 2016 at 10:15 a.m.
(During first recess) - Tentative Start Up Date

Who: New and returning members from grades three and up are welcome!

- No previous musical experience is required.
- The orchestra(s) will be organized according to orchestra / musical experience and numbers.

How: Complete registration form (available in the office). Return form and fees to the office.



Individual Education Plans (IEPs):

Individual Education Plans, or IEPs, are developed by schools when assessments show that a student needs special education programming and/or services. The development of the IEP should be a collaborative process that includes parents and the student (if possible). During the development phase, schools are required to seek feedback through consultation with parents. This is your opportunity to discuss and share information with the classroom teacher and/or special education teacher regarding your child's education. If your child had an IEP last year, you will see a copy of this working document come home within the first 30 school days.

When the IEP is sent home, you will also receive a booklet titled, **Parents' Guide to the Individual Education Plan**. This booklet is a resource to help parents understand how an IEP is developed, what is included in an IEP, and how an IEP supports your child. It also includes definitions and explanations to help parents understand some of the language that is part of an IEP, such as accommodations and modifications.

One more item that will accompany your child's IEP this year is a **Parent/Guardian IEP Questionnaire**. We want to know your ideas about your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Your ideas will be used to help us improve the IEP processes in our schools, and help us provide parents/guardians with the special education information they are looking for. Please take a few moments to share your ideas and return the questionnaire to the school office. If you need any help with completing this questionnaire, your child's classroom or special education teacher can assist you.

Changing Our Beliefs and Attitudes About Math:

Myth of the Math Person

Most people believe that math is one of those subjects that you either “get” or you “don’t get.” This way of thinking cannot be further from the truth; there is no such thing as a math person. Everyone can achieve in any subject with hard work, perseverance, and someone to guide them. The key to shattering this myth is developing a growth mindset in our teachers and students, and a math classroom where students are challenged by engaging problems and supported in their learning.

The Evolving Classroom



“The reason so many people think math is the most difficult is the inaccessible way it is often taught.” When we were math students our math teachers often taught us tips, tricks, and recipes for solving math problems. In the math classes of old there was only one correct solution. We could get the answer if we memorized and followed the teacher’s procedure, but if someone asked us the “why” behind our formula, most of us wouldn’t be able to answer.

Today, teachers are striving for students to have a solid grasp of the “why” behind each solution. This often means that students are encouraged to share a variety of methods and strategies to solve a single problem. By sharing different strategies, teachers can help students see the common thread that connects each solution, thus deepening their understanding of the concept being taught. The teacher’s role is no longer to teach procedures, but to help students make connections and understand the mathematical concepts behind the solutions.

Growth Mindset Homework Help Tips

Let your child struggle with math problems.

- See if they have the perseverance to work through their struggles. We need to break the math myth that we need fast answers to be good at math.

Never let your child hear you say: “I was never good at math.”

- Research studies have shown when parents tell their children they were not good at math, their child’s achievement is immediately affected.



Ask your child if they can solve a math problem in another way.

- This shows that your child has multiple strategies at their fingertips and they are flexible with their math thinking.

Ask your child to explain the reasoning behind their response.

- “Why did you (add/ subtract/ multiply/ divide)?”
- “What does your drawing represent?”



Online Resources

Parents’ Beliefs about Math Change Their Children’s Achievement - <https://goo.gl/psL33d>

“We now know that the messages we give students can change their performance dramatically, and that students need to know that the adults in their lives believe in them.”

TL Talk: The Gift of Failure – Interview with Jessica Lahey - <https://goo.gl/oo7xFc>

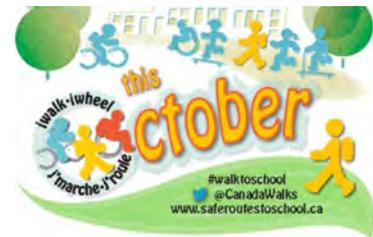
“Jessica is the author of the New York Times bestselling book, *The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed.*”

How to Learn Math: for Students - <https://goo.gl/OCywaf>

“How to Learn Math is a free self-paced class for learners of all levels of mathematics. It combines really important information on the brain and learning with new evidence on the best ways to approach and learn math effectively.”

Participate in International Walk to School Day on October 5th 2016!

In October we celebrate active travel by encouraging students to walk or bike between home and school. Walking or cycling to school gets kids outside every day actively enjoying their natural environment. They arrive at school better able to concentrate and learn.



“In the 2015 ParticipACTION Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth, the overall grade for Canadian children and youth remains at a D- for the third year in a row. Overall, only 9% of 5-17 year olds are getting the 60 minutes of heart-pumping activity they need each day. And sadly, the grade for Active Transportation remains a D, with only 24% of 5-17 year olds walking/wheeling to school and 62% being driven by parents or caregivers. Our tendency to constantly watch over them or keep them indoors to ensure they are safe

from risk limits their opportunities for physical activity, endangering their long-term health.”
<http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/>

4 ways that walking or biking to school can benefit kids by Katherine Martinko

- **Walking is known to improve academic performance.** Children arrive brighter and more alert for their first morning class.
- **Walking gives children good life experience.** It’s an opportunity for them to be independent, think responsibly, and make decisions for themselves. Some children feel less anxiety about being at school when they know how to get home.
- **Walking gets children outdoors** – and, according to Richard Louv, who wrote *Last Child in the Woods*, kids certainly aren’t spending enough time outside these days. Those few minutes of walking can provide inspiration.
- **Walking provides daily exercise for children.** Obesity rates have skyrocketed in North America, so incorporating physical activity into a child’s daily routine is a good place to start fighting it.

Urban affairs journalist Christopher Hume says, “*Walking is a reflection of how we feel about the environment in which we live.*” Children will learn to love their town even more if they get to know it on foot. Why not gather a group of friends and participate in Walk to School Day?

Talking About Mental Health October 2016 – Promoting Mental Health:

Helping kids grow up mentally healthy is an important part of parenting. Here are a few things that CHEO (<http://www.cheo.on.ca/en/Promoting-Mental-Health-parents>) suggests you can do to support good mental health in your children and youth.

1. Put your device down.

When you are with your children and youth, show them that they are more important than your electronic device. Lead by example: **put your own devices aside and spend face-to-face time with your kids.**



2. Listen when they’re upset.

When children and youth are upset, they just want you to listen and understand how they’re feeling. Try not to jump in with advice or reassurance. **Listen is spelled with the same letters as Silent.**

3. Focus on their strengths.

Support your children and youth’s self-esteem by helping them to see their own strengths. **Show that you see and appreciate kindness, empathy and trying hard,** and not just

achievements like good grades. For example, “That was kind of you to think of your brother” or “You worked so hard on that and you didn’t give up!”

Have a mentally healthy October!

*Dr. Lynn Woodford is the Mental Health Lead for the Upper Grand District School Board.
Follow me on Twitter @drlynnwoodford.*



Gateway Drive Public School Grounds Greening Committee Presents:

A HALLOWEEN DANCE-A-THON!

On **Thursday October 27th** the students will be dancing up a storm at our 3rd annual **Halloween Dance- A-Thon**. The funds raised from this event will be going towards completion of our Naturalized Playground and to support other school initiatives such as the purchase of Chrome Books and iPads and funding for science programming throughout the school. Classes will rotate through the gymnasium for designated periods of time, to earn their sponsorship dollars. There are many prizes available to be won, including toys, games, books, trophies for the top fundraising student in each grade, a cupcake party for the top fundraising class, and our grand prize of an **Apple iPad mini!**

We are still looking for prize donations so if you can help, please contact Michelle Marshall at (519) 763-4341 or mdmarshall@sympatico.ca. We are also looking for several parent volunteers to help for a couple of hours during the day of the Dance-A-Thon.

More details will be provided in your Dance-A-Thon kits to be sent home soon, so stay tuned!

***Newsletters from now on will be online. If you require a hard copy they will be found in the office. You can also register on our website to get it emailed to you. A school calendar has also been added to our website to keep you up to date.**

ESL Coffee Hour

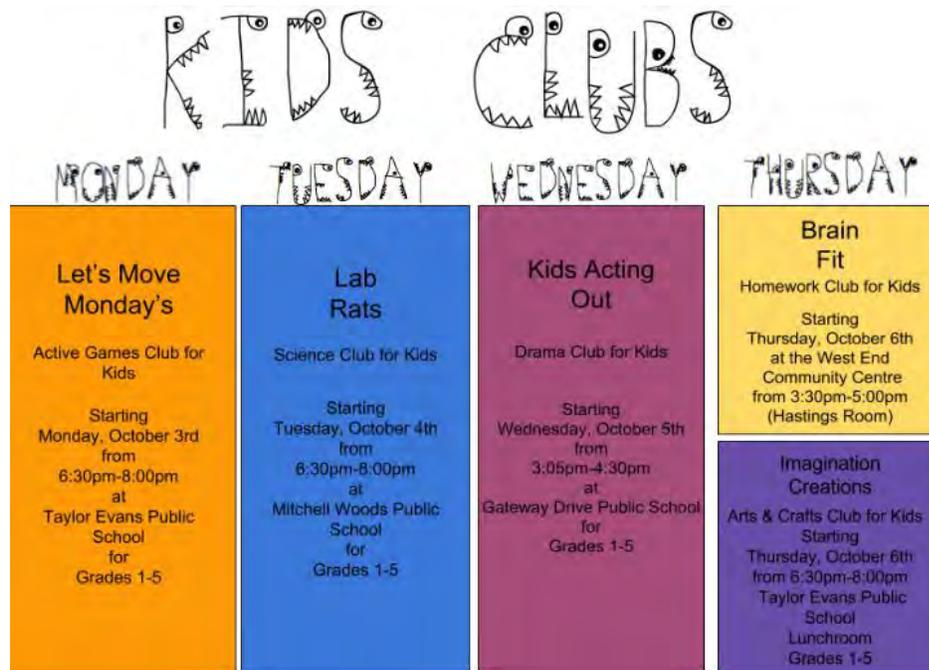
Join Michele for refreshments and English lessons.
Date: Tues & Thurs (Sept 20)
Time: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Place: West End Community Centre (Hastings Room)
Cost: Free

Brain Fit

Need help with your homework?
Date: Every Thursday (from October 13)
Time: 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Place: WECC , Hastings Room
Cost: Free! Registration required.
For: Senior Kindergarten to Grade 6

Run Jump Play Everyday

Date: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Time: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Place: Gateway Dr. P.S.
Date: Wednesday - Badminton
Place: West End Community Centre
Time: 3:45 – 5:00 p.m.
For: Gr.6 to Gr. 8



KIDS CLUBS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<p>Let's Move Monday's</p> <p>Active Games Club for Kids</p> <p>Starting Monday, October 3rd from 6:30pm-8:00pm at Taylor Evans Public School for Grades 1-5</p>	<p>Lab Rats</p> <p>Science Club for Kids</p> <p>Starting Tuesday, October 4th from 6:30pm-8:00pm at Mitchell Woods Public School for Grades 1-5</p>	<p>Kids Acting Out</p> <p>Drama Club for Kids</p> <p>Starting Wednesday, October 5th from 3:05pm-4:30pm at Gateway Drive Public School for Grades 1-5</p>	<p>Brain Fit</p> <p>Homework Club for Kids</p> <p>Starting Thursday, October 6th at the West End Community Centre from 3:30pm-5:00pm (Hastings Room)</p>
			<p>Imagination Creations</p> <p>Arts & Crafts Club for Kids</p> <p>Starting Thursday, October 6th from 6:30pm-8:00pm Taylor Evans Public School Lunchroom Grades 1-5</p>

Mission Statement

The Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood Group endeavors to develop a sense of community and enrich the health and well-being of families.

Pizza Order Form

Please complete the order form below and return it with the money to your child's classroom teacher no later than **Wednesday, October 5, 2016**

Please return 1 order form with payment per child to the child's classroom teacher. Forms not required if ordering online!

Exact change only, any additional money will be graciously accepted as a donation to be used for school activities. In addition, a discount is offered for those who pay online.

Tuesday			Friday			Quick Guide: 1 slice every Tuesday (11 slices x \$1.50) = \$16.50 2 slices every Tuesday (22 slices x \$1.50) = \$33.00 1 slice every Friday (9 slices x \$1.50) = \$13.50 2 slices every Friday (18 slices x \$1.50) = \$27.00 1 slice both Tuesday & Friday (20 x \$1.50) = \$30.00 2 slices both Tuesday & Friday (40 x \$1.50) = \$60.00
Date	Cheese	Pepperoni	Date	Cheese	Pepperoni	
Oct 11			Oct 14			
Oct 18			Oct 21			
Oct 25			Oct 28	P.A. Day		
Nov 1			Nov 4			
Nov 8			Nov 11			
Nov 15			Nov 18			
Nov 22			Nov 25	P.A. Day		
Nov 29			Dec 2			
Dec 6			Dec 9			
Dec 13			Dec 16			
Dec 20			Dec 23			
Total # of slices =		x	\$1.50	=	Total Cost = \$	

Thank you for your support. Proceeds are used to support school activities.

STUDENT NAME: _____ TEACHER: _____

Notices: For this order, if payment is made online at ugdsb.SchoolCashOnline.com, you will receive a per slice discount.

Please Note:
 Pizza Days will be on Tuesdays and Fridays this year! (no Thursday pizza)

Happy Halloween School Sub Day!

Friday, October 27th, 2016

The Grade 8 students are organizing a school sub day to support their June trip.

If you are interested in ordering a sub lunch for your child(ren), please complete the form below and return to your child's homeroom teacher with payment by Thursday, October 20th, 2016. **Sorry, no late orders will be accepted.** Please note that all sub lunches include a juice box and small bag of chips.

Please:

1. Complete one form per student/child.
2. Clearly print child's name and teacher on form.
3. Clearly mark (circle) choices.
4. If paying by cheque, please make payable to Gateway Drive P.S.
5. If sending cash, please make sure it is the exact amount and that it is clearly labeled with child's name.

cut here and return order below with payment by **Thursday, October 20th, 2016**

Gateway Drive Public School Sub Day- Thursday, Oct. 27th, 2016

SamSub

Student Name (First, Last)				
Homeroom Teacher Name				
Choose a Combo (Circle one) <small>(Combos include sub sandwich, chips and juice)</small>	Small Sub Combo \$6.00	<u>Note:</u> all subs are on whole wheat bread		
	Large Sub Combo \$8.00			
Choose your sub (Circle <u>one</u>)	Assorted <small>(cold cut meats)</small>	Ham & Cheese	Turkey & Cheese	Veggie
Choose your cheese (Circle <u>one</u>)	Mozzarella	Cheddar	Swiss	No Cheese
Choose your toppings (Circle choices)	Lettuce	Tomato	Cucumber	Pickle
	Green Pepper			No toppings
Choose your sauce/dressing (Circle choices)	Sub Sauce	Ranch	Yellow Mustard	Mayonnaise
				No sauce
Choose your chips (Circle <u>one</u>)	Lays Classic Regular	Doritos	SunChips	

Please print clearly and circle carefully. One form per child. Cash or cheque made payable to Gateway Drive P.S.