



SIR ISAAC BROCK PUBLIC SCHOOL

111 Colonial Drive • Guelph, Ontario • N1L 1R3
Phone: 519-824-1442 FAX: 519-824-8500

Principal: Natasha Skerritt
Vice Principal: Kathy Soule

Office Co-ordinator: Diane Tyszka
Office Assistant: Jennifer Campagnolo

June 2017

Message from the office:

What an exciting and busy month of May we have had at SIB. The month began with Education week. Some highlights of the week included the opportunity to pair our school choir with the “Buddy Choir”, a choir from Kitchener area comprised of children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as our “Jump Rope for Heart Assembly and event. This month, our musical “Best Self, Best Work, Best World” was performed and enjoyed by students and families. Our Junior/ Intermediate students had the opportunity to participate in various educational experiences such as Skills Canada, Empowerment Day, Emergency Day of Preparedness and Rainbow Coalition. Our Intermediate band performed at Canada’s Wonderland. Our Junior students participated in a French Cultural event while our Intermediate students enjoyed the opportunity to participate in Café Ecole. Many of our students had the opportunity to head off on some very exciting field trips during May, including Kindergarten visit to farm, Grade 3 and 5 swimming, Grade 2 to Nature Centre and Special Olympics. June will also be a busy month with students taking part in Track and Field, Grade 6 students off to camp and various other field trips. Our first graduating class of Grade 8 students are getting excited about their trip to Quebec City and their upcoming graduation.

Throughout the year there have been many extra-curricular events available to our students at SIB. The hard work and dedication of the staff is what makes these possible. Thanks to all our staff for supporting all our students at SIB. Their commitment to the students is commendable.

Students will learn about next year’s class placement in the fall. On the first day of school, staff will be outside, with grade signs, and will find each of the students in their classes. They will ensure everyone is where they need to be before they head into the school to begin the new year. Each year there is always the chance that changes will need to occur. Our school often needs to reorganize as a result of the changing student population that occurs over the summer. This fluctuation can cause changes to occur to student placements during the second or third week of September.

Over the last month and during the next month, staff will put a great deal of time, energy and thought into developing class placements for the fall. Below are more details as to everything involved in class placements. We appreciate the professional judgment and decision making you entrust in us to make these decisions in the best interest of all our students.

We have two retiring staff members this year. We will say goodbye to Mrs. Whinfield who has done an excellent job in our Library/Learning Commons and to Mr. Cameron who has helped to keep our school safe and clean. We wish them a long and happy retirement!

As we head into our final month of this year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for an amazingly successful year at Sir Isaac Brock. We are both so very proud to be the administrators of SIB. We have an amazing community and we are thrilled to be a part of it. Hope to see you all at this year’s Family Fun Night on June 8th!

Natasha Skerritt & Kathy Soule



Student Placements

Who is teaching Grade ____? This is a popular question directed to staff and administration at this time of year. The planning process that will result in a school organization for the 2017-2018 school year began in April. The student placement task is complex, time consuming and because it is consensus seeking, can be the subject of many revisions. Our primary goal at Sir Isaac Brock is to develop balanced classes.

A balanced class allows the variety of interests and talents of our learners to emerge and be appreciated. Like your family, the class unit provides a balance of opportunities for a range of learners to succeed through appropriate challenges. The learner develops the feeling of belonging and the feeling that in a variety of ways, he/she makes a noticed contribution. Listed below are the criteria we use to build classes.

Balance of Ability, Interests and Talents

Balanced According to Gender

Learning Styles

How does the learner go about the process of learning? What kind of environment best allows that style to be utilized effectively?

Teacher's Style

How does a teacher go about the teaching/learning process? What kind of learners might flourish best with this teacher?

Social Blending

What is the best cluster of individuals to effectively and efficiently learn? This should not always be viewed as a grouping of friends.

Requests

Requests were to be received, via a letter with reasons to the office as of May 1st. Remember that your preference for a particular teacher or setting must be weighted against all other considerations. We have considered your feelings and wishes but can make no guarantees. The teaching staff is a dedicated group of professionals. Years of meeting the learning needs of children give them the unique qualifications to make these decisions. It takes hours of discussions, reflection, revision and consideration of alternatives to arrive at the best organization for our school. The best may not be perfect, but represents what we believe are the best chances for success.

SIB 2017 – 2018 School Day

8:40 – Start of the School Day
10:20 – 11:00 – Nutrition Break #1
12:40 – 1:20 – Nutrition Break #2
3:00 – End of the School Day

Combined Grade Classes – Answering Parents’ Questions

Information below is an excerpt from an Ontario Ministry of Education document titled “Combined Grades”. Additional Information can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/>

Parents often have questions about the placement of their children in classes. The following are some frequently asked questions about classes of combined grades.

Why do you have classes of combined grades?

Most classes of combined grades are created to accommodate students in a school where it is not possible to create only single-grade classes. For example, if there are thirty Grade 2 students, thirty Grade 3 students, and three teachers, the only way to organize the children into smaller classes is to combine some students from both grades in one class. Some schools, however, choose to create classes of combined grades, so that their students have the opportunity to gain the academic and socio-emotional benefits associated with such classes.

What are the benefits of placement in a class of combined grades?

There are many socio-emotional benefits for students who are in classes with students of various ages. For example, in such classes, peer interactions have been shown to be very positive; students have opportunities for greater development of social skills and cooperation skills; and students often develop a feeling of comfort and security, a positive self-concept, and a sense of satisfaction with their achievements. There are also significant opportunities for development of leadership skills and for learning from peers. In studies measuring academic achievement, students in classes of combined grades were found to perform as well as students in single grade classes.

Why was my child chosen to be in a class of combined grades?

When placing students in all classes, educators consider a variety of factors, including number of students, number of boys and girls, and students’ interests, strengths, needs, learning styles, motivation, work habits, emotional development, and linguistic, cultural, and social backgrounds.

Will the teacher have as much time for each child in a class of combined grades?

The amount of time for an individual student is not determined by the organization of classrooms by grade. In all classrooms, teachers employ a number of instructional strategies to address the needs of all students. On a daily basis, teachers work with large groups, small groups, and individual students.

How do teachers prepare for teaching classes of combined grades?

Teachers develop the knowledge and skills to effectively manage any classroom, including knowledge of curriculum resources and flexibility in planning. Teachers also learn about which instructional strategies work well with the students in their class while they teach, whether it is a single-grade class or a class of combined grades. As well, the Ministry of Education and the local district school board provide many professional learning opportunities for teachers on planning and instruction.

Will the child in the higher grade be sufficiently challenged?

Research has shown that there are no negative effects on academic achievement. Teachers design programs to challenge children at their appropriate academic level. In any given

classroom, students have diverse needs and interests, and teachers spend a great deal of time planning a program so that it addresses this range. Along with the academic studies, students also learn to work with a cross-section of other students, reinforcing social and leadership skills. Research suggests that this is an advantage.

Might the child in the lower grade be overwhelmed?

Teachers and principals are careful in selecting students who will be compatible in all classes. In any class, children show a range of development physically, emotionally, and academically. It is an advantage for younger children in a class of combined grades to have many people they can ask for help – both the teacher and older students. They may also benefit from being able to learn from older children who can model leadership and academic skills.

OFFICE HOURS

The school office will be closed from July 1 to August 30th. Ms Skerritt and Mrs. Soule will be working during the week of August 30th- September 1 with Mrs. Tyzska in the school office if you have questions going into the school year.

NUTRITION BREAK SUPERVISORS

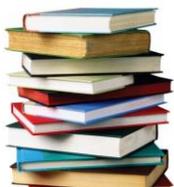
We continue to need regular and occasional supervisors for our nutrition breaks. If you can spare a minimum of an hour a day once a week please contact Mrs. Soule in the school office. This is a paid position and training will be provided.



MEDICATION



If you have medication for your child at school, please stop in before the end of June to take it home for the summer. In September, forms will once again need to be filled out to have medication administered at school. Thanks for your assistance.



CHECKING AT HOME

Please make a special effort to check at home for any school books, library books or patrol equipment. If you find anything hiding under the bed or behind the door, please return it to school so that we may complete our year-end inventory.

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!

The last day of school for the 2016-2017 school year is Thursday, June 29th, 2017. Students will be dismissed at their regular time on this day.

LOST AND FOUND

Please remember to check out our Lost and Found items before leaving at the end of June. Any unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity at the end of the last day of school.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

All of us here at SIB would like to thank our dedicated volunteers for all that they do to support our staff and students. Thanks so much for all that you do each and every day to make our school amazing.



YEAR END ASSEMBLIES

During the second last week of school (June 19th – 23th) we will be having morning assemblies/ talent shows starting at 9:00am. Students will be informed if they are performing on a certain day. We will hold graduation for our first graduating class of grade 8 students on June 27. On June 29, we will celebrate Canada's 150th Birthday by wearing red and white and having an assembly. A few year-end awards will be given out and we will celebrate the ending of another great school year. As always, parents are invited and welcome to attend our celebrations.

Special Olympics

Special Olympics athlete oath: "Let me win – but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

On Wednesday, May 17th staff and students from across the school district came together for a day to celebrate diversity and perseverance. More than 600 athletes from the Upper Grand and Wellington Catholic District School Boards were at St. James Catholic High School in Guelph for the annual Special Olympics Track and Field Day.

Now in its 16th year, the track meet has grown to one of its largest and most successful in the area. In addition to the 616 athletes from 67 schools in attendance, this year's track meet was also attended by 555 peer coaches, 448 staff members and more than 100 volunteers. Students and their peer coaches spent the day in the sun, enjoying companionship and friendly competition in events including standing long jump, running long jump, softball throw, seated softball throw and the 25, 50 and 100m dash.

The annual track and field day is made possible by the hard work of the organizing committee, Special Olympics Ontario, the City of Guelph, Community Living Guelph/Wellington, the Guelph Police Service and many volunteers.

Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet



June 5th is World Environment Day!

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

Celebrate World Environment Day on June 5th!

A Platform for Action- *World Environment Day is the United Nations' most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment and is widely celebrated in over 100 countries.*



<http://worldenvironmentday.global/en>

This year's theme - *Reconnecting you to nature!*

On 5 June, go outside and show us that you're #WithNature. Breathe in the beauty and remember that by keeping our planet healthy, we keep ourselves healthy too.

This year Canada is the host country! *Every World Environment Day has a different global host country, where the official celebrations take place. This year's slogan is: "I'm with Nature". Canada is issuing passes giving everyone free entry to all its National Parks for the whole of 2017 as part of its 150th Anniversary celebrations. Be sure to visit a park this year!*

<http://worldenvironmentday.global/en/about/what-is-it>

Ideas for your family to celebrate World Environment Day!

- **Create an event for family, friends and neighbours** - *There is no end of ideas that you could take forward for World Environment Day. Surprise yourself! Think about ideas that we can do to help the planet like fixing a problem in your community.*
- **Get out into nature** - *World Environment Day is all about appreciating the beautiful planet we inhabit. Why not spend a day in a park, hiking a trail or appreciating a forest on the weekend before World Environment Day.*
- **Inspire others** – *A great idea will naturally attract others who can take a small idea and make it extraordinary. So, with your powers of persuasion, bring on board the people you think can make your idea awesome. Or ask everyone to make their own personal pledge to change one wasteful or harmful habit for the better. Share what you're doing using the hashtag: #WorldEnvironmentDay*
- **Have fun:** *Make your event for World Environment Day fun, inspiring and interesting. For example, Google events happening locally that you can attend, or check out Pinterest for fun, recycled crafts ideas.*

<http://worldenvironmentday.global/en/toolkits#event-kits>

Transition Plans for Students with Special Needs

Spring has sprung and it's a great time to be reviewing your child's transition plans.

Students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) must have a transition plan, whether or not they have been identified as an exceptional student. A transition plan includes goals for ensuring successful transitions, and the actions for meeting those goals. It is required if a student may need support making any transition, which may include entering, during, or leaving school. A plan to support the student must be developed as part of the student's IEP.

Some transition goals may help with changes throughout the day, such as moving from recess to the classroom, while other goals may assist with larger transitions, such as moving from one school to another or changing grades/teachers within the same school setting.

For many students, the supports provided to the whole class are all they need to have a successful transition, which means they may not need an individualized transition plan on their IEP at this time.

When planning for any transition, the student's strengths and needs are considered, as well as their physical, emotional, and learning needs.

Please communicate with your child's teacher if you feel additional transition supports are required on his/her IEP.

Talking About Mental Health June 2017 – Successfully Shifting from School to Summer

It is an exciting time of the year. The weather is getting warmer, days are getting longer and summer is just around the corner. School is wrapping up and it is time to think about how to have a good transition from school routines to summer vacation.

The shift from school year to summer break is easy for some, but more challenging for others, particularly those children and youth who experience anxiety or have difficulty with transitions.

A good transition to summer is important and can lead to a more positive, fun summer experience.

Here are some practical tips to make a smooth transition from school to summer:

Post the summer schedule. Have your child or youth contribute to a family calendar. Be sure to note blocks of unscheduled time as well.

Make a list of places and people to visit when time permits and the mood strikes. Summer is a good time to stop by the library, bike trail, or concert-in-the-park that you can't seem to get to during the school year.

Revamp – but don't eliminate – your child's daily routine. A daily routine gives most kids a sense of structure and security.

Prepare your child for their scheduled activities. If possible, visit the locations where they will be during day camp or day care in advance. Have your child talk to counselors, caregivers, as well as other kids who have enjoyed those same situations and settings.

Get outside and enjoy the summer. Try to limit the amount of time online, watching TV, or playing video games. Be active and get plenty of sleep and exercise. Being outside, such as going for a walk or playing in the park elevates our mood and makes us feel less anxious.

Looking for Activities To Do:

<http://www.orangeville.ca/parks-and-recreation>

<http://guelph.ca/living/recreation/recreation-programs/>

<https://www.centrewellington.ca/beactive/Pages/Recreation,%20Parks%20and%20Facilities/Community-Guide.aspx>

<http://wellington-north.com/government/departments/recreation>

Hope you have a wonderful, relaxing, fun summer. However, if you find mental health challenges to be increasing or causing more difficulties over the summer, seek out mental health or addiction supports for your child/youth, you and your family.

Summer resources for Mental Health and Addiction supports:

Your family physician and family health teams in Guelph, Wellington, and Dufferin are excellent resources.

Canadian Mental Health Association WWD (CMHAWWD):

Tuesday Walk In - 1:30-7:00, 485 Silvercreek Parkway, Guelph.

To access services for Children, Youth and Adults in Guelph/Wellington: : 1 844 HERE 247

(1 844 437 3247)

<http://here247.ca/>

Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS):

Tuesday Talk In – 1:00-7:00 pm, 655 Riddell Road, Orangeville.

To access services for Children and Youth in Dufferin: 519 941 1530.

<http://dcafs.on.ca/>

Family Counselling and Support Services:

Walk-in, Wednesday, 1-7, sliding scale, based on ability to pay, but will not turn anyone away. 109 Surrey St E, 519 824-2431.

<http://familyserviceguelph.on.ca/>

KidsHelpPhone 1 800 668 6868. <http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/>

Dr. Lynn Woodford is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board

Follow me on twitter: @drlynnwoodford