

# École Guelph Lake Public School



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**MAY 2017**

## **Principal's Message**

Wow! Only 8 weeks left in the 2016-2017 school year. After what turned out to be an inconsistent winter, spring is following with a regular flow of wet weather. In May and June, we will hopefully encounter more sun-filled days. Of course, this means that it's also time to be thinking about sun safety. Remember to apply sunscreen (preferably with a SPF of 30) to your little ones before they come to school in the morning, and perhaps send some to be reapplied at lunch on those very sunny days.

Moving forward, May and June are shaping up to be very busy months, and the staff and I are beginning to plan for the 2017-2018 school year! For now, I wish to thank parents and staff for their continued interest and support in school initiatives and programs this year. The spirit and enthusiasm that students, parents and staff bring to school each day is most welcome.

I am honoured to work with such a fine community and I look forward to creating memories, making new friendships and leading great learning experiences for our learners in the future. As parents, you have much to be proud of.

David Marquis

## Official Opening of École Guelph Lake and Education Week



On Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, École Guelph Lake hosted the Official Opening of our new school as well as the opening to Education Week 2017.

Many guests of honor and dignitaries were in attendance and several shared speeches highlighting the many positive initiatives taking place in our school, Board and Province. We heard from our MPP and President of the Treasury Board - Liz Sandals, Chair of the Board - Mark Bailey and Director of Education - Martha Rogers. We had the presentation of the official school key, a ribbon cutting ceremony and to conclude our event, a fabulous performance by our grade 4 students who came together in a cultural tableau as well as some beautiful signing by our school choir.

Thank you to students, parents and staff who were able to join us in our celebration of education. We look forward to a future filled with positive memories, new friendships and great learning experiences for ALL!



## Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet



**May 22<sup>nd</sup> is International Biodiversity Day!**

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

### **Celebrate International Day For Biological Diversity on May 22nd!**

*The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.*

*Biodiversity, a simple word with some very broad reaching implications quite simply means: 'A wide range of life' We need to learn more about it in order to protect it.*

*"Biodiversity, at the level of species and ecosystems, provides an important foundation for many aspects of sustainability." António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations*

<https://www.cbd.int/idb/2017/>



22 MAY 2017

INTERNATIONAL DAY  
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism

<https://www.cbd.int/>

### **Ideas for your family to celebrate Biodiversity Day!**

- *Visit farmers markets in your local area to try new types of produce. Whether you incorporate heirloom tomatoes into your cooking, or try one of the rainbow of colors of carrots out there that aren't orange, biodiversity can bring a great new experience to your table.*
- *View photos of endangered species on the Internet and discuss the reasons why these animals are threatened and why they should be protected.*
- *Join a community group and help to remove invasive plants from your local environment. These teams of volunteers will gather to remove plants that are impacting the local fauna's biodiversity by taking over natural grow areas.*
- *Get out into the world and enjoy all the different types of life your local area offers. Even a local park can have an amazing variety of life you've never noticed, from the insects crawling through the grass, to the flowers we so clumsily lump together as 'wildflowers'.*

Adapted from: <https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/international-day-for-biological-diversity/>

***Celebrate the diversity of our natural world every day!***

## Looking Ahead

As you begin planning for June, please reserve the date of June 14<sup>th</sup>. The École Guelph Lake School Council is in the process of organizing the year end FUNstival event and it promises to be a community evening filled with food, fun and friendship for all.

## Are You Moving From École Guelph Lake?

Please contact the office if you know that your children will not be attending École Guelph Lake school in September. We are in the process of organizing and staffing our classes for next year. Numbers are critical for this process. As well, if you know of any “new” students who have not yet registered, please encourage them to do so since that makes our planning much easier.

## EQAO Testing Dates

The following dates are the days our Grade 3 students will be completing the EQAO assessments. Our window for test days at our school will extend from May 25 to June 2. It is very important that all students complete all aspects of the assessment. We ask that you keep these days in mind when planning family holidays, doctor’s appointments, etc. for students.

## Bicycle Helmets

For the past several years, information has been shared with you related to the importance of children wearing helmets for cycling, in-line skating, and skateboarding. You should also be aware of the potential hazard that exists when children wearing bicycle helmets are playing on playground equipment. Helmets can become wedged in small openings and straps entangled in the equipment that may result in strangulation. With warmer weather approaching, we would ask that you join us in reinforcing to your children that they need to wear helmets when riding or skating, but also of the dangers of wearing their helmet while on playground equipment.



## Head Lice

A reminder that head lice are a nuisance but not a health hazard, and they don't result from a lack of cleanliness. It is very important to check your child(ren)'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. We thrive to be a lice and nit-free school at École Guelph Lake and in the event that your child(ren) were to have lice, we ask that you treat your child(ren) and ensure that they are both lice and nit-free before returning to school.

## Focus on Literacy

Good reading skills are important for success in school and in life. That's because almost everything we do involves reading. The more you read, the better you will get! You can help your child build his/her reading skills by making reading an important part of your day-to-day activities at home. Be a reading role model, let your child see you reading for fun. Try to set fifteen minutes aside everyday to read at the same time, or with younger children, read aloud together. Reading can involve not only books and magazines, but web sites that are of interest to you and your child (sites that you approve of). When reading aloud to your child, remember that the art of listening is an acquired one. It must be taught and will develop gradually. Don't be surprised if your child interrupts with lots of questions. Try to be patient and answer his/her questions, as it shows that you are interested in what he/she is reading. Finally, don't confuse quantity with quality. Your child will remember fifteen minutes of reading together far longer than two hours of television. Read on everybody!



May 22<sup>nd</sup> is Victoria Day

No School for Students and Staff



## Understanding the Equal Sign

Most children see = and they know it is an equal sign, but do they really understand what it means? Many children believe the equal sign means “the answer is” or “the total”. They do not understand that the equal sign is a symbol of balance or sameness. Think about  $3 + 4 = 7$ . 3 plus 4 is the same as 7. When children understand that the equal sign shows a relationship between numbers, they develop stronger number sense and are able to work with numbers more flexibly. For example, children who know that the equal sign shows balance understand that  $3 + 4$  is the same as  $5 + 2$ . Children who think of the equal sign as showing the answer often struggle with mental math and, later on, with algebra. Parents can help support understanding of the equal sign in many ways. First, using the word “equal” in everyday conversation to highlight equal relationships helps to promote an understanding of sameness. Use the words “equal” and “the same” together. When sharing snacks among people, talk about amounts. Are they equal? How do we know?

Also, many children enjoy missing number problems, especially when presented as a puzzle or challenge. Challenge children to find the number to balance equations, like these:

$$5 + \underline{\quad} = 1 + 8 \quad \text{or} \quad 14 - 6 = \underline{\quad} + 3 \quad \text{or} \quad 5 \times \underline{\quad} = 4 \times \underline{\quad}$$

When playing with Lego, talk about how the different sized pieces are related. How many little pieces are equal to a big piece? Build different creations with equal number of pieces. Build creations with equal sizes but different number of pieces. The more exposure children have to the idea that the equal sign means “the same”, the better set they will be to develop solid number sense and number flexibility.

Megan Haessler - Teacher-Researcher with the UGDSB