

# Victoria Cross Public School Newsletter

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## June 2016

### Busy Times at Victoria Cross

What a busy time of the year. We look forward to many events in June and ask that you pay close attention to the upcoming dates. Just a reminder of the PD day on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> as well as the final PD day on Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### Dates to Note

Wednesday June 1	EQAO Gr. 6
June 2, 6 and 7 <sup>th</sup>	EQAO Gr. 3
Friday June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	PD Day
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Gr. 6 trip
Monday June 6, 7, 8	Camp Brebeuf
Thursday June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Int. Track and Field
Friday June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Volunteer Breakfast
Friday June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Gr. 5/6 and 6 Green Legacy
Tuesday June 14, 15, 16, 17	Gr. 8 Trip
Tuesday June 14	Gr. 3 Toronto Trip
Tuesday June 14 <sup>th</sup>	School Council
Wednesday June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Hydro Presentations
Tuesday June 21	Junior Track & Field
Wednesday June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Jr. Three Pitch
Wednesday June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Kindergarten Trip
Tuesday June 28	Graduation
Wednesday June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of School
Wednesday June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Awards Assembly 9 a.m.
Thursday June 30 <sup>th</sup>	PD Day

### SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATES

School Council thanks our fabulous volunteers for their support and efforts over the past year. Your efforts help enrich our children's school experience. Our final meeting is on Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup> – we will be electing our executive for the upcoming academic year at this meeting.

This year, school council has undertaken a major push to reach our inclusive playground fundraising goal. We are now at almost \$22,000.00 and have a number of ongoing fundraisers bringing us closer to our goal of \$40,000.00. We hope to reach our goal by the end of August.

Last summer, school council and community volunteers performed sanitation detail at the Holstein Rodeo and Expo. We earned a net of \$5600 over 3 days. And just as important, our volunteers enjoyed themselves while helping to bring the inclusive playground closer to reality. It's a chance to enjoy the rodeo and connect with other members of our school community. **Kids are welcome – we have our own station away from the crowd.** Please consider helping out with a 4 hour shift at this year's rodeo which takes place July 1 – 3. If you would like more information, please contact Axy Leighl at (519)665-7440 or [ajsleigh1@gmail.com](mailto:ajsleigh1@gmail.com).

## **Looking for Library Books!**

The library is in clean up mode. Library books are due back by June 10th.

## **Grade 8 Graduation Evening**

The graduating "Class of 2016" celebration will be held on Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m in our gymnasium. Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for more details.

## **Student Recognition Assembly**

Our year end assembly will be held on Wednesday, June 29, 9:00 a.m. Please feel free to join us.

## **Track and Field Results**

We recently held our Victoria Cross Track and Field event. The County Meet for grade 7 and 8 students will be here on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The County Meet for grades 4-6 will be here on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Congratulations to the following top performers at our meet:

Grade 4 Girls – Avery A.

Grade 4 Boys – Nick G.

Grade 5 Girls – Stephanie O- K

Grade 5 Boys – Sean A.

Grade 6 Girls – Caitlyn N.

Grade 6 Boys – Tyler H.

Grade 7 Girls – Brodie R.

Grade 7 Boys – Chelsey G.

Grade 8 Girls – Haven L.

Grade 8 Boys – Ethan A.

## **Breakfast and Snack Programs – Thank You!**

It takes a significant amount of funding to have our breakfast program and snack program run for five days a week throughout the school year. Many people have been very generous in their financial support. Thank you so much to the local individuals and organizations who have donated to our programs this year. Also, thanks again this year to Food and Friends, Breakfast Clubs of Canada, and Breakfast for Learning for continuing to provide financial support integral to the success of our nutrition programs.

## **Tentative Class Structure for 2016-2017**

Our staff has been meeting to discuss class placements for our students over the past few weeks. Placements will be made in consultation with the classroom teachers, resource teachers, Ms. Sims and Mr. Bodiam. We

will consider students' academic abilities, work habits and social skills. We also consider teaching style and student friendships. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding with this process.

## Summer Reading – Overdrive

Summer is quickly approaching and while your school library might not be open during summer break, your student can access our digital collection 24/7! Help your child keep their reading skills strong this summer with eBooks and audiobooks from Overdrive accessible through UG2GO.

Students can login to Overdrive using their Windows network login. Digital books can be enjoyed on a computer, tablet, smartphone or eReader device. Read right in the internet browser or download using the free OverDrive app. At the end of the lending period, titles automatically expire so there are never any late fees. Our digital collection can be accessed anywhere in the world, as long as there is an internet connection.

Visit our digital collection at <https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go> and make sure your student starts summer vacation off right! Look for the Overdrive button under the Read section of UG2GO.

## Suggested Student Supply List 2016-2017

In the event that you are considering shopping for next year early here is the tentative list of supplies for **all students**:

Pencil Case  
Sharpened Pencils (5 to start)  
Pencil Sharpener (with a dome to collect Shavings)  
2 erasers  
2 glue sticks  
Sharpened crayons  
Crayola markers and crayons (optional)  
Ruler (cm markings only)  
Indoor running shoes  
A backpack and lunch bag

### JUNIOR STUDENTS ONLY

One book you want to read (any genre)  
Calculator (basic functions only)  
Journal Book (50+ pages with lines, approximately 12-15 cm x 20 cm)

**Please no 3 ring binders, compass sets, markers or pens**

### INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS ONLY:

Calculator (basics functions only)  
1 Math/Geometry set)  
No binders please, students will be given duotangs

TEACHERS MAY MAKE SPECIFIC REQUESTS IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE IN SEPTEMBER

## 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.

So 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; that way, you can anticipate free time to use as you wish – even if it's just to enjoy a break in the action.

Be prepared to be spontaneous. Keep a running 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.

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, 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/>

## 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*

## Creating Independent (Math) Problem Solvers

I was working in two different classrooms in two very different schools and noticed that the children approached solving problems in math differently. When children were given a problem in one classroom, their hands would immediately go up in the air with cries of, “I don’t get it,” or “I need help,” or “What do I do first?”. In the other classroom, when children were given a math problem, instead of asking for help right away, they would give it a try.

I was curious about the different student approaches to solving a math problem and I wanted to know how these students solved other problems. So I asked each group of children, “When you want to play with a friend, what do you do?” Here’s what they said:

School A	School B
“My mom calls her mom.”	“I go knock on his door and ask if he can play.”
“My mom calls and sets up a play date.”	“I call her on the phone and then walk over to her house.”
“My dad texts her mom to see if we can play.”	“Lots of kids meet at the park after school. I go there and play with my friends.”
“I ask my mom if she can drive me to his house.”	“I ride my bike to her house. If she’s not home, I go see if someone else can play.”

Which school had children who asked for help with the math problem right away? Which children tried the math problem on their own first?

To be successful in math, children need to be able to solve problems. When children are provided with opportunities to solve their own problems in life, they are more willing to tackle math problems on their own.

Think about some of the “problems” children may experience every day:

- Deciding what to wear
- Taking what they need to school for the day (e.g., lunch, homework, shoes)
- Finding friends at recess
- Choosing what do after school
- Being hungry and needing a snack

If parents and teachers solve these problems for children, we take away the chance for children to develop problem solving skills and the belief that they can do things on their own. We cannot expect a child who has everything done for them in life to be an independent problem solver in math.

By stepping back and providing children with the opportunity to solve their own little problems, like what to wear or how to get together with a friend, we prepare them for tackling bigger problems later on, like the ones they get in math class!

Megan Haessler, Curriculum Leader

