

# École Guelph Lake Public School



David Marquis, Principal

Susan Schaefer, Office Coordinator

595 Watson Parkway North, Guelph ON, N1E 6X2

Tel: (519) 822-9271 Fax: (519) 822-6617

## March 2017

### Principal's Message

It's difficult to believe that I'm already writing the March newsletter. February has come and gone in what seems to have been just the "blink of an eye", and it sure did give us a continued taste of winter. Safe to say the ground hog was right this year: No shadow means early Spring! As a result, the yard is more wet than usual and this means lots of wet clothes.

February was another busy month at Guelph Lake. Numerous activities took place; Scientists in School, Earth Rangers, Safety Presentations by the Guelph Police, the Canadian Basketball League assembly and in all classrooms, the sound of learning continues to be heard throughout the school.

A reminder that March Break is beginning Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Also, don't forget that Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 2 am, and that the first day of Spring is March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please keep in mind that when we return to school on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, our students will still need to dress appropriately for the weather. March can be a tricky month when temperatures may fluctuate and it is often the time of year when our playground becomes a little messier than usual with all the mud. Extra socks and dry pants may be needed for those students who get wet near or in playground puddles.

Happy March!

David Marquis

## 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 they are a part of the daily 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.

## Lost and Found

Please encourage your children to look through the lost and found items. We continue to have many unclaimed items even when displayed. Unfortunately, we do not have storage to keep all the unclaimed clothing and we may have to send those "lost" items to a local charity.

## Planning a Move?

If so, please inform the office of the details. Also, if you know of someone moving into our area, we would appreciate knowing so that class organizations for next year can be made accurately.

## Digital Saturday returns this March!

All parents in the UGDSB are invited to attend Digital Saturday, which will be hosted at JD Hogarth PS in Fergus.

See a variety of technology used in the UGDSB. Meet with Special Education staff to learn more about how they support all students. Discover the rich online digital resources available to your children from home and at school.

Presentations include: devices in our schools, Homework Help, Cospaces and Ozobot, Google Apps for Education, UG2GO, Coding in the Classroom, MIT App Inventor, Grandpals, Virtual Reality, SEA, and My Blueprint.

Digital Saturday is on March 25 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

## Math Games to Play at Home

Do you read with your child every night? Is it a positive experience that creates a love of reading between you and your child?

Do you play a fun math game with your child every night? Is it a positive experience that creates a love of math between you and your child?

Does your child bring home a library book from school? Does your child bring home a math game from school?

Did you answer these questions differently? Do you view reading differently than math?

Are you looking for a way to make practicing math skills at home more fun and exciting for your child? There are lots of online computer games and apps that make practicing math skills more engaging for your child.

Beginning this month, and from now until June we will be including some math games in our newsletter that you can play at home with your children. Math continues to be a focus at our school and within our board and we hope it will be a focus for you at home as well.

1. Go to <https://www.prodigygame.com/Canada/> for a free online Math game that supports Mental Math abilities and builds confidence with problem solving questions.
2. "Race to 10, 50 or 100" Roll the dice and add up each turn. First one to 10, 50 or 100 wins. Multiply the numbers for older students.
3. "Guess my number" Place a sticky note on your child's back and have them guess the number by asking only yes/no questions (Is it bigger than 500, is it odd/even, etc.)
4. Play dominos, cribbage or yahtzee

Send us an email with your favourite math game, so that we can share the word with all our families and send a message to our students, that learning math happens every day all around us.

## Study Smart

Students who "study smart" find that they spend less time studying, and yet they get better grades. Here are a few tips to help you study smart:

- Find a good place to study
- Know your learning style
- Organize your study time
- Use tricks to memorize information
- Get started.



A reminder that our Board has a wonderful resource for all of our students that can be accessed 24/7 from school or from home. It's called UG2GO and includes Learn360 (educational video streaming), Student Link (a site children use at school that gives them access to web sites that are kid-friendly and relate directly to their current units of study), Tumblebooks (a site that has hundreds of books children can click on and have read to them), Noodletools (gives children help making bibliographies), Knowledge Ontario (a variety of approved encyclopedias, magazine articles suitable for elementary students), and much more. When students are at home, they can go to the main address: <https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go> which will prompt them to enter the same Windows username and password that they use at school to get onto the school network. Once they enter their Windows username/password, they will enter the site and they can then click on any of the resources and be taken directly to the individual resource without the need to login.

Please take a few minutes to explore the site with your child. It is an important tool that will aid them in their education, and may make your life easier when it comes to homework and projects. We are excited that students will be able to access information from anywhere and at any time in this information age!

## School Council

All parents are welcome attend our next school council meeting on Monday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help with Pancake Tuesday on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Along with the CBL assembly, the day was a great success!

Our Valentine's Day dance-a-thon was also a great success! Students had a fantastic time dancing and grooving to the music. We raised just under 7000.00 for our future playground. A huge thank you to all the families who donated! Thank you as well to all the volunteers who made this event happen!



## Fundraising for Playground Projects

Now that the snow has melted, it is time to take stock of the conditions of the school playground. If your playground is in need of repairs or replacement, the Upper Grand Learning Foundation (UGLF) can help with your fundraising efforts by providing tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more to your School Fund. If your school community has been fundraising and saving for some time for a new playground, the Upper Grand Learning Foundation Free to Achieve Fund may be able to help top up these funds to allow your school to start building as soon as possible! For more information visit the [UGLF website](http://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.ca) at [www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.ca](http://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.ca)

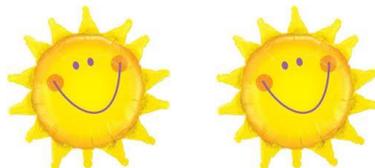


## Feedback welcome on draft policies

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is the **Website and Social Media Management Policy 312**. You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at [www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy). The deadline for public input is March 2, 2017 at 4 p.m. EST. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is the **First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Self-Identification Policy 500**. You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at [www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy). **The deadline for public input is April 13, 2017** at 4 p.m. EST. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.

Here's to a GREAT March Break!



As always...Play Safe