

# Priory Park Public School Newsletter

275 Scottsdale Drive, Guelph, On N1G 3A1

Phone (519) 836-7710

Principal: Kim Kowch

Office Coordinator: Dianne Bott



## FEBRUARY 2017

### From the Principal's Desk

I'm sure none of us are sad to see the "blah" month of January's weather come to an end - it sure is a good thing we had lots of great, engaging learning opportunities in our classrooms and a lot of flexible and resilient students and staff to be able to accommodate our play outdoors. Having sunshine and snow on the ground again will certainly be a welcome addition for the upcoming month!

And we have lots more planned for the month of February, too - please see the calendar for all the updates. Just a reminder that the Term 1 report cards will be sent home on **Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>**. Staff, students, and parents have worked hard to help students set appropriate goals and to support them in attaining these goals in moving into Term 2. Please take time to complete page three of the report and return it to the school with your child. February 20<sup>th</sup> has been designated as Family Day this year -- we hope that you are looking forward to enjoying a long weekend with your family!

K. Kowch  
Principal

### Safe Arrival Program

Thank you for remembering to call the school at 836-7710, ext. 100, when your child is going to be late or absent from school. The answering machine is on seven days a week, 24 hours a day, so you can leave a message at any time. We really appreciate everyone who takes the time to inform us of their child's absence for the safe arrival program. Remember that if your child takes a bus or taxi, that you do not have to call and report them absent on bus/taxi cancellation days. On cancellation days, we will assume that they are absent, and if they do arrive, it is because you brought them here safely and will arrange for their transportation home.

### Student Safety Is #1!

A reminder to parents and students that our school yard is not supervised before 8:30 in the morning and 3:30 after school. Please ensure that your child(ren) are only on school property during the time between 8:30 and 3:30. Our school safety patrollers are also on duty daily at 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. & 3:15 - 3:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- School light/crossing
- Priory Park driveway

Please continue to encourage your children to observe traffic safety rules and to obey directions provided by our valued student patrollers. Parents should not be entering the school parking lot



at the beginning or end of the day. This area is reserved for buses and taxis and staff parking only. Your consideration in this matter is appreciated.

## Volunteers

Priory Park has been very fortunate to have Sifton employees, University of Guelph students and parents volunteering their time with our students. In order to keep track of volunteers and maintain safety within our school, we are asking all volunteers, visitors, and family members to check in at the office when arriving at the school. We have a sign-in binder for all volunteers.

## Bad Weather Days

On bad weather days, please help us by checking the Board website at <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/> and clicking on the yellow school bus or listening to the radio (CJOY 1460 AM or MAGIC 106.1 FM) to find out if buses or schools are cancelled. Please refer to the "City of Guelph" area. It is the parents' responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for their child to leave for school in severe weather. When buses or taxis do not run in the morning, they will not run at night. If a parent elects to drive their child to school, they are responsible for their child's pick up at dismissal time.

While we have an excellent transportation system, buses may be delayed in the morning due to traffic, poor road conditions, etc. To ensure children who ride the bus are not stranded at their pick up point, please make sure that they know what to do and where to go if their bus is more than 15 minutes late. Safety of your children is our concern!



Please appreciate that our phone lines and office staff are busy trying to track Safe Arrival and we do not have time to answer calls about weather or closures. Throughout the day, we monitor the temperature and wind chill closely in order to make good decisions about outdoor recess times. It is always our intention to be outside for the two 25-minute recess breaks, so please ensure that your child(ren) is/are dressed warmly for the outdoors. Extra socks and mittens/gloves are always a good idea at this time of year!

## Life-Threatening Allergies

Many children have allergies; however, a few are life-threatening. At Priory Park P.S., we do have students who are allergic to nut and nut products, and even a tiny bit could be fatal within minutes.

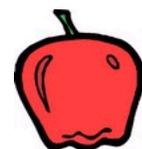
It is very important that you talk to your children about not sharing their treats, lunch or any item of food they bring to school. There could be small traces of allergic foods in their snacks or lunch that could be dangerous to a child with an allergy. We appreciate your support.

## Healthy Eating

Good nutrition helps students to focus and learn. Some healthy suggestions are listed below and more are available on a website at [www.dietitians.ca](http://www.dietitians.ca)

Here are some nut-free alternatives for lunches and snacks:

- ✓ yogurt
- ✓ fresh fruit and vegetables - apples, oranges, carrots, celery, etc.
- ✓ cheese and crackers , bread sticks and cream cheese
- ✓ unsweetened cereal
- ✓ raw vegetables and yogourt dip
- ✓ half bagel, pita bread or bread sticks with cream cheese



- ✓ plain popcorn
- ✓ canned fruit cups (look for unsweetened)
- ✓ muffins, raisins, cereal bars that are nut free
- ✓ juice, milk, water
- ✓ sandwich with sliced meat, canned tuna or salmon, egg, cream cheese & jam, humus, cheese, leftover turkey, chicken, etc.
- ✓ hard-cooked egg

## School Council Updates

Our PPPS School Council is always looking for more members to join our group. It's a great way to be involved in your child's school and to have your ideas heard. We meet once monthly to discuss upcoming events and plans, as well as to hear suggestions on future directions for our school. Child care is available during each meeting, and there are always home-baked goodies too! Please join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, February 8th at 6:30 pm** in the library.

Here are some other things already in the works:

- We allocated the almost \$4,000 in profits from the chocolate bar campaign to fund new furniture for our Library/Learning Commons.
- We are planning a "Hollywood" theme Dance-a-thon for Fri., Feb. 24th
- We are promoting the "Canada, Eh?" theme for our annual Education Week open house on **Wed., May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday and Priory Park P.S.'s 40th birthday - complete with cake!
- We are planning a school-wide outdoor education trip in June as a birthday present to the Priory Park P.S. students, staff and parents.

Thanks so much for supporting Priory Park P.S. - stay tuned for further updates!

## Safety Drills

Each year, every school in Upper Grand D.S.B. practices emergency drills regularly - 3 fire drills in each of the spring and fall, 2 lockdown drills and 1 severe weather (tornado) drills. Please assist us by talking to your children about the importance of following directions during these drills to ensure safety, and by wearing shoes in the school at all times. Although we do try not to conduct outdoor drills in the winter months, wearing long sleeves ensures they are adequately prepared if an emergency drill is required. Thanks to our neighbours at St. Renee Goupil, we have reciprocal arrangements to use each other's buildings should an evacuation be required. We will be conducting a lockdown drill with the Guelph Police on **Tues., Apr. 4<sup>th</sup>**; teaching students safety precautions in case of dangerous situations.

## Your Help Please!

People can spread diseases when they cough or sneeze. To prevent the spreading of germs, know how to cover up to stop others from getting sick.

### Use a tissue!

1. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough, sneeze, or blow your nose.
2. Put your used tissue in the garbage.
3. Clean your hands after with soap and water or a hand sanitizer (minimum 60% to 90% alcohol)

**No tissue?** Cough or sneeze into your sleeve.



Here's why: If you cover your mouth or nose with your hands, you put germs on your hands. When you touch things, such as a keyboard or phone, you leave behind your germs. People who touch these surfaces pick up your germs.

## **Online Before and/or After School Survey Re-opened until February 10<sup>th</sup>**

The online Before & After School Survey has been reopened and will remain open for parents to complete until February 10th. Please copy and paste the following link into your internet browser to access the survey.

[https://docs.google.com/a/ugcloud.ca/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjWPnRmkL\\_IkeLnmbrijgMZYbZRQI9kEK8iETXh8BRXAoNlug/viewform](https://docs.google.com/a/ugcloud.ca/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjWPnRmkL_IkeLnmbrijgMZYbZRQI9kEK8iETXh8BRXAoNlug/viewform)

## **Live Free**

Help to support our Live Free Campaign that supports our Food & Friends student nutrition program by making a donation online (enter the link to your giving page) or sending a donation with your child/youth on March 3, 2017. Every dollar raised at our school/agency comes back to support our (enter your student nutrition program name). <http://www.childrensfoundation.org/downloads/positioning-statement.jpg>

### **Anita Macfarlane**

*Community Program Director*

*Food & Friends*

The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington

87 Waterloo Ave, Guelph, ON. N1H 3H6

519-826-9551 Ext.22

[www.childrensfoundation.org](http://www.childrensfoundation.org)

*The Children's Foundation is proud to have been listed in Financial Post Magazine as one of the "Top Children's Charities That Are Worth Your Money".*



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