

# École Guelph Lake Public School



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## Principal's Message

**“Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but learning at Couling is delightful!”**

Holiday time is just around the corner and first term is almost finished. As always, December promises to be an extremely busy month both at home and at school.

This time of year is one of holiday traditions for many of us, be it a part of Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas, New Year or other family traditions. It's a fun and busy season with positive messages of love and appreciation for all we have, especially family and friends. We wish everyone peace and happiness during these times of celebration. I'm sure you and your children are also looking forward to the holiday break to enjoy some quality family time together. Don't forget to curl up with a few good books over the holidays!

Of particular interest this month, is our Holiday Open House. School Council volunteers are busy planning seasonal activities, crafts, a Winter Book Fair, and of course, plenty of fun for all with basket raffles and pizza if you're on the run.

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday, and see you in 2017!

David Marquis



**ECOLE  
GUELPH  
LAKE**

*School Council invites you to join us for our*  
**2nd ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE**

**WEDNESDAY**

**DECEMBER 14**

**6:00PM – 8:00PM**

- + Book Fair
- + Cookie Walk
- + Decorated doors
- + Pizza & Beverages
- + Classroom Basket Raffle
- + Toronto Maple Leaf Tickets Raffle

Enjoy an evening of FREE craft making with your child(ren)

\*Please bring a reusable bag for your child's crafts to go home in.

*Money raised from our Holiday Open House  
will be going towards our Greening & Playscape project.*

**THANK  
YOU**

### **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

December 23

Last Day of School

January 1

Happy New Year

January 9

First Day Back

# Kindergarten Registration 2016 – 2017

## École Guelph Lake Public School

Registration for Junior Kindergarten (JK) will run from January 9<sup>th</sup> through January 26, 2017.

**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. Information on the French Immersion JK registration can be found at <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi/>

In order to register a parent or legal guardian must bring the following to the school:

- Completed Student Admission form (may be found at <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/schools/article.aspx?id=1634>)
- Completed Immunization Information for Students form <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/schools/article.aspx?id=1634>
- Proof of Birth (Birth Certificate, Passport, Landed Documents)
- Immunization records
- Proof of address

Successful registrants will be notified by the School Board on or around February 28, 2017. The school will be in contact with these families by mail in the spring.

We look forward to having your child become a member of the Ecole Guelph Lake family.

Bienvenue!



### **French Immersion Homework Toolbox**

Visit the FSL Homework Toolbox website to discover a world of resources to assist with learning the French language. [www.FSLHomeworkToolbox.ca](http://www.FSLHomeworkToolbox.ca)

## **Winter**

It's simply a matter of time before the snow flies! This is a reminder to ensure that all our learners need to come prepared for the weather. Appropriate jackets, boots, mittens and hats are a must as temperatures get colder. Also, a reminder to students that when the snow finally does fall, due to safety reasons snowballs are not allowed to be thrown on school property nor on the way to and from school.

## **Student Punctuality**

Being on time is an important life skill that we encourage all our students to display. When students arrive on time, they receive an overview of the day's activities and allow the teacher to efficiently complete the general housekeeping activities such as taking attendance or the collection of forms and money. They hear the announcements which inform them of general school information and are a part of the opening exercises. Being on time also eliminates unnecessary disruptions to classes. We appreciate the effort made by most students to be on time. Punctuality is a benefit for the students as well as a courtesy to others.



## **School Council**

A reminder that Council meetings are a great way to become involved in your child's education. Generally, we meet the second Monday of each month. The next official Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm in the library.

## **November – A Month of Memories**

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, our students and staff were joined by many parents and guests as we gathered in the gym for our Remembrance Day Assembly. For whomever you were remembering in November, let's always keep them in our hearts.

## **Head Lice**

Head lice are a nuisance but not a health hazard, and they don't result from a lack of cleanliness. Recently there have been cases of head lice in our school. Having said that, it is very important to check your child's head frequently. If you do discover head lice, please notify the school office so that we can try to keep it under control in the school. At Guelph Lake, we strive to be a lice-and-nit-free school so in the eventuality that your child were to have lice, we ask that you treat you child and ensure that he/she is lice-and-nit-free before returning to school.



Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet



December 10<sup>th</sup> is Human Rights Day!

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

**Celebrate Human Rights Day on December 10th!**

*“This year, Human Rights Day calls on everyone to stand up for someone's rights. It starts with each of us.” Step forward and defend the rights of someone whose voice is not being heard. Demonstrate an understanding of equality, human dignity and justice. Consider and be respectful of the rights and opinions of others, especially if they are different from yours. Recognize that human rights include the right for all of us to have access to clean water, unpolluted air and healthy food. **“There is no action that is too small: wherever you are, you can make a difference. Together, let’s take a stand for more humanity.”***

-- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein”

<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>



Simple yet meaningful ways for your family to celebrate the rights and responsibilities that we all share as human beings!

- **Learn about how children live in other parts of the world.** Look at pictures on the web and discuss how we are the same and how we are different.
- **Read the book: We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures** by Amnesty International
- **Read the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights.** Decide if there is a cause your family wants to support, or an Ecojustice action you want to take on.
- **Talk to someone you know who is from another country.** Where are they from? What was their life like there? What language did they speak? Did they go to school? What do they miss? What do they like about their new country?
- **Start a tradition of doing a family service project on Human Rights Day.** There are many opportunities to volunteer, such as preparing and serving meals at a local homeless shelter or simply gathering enough to put together a bunch of care packages of simple needs and necessities. <https://humanrightswarrior.com>

***“For the bigger picture we can (and should) do what we can to fight injustice. But on a smaller scale, in the day-to-day, practicing kindness can help knit a web of compassion to give humanity a boost of resilience”***

## **Mathematics Everywhere**

Everyday children go about their daily lives exploring and discovering things around them, and by doing so they're exposed to the world of mathematics. And since mathematics has become increasingly important in this technological age, it is even more important for our children to learn math at home, as well as in school.

### **Attitude is Important**

How do you as a parent feel about math? Your feelings will have an impact on how your children think about math and themselves as mathematicians. Take a few minutes to reflect on these questions:

Do you think everyone can learn math? Do you think of math as useful in everyday life? Do you believe that most jobs today require math skills?

If you answer "yes" to most of these questions, then you are probably encouraging your child to think mathematically. Positive attitudes about math are important for your child's success.

### **Mathematics as Problem Solving, Communication, and Reasoning**

Helping your child learn to solve problems, to communicate mathematically, and to demonstrate reasoning abilities are fundamental to learning mathematics. These attributes will improve your child's understanding and interest in math concepts and thinking.

**A *problem solver*** is someone who questions, investigates, and explores solutions to problems. They stick with a problem to find a solution and understand that there may be different ways to arrive at an answer and attempt different ways to get there. You can encourage your child to be a good problem solver by involving him or her in family decision making using math.

**To *communicate mathematically*** means to use words, numbers, or mathematical symbols to explain situations; to talk about how you arrived at an answer; to listen to others' ways of thinking and perhaps alter their thinking; to use pictures to explain something; and to write about math, not just give an answer. You can help your child learn to communicate mathematically by asking your child to explain a math problem or answer. Ask your child to write about the process she or he used, or to draw a picture of how he or she arrived at an answer to a problem.

**Reasoning ability** means thinking logically, being able to see similarities and differences about math concepts in different domains and make choices based on those differences or similarities. You can encourage your child to explain his or her reasoning behind answers and encourage them to ask themselves, "Does this make sense?" As you listen, you will hear your child sharing his or her reasoning.

Look forward to next month's newsletter more about how you can help you child/children further develop these attributes of a strong mathematician.

## **Buses and Inclement Weather**

Please be advised of the UGDSB Transportation Policy:

It is the responsibility of parents to determine whether or not it is safe for their children to leave for school in inclement or severe weather.

- a) When a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice or snow conditions, it will not travel that route in the afternoon.
- b) If parents elect to drive their children to school, they are responsible for their children's pick-up at dismissal time.

A reminder that if the buses are cancelled in the morning, they do not run in the afternoon. If you decide to drive your child to school in the morning, please be sure to pick them up at the end of the day as well.



The school board has information on its website regarding inclement weather. This document contains important information on school bus cancellations, school closures due to severe weather and extreme cold temperatures.

You can read the full document at [www.ugdsb.on.ca/inclementweather/](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/inclementweather/)

The document also contains information on the risks of frostbite in extreme cold temperatures. Frostbite can happen within minutes of skin being exposed to extreme cold temperatures. Please ensure your children are dressed properly for frigid temperatures. Additionally, parents and guardians should be aware that adult crossing guards are employed by the municipality. As such, municipal crossing guards may not be providing service during extreme weather conditions. Please refer to the document on the board website for information about the municipality's policy on crossing guards.

## **Teacher Gift Idea – Donate to Free to Achieve!**

This Holiday Season, consider making a donation to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation **Free to Achieve Fund** in honour of your child's teacher. Funds provide for student needs such as winter coats and boots, running shoes, eye glasses, hearing aids, field trips and programs that are outside of school hours. Or you can direct your donation to projects that benefit your child's school. Tax Receipts are provided for donations of \$20 or more. For more information visit the [UGLF website](http://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com) at [www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com](http://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com)

## Helping your child learn French

As a parent, the best thing you can do to help support your child's learning is talk with him or her **in the spoken language used at home**. Talking helps build communication skills. These skills are transferable from one language to another. (Cummins, 1998)

When engaging with your child, consider the following:

- listen to a television program together and ask your child to share his/her thinking
- listen to music and ask your child why he/she thinks the artist wrote the song
- listen to the radio and ask your child to share his/her opinion about what is happening in the city and/or the world
  
- use a variety of words (i.e, friendly, kind, considerate)
- allow your child to hear you questioning what you see and hear around you
- talk out loud as you attempt to solve a problem
  
- tell your child a story about when you were little or tell him/her a story about something that happened at work that day and leave off the ending for him/her to provide
- ask your child to provide 3 things and make up a story that includes all three (example: a princess, a race car, and an ice cream cone)
- read aloud daily to your child, talk about the pictures, make predictions and see if they come true
  
- read to your child on vacation or during a long wait at the doctor's office
- read a book to your child and ask him/her what he/she would do if he/she was the main character
- leave notes for your child in his/her lunch box or school bag
  
- ask your child to leave notes for you around the house
- have your child create a to-do list
- play word games such as Scrabble Junior and Boggle
- encourage your child to bring his/her writer's notebook whenever he/she goes on family outings where there will be plenty to notice, wonder and write about

