



# Kenilworth Public School

7478 Sideroad 7W, Kenilworth, Ontario N0G 2E0  
Principal: Nancy Mundle  
Office Co-ordinator: Jan Wilson  
Tel: 519-848-3320

## NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2017

### **Happy New Year!**

Hopefully you enjoyed the holidays and got to spend lots of time with your families. We are looking forward to another great year here at KPS!

### **Christmas Concert**

Thank you to Mrs. Craigie, and to each of our students that contributed to such a wonderful Christmas Concert. Thanks also to those of you who were able to come to either the afternoon or the evening performance. It was great to see you, and, as always, your presence is very much appreciated.

### **Character Trait: Fairness**

We continue to enhance our character education program at Kenilworth PS and look for ways to integrate the Upper Grand District School Board's five core character traits: Compassion, Respect, Fairness, Responsibility and Honesty. The Character Trait of Fairness will be introduced at our January 17th, 9:00 am assembly. As always, you are welcome to attend!

### **Thank you, PATS!**

On behalf of the staff and students, I would like to thank the members of "Parents Assisting Teachers and Students" for their ongoing contributions to the school. As you know, they continue to provide funding for school trips, Scientists in the School programs, books for our levelled reading programs, Birthday Books and more!

### **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).

Please bring the following documents to registration:

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

For more information on Kindergarten Registration, including evening registration sessions for families unable to attend during the day, please go to [www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkregistration](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkregistration).

### **PA Day**

January 22nd is a P.A. Day. The teachers will be using this time to prepare report cards. Students will not be at school this day.

### **Playground Update**

Due to the freezing temperatures, frozen ground, ice and winter clothing, please note that our creative play structures are still closed until April 1<sup>st</sup> or further notice<sup>t</sup>, as per Board Policy further notice. We recommend that you do not use them on the weekends or during the holiday due to heightened risk of injury.

### **WINTER USE OF PLAYGROUNDS**

It is the position of the Upper Grand District School Board that all playground equipment cannot be safely operated during the following winter conditions:

a) freezing temperatures,

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## ADMINISTRATION CREATIVE 307-A PLAYGROUNDS PROCEDURES MANUAL

b) snow build-up,

c) ice or freezing rain,

d) frozen ground cover, and

e) periods when students wear winter clothing.

All playground equipment is off limits from November 1 to March 31, at the discretion of the Principal. Notice of this will be posted with appropriate signage (see Appendix 'A') and communicated to parents (e.g. newsletters).

### **Winter is Fun.... if you are dressed for it!**

Unless the wind chill, temperature or conditions on our playground are unsafe for outdoor play, recesses will continue to take place outside. It is very important that your children dress for the weather. This includes warm coats with working zippers, hats, mitts, boots and snow pants. Let's enjoy the outdoors!

Remember: All students must wear indoor footwear in the school. Please remember to send indoor shoes with your child, and let us know if this

Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet



January 5<sup>th</sup> is National Bird Day!

*It is vital to teach our children to respect and take care of the environment.*

### **Celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual National Bird Day on January 5th!**

*"Nearly 12 percent of the world's 9,800 bird species may face extinction within the next century, including nearly one-third of the world's 330 parrot species. The survival and well-being of the world's birds depends upon public education and support for conservation".*

*"National Bird Day is on January 5 each year, as it's scheduled to coincide with the end of the annual Christmas Bird Count. This count lasts three weeks and is the longest running citizen science survey in the world that helps to monitor the health of our nation's birds."*

<http://www.nationalbirdday.com/index.php>

### **Activities to get your kids involved on National Bird Day!**

- Sharpen your senses and take a bird call quiz! *"Fun for fledgling birders and experts alike."*  
[http://www.nationalbirdday.com/g\\_birdquiz.php](http://www.nationalbirdday.com/g_birdquiz.php)
- Design a poster for National Bird day that you can put up on the fridge at home.

- Spend the day learning about endangered bird species and find out what you can do to help to keep all birds safe, like Audubon's "10 Things You Can Do For Birds".  
<http://www.audubon.org/magazine/march-april-2013/10-things-you-can-do-birds>
- Go out and count how many birds you can spot and learn to identify the common birds in your neighbourhood. You can use a bird identification guide such as the National Geographic online backyard bird identifier tool. <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birding/backyard-bird-identifier/>
- Design and make bird feeders that you can put up to help feed the birds in your area.  
<http://frogsandsnailsandpuppydogtail.com/10-bird-feeders-kids-love-to-make/>

## 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).

### 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.*

### ***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.

