

Ottawa Crescent Public School

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December 2016 Newsletter

Season's Greetings

It is hard to believe that December is already here! The cold weather is on its way and so is a lot of holiday cheer. The school is bustling with holiday spirit and activities to celebrate this special time of year. Please see the included information about our Colour Tribes and Letter Writing Activities.

Throughout the first part of the school year, the students have been very busy learning and taking part in exciting opportunities in their classrooms. There has been a lot of great thinking throughout all of our classes, and in all of the subject areas, and we are impressed with how hard our students are working and persevering. As well, throughout the school and on the yard, the students have been problem solving using our Ottawa Crescent Wildcat Choices and using the strategies discussed during Bullying Prevention Week. If you aren't sure what a Wildcat Choice is, be sure to ask your child to fill you in on all the details! We are encouraging all of our students to work things out with their peers using a variety of strategies, including talking it out, sharing and taking turns, making a deal, cooling off, walking away or going to another game.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the entire Ottawa Crescent Public School Community a very happy holiday season. Enjoy this special time with your family and friends.

All the best for a wonderful 2017.

Allison Stoffman
Principal



September 2017 Junior Kindergarten Registration Begins January 9, 2017

Junior Kindergarten registration for the 2017-18 school year begins on January 9, 2017. Children born in 2013 are eligible to begin Junior Kindergarten in September 2017. Please contact Mrs. Hambleton if you will be registering your child for Junior Kindergarten this September.

Please note that the registration process for the upcoming school year has changed. This includes changes to the French Immersion registration and selection process. Information nights are currently underway at all of our JK French Immersion sites. For more information about this process or to find the time and date of our JK FI registration process information nights at a school near you, please visit www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi

Poinsettia Sales

Thank you for supporting our Poinsettia Sales! This fundraiser will support technology and curriculum purchases in our school.

Colour Tribes

Each month our students participate in a colour tribe activity and have a great time doing so! The students are divided into 15 tribes; each tribe has students ranging from JK to Grade 6. The students have participated in team building games, made crafts, and have had great conversations about bullying prevention. These tribes will be in place for the remainder of the school year. On Thursday, December 22 our students will reunite with their colour tribes. Each colour tribe will have the opportunity to take part in a variety of holiday activities including songs, crafts, stories and videos.

Winter Concert

This year's Winter Concert will be held for students on Wednesday, December 21 (dress rehearsal) at 9:10 a.m. and Thursday, December 22 for parents at 9:10 a.m.

Parking and Student Safety

Thank you to all of the parents who have recognized and avoided the "No Stopping/No Parking" zones around the school. Please note that the staff parking lot is not be used for parents dropping off and picking up children. There is a drop off area on the bend near 62 and 63 Ottawa Crescent and the walkways off of Callander Drive and Laverne Avenue.

As a safety precaution, we ask that all parents and older siblings, who are coming to the school to pick up students, to please meet at an outside meeting place at the end of the day. Students are asked to enter and exit through their assigned doors. Congested hallways at both entrance and exit times leads to confusion and presents safety risks for all students.

Holiday Letter Writing

The post office is open for the season! Students in grades K-6 are actively writing and sending good cheer through cards and letters to fellow students and the mailbox was full for our first day of delivery on December 1. Students are given time in class and during the recess breaks to write letters and cards. The response has been fabulous and we encourage all students to remember that special someone and send them a note to brighten their day. This is also a great activity to continue at home. This school-wide event will run until December 23.

Safe Arrival Program

During the school day, your child's safety is of the utmost importance to us. When your child is absent or going to be late please call the school and leave a message by 8:55 a.m. In addition, please notify the school of any changes to your address, work place or phone number(s). This will help us to contact you should the need arise.

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.

Tees 4 Bees

Tees 4 Bees is a group of grade 4 – 6 art club students who are looking to make a change in our world. Their current focus is taking action against the endangerment of bees. With the financial support of Scotia Bank's Speedvale and Stevenson branch they were able to purchase the necessary equipment to screen print t-shirts. You can support their cause by purchasing a t-shirt.

The Tees 4 Bees shirt was designed by an O.C. grade six student and is hand printed by students on a heather purple t-shirt. Each t-shirt costs \$20, with all profits going towards their cause. Shirt sizes include sm, med, lg, and x-lg adult sizes.

If you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt or placing an order please contact Mr. Grieves at dgrieves@ugcloud.ca or visit him in room 2. For further information you are invited to visit the Tees 4 Bees website at www.tees4bees.ca.

Ottawa Crescent's Breakfast Program

Our school is proudly supported by Breakfast for Learning, which provides funding towards our nutrition program so we can offer our students a healthy start to their day. Breakfast for Learning, founded in 1992, aims to educate and empower communities to start and sustain child nutrition programs to enhance learning and healthy development of Canadian children and youth. For more information and additional resources, visit www.breakfastforlearning.ca. Students are invited to enjoy a nutritious breakfast in room 15 from 8:40 a.m. to 8:55 a.m. Thank you to our staff for helping to make our Breakfast Program a success.

Inclement Weather

Board Policy – Parents

It is a parent's responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for their children to leave for school in inclement weather or severe weather. A parent must be aware of the following:

- When a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice or snow conditions, it will not travel that route in the afternoon.
- If a parent elects to drive their children to school, they are responsible for the pick-up at dismissal time.

Children who walk to school are expected to come to school on bus cancellation days. If you choose to keep your child home on these days, please make sure you call the school before 9:00 a.m. to report an absence due to inclement weather.

Important Notes

- A reminder to listen to your local radio station in the event of inclement weather conditions.
- The following stations will broadcast school closures: CJOY 1460 AM, CIMJ 106.1 FM, CKKW 1090FM, CFCA 105.3 FM, CHYM 570 AM.

Lost and Found

Please remind your child(ren) to check the "Lost and Found" box often. It is bursting with sweaters, coats and other items.

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 behavior, and learn from their mistakes. When safety is threatened by the potentially violent or dangerous behavior of a student, which places wither 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>.



Happy Holidays

Holiday Break begins Friday, December 23 at regular dismissal time.
School resumes on Monday, January 9, 2017.

Next School Council Meeting

Monday, January 30/6:30 p.m.

Everyone Welcome!

Upcoming P.A. Day

Friday, January 27, 2017

No school for students.



Family Zumba Night

Thursday, January 19
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Come join the fun!

Family Math Night

Thursday, February 23
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Please join us.

Board Wide Fundraising Initiative for Syrian Newcomers in our Community

We have been pleased to welcome almost 75 Syrian newcomer students into our Upper Grand schools since last January. We are hoping that you will consider helping us in a board wide fund raising initiative to raise funds to help Syrian newcomers settle into our schools and community. We have partnered with Orca Book Publishers to raise funds by selling their newly published book entitled, "Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey" by Margriet Ruurs through our school and board websites. For every book that is sold through our board or school websites, Orca will donate \$10 to our local settlement agencies to support Syrian refugees.

This unique picture book was inspired by the stone artwork of Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr, who was discovered by chance by Canadian children's author Margriet Ruurs. She was immediately captivated by the strong narrative quality of Mr. Badr's art, and, using many of Mr. Badr's already-created pieces, she set out to tell a story about the Syrian refugee crisis. Stepping Stones tells the story of Rama and her family, who are forced to flee their once peaceful village to escape the ravages of the civil war raging in their homeland. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama and her family set out to walk to freedom. Mr. Badr's stunning stone images illustrate the story. This book is a dual-language (English and Arabic) edition.

To order this book, please visit your school's website or the board website and click on the buy button to place your order. Payment is made directly to Orca and the books are shipped directly to your address from their warehouse. Payment for the order will go through at the time of purchase and it will include shipping. Orca will keep track of how many books are sold in our board and will send us \$10 for every book sold, which will then be donated to a local resettlement agency.

For more information, contact Bonnie Talbot at bonnie.talbot@ugdsb.on.ca or 519-824-4420.

Monthly Environmental Activities To Help Celebrate Our Planet

December 10th is Human Rights Day! It is vital to teach our children to respect and take care of the environment. Celebrate Human Rights Day on December 10th! "This year, Human Rights Day calls on everyone to stand up for someone's rights. It starts with each of us." Step forward and defend the rights of someone whose voice is not being heard. Demonstrate an understanding of equality, human dignity and justice. Consider and be respectful of the rights and opinions of others, especially if they are different from yours. Recognize that human rights include the right for all of us to have access to clean water, unpolluted air and healthy food.

"There is no action that is too small: wherever you are, you can make a difference. Together, let's take a stand for more humanity." -- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein"

<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>

Simple yet meaningful ways for your family to celebrate the rights and responsibilities that we all share as human beings!

- Learn about how children live in other parts of the world. Look at pictures on the web and discuss how we are the same and how we are different.
- Read the book: We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures by Amnesty International
- Read the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights. Decide if there is a cause your family wants to support, or an Ecojustice action you want to take on.

- Talk to someone you know who is from another country. Where are they from? What was their life like there? What language did they speak? Did they go to school? What do they miss? What do they like about their new country?
- Start a tradition of doing a family service project on Human Rights Day. There are many opportunities to volunteer, such as preparing and serving meals at a local homeless shelter or simply gathering enough to put together a bunch of care packages of simple needs and necessities. <https://humanrightswarrior.com>

“For the bigger picture we can (and should) do what we can to fight injustice. But on a smaller scale, in the day-to-day, practicing kindness can help knit a web of compassion to give humanity a boost of resilience”