

# JOHN BLACK P.S. NEWSLETTER



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Scott Preston, Principal

May 2016

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## **EDUCATION WEEK 2016**

Education Week is scheduled to take place in all schools in the Upper Grand District School Board from May 2 to May 6, 2016. Among our special events are the Junior Talent Show led by Ms. Norris on May 2, Wellness Day on May 4 and Author Talk to students presented in the library with Canadian author Chris Early on May 5th.

## **FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE**

On April 2 Mr. Gouk and Mr. Kordupel accompanied 30 students to Guelph for the Skills Canada competition. In this annual competition students apply hands on skills learned in the Science and Technology program in a competitive environment . Students had been practicing challenges in their chosen categories after school and at recesses during the weeks leading up to the competition. All our students worked hard and we had a number of top 5 finishes.

Our Grade 7 and 8 students attended a special event at the Centre Wellington Sportsplex on April 15. They were joined by Intermediate students from across Wellington and Dufferin for Empowerment Day. They heard from a number of inspirational speakers including Canadian astronaut Chris Hatfield. The purpose of the day was to inspire, motivate and empower students to make positive decisions and choices in their lives.

Earth Week was recognized and celebrated in the last week of April with a number of environmental projects throughout the school. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 participated in the Green Legacy project as part of our promotion of environmental awareness . Primary students planted seedlings in their classrooms, Junior students helped out in the green houses and Intermediate students were out tree planting. Students and families also participated in a 'freecycle' clothing exchange.

May and June are always busy months filled with many special activities for our students and their families. Read on in this newsletter and watch for information coming home about upcoming special trips and events.

*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.*



## E.Q.A.O. PROVINCIAL TESTING

As in past years, all Ontario children in grades three and six will be participating in assessments of reading, writing and mathematics.

The assessment measures students' knowledge and skills in reading, writing and mathematics as described in The Ontario Curriculum. Students will work independently to solve problems, write responses and answer multiple-choice questions. The work they do in the assessments will be very similar to what they do every day in school.

This year, the testing will take place for grade 3 and 6 students at John Black P.S. on May 25 to 27. Classroom teachers will send home more information as we get closer.

As this testing is required by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO), we ask that you ensure that your grade 3 or 6 child will be in attendance these days, and avoid scheduling appointments that might take them out of the school during the testing.

If you have any questions or concerns about the assessment, please contact your child's teacher.

## JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

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

## MOVING?

Planning for the 2016-2017 school year is underway. If you will be moving this summer, or know of someone moving into the school area, please notify the office as soon as possible. This will help with the organization of teachers and classrooms for next year.

## DENTAL CARE FOR CHILDREN

Children qualify for free dental care as of April 1, 2014 due to changes to the **Healthy Smiles Ontario Program**. The income thresholds have changed and now include the number of children in the family. This affects children and youth up to the age of 18 who are residents of Ontario and have no access to any form of dental coverage.

If you think a child may qualify for **Healthy Smiles Ontario**, contact Public Health at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 2661. They will help you with the application process and answer any questions.



## WELLNESS DAY

May 2-6 has been designated 'Child and Youth Mental Health Week' in the Upper Grand District School Board. At John Black we are promoting **S**ocial connection, **U**plifting emotions, **P**ersonal health, **E**motional calming, and **R**esilient thinking so all students can have a **SUPER** week and develop skills and strategies for a healthy life.

May 4th will be 'Wellness Day' at our school. Students have signed up for activities that include dance, yoga, board games, reading, Lego, improv, colouring, and a nature walk. These will be combined with workshops that address stereotyping, healthy eating, internet safety, meditation and sleep. It should be a SUPER day and we hope the students will take away insights into themselves and the benefits of making

## **Parent Council Corner**

School councils play a vital role in the education system in Ontario. They provide a forum through which parents and other members of school communities can contribute to improving student achievement and school performance. We would like to thank you for your on going support this school year. We appreciate the effort of families supporting fundraisers and functions so we can fund school activities. Funds raised from this year's fundraisers have gone to support Scientist in School, Forest of Reading and the June Arts Day.

### **Strong Brains and Bodies**

With the support of a 'Parents Reaching Out ' grant our Parent Council hosted a special evening for parents on April 26th. The focus was on healthy eating and wellness for children. Informative sessions for parents included Winning the Food Fight with Your Child, Common Nutritional Myths, Foods Affecting Behavior, and Stressbusters for Stressed Out Kids. It was a very informative evening that included many healthy ideas and strategies as well as delicious sample foods and beverages.

### **Elora Labels**

Summer is almost here and with that our kids go off to summer camp. Between camps and school, kids' belongings such as clothing, lunch containers etc. seem to go missing. It is always nice when missing items are returned. Elora Labels produces and sells personalized labels that you can put on just about anything ... clothes, shoes, lunch containers, back packs and more. The labels help to ensure that lost items can be returned to the rightful owners and saves you from having to go out and replace the items. The labels are UV resistant, dishwasher, microwave and laundry safe and are durable and long lasting. Parent Council will be sending home a flyer in a couple weeks with further information on this great local product. For each purchase Elora Label will make a contribution to Parent Council. For more information or to place an order go to their website urls listed below:

<http://eloralabel.com/johnblackschool>

<http://eloralabel.com/JohnBlackSCHOOL>

<http://eloralabel.com/JOHNBLACKSCHOOL>

### **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](mailto:sc.johnblack@ugdsb.on.ca)

### **Next Meeting**

Please join us at our next Parent Council meeting on June 7 at 6:30. Everyone is welcome. If you have any questions or comments please e-mail us at: [sc.johnblack@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto: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 to help us improve our children's lives and our John Black Community!

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

May 2-6	Education Week
May 23	Victoria Day Holiday
May 25-27	EQAO Grade 3 and 6
May 27	Volunteer Tea
June 2	Inspire Day Intermediate Performance, 6:30 p.m. Kindergarten Parent Orientation, 6:00-7:00
June 3	P.A. Day
June 7	Parent Council, 6:30
June 9	Int. County Track & Field
June 15	Junior Track and Field at JD Hogarth
<b>June 16</b>	<b>Parent Council year end Fete</b>
June 21-24	Grade 8 trip to Quebec
June 28	Final Report Cards go home Grade 8 Grad, 6:30
June 29	Last day of school

## EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES



This year John Black staff and students celebrated Earth Day with week long festivities. All junior and intermediate classes participated in Green Legacy, helping at the greenhouse and planting trees out in the community. We also did our annual yard clean up. This year we added the Great Plastic Bag Challenge to our Earth week activities. Walmart sponsored this cross Canada challenge where students were asked to collect as many plastic bags as possible and in turn they would be brought to Walmart. Walmart Canada is going to be recycling the plastic bags and making them into various plastic products such as, composite lumber, reusable bags, plant pots and piping. Within our school we had a competition between classes. Mrs. Mooney's Grade 4/5 class won with over 3,349, bags and Mrs. M.P's class was just as eager with 2,236. Within the whole school we collected and recycled 11, 276 bags. Way to go John Black!!!!

## RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

Does your child have an LD, ADD/ADHD or both? Here are some great resources to help you:

1. Work with your child to understand how they think and learn
2. Develop some strategies with your child to help them advocate for what they need to learn (technology, accommodations to the environment or learning tasks)

### **Other great online resources include:**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, which has lots of good information on LD and ADD/ADHD issues, including topics about how to understand the IPRC and IEP, how to advocate for your child and topics related to specific LDs.

<http://www.ldao.ca/introduction-to-ldsadhd/what-are-lds/>

The Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County connects to the Ontario chapter, but provides links and information about workshops and activities that are being held in Wellington.

<http://www.ldawc.ca/>

Our school board has also worked hard to address the needs of LD and ADD/ADHD students by providing SEA equipment, Google Read and Write training and targeted reading programs to help LD students access the curriculum and develop key academic skills.

**Connect with your child's teacher to discuss all the supports that are available to your child!**