

Together, Making A Difference.....One Student At A Time

From The Principal's Desk

Thank you for your on-going support with our community events such as school dances and Aussie X! A reminder that our Bunny Breakfast is coming up on March 5th, here at school, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing those of you that are able to attend this annual James McQueen tradition!! Thank you, also, for your on-going communication with your child(ren)'s teacher. The better aligned we are as a team, the better job we can do of providing your child(ren) with the best possible education. Our students have enjoyed intramural floor hockey and, once the weather warms a bit, will engage in intramural soccer.

Have a wonderful March! Bring on spring!!!!

Yours truly,

Mr. Creighton, Principal

French Review

The Upper Grand District School Board is holding four public meetings to provide the public with information on the board's French Review. The meetings will provide information on the problems, alternatives and recommendations described in the report prepared by the French Review Committee. All are welcome to attend. For meeting dates and to read the French Review report, visit www.ugdsb.on.ca/frenchreview.

Additional P.A. Day!!

The 2015/16 Board Wide Calendar has been revised to include a **PA day on Monday, April 25th**. Please make note of this addition. Thank you. **IF YOUR CHILD HAS ORDERED PIZZA FOR THIS DATE, THEY WILL GET THEIR PIZZA ON TUESDAY, APRIL 26TH!!!!!!!**

Yearbook

If you are interested in ordering a yearbook please pick up an order form in the office and return it, with payment, to Mrs. Hopf by Friday, May 20th.

Pizza Day

Orders for April are due on Tuesday, March 29th. If your child needs an order form they can be picked up in the office from Mrs. Hopf. You may send one cheque for your family but please remember you **MUST SEND AN ORDER FORM FOR EACH CHILD TO THAT CHILD'S TEACHER!!** Cheques are made payable to: James McQueen P.S.



Please Keep Checking!

Please remember that it is very important to check your child regularly for head lice and report it to the school office if found.



School Council Corner

Stream of Dreams

Our School Council is bringing an exciting event to James McQueen Public School. "Stream of Dreams" is an amazing program run by the Grand River Conservation Area.

Stream of Dreams is an eco-education program focused on water, watersheds, streams, rivers, lakes and oceans. The program will introduce all of the students, staff and many of our parents to their local watersheds and the streams that flow or once flowed through them, teach them how to take care of water, and produce a Stream of Dreams fish mural on our school fence. The program challenges students to consider where their water comes from, where it's going and what they can do to prevent water pollution. The program empowers your students to help improve their community and its waterways by giving them the tools to adjust their own behavior toward water, by helping them teach others and by beautifying a fence. The mural is a lasting community art legacy to beautify and inspire the whole community.

Part 1: The science instructor talks with students about their local rivers and streams, their connections to the streets through storm drains and how the students can help take care of waterways.

Part 2: In the art room the art instructor reviews the concepts presented during the Stream talk and then guides the students through the process of painting their colourful Dreamfish to contribute to the mural.

Part 3: Instructors along with volunteers install the painted fish on our fence at the back of the school.

We need volunteers to help with this program!!!! We need someone to help in the art room on Wednesday, April 6th and Thursday, April 7th. If you are available to help for either of these days, even for only part of a day, we would love to hear from you!! We also need a minimum of 5 volunteers to help attach the fish to our back fence on Wednesday, April 13 or Thursday, April 14 depending on the weather.

If you are able to help us, please call Mrs. Hopf in the office at 519-843-1700 to let her know.

Bunny Breakfast – March 5, 9:00 to 11:00 am – \$3/person or \$10/family

Just a reminder of the Bunny Breakfast, March 5 at the school. Admission is \$3 per person or \$10 per family (of four or more) to enjoy an-all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast, meet the Easter Bunny, win great prizes in the silent auction, the baking auction, and more!



We are looking for volunteers, auction prizes, food donations – if you are able to help out in any way, please email us at [jmpsbunnybreakfast@gmail.com](mailto:jmpsunnybreakfast@gmail.com)

Come Join Us Next Meeting

School Council is gaining traction in time for a fun spring! The meetings are a time for planning, but also a time to bring up concerns and to hear the latest and greatest going on behind the scenes at James McQueen. So come on out! We meet every second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm in the Library – our next meeting will be March 9th. See you then!

School Climate Survey

The purpose of this survey is to determine whether or not our parents feel that their school provides a safe and inclusive learning environment. Staff and parents are being asked to complete a climate survey about their school. Parents can use the following link to access the survey, or the survey can be accessed through our school website.

https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_87VAOCZ4TdwN52Z

*****Please note that the survey opens AFTER FEBRUARY 29th!! Any responses that are entered prior to that time will be erased once the survey officially opens!!**

Inclement Weather Reminder

Just a reminder for bus cancellations and school closure please check the Upper Grand District School Board website for updates or listen to the local radio stations. When listening or checking, remember that we are Division 2 BLUE (Centre Wellington). **Also, you do NOT need to call the school to report your child absent if they ride a bus.** However, if they DO NOT ride a bus but you are not sending them due to the weather, you MUST call the school office. As a reminder....when the buses are cancelled the school is still open unless otherwise stated.



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, 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 slips 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.

ECO CORNER!

Battery Recycling Program

At James McQueen we try our best to be eco-conscious. We recycle, we keep our lights and computer monitors off (when not in use) and we also use "good on one side paper"....but we can always do better! Our little ones have a long life to live on this planet, and one way we can keep our environment clean is by recycling our batteries.

As part of our battery recycling program (open to all members of our community), James McQueen will recycle your dead batteries! All you have to do is send them to school!

Acceptable batteries:

- single use (non- rechargeable) batteries (AAA, AA, 9 volt, C and D)
- lithium batteries (please place in bag or tape both terminal ends before placing into container to prevent short-circuiting)
- button cell batteries (tape both sides before placing in container)
- corroded or leaking batteries (please place in plastic bag before placing in container)

*A bin is available for battery drop-off on the table in the front foyer of the school.

Thank you for caring!
Your James McQueen Eco-Team!!



Dates to Remember.....

Saturday, March 5	Breakfast with the Easter Bunny – 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. HOP to see you here!!
Wednesday, March 9	School Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. Everyone is welcome!
Monday, March 14	MARCH BREAK BEGINS!!
Monday, March 21	Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed your break!!
Tuesday, March 22	Mrs. Zamora's and Mme Miller's classes visit the Guelph Nature Centre this morning.
Wednesday, March 23	Mme Ecclestone's and Mme Boys' classes visit the Guelph Nature Centre this morning.
Thursday, March 24	Mrs. McKerracher's and Mme Schieck's classes visit the Guelph Nature Centre this morning.
Friday, March 25	Good Friday. Have a lovely Easter weekend.
Monday, March 28	Easter Monday. See you tomorrow!!
Tuesday, March 29	Pizza orders for April are due TODAY!! We can not accept late orders!!
Wednesday, March 30	Mr. Campbell's grade 3 students attend "Pizza Perfect" agricultural activities today. Mme Skerritt's and Mme Bennett's classes visit the Sugar Bush this morning.
Thursday, March 31	Comfy Cozy Games Day! Mrs. Lehman's, Mrs. Wasson's grade 1's and Mme Tovell's grade 1's visit the Sugar Bush this morning. Green Legacy visits our school at 1:50 to introduce Seeds in the Classroom!!

Last month's newsletter draw winner was.....Shaye Mulder!! Congratulations!!!

Comments.....

UGDSB invites parents to learn about classroom technology at '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



Every day, many children in our community live without the basic necessities that many of us take for granted. They lack warm homes, food to eat or a caring person to ensure that they have what they need to grow and achieve a bright future. Often these children are sent to school without proper nutrition to allow them to focus in their classes. Or perhaps they are that child that doesn't like to eat first thing in the morning. By class time they may simple be too hungry to learn. But this can change and you can make a difference. By raising funds for our school's Live Free campaign our student nutrition program can help to provide a healthy start to the day.

Every Tuesday and Friday mornings, students at James McQueen receive nutrition, healthy snacks as part of this program.

On Friday March 4 students are encouraged "Give Up to Give" for our Live Free event. By making a pledge to go without something for the day and making a donation of \$2 students will be helping to support their Food and Friends program right here at James McQueen. Look for your pledge card coming home March 1-4 and return it with a toonie!

Will you give up TV for the day? The computer? Or perhaps chocolate?

Students can tape their toonie to the back of their pledge card and return it to school by Friday March 4th. Donations can also be made [online here](#). Online donations of \$20 and over are eligible for a tax receipt.

All funds collected go directly back to James McQueen Food and Friends program.

Yummy Yogurt!

Our yogurt bar has been a huge success with about 75% of students enjoying the fruit, granola and yogurt over the past two weeks thanks to our Metro Green Apple School Program grant. To help this program continue to run successfully, we need volunteers to help serve the yogurt. If you or another family member (grandparents welcome!) are available on Thursdays from 10:10 to 10:45, please let Mrs. Hopf know and we will connect with you to set up a schedule.

Monthly Environmental Newsletter Inserts



March's Environmental Theme: **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 your 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!

