

JOHN BLACK P.S.

Newsletter



150 LAMOND STREET, FERGUS

N1M 2A1

519-843-2665

Scott Preston, Principal

March 2016

Belinda Norris, Office Coordinator

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

February has been a very busy month here at John Black with lots of special events and activities. Early in the month our students participated in our annual Lions Skate-a-Thon. We would like to thank our families for their generous support. Funds raised from the Skate-a-Thon will be used to support our school and local community projects. Our Intermediate basketball teams played very well in their tournament at the University of Guelph. Special thanks go out to their coaches Mr. Kordupel and Mr. Cranston and to the parents who volunteered to drive the players to the tournament when busses were not available. Junior and Intermediate students have been curling this month and our Primary students have been skating at the arena. Thanks to Mrs. Mooney and Mrs. Mahoney for organizing those events.

Many of our Junior and Intermediate students have been actively involved in our Stressbusters Club for the past 8 weeks. The goal of Stressbusters is to help students build a toolbox of strategies they can use to address stress and anxiety, to explore different calming techniques and positive mental health strategies. Each week begins with a group discussion accompanied by a choice of healthy snacks. The activities the students have been participating in have included; zumba, yoga, zentangle, bucket drumming, colouring, cooperative games in the gym, making worry stones and knitting and crocheting. The participants have been open and responsive and the feedback has been very positive. What a wonderful way to make new friends, develop healthy wellness habits and beat the winter blues.

Parent Council

Lunches

Lunches are still available to order online through www.lunchboxorders.com.

Pita Pit, Subway, Boston Pizza and Frabert's Fresh Food are rotated every Tuesday. All meals meet the nutritional guidelines set by the Ministry of Education's Food and Beverage Policy. Ordering is easy and a contribution to the school is made with every lunch purchased.

E-mail List

Do you want to receive Parent Council meeting agendas and minutes? Do you want to know about events and requests for help and other information that we feel is pertinent? If you would like to be added to this list to receive information please forward us your name and e-mail address to: sc.johnblack@ugdsb.on.ca.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Parent Council meetings are **Tuesday, March 1 and February 2 at 6:30 p.m.** at the School. Please join us. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions or comments please e-mail us at: sc.johnblack@ugdsb.on.ca.

The meetings are an opportunity to come together, discuss school events and receive a Principal's update for the school. We hope you will join us in some capacity this year to help us improve our children's lives and our John Black Community!

The Mission of John Black Public School, as a family centred community school, is to develop each student's ability to acquire skills, knowledge, responsibility and respect for self and others, by providing diverse learning opportunities within a safe and nurturing environment.



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.

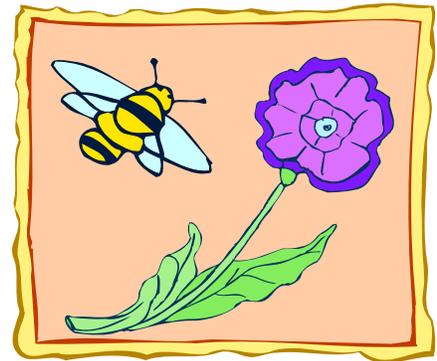
We hope to see you there as partners in education!

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



A Message From the Green Team

This March will mark the 10th year for Earth Hour. On March 19th, at 8:30 pm, we ask that you and your family participate in this global event. Earth hour is not only a time for us to turn the lights out, conserve energy and connect with our families but also to reflect on what we are doing to help the environment and also to set new goals. Here at the school we will be participating in Earth Hour all week long (the week of March 21st) by having lights out lunches, as well as setting individual goals that will help make a difference.

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 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 flips 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).

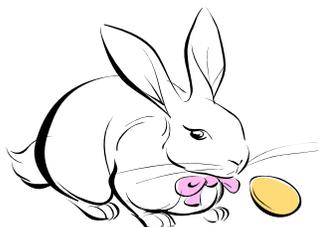
Give it a go and have fun building number sense fluency together.

IT'S BREAKFAST TIME AGAIN!

We hope you're planning to attend the **James McQueen P.S.** Annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny!

The date for this year's breakfast is Saturday, March 4th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

If you haven't already experienced this one-of-a-kind event, you are in for a real treat! If you have been here in the past, you're not going to want to miss it!!

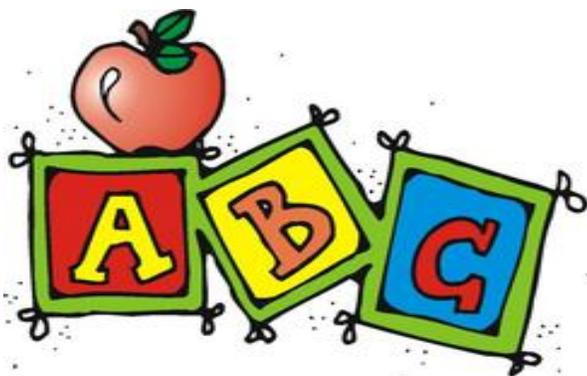


JUNIOR /SENIOR KINDERGARTEN

We continue to register children for our September, 2016 Kindergarten classes.

John Black has the Early Learning Program. The Early Learning Program is a full time every day, two-year Kindergarten (JK & SK) program for four and five year olds.

If you have, or know of, a child who will turn 4 (Junior Kindergarten) or 5 (Senior Kindergarten) on or before December 31, 2016, please call the school, at 519-843-2665.



Dates to Remember

March 14-18	March Break
March 25	Good Friday
March 28	Easter Monday
April 5	School Council, 6:30
April 22	Earth Day
April 25	P.A. Day
April 28	School Council 6:30 pm
May 2-6	Education Week
May 5	Junior Talent Show, Book Fair
May 23	Victoria Day Holiday
May 25-27	EQAO Testing Grade 3 and 6
June 3	Arts Day and Intermediate Performance
June 5	P.A. Day
June 16	Parent Council Spring Fete James McQueen and Victoria Terrace Parent Information Evening
June 21-24	Grade 8 Trip
June 28	Grade 8 Graduation Final Reports go home
June 29	Last Day of School