

September Jaguar Newsletter

50 Laurine Avenue, Guelph, Ontario N1E 4M9 Tel. 519 824-4760

<http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/john-galt/>

Principal: Ken Keesmaat Vice-Principal: Melissa Mortimer

Office Co-ordinator: Jeanette Tavares

Notes from Mrs. Mortimer and Mr. Keesmaat :

We are looking forward to another excellent year of learning here at the best school in town!

Communication is very important. One new feature this year is the Principal's Blog on our website. I will be "blogging" once a week – check it out. While you are on the website, please sign up for emails. You can also follow us on Twitter @johngaltps. Our website also has a calendar to which we will try our best to post important dates. If you do not have internet access, please let us know in the office.

Education is a shared partnership among students, staff, parents and community. We encourage parents to become closely involved with the school. Check the "Visitors and Volunteers" section of this newsletter for ways to contribute.

We welcome some new staff: M. Fischer for Junior Core French, Ms. Lewis in our 4/5 class, Mrs. Kropf (planning and gr. 2/3), Ms. Cozzarin, Mr. Dokis, and Ms. Lecours (educational assistants), Ms. Connors (planning), and we welcome Mrs. Monroe back as ECE for Kindergarten.

Please remember to contact us at any time if you have questions! We look forward to seeing you at the Welcome Back BBQ and Meet the Teacher event on Sept. 29th.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

If your child will not be at school, or will be late, it is very important that you let us know. Call and leave a message on the answering machine or send a note with a sibling. We take attendance at 8:50am and again at 1:30pm. If your child is absent and we have not heard from a parent we will phone to determine where your child is. Policy dictates that if we can not reach a parent, we are to phone the Police. Students who arrive late must check in at the office to get a late slip. Your co-operation is appreciated and saves considerable time for our office staff. Thank you for working with us to keep children safe. 519-824-4760 ext 100

Child & Youth Counsellor Corner:

Welcome back!! I am so excited to be back at John Galt. I will be sharing my time between two schools again this year. I will be at John Galt on Monday and Friday all day, Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and Wednesday morning. I look forward to working with students in their classrooms, small groups as well as on an individual basis as needed. My role as a Child & Youth Counsellor is multifaceted. I will be focusing on Social and Emotional Issues as well as Behavioural Needs.

Our Mental Health is so important to our success and our growth and development. Our ability to look at options, solve problems and conflicts, self regulate and work collaboratively will pave the way in our future for success! Programs such as Tools For life, Kelso Conflict Resolution and Zones of Regulation are all programs that I will be using this year to help students develop strategies and tools that they need for success at their level of development. I also run groups from time to time for developing social skills, anger management, stress management and self regulation. Situational Counselling is also available for things such as grief, divorce and separation, recent medical diagnosis and strategies for success! Please feel free to contact me at John Galt 519-824-4760 ext 227.

Kim Booth, Child & Youth Counsellor

Agendas and Planners

School supplied agendas are being used for most classes. Agendas are an excellent means of communication between home and school. Other classes, especially our intermediates use their personal devices. We appreciate your contribution of \$7 for each agenda to help cover the cost. Cheques are made payable to John Galt P.S.

Please check and initial your child's agenda each evening. Communication with your child's teacher is appreciated and the agenda is the best way to stay in touch. They are also a means by which children can learn planning, goal setting and time management skills.

Personal Belongings

Often students will bring personal items to school. These include things such as Nintendo, DS, MP3 players, iPods, cameras, cell phones, skateboards, lacrosse sticks and toys. Sometimes things disappear or get broken. Even though

we will make every attempt to locate missing items, the school cannot be responsible if something were to happen to personal belongings. We ask your help in keeping special items at home.

Please label child's belongings. Every year we have a lot of items that are not claimed. We donate these unclaimed items to the local shelter or another school in our board, but would rather see it come back to you. See below for info on how to help the school while helping your children keep track of their clothing and personal items.

COMING SOON.....
OLIVER'S LABELS School Fundraiser
Support for your child's school
Cut down on Lost and Found
Make sure your child's belongings come home
with OLIVER'S LABELS
More information to come!
Please contact Dawn Hannaberg at
hannaberg0822@gmail.com

Dropping off and Picking up

John Galt PS has the advantage of being a neighbourhood school. That means that many of our students can enjoy the benefits of walking to school. If, however, your child is being dropped off, we ask that you **do not enter the parking lot** at the front of the school. We need to keep the area clear for buses and taxis. The area is just too small and congested to have dozens of cars driving around the car park. As an alternative, you may park on Winston Cres, or Ryan St. and walk your child into the playground. Please be aware of the school bus loading zone, and give our bus drivers lots of space. Take the time to talk to your children about safely crossing the road and exiting vehicles safely. We recognize that this can add complication and time to your day, but it is important in the interest of student safety.

If your child is leaving school early, or is not taking the bus as usual, please send a note in their agenda, phone, or come in to the office to sign them out. Students leaving school grounds for any reason must sign out at the office. In addition, bus students in grades 1 to 6 must be signed off the bus.

Cell Phones or Personal Devices

If you need to get in touch with your child during school hours –please do so by **calling the office**. We do not allow students to use their devices for social media or texting as it is disruptive to learning. We also do not allow students to bring their devices out to the yard at recess. We do encourage the use of technology during class time when appropriate as an important learning tool.

Visitors and Volunteers

We ask that you please say goodbye to your child on the playground. This helps foster independence and keeps our halls less crowded.

If you are interested in volunteering at the school, we are interested in having you! There are many ways to volunteer, including working with students, joining school council or helping prepare classroom materials. DO you have a special talent you could share? Please contact Mrs. Mortimer at 519-824-4760 x224 if you would like to volunteer, or with any questions.

All visitors (including parents) must sign in at the office and wear a John Galt Visitor Badge when in the school, or on school grounds. Students recognize those who are wearing the school badge as members of our school community.

MEDICATION

Please remember that **all student medication** must be stored and administered from the office. In order to give any medication we must have the appropriate form completed and signed by a parent or guardian. If your child will require medication, including aspirin/ ibuprofen at school, please contact the office to ensure that you have the appropriate form to fill out. Updated and signed forms are required each year.

Children requiring Epi-Pens for life-threatening medical conditions are required to carry this medication with them at all times.

If your child has a life-threatening medical condition, please contact the school to set up a "Life Threatening Management and Prevention Plan"

SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council is an extremely important part of the school community. It is an excellent way for parents to have input into growth and changes at John Galt. As a member of School Council you can have an impact on many aspects of school life including things like fundraising, improving communication and engagement, organizing pizza days, contributing ideas to the greening committee and hosting events such as barbecues.

School council provides extra recess toys, items for classrooms, contributes to field trips and wonderful classroom programs. Your involvement has a direct impact on the opportunities and extras available to your child.

Please consider joining school council. Parents are welcome to come to meetings any time during the school year. Elections to the executive will be held at the first council meeting which will be held on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 at 6:45-8:00. Child care can be provided during these meetings –please notify the office if you require child care.

More information and Nomination forms can be downloaded from the School Council section school website.

Buses

Please review the Bus Safety Rules with your child:

Be at your stop at least 5 minutes early

Stay seated while the bus is in motion

Talk in an indoor voice

Follow the directions of the driver

Use appropriate language

Respect the bus patrols

At the end of the school day, go directly to your bus line

If you will not be taking the bus for any reason please have a parent let the office know.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need help to keep our Milk, Breakfast and Snack Programs running.

This year we will again be running nutrition programs to support our students with healthy nutrition for their learning.

Snack Program - our healthy snack program will be run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting September 27th.

Milk program will run again this year as well with milk available for purchase for \$1.00

We need help to run these programs or they may not run!

Please contact the office or email Heather at heather.gibson@sympatico.ca

POPCORN FRIDAYS

Once again, Popcorn will be sold on Fridays at lunch for \$1.00. Money raised will go to support school special events.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Join University of Guelph students for a fun after-school tutoring program in the library of John Galt!

Mondays 3:15-4:30

October 17 - November 28

Grades 3-6

Led by the Canadian literacy organization Frontier College, this free program will offer weekly after-school homework help, as well as the opportunity to participate in fun theatre games.

For more information, or to register, contact Vicky Lin - clin04@mail.uoguelph.ca

FSLAC September 2016

The UGDSB is establishing a French Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC). The Committee will serve in an advisory role and make recommendations with respect to the FSL Action Plan and the French Immersion JK Registration Process for 2017 and beyond.

Eleven Committee members will be selected from all areas of the Board, and will be parents of current elementary or secondary FSL students in either French Immersion or Core French programs. Interested parents may forward an application to Superintendent Tracey Lindsay which includes the following:

1. A statement explaining why they are interested in serving on the FSLAC.
2. The current grade their children are in, in what FSL programs and attending which school.
3. A brief outline of your school and/or community volunteer experiences.

Applications may be emailed to Tracey Lindsay at tracey.lindsay@ugdsb.on.ca.

The Benefits of Making Mistakes

As the new school year begins, there is one quote that educators wish that all students would consider they enter their new classrooms, “making mistakes is part of life—and a really big part of growing up. It’s how you learn who you want to be” (<http://talkingtreebooks.com/quotes/quote-making-mistakes.html>). As adults, we understand that making mistakes is an important part of life, however, students sometimes struggle to see the benefits of their errors.

One of the ways that we, the adults in children’s lives, can support youngsters is to be open about the mistakes that we make and share with students how we take responsibility for our errors. It is important that children see that everyone makes mistakes and that mistakes are a valuable part of our lives due to the fact that they encourage brain development. Researcher, Jo Boaler, states in her book *Mathematical Mindsets* (p. 12) when the brain is challenged and mistakes are made, that is the time when “the brain grows the most.”

When students are taught about the importance of mistakes, it can have a positive impact on their lives. New York Times author, Peter Sims, identified the following habits of successful people:

1. They feel comfortable being wrong.
2. They try new ideas.
3. They are open to different experiences.
4. They try out ideas without judging them.
5. They are willing to go against the crowd.
6. They do not give up when things get hard.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if all of our students followed these ideas?

It would be wonderful if students believed that every time they entered school they were going to a place where they were going to make mistakes that will help them grow and learn. It is vital that we understand that learning means not being afraid to examine the mistakes that we all make. It would be great if children remember this quote from former President of the United States, Bill Clinton, “[everyone] will make mistakes. But if you learn from them, you’ll be a better person. It’s how you handle adversity, not how it affects you. The main thing is never quit, never quit, never quit. “

UGDSB Program Department