

# Salem Public School

23 Woolwich Street, SS4, Elora, Ontario N0B 1S0

Principal: Kathy Gossling-Spears

Telephone: 519-846-5363

Office Coordinator: Dana Shantz

Fax: 519-846-8671

Website: [www.ugdsb.on.ca/salem](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/salem)

Twitter: @salemps

---

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The staff would like to thank Salem parents and community for supporting our school Read-A-Thon. We are just winding down with our activities. Pledge forms and donations are due by March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The money raised will go toward increasing the resources children have access to in the Learning Commons and throughout the school. The children and staff had a wonderful time participating in the reading activities over the two week fundraiser. Thank you to Mrs. Armstrong for organizing this fun annual event with an important focus on literacy.

One of the great things I have noticed recently is our students' desire to organize and run clubs for their peers. It is wonderful to see their initiative, organizational and planning skills come to life in a real world context. These clubs have started with our grade 2 students leading the way. We have had a friendship club, jewelry club, floor hockey club, colouring club and Pokémon club just to name a few. Our students are proud of their achievements and are committed to making our school inclusive and active based on student interest and need. I am very proud of them all. This is student voice at its best!



On Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> we will take part in the Live Free from Hunger Campaign. We are going to try something new this year by offering sloppy joes at second nutrition break. The students are asked to make a promise to live free of something they really enjoy for one day and to bring in a donation in support of the campaign. All money raised will come back directly to our snack program. Thank you for supporting Live Free from Hunger Campaign.

The March Break starts on March 13<sup>th</sup>. School resumes on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope that all of our students and families enjoy their March Break whether they will be at home or off on an adventure.

Kathy Gossling-Spears  
Principal

## REPORT CARDS

Please remember to sign and return the bottom portion of your child's report card in the envelope provided. The envelopes will be used again for the June report card.

## FIRE SAFETY AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS

During the next months we will be practicing our fire safety and lock down procedures. During these drills everyone in the school building is responsible for following the same procedures as the students and staff.

## INDOOR SHOES/EXTRA CLOTHES

This is just a reminder that children must be wearing indoor shoes at all times. In the event of an unscheduled Fire Drill, children must have shoes on. Additionally, given the changing weather it is always a good idea to have your children keep a change of socks, pants, shirt and mittens in their backpacks for a quick change if needed. Thank you.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATES

### LIVE FREE DAY

School Council will be encouraging students to take part in the Live Free from Hunger Campaign on Wed March 1<sup>st</sup>. We are going to be offering a Sloppy Joe lunch at the second nutrition break. Students are asked to make a promise to live free of something they really enjoy for one day and to bring a donation in support of the campaign. Donations can be brought in on Wednesday or made online at <http://www.livefreewdg.ca/donate>. Remember to select Salem PS as the recipient for your online donations. All money raised will come back to our snack program. Thank you in advance for supporting the Live Free from Hunger Campaign.

### DATES OF INTEREST

Thurs. Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> – Milk order forms coming home

Fri. Mar 10<sup>th</sup> – Milk order forms due

Fri. Mar 31<sup>st</sup> – Deadline for yearbook cover contest entry submission





## JOIN US ON MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> FOR SKATING AT THE ELORA ARENA

School Council is hosting skating at the Elora Arena on Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Students will be walking with their class to the arena and leaving half an hour prior to ice time. Parents are welcome to walk with the classes from the school or can meet at the arena.

Here is the on-ice schedule:

Grade 4-6 students will be on the ice from 10:00-11:00.

Grade 1/2 classes from 11:00-12:00

Grade 2/3 and 3/4 classes from 12:00-1:00.

**Students must have a CSA approved helmet in order to be on the ice.**



## DIGITAL SATURDAY

All parents in the UGDSB are invited to attend Digital Saturday, which will be hosted at JD Hogarth PS in Fergus.

See a variety of technology used in the UGDSB. Meet with Special Education staff to learn more about how they support all students. Discover the rich online digital resources available to your children from home and at school.

Presentations include: devices in our schools, Homework Help, Cospaces and Ozobot, Google Apps for Education, UG2GO, Coding in the Classroom, MIT App Inventor, Grandpals, Virtual Reality, SEA, and My Blueprint.

Digital Saturday is on March 25 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

**MONTHLY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES TO HELP CELEBRATE OUR PLANET**

**March 25<sup>th</sup> is Earth Hour!**

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



**Join the global Movement! Celebrate Earth Hour on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm.**

Earth Hour's mission is uniting people to protect the planet by raising awareness of about climate change and encouraging positive action.

*"Earth Hour was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007. Since then it has grown to engage more than 172 countries and territories worldwide."*

*Earth Hour is more than an event. It is a movement that has achieved massive environmental impact, including legislation changes by harnessing the power of the crowd."*

**Click [here](#) to see a short video clip of Earth Hour's story around the world and click [here](#) for highlights of 2015**

**Ideas for your family to do for Earth Hour!**

Earth Hour belongs to you. Celebrate your commitment to the planet with your friends, family, community or at work - in your own way.

A simple event can be just turning off all non-essential lights on March 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-9:30 pm. For one hour, focus on your commitment to our planet. To celebrate, you can:

- *prepare a candle lit dinner,*
- *talk to your neighbours, or invite people over*
- *stargaze, or go camping in your backyard*
- *play board games, or charades*
- *host a concert, or a sing-a-long*
- *create or join your own community event*
- *have an Earth Hour every month*

The possibilities are endless!

Quotes and information taken from: <https://www.earthhour.org/>



## Your Child's Hearing is Important!

Seventy-five percent of a child's day is spent listening; listening to complex language, directions and instructions which need to be comprehended. Being able to hear peers is important for developing social skills and friendships. That is why it is important that any hearing difficulty be discovered as soon as possible because even mild hearing loss can put a child at risk for academic and communication difficulties. **Audiologists** are experts who assess hearing sensitivity and functioning that provides a window into the language/listening parts of the brain. Since listening is a critical learning skill, test results can be helpful in planning a program of intervention. Students who wear hearing aids, cochlear implants, or use personal FM systems should routinely visit an Audiologist to have their equipment checked. If you suspect your child has difficulty with hearing or attention it is recommended that you have your child tested by an **Audiologist**. To find an Audiologist in your community, visit the website of the College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario ([www.CASLPO.com](http://www.CASLPO.com)) and click on "Find an Audiologist" and search for Private Practice. At UGDSB you can call 519-941-6191 ext. 231 for information.

## VISION HEALTH



If you suspect that your child is struggling with vision issues, there are several things that you can do. First, book an eye exam with an optometrist. Basic OHIP coverage for eye exams, is available free of charge, for children from birth to age 19. Speak with your child's teacher regarding your concerns and encourage your child to clearly express to the teacher the difficulties they are having (Are they having trouble seeing things on the board? Are they having trouble copying

information? Are they having trouble seeing the information in novels/textbooks/notebooks etc.?) There are a number of accommodations that can be made to quickly address potential problems, including seating closer to the board or larger print on computers or photocopies. You can also discuss with the classroom teacher or SERT the possibility of making a referral to one of the Vision Itinerant Teachers who provide support to your school.