

Newsletter

December 2016



It is hard to believe that December is here already and that we are so close to Christmas. Breakfast with Santa was a huge success. The parent community and especially our students delighted in the events of the day. This fantastic event could not happen without a great deal of time and commitment. Fun was had by all!

As the year progresses, lateness continues to be a chronic issue for some students. As you are aware, our school hours are 8:40am to 3:00pm. Supervision on our yard begins at 8:25am, so we encourage all students to arrive after this time and prior to the entry bell ringing at 8:40am. **Student lateness is problematic.** When your child enters after the class is settled it disrupts student learning and teacher instruction. Also, when your child is late, he/she misses crucial information that is needed to understand concepts and/or finish tasks. Thank you for working in partnership with us to reinforce the necessary life and career skills of punctuality.

Please ensure that you send your child ready for the outdoors. Not only do students at Parkinson go outside for two recess breaks each day, teachers also take students outside for outdoor physical education, and for outdoor learning.

A big thank you to all the students who participated in volleyball this past month. Grades 7-8 boys were coached by Mr. Panagiotou, grade 7-8 girls were coached by Mr. Gammage and grades 4-6 sideline volleyball players were coached by Mrs. Firth. A noted improvement in skills and fantastic attitudes were exemplified by all participants. We look forward to basketball and curling sport enthusiasts to begin this winter.

A congratulation to grade 7 and 8 students who led our November character education assembly kicking off our 7 Habits of Healthy & Successful Children. Students led students to learn about how to be proactive. Being proactive and not reactive includes: being responsible, and putting first things first.

With December being a busy month, we hope you take the time to enjoy your family and focus on the moments rather than the gifts being received. In the words of Dr. Seuss, "It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes, or bags. Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more!" Whatever you are celebrating this holiday, be it Diwali, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Chinese New Year or other winter holiday celebrations, we wish you a safe and healthy holiday and look forward to seeing you in the New Year ☺

Wayne Peeters & Paola Argentino

Your administrative team!



Upcoming Dates:

- Kindergarten concert on Dec. 15 at 6:30
- Our grade 7 and 8 Raise the Bar team will be working to improve our school's physical fitness by running intramurals in the gym for 2-3 weeks in December
- December 21 – School Council Bake Sale

December 19 – 23

Holiday Spirit Week

- Monday December 19 - Pyjama Day
- Tuesday December 20 - Red, White and Green Day
- Wednesday December 21 – Sparkle and Shine Day
- Thursday December 22 – Ugly/cozy Christmas Sweater Day
- Friday **December 23** – Christmas Hat Day



Reminders

If your child is going to be late or absent from school you need to call the attendance line before 8:40. 519-941-2461 ext. 100.

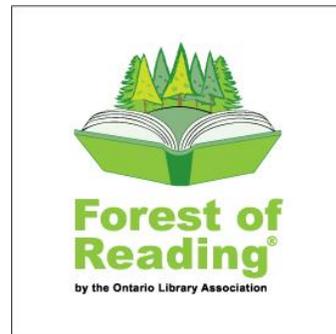
Also, if you change phone numbers or emergency contacts during the school year, it is important that you let the office know of this change to ensure we can contact you if an emergency should arise.



A Scholastic Book Fair will be in the library on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, December 14	8:30am-4:00pm
Thursday, December 15	8:30am-4:00pm
Friday, December 16	8:30am-2:00pm

- Come and do some Christmas shopping! A percentage of the sales allows us to buy new books for the library. When you purchase a book you are supporting the library. **Don't forget to fill out the ballot on the back of your child's flyer and win \$25 worth of free books!**
- The draw will be held on **Friday** morning. See you at the **BOOK FAIR!!!!**



Forest of Reading Clubs will begin in **January**.

- Blue Spruce (K-2)
- Silver Birch Express (3-4),
- Silver Birch (5-6)
- Red Maple (7-8).

Battle of the Books team for junior and intermediate students will begin soon!

Discover the Awesome Tools that Students Can Access in the Read & Write Toolbar



Every student in the Upper Grand District School Board has access to a handful of incredible tools via an app called **Read & Write** that can help them with reading, comprehension, written expression, & gathering research.

Read & Write is attached to student accounts, so students need to be logged into Chrome to use this feature.

Check it out! ... Supports on the R&W toolbar include:



Word Prediction



Quick access to dictionary tools



Having text read out loud in English or in French



A tracking tool that provides a focus when reading



The ability to turn your speech to text



Highlight and collect text, & build vocabulary lists



Changes to Voice, Speed & Language can be made easily in Settings

Read & Write tools are powerful for **ALL kids**, but they make a huge difference for those with **learning disabilities**. These tools allow students to read independently, comprehend more of what they are reading, and demonstrate their understanding, allowing them to work smarter, not harder.

Pizza Days - January 11 and 25

To place your order you must register for School Cash Online. Orders are due **December 23**.

Once you have registered, you will receive an email for upcoming pizza days, field trips, or other items or events for your child.



ONLINE PAYMENTS NOW AVAILABLE!

For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. School related expenses such as pizza days, field trips, spirit wear, yearbooks, etc. will be available for online purchase. Please take a few minutes to register so you can enjoy the convenience of online shopping.

Here's how to register:

- Step 1:** Go to this website: ugdsb.schoolcashionline.com
- Step 2:** Register by selecting "Get Started Now" and following the steps.
- Step 3:** Respond to the confirmation email, select the 'click here' option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account.

School Cash Online

Benefits:

Convenient: Make payments 24/7

Easy to Use: Fill a shopping cart and checkout

Safe: No need to send Cash or Cheques

Secure: Website is protected and encrypted

Save Time: It takes less 5 minutes to register

ugdsb.schoolcashionline.com



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!



<http://calendarholidays.xyz/holiday/168/human-rights-day>

- **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”***

Life-Threatening Allergies

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies (called anaphylaxis) to various foods and other materials. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students.

Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you are aware that we aim to create an allergy safe environment at our school.

If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, or your child has anaphylaxis, you will be contacted by the classroom teacher.

Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps.

Thank you for your understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.