Minto-Clifford Public School
December 2016 Newsletter

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

Vice Principal's Message

During the month of November we had many events occur such as; Remembrance Day assembly at school for primaries, as the junior and intermediates went to the Cenotaph, volleyball games, picture re-takes, Progress Reports/Parent-Teacher Interviews, Band's performance in the Santa Claus Parade and the trip to St. Jacob's to see Cinderella. Thanks again to our School Council for paying for busing for this trip! It should also be recognized that our local Fire Department donated $150 towards our music program for their participation in the parade this year...thank you so much! The Fresh from the Farm and Meat Order fundraisers wrapped up this month as well...a HUGE thank you to the community for supporting our Nutrition Program and School Council initiatives.
Our character education focus for November was Respect and Anti-Bullying Awareness and in December, we will be focusing on Fairness. Thank you to all of our families who contributed to Operation Christmas Child. Our Me-to-We students were able to fill **44** boxes and in turn, will be putting smiles on 44 more children's faces on Christmas morning this year...fantastic!!! December is going to be just as busy. To kick off the month, we look forward to seeing many students and families at our 2nd Annual Science Fair on Tuesday, December 6th. Students projects will be on display in the gym from 9:30 to 7 PM. To end this week, our School Council has organized another Christmas Shopping night, Friday, December 9th from 6 to 8 PM. See the calendar at end of newsletter for more important upcoming events.

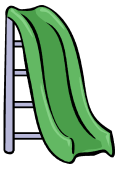
We'd like to extend our best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement to Mrs. Cronsberry. Her dedication and service to our school will be truly missed. We would like to welcome Mrs. Wilson as our new Head Caretaker. Welcome to Minto-Clifford!

Students Who Walk to School

If your child/ren walk to school on their own, **please remind them to use the designated crossing areas (at traffic lights or at either Crossing Guard)**. The school was notified that there have been some students not using the designated areas which is a huge safety concern. Thank you for helping keep your child/ren safe on their walks to and from school.

Pizza and Sub Days

Ordering information for Pizza and Sub Days will be coming home during the first week of December. **Orders are due on or before Thursday, December 15th**. Pizza Days will continue on Wednesdays and Sub Days will continue to be on Fridays. Online payment information will be sent home with orders.



Playground Update

Due to the freezing temperatures, frozen ground, ice and winter clothing, please note that our creative play structures will be closed until further notice (this is a board decision). We do recommend that you do not use the playground on the weekends due to risk of injury.

Safe School Awareness week

During the week of November 21st to 24th, Minto-Clifford students participated in various safe school activities. On the Tuesday, we had various Community Partners come into read books to our Primary classes on celebrating our differences, inclusion, paying it forward, integrity and perseverance. In addition, our Child and Youth councillors worked with our Junior classes on making good choices when presented with various scenarios. These discussions provides common language and strategies for students and staff when working through problems/social situations that may arise. During the final day of Safe Schools Week for our grade 7 and 8 students, guest speakers from Portage Place came and shared their stories of perseverance to overcome hardships. To kick off our school year back in September, we also provided a talk for our grade 7 and 8 students on safe social media and internet use.

Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA)

The Upper Grand District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, Principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behaviour, and learn from their mistakes.

When safety is threatened by the potentially violent or dangerous behaviour of a student, which places either the student or others at risk, school staff follow specific protocols for the protection of all. It is important that you and your children are aware of these protocols.

For more information, please visit the board's website: http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/parents/article.aspx?id=51057

Grade 8 Parent Norwell Night

December 8th, 2016 from 6 to 8 PM all Grade 8 students and parents are invited to attend Norwell's open house.

A Breath of Fresh Air

We wish to remind you that your child is outside for recess every day. It is necessary for students to dress warmly in layers. It is important to have snow pants, boots and a couple pairs of mitts and socks in case something gets wet. Students need time outside to get some fresh air and a bit of exercise so their brains will function at full capacity. Students who are not well enough to go outside for recess are not well enough to be at school. We do not have an area for students to be supervised inside during recess. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Healthy School Committee - Walking is good for everyone

Road safety skills - Good habits learned young are learned well. Teaching your child to walk safely to school will stand them in good stead for the rest of their life. Learning to watch for traffic, crossing streets, using cross walks and street lights can save their lives.

Head Lice Is Not Nice!

We want to remind parents to please check your child's hair regularly for these pesky critters. No one is immune to lice and if we all do our part to keep on top of it, they won't have a chance to get out of hand.

Great Stocking Stuffers

School supplies make great stocking stuffers. It is always wonderful to start the New Year with a well-stocked pencil case and these are some items you might consider for those little gifts that mean so much to your child: pencils, pencil sharpener, pencil case, erasers, ruler, glue sticks, pencil and/or wax crayons. Please ensure that indoor shoes still fit and that they have non-marking soles.

Winter Concert

We will be having a Winter Concert put on by our Kindergarten thru Grade 3 students on December 15th in the afternoon at 1:45 PM. **Parents are invited to the assembly.** There will be presentations from our Kindergarten and Primary classes on this date.

Technology

The Upper Grand District School Board now has Chromebooks for student use in all 25 public libraries across the district.
Each branch has been outfitted with five Chromebooks that are available exclusively for Upper Grand students to access and complete their homework and assignments.
For more information, visit the board website at ugdsb.ca.

Feedback welcome on draft policies

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review are **Code of Conduct** Policy 213 and **Child Abuse and Protection** Policy 502 (submit feedback by January 13, 2017). You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy.

December

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29 Hat Day Pride Assembly	30	1	2	3
4	5	6 Science Fair in Gym 9:30 til 7 PM Junior Volleyball Tournament	7 Be a Buddy Day- Wear Pink	8 Norwell Grade 8 Night 6:30 Ugly Sweater Day	9 Christmas Shopping Night in gym 6 - 8 PM	10
11	12	13	14	15 Red and Green Day **Pizza and Sub Orders due** Winter Concert K-3 Parent Assembly 1:45 pm Intermediate Volleyball Tournament	16	17
18	19	20 Grade 8 Tech Day at Norwell	21	22 Holiday PJ Day	23 Pride Assembly 9am	24
25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve