

# Jean Little Public School

## January, 2016 Newsletter

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Ms. Heather Davis, Principal

Mrs. Kelly Wynne, Office Co-ordinator

Ms. Amanda MacKenzie, Office Assistant

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### **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR**

Kindergarten registration for the 2016/2017 school year will take place February 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### **COLLEGE HEIGHTS PARENT INFO NIGHT**

College Heights Secondary School - Grade 8 Parent Information Night

Wednesday January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

6:30 - 8:00 pm

Tour the school, see the classes and meet the teachers.

Come and see ***Education that Works***

### **CENTENNIAL CVI PARENT INFO NIGHT**

FEBRUARY 11, 2016 AT 7:00 PM

Grade 8 students and their parents are invited to learn more about the great opportunities Upper Grand High Schools have to offer - from academics and trades to sports, music and art.

Most parent information nights include a special presentation about the high school, its programs and the registration process. Both parents and their teenaged children can also tour the school and ask the principal and teachers more about programs and other opportunities.

### **FROM THE LIBRARY**

The Forest of Reading program will be starting up once again in January this year. Students will be able to blog about their ideas on the UG2GO site discussion areas for each category/book. Books will be available for the students after the kick off assemblies in January but students who wish to get started reading, could also check them out of the public library as well. Voting will

occur in April.

*Linda Stockton-Wigmore*

Teacher Librarian

### **PIZZA & MILK ORDERS**

Please access school cash online to place pizza and milk orders from February - June, 2016.

### **K-8 LORETTA PENNY PRESENTATION - THURSDAY, JANUARY 14<sup>th</sup> - \$2 donation appreciated**

Loretta Penny is an author, dynamic award-winning presenter, former African safari tour leader and founder of Down to Earth Conservation Education.

An enthusiastic advocate of "Real World Learning", Loretta has delivered over 4,000 energetic presentations since 1984! Her contagious passion toward building a better world ignites action among audiences!

She has worked in tandem with Dr. Richard Leakey, Dr. Iain and Oria Douglas-Hamilton, Ian Redmond and many others on various environmental and human rights projects in Africa, Belize, Mexico, Jamaica, U.S.A. and Canada.

Loretta Penny will be delivering presentations to the students on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. To help offset the cost of this outstanding event, we would appreciate a \$2 donation.

## **STUDENT ABSENCE**

Please remember to call the school every day that you keep your child at home or if they are going to be late. Phone the office and leave a message 24 hours a day on the Attendance Line - Extension 100 before 8:30 am. This will really help us with our morning Safe Arrival calls. It is better to tell the office first and your child's teacher second. Thanks for your help in this matter.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER - BUSING**

During inclement weather, please note the following:

Our bus/taxi students ride "South Wellington and the City of Guelph" school bus or taxi to school. When you hear the radio announcement "All school taxis and buses in South Wellington and the City of Guelph will not be operating today" - your child's bus or taxi is cancelled. During times of inclement weather, please listen to our local radio stations: 1460 AM CJOY, 106.1 Magic FM, and the other radio stations in the Guelph, Kitchener, Cambridge area. Information on bus cancellations and school closures are now posted on the Upper Grand District School board's website: [www.ugdsb.on.ca](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca)

A decision to cancel transportation is made by 6:30 a.m. in order to give all parents and drivers sufficient notice. The decision is based on a number of factors, including the actual weather and road conditions, as checked first-hand by designated bus operators in each area, weather predictions made by Environment Canada, and information on road conditions for the local Road Superintendent.

It is the parents' responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for their children to leave for school in inclement or severe weather. A parent must be aware of the following:

- a) When a bus/taxi does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice or snow conditions, it will NOT travel that route in the afternoon.
- b) If parents elect to drive their children to school, they are responsible for picking up their children at dismissal time - 3:10 p.m.

School buses may also be delayed due to the cold or poor road conditions. Please have a plan in place for your child if the bus does not arrive within 20 minutes. This plan could be to walk back home, go to a neighbour's house, to the nearest school, etc. A plan is especially important if both parents are working. Your child must know where to go if the bus does not arrive.

## **STOP A BULLY - ONLINE REPORTING TOOL**

Did you know that in the majority of cases, bullying stops within 10 seconds when peers intervene or don't support the bullying behaviour?

The Upper Grand District School Board takes all incidents of bullying seriously. That's why we developed an online bullying reporting tool. Stop a Bully gives students and parents 24/7 access for reporting bullying. You don't have to identify yourself - just your school - and your message gets sent directly to your school principal for follow-up. We will follow up on your report.

You'll find the Stop a Bully button on our school's website and the board's website ([www.ugdsb.on.ca/stop-a-bully](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/stop-a-bully)).

If your child is the victim of bullying or sees bullying behaviour at school, please encourage him/her to speak with someone at school or use the Stop a Bully tool. For using precious tap water. It's OK to let your lawn go dormant during the summer and let the rain //[www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/transiti/transition.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/transiti/transition.pdf)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>January, 2016</b>						
					<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Day 2	<b>5</b> Day 2	<b>6</b> Day 4 8:30 AM Primary Games - gym 10:40 Jr. Volleyball 3:15 - 4:45 Int. Boys B-ball try-out	<b>7</b> Day 5 3:10 - 4:30 Girls B-ball try-out	<b>8</b> Day 1 8:30 AM Primary Games - gym 10:40 Jr. Volleyball 3:15 - 4:45 Int. Boys B-ball try-out	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Day 2 8:30 AM Primary Games - gym 10:40 Jr. Volleyball	<b>12</b> Day 3	<b>13</b> Day 4 8:30 AM Primary Games - gym 9:00 AM Class 5, 5/6 & 6 to River Run 10:40 Jr. Volleyball Gr.8 Info Night @ College Heights	<b>14</b> Day 5 Loretta penny Presentation K-8	<b>15</b> Day 1 8:30 AM Primary Games - gym 10:40 Jr. Volleyball	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Day 2 8:30 AM Primary Games - gym 10:40 Jr. Volleyball	<b>19</b> Day 3	<b>20</b> Day 4 8:30 AM Primary Games - gym 10:40 Jr. Volleyball	<b>21</b> Day 5 9:00 AM Class 2/3, 3/4 & 4 to River Run	<b>22</b> P.D. Day - NO SCHOOL	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Day 1 8:30 AM Primary Games - gym	<b>26</b> Day 2	<b>27</b> Day 3 8:30 AM Primary Games - gym	<b>28</b> Day 4	<b>29</b> Day 5 Jr. Volleyball tournament	<b>30</b>

# INQUIRY

## HOW TO SUPPORT INQUIRY AT HOME

Now-a-days "knowing stuff" is no longer enough. Any resourceful student with an iPad could sit in front of the TV and Google all the questions to Alex Trebek's responses on Jeopardy, and get them correct. We are moving away from simply "knowing content," to being able to apply knowledge in interesting, creative, and critical ways. To accomplish this, students and teachers need to ask the right questions. Asking the right questions is what inquiry is all about.

Children are great at asking questions. They are naturally curious, and are constantly asking questions to make sense of their world.



Instead of just telling your child the answer, try one of these strategies. First, you can get them to look up the answer. This will help them develop the ability to solve their own problems. Or, you can ask them "What do you think?" This will give you insight into what they already know, and then you can ask them more questions to guide them to an answer.

An inquiry-based approach is seen throughout the Ontario Curriculum. Students learn best when they are formulating their own questions and working towards solutions through discussion with their peers.

### A closed-question:

These are questions with a specific answer. Here are two examples:

Why do some stars twinkle?

What colours mix to make purple?

Closed-questions are great questions for your child to look-up in a book, or google.

### An open-question:

These are questions that could be answered in many ways. Here is an example:

How can we best support the Syrian refugees?

Open-questions are great questions for you to explore with your child. Discuss with them what they already know, and help them form their own answer.

## TIPS FOR INQUIRY AT HOME



- Resist providing the answer
- Resist giving a procedure (math)
- Ask questions to clarify their thinking
- Ask your child to explain the reasons behind their answer

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# Noisy Toys

Parents may think that noise is a problem they need not worry about until their child reaches the teenage years. Not so. Some toys are so loud that they can cause hearing damage in children. Some toy sirens and squeaky rubber toys can emit sounds of 90 dB, as loud as a lawn mower. Workers would have to wear ear protection for similarly noisy sounds on the job.

The danger with noisy toys is greater than the 90-dB level implies. When held directly to the ear, as children often do, a noisy toy actually exposes the ear to as much as 120 dB of sound, the equivalent of a jet plane taking off. Noise at this level is painful and can result in permanent hearing loss.

Toys that pose a noise danger include cap guns, talking dolls, vehicles with horns and sirens, walkie-talkies, musical instruments, and toys with cranks. Parents who have normal hearing need to inspect toys for noise danger.

Before purchasing a new toy, listen to it. If the toy sounds loud, don't buy it.

Examine toys you already have at home. Remove the batteries or discard the toys if they are too noisy and pose a potential danger to hearing. Some parents place heavy duct tape over the speakers on noisy toys.

[The Sight and Hearing Association](#) publishes a list of the noisiest toys each November for your information.

# Monthly Environmental Newsletter Inserts



## January's Environmental Theme: WASTE MINIMIZATION

In Canada, we create a lot of garbage. We throw away too much paper, plastic bags, food, old toys, electronics and much, much more! The good news is that at our school we have made a really good start to reducing some of our waste. We recycle paper, cardboard and containers made of metal, glass and plastic. We try to photocopy double-sided and use GOOS bins (bins that hold paper that is Good On One Side and can still be used). We do waste audits to see what we are throwing away and it seems we need to try to reduce our food waste as well as our packaging. Start thinking about bringing uneaten food from lunch back home to eat as a snack after school because we find perfectly good apples and other fruit, or even uneaten sandwiches, in the school garbage cans.

The best way to solve the problem of too much waste is to not create it in the first place. We have been talking about reducing the number of things we buy and buying items that can be reused instead of immediately being thrown away and taking up more landfill space. For example: use cloth towels instead of paper towels, borrow most books from the library instead of buying them new, use cloth bags instead of plastic bags, use litterless lunch containers and a metal water bottle that you can refill, and use reusable gift bags instead of wrapping paper. The list goes on and on - there are so many ways you can help to reduce waste!

We also need to let our government know that we don't want all that extra packaging when we buy things. Other countries have already banned all that unnecessary plastic, cardboard and Styrofoam that toys and cosmetics and games and food come covered with. So make a difference - write a persuasive letter to both the Ontario and Canadian Governments to ask them to be tougher on packaging laws. Our garbage dumps are filling up. They need to hear from you to stop all this waste!

***Slogan of the month:*** *Let's reduce our waste - our planet is worth it!*