

Le Nid d'Aigle The Eagle's Nest



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January 2017

Principal's Message

Bonne Année! The holiday time passed like a blur. We are now back and rested for the next six months of the school year. I hope that 2017 finds students, staff, and families happy and healthy.

The frigid temperatures have arrived and unless it is too cold to be outside (and this is unusual), students will be expected to dress warmly and go outside for recess (twenty-five minutes). Remember that students should arrive at school with hats, mittens, snow pants, and boots. There are times when we will shorten recess times or allow students to stay in, but these times are rare. Thank you for your help with this.

Again, a happy new year to all. Looking ahead, January will again be a busy month at Edward Johnson!

Katherine Wainman

Important Calendar Dates

Please note that as events come up, the calendar on the website will be updated and will provide the most current information.

Mon., January 9 to 26th **Kindergarten Registration**

Monday, January 16, 2017 – **School Council Meeting** 6:30 – 7:30pm in the Library

Friday, January 13, 2017 – **Scientists in School** (Prilesnik- PM)

Mon., Jan. 23 **Kindergarten classes to Guelph Nature Centre (M Henke and Mme Lachance)**

Tues., Jan. 24, **Kindergarten classes to Guelph Nature Centre (Mme MacDonald and Mme Stolfi)**

Thursday, January 26, 2017— **River Run Centre** (Grades 1 and 2) 1:15 pm start

Friday, January 27, 2017—**PA Day** (no school for students)

EcoSchools Update

This year, Edward Johnson is working on achieving EcoSchools Gold! Ecoschools is a worldwide program designed to empower young people to be the change for sustainability by engaging them in fun, action-orientated and socially responsible learning.

To help our drive toward Gold certification, our school participated in the Walk to School program in October, the Litterless Lunch Program in November and December, and the Waste audit in December.

In 2017, the Environment Club will be conducting waste and energy audits. They will also be pursuing their own student driven projects in honour of Earth Hour and Earth day this coming spring. Mme. Tendick will do a short presentation of the EcoSchools initiative at the January Parent Council meeting on January 16, 2017.

GET READY FOR SCHOOL!

Get ready! Kindergarten Registration is from January 9-26

Kindergarten Registration is from January 9 to 26, 2017, at all elementary schools in the UGDSB.

Parents and guardians may register their child at their local school from Monday to Friday during regular school hours (stat holidays excluded).

If you are unable to attend registration during the day, evening sessions will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- January 11, Parkinson Centennial PS (Orangeville)
- January 16, Harris Mill PS (Rockwood)
- January 19, Westwood PS (Guelph)
- January 19, Centennial Hyland ES (Shelburne)
- January 24, Arthur PS (Arthur)
- January 25, William C. Winegard PS (Guelph)

Please bring the following documents to registration:

1. Birth certificate or Immigration papers
2. Immunization Record card
3. Proof of address (e.g. driver's license)

Anyone wishing to enrol their child in French Immersion (FI) should be aware that the Junior Kindergarten FI registration and selection process has changed. For more information, please visit www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi. For more information on Kindergarten Registration in general, please go to www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkregistration.

Buses

Please be advised of the UGDSB Transportation Policy:

It is the responsibility of parents to determine whether or not it is safe for their children to leave for school in inclement or severe weather.

- a) When a bus 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 their childrens' pick-up at dismissal time.

A reminder that if the buses are cancelled in the morning, they do not run in the afternoon. If you decide to drive your child to school in the morning, please be sure to pick them up at the end of the day as well.

Inclement Weather

A reminder to listen to your local radio station in the event of inclement weather conditions. The following stations will broadcast school closures: CJOY 1460AM, CIMJ 106.1 FM, CKKW 1090 FM, CFCA 105.3 FM and CHYM 570 AM

Aizan Messaging System and Emails

This is a reminder that École Edward Johnson uses a messaging system and emails for school-wide notifications. These two systems will be used when information needs to be communicated with our school population in a timely manner (bus cancellations, school closures, emergencies, etc.). When used, this system will place one call per household to communicate information and/or send an email if you have registered. The system is currently registered to call the home number (if you do not have one, it is set up to call the provided cell number). If you do not answer, it will leave a voice message with the caller ID being the school number (519-763-7374). Please call Mrs. Buitendyk or Mrs. Wainman should you have any questions. (Note: In the event of power failure, we will not be able to access the system.)



Safe Arrival

Please remember to contact the school before 8:30 am if your child is going to be late or absent. For your convenience, we have an answering machine which allows you to leave messages at any time during the night, over the weekend and early in the morning. The number is **519-763-7374**.

Student Information

A reminder to please inform the school of any change in address, phone numbers and additional contact information when this changes. Your attention to this will help us keep accurate records and ensure that we are always capable of contacting families when needed. Also, thank you to all parents for calling the school to inform us of your child's absence from school. We appreciate it! For your convenience, our answering machine is accessible 24 hours a day for attendance reporting 519-763-7374.

What is the Special Education Advisory Committee?

Every school district is required to have a **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**.

SEAC is a broad-based, educationally focused committee that meets monthly to engage in a variety of discussions all related to the educational programs for students with special needs. These meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Wednesday of each month throughout the school year. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Upper Grand District School Board office in Guelph.

At SEAC meetings, the representative members from different organizations (ABC - Association for Bright Children, Autism Ontario Wellington Chapter, FASD-Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario), Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County, Parents for Children's Mental Health, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children) share knowledge about their agency programs with the committee. These community members then take back points of information about the Board's educational programs to the agencies that they represent. In addition, SEAC makes recommendations to the board with respect to any matters affecting the

establishment, development, and delivery of Special Education programs and services for exceptional students within the board. The SEAC committee also participates in the board's annual review of the Special Education Plan and participates in the board's annual budget process as it relates to Special Education.

For further information about SEAC or Special Education Programs in the Upper Grand District School Board please call the Program Department at 519-941-6191 ext. 254.

Talking About Mental Health January 2017 – Nature and Mental Health

Getting outside makes such a difference to how we all are doing inside. Spending time in nature improves our mental health and well-being. It is a simple way to add some much needed down time from screens. Adding some time in nature is having some much deserved peace and quiet in our busy lives.

If you want your family:

- To be less stressed
- To be happier
- To be more resilient
- To feel better about themselves
- To have increased attention
- To have a better ability to learn

Then GO OUTSIDE! Take your kids outside! Enjoy and be part of nature.

One study showed that even 5 minutes in nature improves our mood. 5 minutes! We all can take 5 minutes (or more if have it) to go outside and enjoy nature.

Go for a walk or a ski or a skate or a run. Head for the woods. Go birdwatching. Follow tracks in the snow. Watch the sunrise or the sunset. Watch the clouds drift by. Visit a river or lake or pond. Listen for all the sounds of nature. Take in the smells. Notice all the colours and textures. Notice the light as the days get longer.

If you are not sure where to go, check out the links below for lots of great parks in our area.

<http://guelph.ca/living/recreation/parks/>

<http://www.wellington.ca/en/discover/trailsandforests.asp?hdnContent=>

<https://www.grandriver.ca/en/grand-river-parks.aspx>

<http://headwaters.ca/experience/parks-conservation-areas/>

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/>

Have a mentally healthy 2017!

Dr. Lynn Woodford is the Mental Health Lead for the Upper Grand District School Board.

Follow me on Twitter @drlynnwoodford.

Creative Thinking

The Ministry of Education recently released a document entitled *21st Century Competencies* that outlines four key competencies. They include critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and **creativity and innovation**. The document outlines how these key competencies impact learning in the classroom, in the world, and later in life in careers.

Looking for some ideas to inspire creativity at home? Consider these invitations to create and innovate:

1. Read picture books that promote creative thinking with everyday materials such as *Not a Box* or *Not a Stick* by Antoinette Portis. Then collect some sticks or a few boxes and let your child's imagination run wild!
2. Explore the idea of provocations at home. A provocation is simply putting materials or items together that provoke thinking and curiosity. It could be as simple as a basket of unusual household items (old vinyl records, a variety of nuts and bolts, open-ended building materials, some paper and writing materials, etc.) and asking your child what they might be able to do with these items. Offering similar materials over a period of time allows children to challenge themselves to come up with even more creative ideas using the same things.
3. Offer your child a variety of open-ended art materials (markers, watercolours, plasticine, buttons and loose parts, etc.) to allow them to do the creative thinking and planning instead of pre-planned crafts.
4. Together create a dance routine to a current song, or even better, use an oldie but a goodie. Inspire your child to create dance moves for the verses, and then change up the moves in the chorus. Engaged in the fun of being innovative; your child will be creating *dance phrases* and exploring *musical form* by doing this!
5. Re-purpose containers, or small boxes and create a scavenger hunt outside in the snow. Place found objects in the containers/boxes as clues that your child needs to piece together. By placing the containers/boxes ahead of time as a scavenger hunt, you will have created a large scale "provocation" that can lead to imaginative play afterwards. Use the idea of discovering artifacts in the outside environment as an invitation to create a map of your backyard, or a forested area near your house. Build on this idea...and make new scavenger hunts and maps as an inquisitive way to learn about your home and local environment together.

"Awareness of one's inner feelings and thoughts is a prerequisite to making art. Inspiration and innovative thinking spring from this awareness and provide us with new answers and solutions, and new questions to pursue" (The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: The Arts, p.19).