

Minto-Clifford Public School

October 2016 Newsletter

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Principal: Shelley Grose Vice Principal: Mark Turner Office Coordinator: Michele Aitken

Happy October!

We have had a great start to our school year. Many activities have already started here at Minto-Clifford. Our annual Terry Fox Run was held on Thursday, September 29th. Junior and Intermediate soccer and cross-country teams have been practicing for tournaments/meets. Our first Pride Assembly for the school year gave us the opportunity to highlight 'Compassion.' Our entire school demonstrated compassion as we participated in the Terry Fox run and other activities related to raising funds and awareness to Cancer Research. Congratulations to our school community for raising over \$1200!!! Way to go, Minto Storm! The month of October Character trait is 'Respect'.



Student Information Sheets

Please make sure you have returned all information sheets that were sent home the first week of school. The information which we have on file is very important and needs to be accurate and current. Any remaining forms should be brought directly to the office. Thank you.

If your personal information changes during the school year, please call our office co-ordinator, Mrs. Aitken, at 519-338-2920 and she will put that change into our database immediately.

ABOUT PA DAYS

September 30, October 28, November 25, January 27, April 28 and June 9 are ministry mandated PA Days. **This means students will not be at school on these dates.**



School Council

The first meeting was on Thursday, September 29th. The next meeting will be held in November 3rd at 5:30 in our Library. Our executive was elected and priorities and directions were set for this school year. Parents are always welcome to attend the meetings and learn about the Council's work.

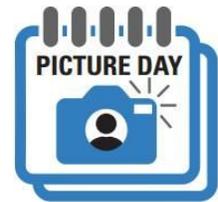
Inclement Weather Procedures

We are located in North Wellington. Division 3 Pink Card. At different times during the year, dense fog, icy roads, or snowy weather may result in the cancellation of school buses. The announcement will be broadcast over radio stations CKNX (FM 102 Wingham), CHYM (96.7

Kitchener or 570 News), Magic (106.1 Guelph) and CJOY (1460 Guelph). **Our school is open, even if buses do not run.** It is up to the parent/guardian if it is safe to drive your child(ren) into school on a no-bus day. Please note, if the buses are cancelled in the morning, you will need to make arrangements for picking up your child at the end of the day. A number of staff members drive in from a distance, even when the weather is bad and buses are cancelled. To ensure that staff and students are able to make it home safely during daylight hours, our school day ends at **3pm**. Please arrange to have your child(ren) **picked up by 3:00 p.m. on no-bus days.**

School Photos

Please note that individual and class photos will be taken on **Thursday, October 13th**. This will take most of the day. Forms will soon be sent home.



Healthy School Committee - Walking is good for everyone

Upper Grand is celebrating Walk to School Week Oct. 3-7th. Can your child walk to school? Do they choose not to because they can get a ride to school? One in five cars on the road at the peak travel time of 8:30 am are parents driving their children to school. By switching to walking, we can save huge amounts of CO₂, helping to prevent climate change, and reduce levels of air pollution which are a major cause of asthma - which is on the rise for young children.



Students' Progress

As you know from last year, the school year is divided into two terms. Your Grade 1 - 8 student will receive an *Elementary Progress Report* card on November 17th. SK to Grade 8 students will receive their *Elementary Provincial Report* cards on February 15th. The term 2 report cards for JK to Gr. 8 students will be sent home on June 26th.

Student Absences

With the start of cold and flu season, we ask parents and guardians to be explicit in their voice mail messages about the reason for their child's absence from school. It helps our school to track patterns of illness in a classroom or division. If your child is away for a reason other than illness, just let us know that in your voice mail message. We appreciate your cooperation in this safe school arrival program. As part of our safe school policy we need to know if your child is absent. Please leave a message on the Office Coordinators voice mail by pressing 1 when you call.



We Scare Hunger - Me-to-We October Food Drive

During the month of October, there will be a school wide challenge to bring in canned goods. Items will be collected daily from classrooms. The class that brings in the most donations will earn a festive treat. Minto Storm....we can beat hunger!

Child Abuse Prevention Policy & Program

The Upper Grand District School Board places a high priority on the safety of our students. The Child Abuse Prevention Policy is evidence of our commitment to this priority. The following is a quote from the policy:

“Every citizen in the community shares a responsibility for our children. School officials and teachers share this collective community responsibility for creating safe and nurturing environments for children. Under the Child and Family Services Act, this responsibility includes the legal requirement to report to the local Children’s Aid Society any suspected child abuse or other situations where a child may be in need of protection. Teachers and other Board employees have a special opportunity to know and understand children during their most influential years of development. They are in a unique position to be able to see early signs of maltreatment, and to know or hear about the abuse and neglect that is often suffered by children.”

As required in the Policy, we will be teaching age-appropriate lessons to help our students identify abuse and protect themselves from abusive situations. The goal is to provide children with the tools they need to keep themselves safe. The lessons cover a broad range of safety issues including bullying, stranger danger and abuse by a known and trusted adult.

These lessons will occur during the month of February and March. For grades one, three and five, the lessons will be team taught by our Child and Youth Counselor and classroom teachers. There is no formal program in grades two, four and six, although the safety concepts are reviewed by classroom teachers informally. Students in grades 7 will also participate in a Red Cross program presented by the school’s Child & Youth Counsellor entitled “It’s Not Your Fault”. These two hour presentations will occur in homeroom classes on October 20, 2016.

We encourage you to discuss with your child at home, the concepts taught in the Child Abuse Prevention Curriculum.

For more information regarding the Child Abuse Prevention Policy and/or Programs please contact Shelley Grose, Principal or Joanne Worth, Child and Youth Counselor.

Growth Mindset Homework Help Tips

Let your child struggle with math problems.

- See if they have the perseverance to work through their struggles. We need to break the math myth that we need fast answers to be good at math.



Never let your child hear you say: “I was never good at math.”

- Research studies have shown when parents tell their children they were not good at math, their child’s achievement is immediately affected.

Ask your child if they can solve a math problem in another way.

- This shows that your child has multiple strategies at their fingertips and they are flexible with their math thinking.

Ask your child to explain the reasoning behind their response.

- “Why did you (add/ subtract/ multiply/ divide)?”
- “What does your drawing represent?”



First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-identification

If your child is a member of a First Nation, the Métis or the Inuit, then please consider having him or her self-identify.² Self-identification helps in several ways:

1. Students will have access to more culturally relevant programming and opportunities for unique cultural and academic experiences.
2. The school system will have an opportunity to focus efforts and resources, as well as an increased awareness of the diverse needs of indigenous families.
3. The school community will have an opportunity for building relationships to increase student success and well being.

Share your pride in your heritage!

Please have come to the office (or have your child do so) to get a card that can be filled in and submitted if you wish to self-identify.

Data will be protected and governed by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

1

http://images.parents.mdpcdn.com/sites/parents.com/files/styles/scale_1500_1500/public/young-girl-doing-homework.jpg

2

<https://userscontent2.emaze.com/images/b22db083-2a4c-4e95-823f-b11a8671ec03/ccc44ab0-d1c9-41ec-957b-947b4d480737.jpg>

Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

Individual Education Plans, or IEPs, are developed by schools when assessments show that a student needs special education programming and/or services. The development of the IEP should be a collaborative process that includes parents and the student (if possible). During the development phase, schools are required to seek feedback through consultation with parents. This is your opportunity to discuss and share information with the classroom teacher and/or special education teacher regarding your child's education. If your child had an IEP last year, you will see a copy of this working document come home within the first 30 school days.

When the IEP is sent home, you will also receive a booklet titled, Parents' Guide to the Individual Education Plan. This booklet is a resource to help parents understand how an IEP is developed, what is included in an IEP, and how an IEP supports your child. It also includes definitions and explanations to help parents understand some of the language that is part of an IEP, such as accommodations and modifications.

One more item that will accompany your child's IEP this year is a Parent/Guardian IEP Questionnaire. We want to know your ideas about your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Your ideas will be used to help us improve the IEP processes in our schools, and help us provide parents/guardians with the special education information they are looking for. Please take a few moments to share your ideas and return the questionnaire to the school office. If you need any help with completing this questionnaire, your child's classroom or special education teacher can assist you.

Talking About Mental Health!

Welcome to the new school year! My name is Dr. Lynn Woodford and I am the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for the school board. Every month I write a column for school newsletters about mental health and provide strategies and resources for families.

Hope that the transition back to school has been a positive one for you and your family. If your child or youth is experiencing any challenges with the transition back to school, please talk to your child or youth's teacher or administrator.

The UGDSB has many resources available on its website: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/> for parents and students to access. To access these resources: click on the Parent tab then click on the Mental Health Tab. There is also a Student tab with a Mental Health tab, which you can share with your children and youth.

Once you are on site, you will find information about local mental health and addiction resources. There are also links to useful websites with information for parents about mental health and addictions such as:

- Kids Help Phone (1 800 668 6868) www.KidsHelpPhone.ca provides phone and web counselling for youth under the age of 20. Support is free, 24/7, anonymous and confidential.
- [The ABCs of Mental Health](http://www.hincksdellcrest.org/ABC/Welcome) <http://www.hincksdellcrest.org/ABC/Welcome> provides information related to different mental health concerns, according to developmental ages.

Hope these resources are helpful for you and your families. Hope you have a wonderful **fall!**

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



October 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	3	4	5 Int. Boys Soccer  Bully Buster Day: Wear Pink Gr. 7 & 8 Needles	6 Int. Girls Soccer 	7	8
9	10 Thanksgiving 	11	12	13 Picture Day 	14 Jr/Int Cross Country Meet	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 PA DAY no school for students	29
30	31 Happy Halloween! Black and Orange Day 					