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| **Mitchell Woods Public School****Newsletter** |
| Principal: Mair Ann Gault | Vice Principal: Nicole Hamilton |
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**MAY 2017**



What a wonderfully exciting, very busy time of year! We have so many events taking place at our school before the end of the school year, events that help the provincial curriculum come alive for our students.

Events include:

- School Spirit Days

- School Council Meetings

- Eco Club

- Jump Rope for Heart

- Sharks Swimming Program

- Band and Choir Events

- Skills Canada Events

- EQAO

- Outdoor Education

- Class Trips

- Scientist in the Classroom

- Transition Planning for students

- Track and Field

- Youth Empowerment Events

- Patrol training

- Kindergarten Orientation

- Graduation

- (And I’m sure I’ve missed many.)

It’s a great time of year to celebrate learning and community. It’s a great time of year to demonstrate gratitude. It’s a great time of year to enjoy the outdoors and make new friends. I welcome all of you to join in on our events, be a volunteer, have fun and enjoy your community school.

Sincerely,

Mair Ann Gault

Principal

# WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE LIBRARY…

The library has been the place to meet this winter for reading, using Ipads and Chrome books, building with different materials, being creative,Coding and researching different topics! It is wonderful to see all the students using the technology we have at our school. Don't forget you can get onto the UGcloud at home. All you need is your user name and password! E-books are also available in the library or at home.

To access E-books at home sign in to UG2GO and click on Overdrive under the Read section and sign out a book to read on your computer. For more information or assistance visit Mrs. Fanjoy in the library!

# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Giving a helping hand in the classrooms, being part of School Council, organizing teaching materials, listening to children read, supervising on trips and helping on Special Event Days are just some of the things our dedicated volunteers have helped with over the year. The children and staff appreciate all the time and effort that you have made to support and enhance our educational programs and our special events here at Mitchell Woods P.S.



#  “WHEELS” AT SCHOOL

Several students have begun riding their bicycles, scooters or skateboards to school. Please make sure that your

children have the appropriate helmets, bike locks and that they remember they have to walk all wheels once on school property. Scooters will not be allowed in the school.

# LOST AND FOUND

Please encourage your children to check for lost items in the Lost and Found Box and to take them home. Parents are also welcome to come and take a look after signing in with the office and getting a visitors tag. The bins will be emptied and the items donated the last week of school in June.

# SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Our last School Council Meeting of the year will be held at the school **on June 5th at 6:15 pm**. A light dinner and desserts will be served. Even if you have never attended before, we invite you to come to this meeting to start participation for the new school year in September!

# RECORDING SCHOOL EVENTS AND PRIVACY

As we come to the end of the school year, there will be many opportunities to record school events. Please know that personally recording school events and then posting them on social networks such as Facebook or You Tube is not respectful of the privacy rights of all those parents, staff and particularly students whose images are being shared without their knowledge and permission. Please join us for these special events, record them for your memories and respect the privacy rights of all students, parents and staff. Thanks!

# EQAO PROVINCIAL TESTING – GRADE 3 AND 6

All Ontario students in Grades 3 and 6 will be participating in EQAO assessments. These will measure the students’ knowledge and skills in reading, writing and math. Grade Three students will complete EQAO from May 30- June 1, 2017 and Grade Six will complete EQAO from May 23 –May 26, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact the school**. Please remind your child to do their best and to come to school each day well rested and with healthy snacks.** We use what we learn from these tests to plan and improve. Good luck!

# MOVING SCHOOLS

If you are moving houses or schools this year, we would appreciate a call, so that we can staff our school and assign students to classrooms for next year with as much accuracy as possible.

# PETS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

While we have many dog lovers in our school, please understand that during school hours, due to safety reasons, **no pets of** **any kind are allowed at school without permission**. Teachers may give permission for pets to be brought to school as part of a special display or project, but must be consulted first. Some children are highly allergic to certain animals, while others are sometimes fearful of them due to prior experiences. While walking your dog or playing in the playground with your children outside of school hours, please encourage all who use our school and city walks and grounds to be sure and scoop whatever is left behind! We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 

If you have not yet had an opportunity to register your child, please do so by stopping in at the school office any time between 8:30 am and 3:30 pm.

# FIRE, TORNADO and BOMB DRILLS

As a reminder, each year our school must conduct drills to ensure staff and students are prepared in the event of a real emergency.  While our school has been conducting fire drills, lockdown drills and tornado drills for the last several years, beginning this school year, we are also required to conduct a bomb threat drill.

The following number of drills are required each school year:

- Three (3) fire drills in the fall and three (3) fire drills in the spring

-  Two (2) lockdown drills

-  One (1) tornado drill

- One (1) bomb threat drill

  All drills are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of our students.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

During our Fire Drills students do not have time to put on shoes. Please make sure they have a pair to wear inside and a pair for outside. During these drills anyone in the school is asked to evacuate the building and follow the same procedures as the students and staff. Staff will be reviewing these procedures with their students so that they feel comfortable and confident in what is expected of them during these procedures.

**JUMP ROPE FOR HEART**

Mitchell Woods is pleased to be holding a **Heart and Stroke Foundation Jump Rope for Heart** event on **May 17, 2017.** All money raised will support the Heart and Stroke Foundation in their mission to promote children’s health and fund vital heart and stroke research.

Jump Rope for Heart encourages kids to get active by skipping rope while they collect pledges for heart disease and stroke research. They also learn the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and giving back to their community. This year marks Jump Rope for Heart’s 35th Anniversary and the Heart and Stroke Foundation is striving to get 1 million kids Jumping in close to 4,000 schools across Canada. Let’s be part of it!

We need your help to reach our School fundraising goal of **$3300.00.** Please help support your child’s fundraising efforts by registering them online at **JumpRopeForHeart.ca** and send out donation request emails to friends, family and colleagues. Online fundraising is the quickest way to reach all of your contacts and online donors receive an automatic tax receipt. Plus, when students receive their first online donation (of any amount), they will receive a $5 kick-start and a free skipping rope which will be given out at school after the event is over.

Please visit **JumpRopeForHeart.ca** and start fundraising today! Each student has already brought home a pledge envelope if you prefer to collect donations in-person. Please ensure that their **pledge envelope is returned on the day of their school’s Jump Event Day.**

Thank you in advance for your support.

DANCE WORKSHOPS

 We are so excited to host Calgary Indigenous Dancer, Jessica McMann, who will be teaching Hoop Dance workshops to our students this month. We are able to provide this exciting day in partnership with the Guelph Dance Festival. The Festival, celebrating its 19th season, will feature hoop dance in three performances: Friday, June 2 at 6 pm at Hanlon Creek Park, and Saturday and Sunday, June 3-4, at 12 pm at Exhibition Park. More info at [www.guelphdance.ca](http://www.guelphdance.ca/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).

# APPROPRIATE DRESS

We ask students to dress appropriately at all times. Appropriate dress is defined as student attire that is free of symbols of hate, gang membership, or images that portray violence, death, abuse, alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, racial or obscene words, political or sexual statements.

Muscle shirts, spaghetti straps, bare midriffs and low scooped necklines are not permitted at school. Shorts and skirts must be a reasonable length. Undergarments should not be visible. Hats must be removed when students enter the school.

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY & PROGRAMS

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 May or June**, for grades one, three and five. The lessons are taught by your child’s classroom teacher with support from the school Child and Youth Counselor. There is no formal program in grades two, four and six, although the safety concepts are reviewed by classroom teachers informally.

For more information regarding the Child Abuse Prevention Policy and/or Programs please contact Mrs. Gault, Principal or Amy Fonte, our Child and Youth Counselor

Amy Fonte

Child and Youth Counselor

# More Children Can Get Free Dental Care

More children have qualified for free dental care as of April 1, 2014 due to changes to the **Healthy Smiles Ontario Program**. The income thresholds have changed and now include the number of children in the family. This affects children and youth up to the age of 18 who are residents of Ontario and have no access to any form of dental coverage.

If you think a child may qualify for **Healthy Smiles Ontario**, contact Public Health at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 2661. We will help you with the application process and answer any questions.



**DRAFT POLICY**

 The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies.  Currently under review is Policy 413 Safety (Behaviour Prevention and Intervention) and Policy 603 Provision of Learning Resources.  You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at [www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).  **The deadline for public input is May 25, 2017** at 4 p.m. EST.  Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.

# Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities

Learning disabilities refer to a number of disorders that affect processes related to the learning, organization, and recall of information, as well as the understanding or use of language and/or nonverbal information.  A student with a learning disability demonstrates some average or above average cognitive abilities that are essential for thinking and reasoning.  Despite this, he or she can have academic underachievement, or achievement maintained only by unusually high levels of effort and/or support. At school, this means that the student has good ideas and is able to do the thinking required to make connections and problem solve, however one or more areas of academics (oral language, reading, writing or math) cause significant difficulties and frustration.

The Upper Grand District School Board supports students with learning disabilities in a variety of ways.  Some students who struggle to learn to read will be recommended by the school to attend a special education class for students with learning disabilities.  If parents agree that this is a good option for supporting their child, the student may attend this program for one or more years in Grades 4 through 6.  In some areas of the Board, where special education classes are not available, a student with a learning disability might receive the support of one of the Board’s four Itinerant Technology Resource Teachers.  These teachers are qualified special education teachers and have an expertise in the use of assistive technology.  The support of an Itinerant Technology Resource Teacher would occur during Grades 4 to 6 and would take place while the student is in the regular classroom.  For most students with learning disabilities, the regular classroom, with the support of a resource teacher, is the best fit.

A student with a learning disability, receiving instruction in a regular or special education class, will benefit significantly from the use of assistive technology.  This may include computer programs that are designed to read printed materials, turn speech into written words, or predict what words students are trying to spell. Assistive technology is often an important strategy for learning and letting students demonstrate what they know and have learned.  The use of these technologies can also help students to become more independent, can increase their self-confidence and improve self-esteem.  While assistive technology is often necessary for some students with learning disabilities and other difficulties at school to be successful, it can benefit ALL STUDENTS in the classroom.  Each and every student at the UGDSB has access to Read&Write for Google, which does read print, turn speech into words and predict the words as they are being typed.  These program options are available to students on any computer, at school or at home, as long as they are logged onto the internet browser Chrome and their UGCloud account.  For information on how to access your child’s UGCloud account at home, speak to his or her classroom teacher.

More information about learning disabilities can be found on the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario website ([www.ldao.ca](http://www.ldao.ca)).  For more information about the supports offered to students with learning disabilities at the UGDSB, talk to your child’s classroom teacher, the special education resource teacher at the school, or the principal or vice-principal.  The Board’s Special Education Plan and Reports are also available online on the UGDSB website and provide more details and in-depth explanations of special education at the UGDSB.

“For most of us, technology makes things easier.  For a person with a disability, it makes things possible.”

~ J. Heumann, American Disability Rights Activist

# Understanding the Equal Sign

Most children see = and they know it is an equal sign, but do they really understand what it means? Many children believe the equal sign means “the answer is” or “the total”. They do not understand that the equal sign is a symbol of balance or sameness. Think about 3 + 4 = 7. 3 plus 4 is the same as 7. When children understand that the equal sign shows a relationship between numbers, they develop stronger number sense and are able to work with numbers more flexibly. For example, children who know that the equal sign shows balance understand that 3 + 4 is the same as 5 + 2. Children who think of the equal sign as showing the answer often struggle with mental math and, later on, with algebra.

Parents can help support understanding of the equal sign in many ways. First, using the word “equal” in everyday conversation to highlight equal relationships helps to promote an understanding of sameness. Use the words “equal” and “the same” together. When sharing snacks among people, talk about amounts. Are they equal? How do we know?

Also, many children enjoy missing number problems, especially when presented as a puzzle or challenge. Challenge children to find the number to balance equations, like these:

5 + \_\_\_ = 1 + 8 or 14 - 6 = \_\_\_ + 3 or 5 x \_\_\_\_ = 4 x \_\_\_\_

When playing with Lego, talk about how the different sized pieces are related. How many little pieces are equal to a big piece? Build different creations with equal number of pieces. Build creations with equal sizes but different number of pieces.

The more exposure children have to the idea that the equal sign means “the same”, the better set they will be to develop solid number sense and number flexibility.

Megan Haessler - Teacher-Researcher with the UGDSB

**Does your child have an LD, ADD/ADHD or both?**

**Here are some great resources to help you**:

1. Work with your child to understand how they think and learn
2. Develop some strategies with your child to help them advocate for what they need to learn (technology, accommodations to the environment or learning tasks) 



**Other great online resources include:**

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario, which has lots of good information on LD and ADD/ADHD issues, including topics about how to understand the IPRC and IEP, how to advocate for your child and topics related to specific LDs.

<http://www.ldao.ca/introduction-to-ldsadhd/what-are-lds/>

The Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County connects to the Ontario chapter, but provides links and information about workshops and activities that are being held in Wellington.

<http://www.ldawc.ca/>

Our school board has also worked hard to address the needs of LD and ADD/ADHD students by providing SEA equipment, Google Read and Write training and targeted reading programs to help LD students access the curriculum and develop key academic skills.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Six hundred students from the Upper Grand District School Board and Wellington Catholic District School Board will be joining together to celebrate sport at the Special Olympics, May 17, 2017.

The event will be held at St. James sports fields, and includes track and field events as well as

adaptive events. Athletes flock to the sports fields for the opening ceremonies at 10:00, and

compete in three events each throughout the day. Family and friends are welcome to join in the fun and cheer on the athletes. Parking is available at the Grange plaza.

REMINDER

 If you or your child wants to attend an event at the school, for which there is a cost, and you or your child requires a support person (one who assists a person with a disability) please know the support person will not be charged to attend with the disabled person. Please know there are also Accessibility Feedback Forms available for anyone who requires them. Come into the office for your copy. Thank you.

**Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet**

 **May 22nd is International Biodiversity Day!**

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

# Celebrate International Day For Biological Diversity on May 22nd!

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

Biodiversity, a simple word with some very broad reaching implications quite simply means: ‘A wide range of life’” We need to learn more about it in order to protect it.

 “Biodiversity, at the level of species and ecosystems, provides an important foundation for many aspects of sustainability.” António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

<https://www.cbd.int/idb/2017/>

# Ideas for your family to celebrate Biodiversity Day!

* Visit farmers markets in your local area to try new types of produce. Whether you incorporate heirloom tomatoes into your cooking, or try one of the rainbow of colors of carrots out there that aren’t orange, biodiversity can bring a great new experience to your table.
* View photos of endangered species on the Internet and discuss the reasons why these animals are
* threatened and why they should be protected.
* Join a community group and help to remove invasive plants from your local environment. These teams of volunteers will gather to remove plants that are impacting the local fauna’s biodiversity by taking over natural grow areas.
* Get out into the world and enjoy all the different types of life your local area offers. Even a local park can have an amazing variety of life you’ve never noticed, from the insects crawling through the grass, to the flowers we so clumsily lump together as ‘wildflowers’.

Adapted from: <https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/international-day-for-biological-diversity/>

**Celebrate the diversity of our natural world every day!**

<https://www.cbd.int/>

