



Ken Danby Public School

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Principal: S. Marquis; VP: T. Drohan
Office Coordinator: L. Smith

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-PRINCIPAL

We certainly have had some interesting temperatures and weather this winter. We are looking forward to wonderful Spring with consistent warmer weather. The Dance-A-Thon was a great hit on February 12th. The School Council would like to thank Ken Danby students, parents and community for supporting the school Dance-A-Thon. The money raised will be very helpful toward greening the school yard, the Scientist in the School program, Forest of Reading, Snack program, trips and school based activities. The children and staff had a wonderful time participating and showing off their dance moves. \$4888 was raised!

Wednesday, February 24th was Pink Shirt Day and there was a sea of pink throughout the school. In the classrooms students had opportunities to discuss why they were wearing pink and what they could do to support this cause.



The first week of March is Live Free from Hunger Campaign. The students have an opportunity to buy out with a loonie and wear PJ's on Monday Feb 29. Wednesday March 2nd is buy out with a loonie and wear a hat in school and on Friday March 4th the students are asked to make a promise to live free of something they really enjoyed for one day and donate a toonie. All the money raised is put directly toward Ken Danby's snack program. Help support our program and

Live Free for a day.

As we continue to promote our Character Traits throughout the year and encourage all students to "fill someone's bucket" and be kind daily, March's Character Trait is "Caring/Compassion": which involves empathy, consideration, appreciation and the understanding of the feelings, thoughts and actions of others. We ask parents to assist us with encouraging this trait by recognizing it at home as well.

March Break is from March 14th to March 18th. We hope that all of our students enjoy their March Break whether they will be at home or on some adventure.

Saskia Marquis and Trisha Drohan

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Our School Website has the School's monthly Newsletters, events and information.

School Calendar (which is continually updated) on the School Website has ongoing weekly school events.

We will continue to send Aizan phone messages home to inform parents of upcoming events.

We also share our daily and weekly learning, events and activities on Twitter.

You are welcome to call your child's teacher or office if you have any questions or concerns.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

ANNUAL SCHOOL COUNCIL DANCE-A-THON

The Annual Ken Danby Dance-A-Thon was held on February 12th. It was a great success thank you to all who supported the School Council fundraiser. Over \$4888 was raised. This all goes back to the students through greening the school yard, scientist in the school program, forest of reading, trips and school based activities.



We are looking for you! If you are interested in participating in School Council please join us on

Thursday, March 10th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in helping out “behind the scenes” by volunteering during fundraising events, write proposals, donating items to our silent auction or with any other skills or talent you possess please contact us at

SC.Kendanby@ugdsb.on.ca.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The library has been a very busy place with many students enthusiastically reading the Silver Birch (Grade 3-6) and Red Maple(Grade 7-8) books. It is thrilling to see so many students excited about reading! It is not too late for your child to get involved. All they have to do is come down to the library and start signing out the books. They need to read at least 5 out of 10 books in any one category and then discuss the books at designated recess times. Voting for their favourite book will take place in late April and a celebration will take place at the end of the year. Details about the books can be found at: www.accessola.org Click on “Forest of Reading” on the left.

All Kindergarten to Grade 2 classes are participating in the Blue Spruce reading program during their scheduled library visits. The students know they have a very big responsibility to help determine which of the ten books will win the Blue Spruce award when they vote at the end of April.

We were delighted to have the Guelph Gogo Grandmothers present “Zomo the Rabbit”, a storytelling, puppet and drumming show, to the Kindergarten to Grade 2 students! Thank you to all the students who brought in loonies and toonies to support their initiative to raise funds for African grandmothers and their orphaned grandchildren.

Mrs. Forde
Teacher-Librarian

POPCORN SALES

Room 103 is selling Kernels Popcorn on Tuesdays until March Break! Flavours include Buttersalt, Dill Pickle and Salt and Vinegar. Proceeds from the sales will be used to support Room 103 field trips. Thank you for your support!

LIVE FREE DAY

Every day the Ken Danby Student Nutrition Program feeds hungry students nutritious snacks. Next week we are holding three special days to help raise funds for this important program. On **Monday, February 29**, we will hold a **pajama day** for anyone who donates \$1 to the snack program. If you bring in \$1 on **Wednesday**,

March 2, you can wear your favourite **hat** all day. On **Friday, March 4**, we are asking if you can give up a small luxury and donate \$2 (or more!) to the snack program. Could you live free of a chocolate bar/gum/TV time or something else to help feed a hungry child? All money raised stays in our school to purchase food. Online donations are already being accepted at <http://childrensfoundation.donorpages.com/LiveFree2016/Kendanby>. Thank you for helping keep tummies full and minds ready to learn!

PARKING LOT SAFETY

It is very important that caregivers driving Kindergarten children to school abide by the rules of the parking lot. If the drop off area is full caregivers are expected to use the proper parking spaces that are available and walk the children to the drop off area. We have had numerous occasions where caregivers have parked in spots that block the entrance way or park behind other cars who are parked. This makes it very dangerous for caregivers and children walking to school as well as the crosswalk at the front entrance. As you backup out of a parking spot, enter and exit the parking lot please watch the parents and children walking. If students, parents and caregivers are continually put at risk by those who do not want to abide by the parking lot rules we will have no option but to **close the parking lot** to all parents. Thank you for your assistance with this and keeping our community safe.



FREE TO PLAY PROGRAM

The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington's Free to Play Program can help low-income families pay for their children's recreational activities, such as sports, camps and the arts. Up to \$400 per child per year is available for youth from birth through to 18 years who live in Guelph or Wellington County and fall below the low-income cut off. Applying is easy and confidential. Go to: www.childrensfoundation.org/free-to-play or call 519-826-9551, ext 23.

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.

UGDSB INVITES PARENTS TO LEARN ABOUT CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY AT 'DIGITAL SATURDAY'

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

TRANSITION PLANS

While it may feel like it is early in the year to think about moving on to the next school year, plans are underway to ensure that students have a successful transition in September. For students that are changing schools, visits may have already begun. Specific transition plans are often particularly important for students with an Individual Education Plan and therefore are a required component of any IEP. For many students, the support provided to the whole class is all they need to have a successful transition, however other students may need more specific goals and support to help them deal with a variety of changes throughout the day.

Common transitions that can be addressed on a transition plan include:

- entry to school
- move to a new school or new grade/teacher
- transition to post-secondary: workplace, apprenticeship, college, university, community etc.
- in school transitions could include: starting/stopping activities, leaving the classroom, going to recess/gym, going on field trips

As a parent, you can play an important role in transition planning for your child by:

- working together with school staff to discuss the transition goals
- providing visits to the new school
- talking about the transition in a positive way
- looking at pictures of the new teachers and school building
- reading social stories to give your child the reassurance they need

Preparation is crucial for transitions to be successful, and a team approach between home and school is key.



MARCH'S ENVIRONMENTAL THEME: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE



The environmental theme for this month is not a new one. We are talking about Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. These are the 3 R's of environmental stewardship and by practicing them we will help planet Earth. Did you know all of them are not created equal? The best one of the three is: Reduce.

Reduce means to use less of something. This is the best of the 3 R's because we don't even use our natural resources to begin with! What could we use less of? There are many things you can think of. Use less water, or use less paper, or – very important - buy less 'stuff'.

Recycle is critical if we want to keep things out of the landfill. More and more items are starting to be recycled, so be responsible and put them in the proper containers provided. If you don't, they end up in the regular garbage and harm nature by forcing us to create more garbage dumps that pollute our planet. We also need to make sure toxic items like paint and batteries don't end up in the garbage, but

are brought to the hazardous waste depot. And never throw our your old smart phone. Take it back to your cell phone company for recycling. It contains minerals that are being mined in areas that are destroying precious habitats.

The Möbius loop is the universally recognized recycling symbol. It consists of those 3 circular arrows. We can put compostable items into our organic bins, like food scraps including fruit & vegetables, dairy, meat, breads, as well as paper tissues and paper towels. We can recycle containers including plastics, glass, metals and tetra paks and milk cartons. And we can also recycle paper, boxboard like Kleenex boxes, and cardboard. So DO NOT throw these items into the garbage at home or the garbage containers here at school. Find the right recycling bin. Let these items be turned into something new again!

Slogan of the month: Don't trash our future! Recycle!



TALKING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH – MARCH 2016

Kids Do Well If They Can - Collaborative Proactive Solutions

In our schools we use a positive supportive approach with all our students. One such approach that we follow in our schools is Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS). This is a very effective way to help children and youth who are struggling by working with them to building skills and resources.

Dr. Ross Greene, who developed Collaborative Proactive Solutions, believes that **Kids Do Well If They Can**. If they are not doing well it is because they're lacking the skills not to be challenging. If they had the skills, they wouldn't be challenging. Dr. Greene also stresses that **Doing well is always preferable to not doing well** (*if a kid has the skills to do well in the first place*).

When children and youth are faced with challenges that are too much for their skills and resources, they often engage in challenging behaviour because they do not have the skills to engage in positive behaviour.

Challenging behavior in children and youth is best understood as the result of lagging skills (in the terms of flexibility/adaptability, frustration tolerance, and problem solving) rather than as the result of lack of motivation on the child/youth's part. And second, the best way to reduce challenging behaviour is by working together with the child/youth – collaborating – to solve the problems setting them in motion in the first place.

Dr. Greene's Collaborative Proactive Solutions is a very successful approach for children and youth presenting with a variety of challenging behaviours, which is why we use this approach in our schools.

Dr. Greene also has many tips for parents, so they can use Collaborative Proactive Solutions at home. If you are interested in learning more, please see his website:

<http://www.livesinthebalance.org/parents-families>

Information for this article has been taken from Dr. Ross Greene's website.

Dr. Lynn Woodford, Psychologist, is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board

Follow me on twitter: @drlynnwoodford

INCLEMENT WEATHER



As you know, Ken Danby P.S. is almost entirely a walking school and therefore bus cancellations do not affect our daily instructional practices. When buses are cancelled, school continues as normal and students are expected to be in attendance.

If you feel it is unsafe for your child to get to school, please call the school to report your child's absence. This will save the office many hours of trying to call parents to comply with our Ministry mandated Safe Arrival program. If your child is absent, we will get them caught up on the work they missed when they return.

The Upper Grand and Wellington Catholic District School Boards operate a joint transportation system STWDSTST: <http://www.stwdsts.ca/> Inclement weather cancellations and delays will affect students attending both Boards' schools.

A decision to cancel transportation or close schools is made by the Board by 6:00 a.m. 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, and weather predictions made by Environment Canada. When you hear the radio announce that "South Wellington or City of Guelph" school transportation is cancelled – this means that buses are cancelled but Ken Danby P.S. IS OPEN TO STUDENTS. The only time the school would be closed is during extreme severe weather when the radio announcements would be that ALL schools are closed.

During times of inclement weather, please listen to 1460 AM CJOY, 106.1 Magic FM, 900 AM CHML, 105.3 KOOL FM, News talk 570 AM, or 96.7 FM CHYM for school transportation cancellations or school closures. Current information will be posted on the Board website starting at 6:00 a.m.: www.ugdsb.on.ca (yellow bus at top of home page)
(Please note that Ken Danby P.S. is included in the yellow bus card area.)

LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA KIT FUNDRAISER



This fundraiser comes to a close on March 1. The kits will be delivered to Ken Danby PS on Tuesday, March 8. Pick up will be at the school between 3:15 and 6:00 p.m. If you are unable to pick up your items, please make arrangements with a friend or neighbour to pick it up as the school does not have a space to store orders over night. Thanks for your ongoing support to our Greening Fund and Snack Program.

FEEDBACK WELCOME ON DRAFT POLICIES

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review are Equity and Inclusive Education (#504) and Alcohol and Drugs (#513). You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy. The deadline for public input is April 13, 2016. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.