



Taylor Evans Public School

271 Stephanie Dr., Guelph, Ont. N1K 1T1 • Tel. (519) 766-4544 Fax (519) 766-4553

SEPTEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Another school year has started. The staff here at Taylor Evans Public School hopes that everyone had a pleasant and relaxing summer. We are looking forward to a rewarding year of learning and hope that you are as well.

If you are new to our school family, we extend a warm welcome and encourage you to become actively involved in the activities that are available. We invite all parents to become involved in the education of your children. School Council welcomes new members, and volunteering in the classroom and/or library is encouraged.

Open and ongoing communication between home and school is very important for student success. I value an "open door" approach and heartily welcome your input and suggestions. Together, we can provide the children with the best education possible.

The Taylor Evans Community is extremely fortunate to have such committed and caring individuals, working together to provide quality programs and activities to meet the educational needs of all students. If you have any questions regarding policies or programs, please feel free to contact your child's teacher, Mrs. Priest, Mr. Dickieson or myself. We look forward to working with you.

Please note that our next newsletter will be sent electronically only. Please sign up for it at: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/tevals/> A hard copy can be obtained by request from the classroom teacher. A reminder sticker will be placed in each child's agenda each month.

Farhan Hussain
Principal



SCHOOL COUNCIL

The first School Council meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 15th: 7-8 p.m.** The night will consist of a Meet and Greet followed by elections.

We welcome anyone who would like to come and see what council is about.

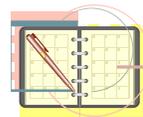
Every year your child's life is enriched with support that your School Council brings to Taylor Evans. For those individuals that make up School Council, their lives are enriched too, knowing that with a little support and effort they are contributing to the success of the Taylor Evans Public School community.



OPEN HOUSE/MEET THE TEACHER

Thursday, September 29th, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m. *More information to follow.*

AGENDAS



Your child will be receiving an agenda the first day of school. Please support the use of agendas by sending \$7.00 with your child as soon as possible.

SEAC MEETING

The Special Education Advisory Committee meets: **Wednesday, September 14th, 2016: 7:00 p.m.** Located at the Board Office in Guelph.



STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION



As has been the case for the past several years, our school staffing numbers and classroom organization have been created as part of the entire

Upper Grand system. Our school student population and classroom organization will be looked at by a school board level staffing committee the first week of September. Once this is completed there may be a need to reorganize our classes if there are significant changes from what was expected in June (i.e., due to an increase or decrease in enrolment). Please be assured that if we need to reorganize, it will be done as soon as possible and teachers will use their professional judgment in determining the makeup of new classes based on student needs. We will inform all affected students/families as soon as possible and we will endeavor to make the change as smooth as possible for everyone.



FORMS

Later this week your child will be bringing home a variety of forms that will require your attention.

- **White Verification form:** Please ensure it is accurate and complete. **Make changes as necessary, sign it, date it and return it to your child's home room teacher as soon as possible.**
- **Yellow Lunch permission form:** Please indicate your choice for your child (whether they will be remaining at school or leaving the property during 2nd nutrition break.) Please **sign** this form and return it to your child's home room teacher promptly.
- **Grey Consent to Share Personal Information:** Please carefully read the forms. If you **do consent** to the conditions on the form, specifically the school using school/classroom websites and social media to share videos, pictures and student work with your family online, please check the appropriate box marked "YES". If you **do not consent** to the conditions, please check the box marked "NO". This form must be signed and returned to your child's home room teacher promptly. Please refer to the back of the consent form for further clarification.

Once again, a Student Accident Insurance program is being offered to parents. The Board does not provide student accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen.

Under the Education Act, the Board is empowered to make available an Accident and Life Insurance Program for students. Participation in such a program is voluntary and the costs are paid by the parent/guardian. For your convenience, the Board has arranged a Student Accident Insurance Policy through Reliable Life Insurance Company.

Please review the package and instructions carefully when it is sent home in the next week.



Please send a copy of the Student Accident Insurance Acknowledgment form back to your child's teacher to indicate whether your child will be participating in this program. Student Accident Insurance is

especially valuable for today's active children.

PEANUT/NUT ALERT

We have several students in the school who have allergies to peanuts and/or nut products. For some of these students contact with peanuts/nuts can be life threatening. We request that parents avoid sending peanut/nut products to school, out of consideration for these children with allergies.



In addition, there may be other allergies that affect certain students in the school. We will endeavour to let families know of these circumstances on a class by class basis.

ASTHMA/LIFE THREATENING PLANS

Each year we compile a list of students who have asthma or a potentially life-threatening medical condition. If your child is considered to be one of these students please contact Mr. Dickieson (519-766-4544 ext 224) so that a plan can be developed in case of emergency.

SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY

For the safety of all, skateboards, roller blades, scooters and wheel shoes are not allowed on school property or buses. Please keep these items at home.

BICYCLES

Students are welcome to ride their bikes to school. A bike rack is provided at the front of the school. Students **MUST** wear helmets and are strongly encouraged to lock their bikes to the rack. Please walk your bike off school property.



CARPOOLERS



Walking to school is the best choice! We kindly ask that ALL students who are able, walk to school. It is our goal to have as many students walk as possible, just for the health of it! If you choose to become a Taylor Evans Car pooler please note the following:

- *you agree to drop-off 3 (three) or more Taylor Evans Public School students.
- *drop-off only in the am - NO pick up at dismissal time.
- *use only the drive through lane and not the bus lane.
- *kiss and ride - do not leave your vehicle.

Car pool passes may be picked up in the office.

SCHOOL VOICE MAIL

Each staff member has a voice mailbox and the school has a general voice mailbox which directs calls to the office staff. Please follow the instructions of the automated voice attendant to gain access to a particular voice mailbox.

The expectation is that staff check their voice messages only once/day, as they do not have immediate access to phones. **DO NOT** leave attendance, emergency or time sensitive information in voice mailboxes.

IS YOUR CHILD GOING TO BE ABSENT OR LATE?

Taylor Evans Public School operates a **SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM** for all students. Please contact the school prior to 8:15am if your child is going to be absent or late for school. If you know of an absence ahead of time you are welcome to inform the office at your earliest convenience. We have a voice mail system - please leave your attendance messages in the general voice mailbox, ext 100. **Please do not leave attendance messages in staff voice mail boxes.**



Our Contact Number is: **519-766-4544, ext 100 or Press "0"**

PARKING

Please note that we continue with our well established parking/access control procedures.

*Orange pylons will be placed at the entrance to school property during the day. School Board staff, buses, taxis, carpoolers and special pass vehicles have access to the property at these times.

*Obey all traffic signs and use only authorized street parking areas - waiting in a no stopping zone puts children at risk.

*When parking or stopping on school property, please respect reserved and handicapped parking spots, no stopping zones, fire routes and bus lanes.



*Do not leave vehicles unattended except in authorized parking spots.

*Use designated crosswalks only - set the example for your child and others.

All but about 15 students are within walking distance of the school - let your children walk to school - **GREAT EXERCISE and FRESH AIR!**

PIZZA

(Pepperoni and Plain Cheese)



We will have Pizza days on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All sales will be cash sales on the pizza day; only \$1.50/slice. All money raised will be used to support student needs at the school such as trips, supplies, special equipment and events.

First Pizza Day: Tuesday, September 13th, 2016

BYOD



Parents/students please make a cooperative decision about their child bringing technology to school. Laptops, tablets and hand-held devices are allowed within classrooms, for educational use only. These electronic devices are not allowed in areas that are not directly supervised, such as the hallway, school yard, washrooms and the lunchroom.

Please review the school Code of Conduct, Use of Technology section for more information.



TERRY FOX SCHOOL WALK

Taylor Evans Public School will be participating in the annual Terry Fox Walk for cancer research on **Wednesday, September 28th, 2016**. Parents/Guardians are more than welcome to join their child at this event. More information to come.

VOLUNTEERING OR VISITING THE SCHOOL

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated at Taylor Evans P.S. Regular volunteers require a current police check. Training for volunteers will be provided. Please contact Mr. Dickieson (519-766-4544 ext. 224) if you are interested in volunteering and to fill out the required volunteer form.

Please remember to enter **only** by the front door, sign in at the office and pick up your volunteer/visitor badge.

ENTRY AND DISMISSAL

During these times our hallways are very busy places. Lockers, coats hooks, book bags, winter boots, snow suits, projects etc. fill our hallways. We ask that parents drop-off/pickup their child(ren) **outside** the school building. Staff are in the hallways in order to assist and welcome/send off students. Thank you for your cooperation.

TAYLOR EVANS EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

Please visit our school website and **SUBSCRIBE** to receive email notifications from Taylor Evans P.S. Visit: <https://webapps.ugdsb.on.ca/casl>



Our board has a wonderful resource for all of our students that can be accessed 24/7 from school or from home. It's called UG2GO and includes Learn360 (educational video streaming), Student Link (a site children use at school that gives them access to web sites that are kid friendly and relate directly to their current units of study), Tumblebooks (a site that has hundreds of books children can click on and have read to them), Overdrive (eBooks and audiobooks), and much more.

When students are at home they can go to this URL: <https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go>

They will be prompted to enter the same Windows username and password that they use at school to get onto the school network. Once they enter their Windows username/password they will enter the site and they can then click on any of the resources and be taken directly to the individual resource without the need for any additional passwords.

Please take a few minutes to explore the site with your child. It is an important tool that will aid them in their education, and may make your life easier when it comes to homework and projects. We are excited that students will be able to access information from anywhere and at anytime in this information age!

U.G.D.S.B PARENT INVOLEMENT COMMITTEE

The Board's Parent Involvement Committee is always looking for new participants. The term of office for members is one or two years. You don't need to be on a school council to be selected, just fill in an application form from the Board's website: www.ugdsb.on.ca. Then bring it to the first **PIC** meeting – open to all parents, not just if you want to apply for a position – **Monday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m.** at the Guelph Board office.

Join PIC for dessert and the first meeting of the school year and find out how you can make a difference in education at the Board level!

SCHOOL DAY

8:35 am - 10:15 am:	Instructional Time
10:15 am - 10:55 am:	1 st Nutrition Break
10:55 am - 12:35 pm:	Instructional Time
12:35 pm - 1:15 pm:	2 nd Nutritional Break
1:15 pm - 2:55 pm:	Instructional Time
2:55 pm:	Dismissal

International Walk to School Day October 5th

International Walk to School month (IWALK) is an annual global event taking place each October. It celebrates active transportation and its benefits such as: increasing physical activity, decreasing traffic congestion, improving safety, developing a sense of community, promoting social interaction, and preserving the environment.

IWALK week is October 3-7 or Walk/wheel to school all month!

Public Health



It is important to keep your child's immunization records up-to-date with Public Health. Students who do not have up-to-date immunization records, may be suspended from school. Please report your child's immunizations to Public Health by calling 1-800-265-7293 ext.4396.

ANTI-BULLYING MONTHLY **MESSAGE AT TEPS**

In an equitable and inclusive school climate, all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable, and accepted. Staff and students value diversity and demonstrate respect for others and a commitment to establishing a just, caring society. An equitable, inclusive education system encourages and enables all students to learn and to fulfill their potential.

Staff will:

Closely supervise students in all of the school and school grounds

Students will:

Treat each other respectfully

Parents will:

Model positive ways of getting along with others



TAYLOR EVANS STAFF - 2016/2017

I am proud to introduce our staff for the 2016/2017 school year:

- **Principal** - Farhan Hussain
- **Vice-Principal** - Tim Dickieson
- **Office Staff** - Marilyn Priest
- Melinda Rice
- **KA** - Meaghan Jones & Jennie Kidd
- **KB** - Carolyn Perrett & Debbie Hasson
- **KC** - Erin Fennema & Stacey Houle
- **1B** - Kathy Sickle
- **1C** - Kim Kelterborn
- **1/2A** - Cathie Moynihan
- **2/3B** - Jacqueline Coniglio
- **2/3C** - Melanie Stevens
- **3A** - Kal Marshall
- **4B** - Robyn Tavascia
- **4/5A** - Tara Kelly
- **5B** - Marcy Dubuc
- **6B** - Rick Morrow
- **6/7A** - Heather Vandahl
- **7C** - Melissa Roth
- **7/8B** - William van der Valk
- **8A** - Lindsey Tremblay
- **Special Education** - Leta Vos

- **Core French** - Lisa Faieta & Teri Sambol
- **Planning Teachers** - Cindy Brown-Leigh, Eilish Riccio, Lisa Faieta, Laurie Garbutt, & Andrea Yurkiw
- **Library** - Susan Vaz
- **Resource** - Jane Ormond, Melissa Roth & Julie Goodwin

- **Educational Assistants** - Tammy Allen, Christine Corner, April Elmes, Kim McCabe, Lindsay Skidmore, Zdenka Uddin & Glenda Willoughby
- **CYC** - Sandy Beedie
- **ESL** - Meredith Grant & Katerina Bowden
- **Custodian** - Marcela Bota



September, 2016

Message from the Human Resources Department

Re: School Organizations

Schools have built class lists based on their tentative organizations. Changes may be necessary at your child(ren)'s school in order that our Board remain compliant with Ministry parameters (see below). Any changes would be implemented by Monday, September 19th. Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed by the school.

Ministry of Education Parameters

- Full Day Kindergarten Class Size Average for the Board is 26 students
- 90% of the Board's primary classes with 20 or fewer students
- 10% of the Board's primary classes up to a maximum of 23 students
- Grade 3/4 classes have a cap of 23 students
- Junior/Intermediate Class Size Average for the Board is 25.2 students to 1 teacher



Taylor Evans Public School

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Taylor Evans PS Anaphylactic Management Plan

Overview

At Taylor Evans PS we recognize that students can be at risk for potentially life-threatening allergies. Some children are at risk for insect sting allergy, while many are allergic to food. Food-allergic individuals can experience a life-threatening reaction from ingesting a very small amount of their allergen. Exposure through skin contact or inhalation can also cause allergic reactions. Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction that can be caused by foods, insect stings, medications, latex or other substances. While anaphylaxis can lead to death if untreated, anaphylactic reactions and fatalities can be avoided. Education and awareness are key to keeping students with potentially life-threatening allergies safe.

Our school Anaphylactic Management Plan (based on UGDSB Policy 507) is designed to ensure that children at risk are identified, strategies are in place to minimize the potential for accidental exposure, and staff and key volunteers are trained to respond in an emergency situation.

Identification of Students at Risk

At the time of registration, parents are asked about medical conditions, including whether children are at risk of anaphylaxis and asthma. In addition, parents are reminded in the first school newsletter to make the office aware of any serious medical concerns.

It is the responsibility of the parent to:

- Inform the school principal of their child's allergy and provide them with appropriate medication to be kept at the school.
- In a timely manner, complete and return the *Life-Threatening Management and Prevention Plan*, (UGDSB Policy Form 509-3) which is reviewed annually. The plan includes a photograph, student information including contact information, medical information, an emergency action plan, and signed consent to share and post this information and for staff to execute the plan.
- Advise the school of any updates or changes to the plan, including if their child has outgrown an allergy or no longer requires an epinephrine auto-injector.
- Have their child wear medical identification (e.g. MedicAlert® bracelet). The identification could alert others to the child's allergies and indicate that the child carries an epinephrine auto-injector. Information accessed through a special number on the identification jewellery can also assist the local emergency medical services to access important information quickly.

Availability and Location of Plans and Epinephrine Auto-Injectors (E.G. EPIPEN)

The *Life-Threatening Management and Prevention Plans* for all students will be displayed in key areas such as in the staff room (bulletin board), the teacher's daybook, yard duty clipboards, and in the medication room in the office

UGDSB Policy 507 states that "all anaphylactic students should carry an epinephrine auto-injector with them at all times." In addition, schools will "ask parents to provide, where possible, at least one additional epinephrine auto-injector where it will be stored in a readily accessible location in the school." On field trips, students will carry their own EpiPens, and staff will carry the additional one.

Emergency Protocol

The following is a general emergency protocol for anaphylactic reactions. A student's personalized *Life-Threatening Management and Prevention Plan* should always be checked for more specific instructions.

1. **Give epinephrine auto-injector** (e.g. EpiPen) at the first sign of a known or suspected anaphylactic reaction
2. **Call 9-1-1.** Tell them someone is having a life-threatening allergic reaction.
3. **Call emergency contact person** (e.g. parent, guardian).

4. **Give a second dose** of epinephrine in 5 to 15 minutes if the reaction continues or worsens and advised to do so by medical personnel or parent.

5. **Go to the nearest hospital immediately (ideally by ambulance)**, even if symptoms are mild or have stopped. The reaction could worsen or come back, even after proper treatment.

Notes:

- An adult should stay with the child at all times.
- It is important to note the time of administration of the first epinephrine auto-injector so that you know how long it has been since the child received the first dose of epinephrine.

Training

- Staff will be given training each year which includes an overview of anaphylaxis, signs and symptoms and a demonstration on the use of epinephrine. Staff will have an opportunity to practice using an auto injector trainer (device used for training purposes) and are encouraged to practice with the auto-injector trainer throughout the year, especially if they have a student at risk in their class.
- Substitute teachers will be directed to review the *Life-Threatening Management and Prevention Plan* for children in their class.
- Posters which describe signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis and how to administer an epinephrine auto injector will be placed in relevant areas (e.g., office medication room, staff room and in the emergency procedures binder located in every classroom).

Creating an Allergy-Safe School Environment

Given that anaphylaxis can be triggered by minute amounts of an allergen when ingested, children with food allergy are encouraged to follow certain guidelines:

- Eat only food that they have brought from home unless it is packaged, clearly labelled and approved by their parents. No sharing of food, utensils or containers
- Wash hands before and after eating.
- Place food on a napkin or wax paper rather than in direct contact with a desk or table.

The school community is supportive of the concerns of students with life threatening allergies and while no guarantee can be made that contact with allergens will never occur, special care is taken to decrease the chances of accidental exposure. Taylor Evans PS advises parents in newsletter and in the Family Handbook that nut or nut products or imitation nut products are not allowed at school. Teachers are to inform parents if highly allergic students are in their class and to remind them which foods can be safely brought into their classrooms/school/.

No school-initiated treat days, fundraisers or snack programs contain foods with nut or nut products. We strive to reduce the risks and make student safety a priority with these important measures.

Parts Adapted from: *Anaphylaxis Canada - School Anaphylaxis Plan*

FSLAC September 2016

The UGDSB is establishing a French Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC). The Committee will serve in an advisory role and make recommendations with respect to the FSL Action Plan and the French Immersion JK Registration Process for 2017 and beyond.

Eleven Committee members will be selected from all areas of the Board, and will be parents of current elementary or secondary FSL students in either French Immersion or Core French programs. Interested parents may forward an application to Superintendent Tracey Lindsay which includes the following:

1. A statement explaining why they are interested in serving on the FSLAC.
2. The current grade their children are in, in what FSL programs and attending which school.
3. A brief outline of your school and/or community volunteer experiences.

Applications may be emailed to Tracey Lindsay at tracey.lindsay@ugdsb.on.ca.

Back to School Blues

Although for many there is excitement and anticipation about going back to school, for some children transitioning back in September can be tough. Moving into a new classroom, having new teachers, new friends and classmates, and new schedules can all bring about a feeling of stress. The angst children feel, questions they ask, and worries they express about these changes are normal. Sometimes it can be the smallest detail that can be the most worrisome for children. As a parent, you may not know what to do about these butterflies, stomach aches or tears. For some of us, it may intensify our own stress. Here are a few things you might try the first few weeks into the new school year.

1. Listen carefully to your children and hear their concerns.
2. Remind them of previous times when they felt anxious, and discuss the strategies they used that helped make the situation better.
3. Review the daily routines they are experiencing at school, and what after school time and weekends look like.
4. Make a list of the things they like about school.
5. Remind them of all the things they are good at.
6. Ask about their friends.
7. Be patient and positive. You may need to have these conversations daily.

As a parent in our school, please know that you can always contact us if your child's worries persist. We are here to support your child's wellbeing and achievement, and getting off to a great start in September will help us all achieve just that!

The Benefits of Making Mistakes

As the new school year begins, there is one quote that educators wish that all students would consider they enter their new classrooms, "making mistakes is part of life—and a really big part of growing up. It's how you learn who you want to be" (<http://talkingtreebooks.com/quotes/quote-making-mistakes.html>). As adults, we understand that making mistakes is an important part of life, however, students sometimes struggle to see the benefits of their errors.

One of the ways that we, the adults in children's lives, can support youngsters is to be open about the mistakes that we make and share with students how we take responsibility for our errors. It is important that children see that everyone makes mistakes and that mistakes are a valuable part of our lives due to the fact that they encourage brain development. Researcher, Jo Boaler, states in her book *Mathematical Mindsets* (p. 12) when the brain is challenged and mistakes are made, that is the time when "the brain grows the most."

When students are taught about the importance of mistakes, it can have a positive impact on their lives. New York Times author, Peter Sims, identified the following habits of successful people:

1. They feel comfortable being wrong.
2. They try new ideas.
3. They are open to different experiences.
4. They try out ideas without judging them.
5. They are willing to go against the crowd.
6. They do not give up when things get hard.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all of our students followed these ideas?

It would be wonderful if students believed that every time they entered school they were going to a place where they were going to make mistakes that will help them grow and learn. It is vital that we understand that learning means not being afraid to examine the mistakes that we all make. It would be great if children remember this quote from former President of the United States, Bill Clinton, "[everyone] will make mistakes. But if you learn from them, you'll be a better person. It's how you handle adversity, not how it affects you. The main thing is never quit, never quit, never quit." "UGDSB Program Department

Talking About Mental Health Sept 2016

Keeping Your Cool as You Head Back to School

Hope that you had a good summer and enjoyed some fun, relaxation and down time. As the children and youth get ready to head back to school, it is important to plan a mentally healthy school year. Some simple steps will help to make this year more positive and less stressful.

1. Start Each Day With A Positive Thought

- a. "Today is going to be a good day"
- b. "I am going to have a good day"
- c. "I can do this"
- d. "I have what it takes"
- e. "I feel happy"
- f. "I am strong"

2. Practice Relaxation

- a. Start the day with some body stretches.
- b. Take three deep breaths each time you go through a doorway.
- c. Be present: Notice 3 things you can see, hear and touch.
- d. Tense and relax your muscles, releasing tension in your body.
- e. Imagine a place that makes you feel relaxed.

3. Take Breaks Before You Are Stressed

- a. Walk to school.
- b. Get outside at lunch or breaks.
- c. Listen to music to relax.
- d. Eat a good breakfast and lunch.
- e. Hang out with your friends
- f. Think of 3 things you are grateful for.

4. Seek Support

- a. Talk to your family or friends.
- b. At elementary school, talk to a teacher, principal, or child & youth counselor (CYC).
- c. At high school, talk to a teacher, principal, VP, guidance, student success, social worker, CYC, or nurse.
- d. Call KidsHelpPhone 1 800 668 6868. <http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/>
- e. Talk to your family doctor.
- f. Contact community mental health services:

Canadian Mental Health Association WW (CMHAWW):

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 Counseling 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 & 400 Tower Street, Fergus (opening Sept 1, 2016).
<http://familyserviceguelph.on.ca/>

Have a wonderful and mentally healthy school year!

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

Follow me on twitter: @drlynnwoodford

Reminder for parents: Accidents happen - be prepared with

Student Accident Insurance

Parents or guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial Health Care or employer group insurance plans.

The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under *The Education Act* to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students.

Information has been sent home with respect to Student Accident Insurance offered by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. You should receive the Director's letter, an Acknowledgment to be signed by parents (and returned to school) and a Student Accident Insurance application form (to be mailed directly to Old Republic). Old Republic offers a variety of options, including family rates and multi-year plans, at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by parents or guardians.

Subscription is directly through Old Republic by mail or on line. Questions should be directed to Old Republic at 1-800-463-5437 or www.insuremykids.com.

For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable.

Board News

"The Upper Grand District School Board is working with local police services and school boards to update our shared protocol, which defines the working relationship between police and schools. Your feedback is wanted! From now until Sept. 30, we're welcoming members of the public to review the draft protocol and provide their input. For more information and to review the draft protocol, [visit the board website.](#)"

Feedback welcome on draft policies and protocols

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review are Public Concerns #215 (closing Sept. 27) and the Police / School Board Protocol for the Investigation of School-Related Occurrences (closing Sept. 30). You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy.



Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet

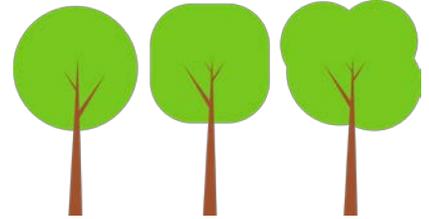
SEPTEMBER 21ST IS NATIONAL TREE DAY!

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

Celebrate National Tree Day on September 21st2016!

“National Tree Day will serve as a celebration for all Canadians to appreciate the great benefits that trees provide us - clean air, wildlife habitat, reducing energy demand and connecting with nature.”

<http://www.nationaltreeday.ca/>



“Children today spend less time outdoors than any generation in human history.” <http://getbackoutside.ca/>

“For children, studies show that time outdoors, especially unstructured time in more natural settings, can increase curiosity, creativity and problem solving ability. It also improves their physical fitness and coordination.”

<http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/>

Some great activities for your family to do on Tree Day, or any day!

- Read a book on trees: *The Lorax*, by Dr. Seuss; *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein; *What Good Is a Tree* by Larry Dane Brimner; *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry
- Learn the names of the trees in your backyard or neighbourhood
- Do tree art – e.g., a leaf collage, or leaf/bark pencil rubbing art, or tree photography
- Create a tree book: "adopt" a favourite tree, name it and throughout the year record and examine its characteristics and the changes that it goes through.
- Organize a Tree Walk game - Look for trees that are: the tallest, oldest, has the widest trunk, has the largest leaf, is the most prickly, etc.
- Research all the great forest hiking trails in your area and pick one to try out.
- Hold a Tree Day birthday party with your family, friends, neighbours or community! Serve tree-shaped foods! (*Find lots of ideas on Pinterest.*)

For more ideas:

- ✓ Join the **30x30 Nature Challenge**: If you want to feel healthier, happier and more focused - add a daily dose of nature to your routine! Find out more at <http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/>

Do a Google search: “What to do on a nature walk” or “Arbour Day activities”