

# Victoria Cross Public School

## Newsletter

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Principal: Karen Sims

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**December 2016**

### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

It is hard to believe that December is upon us. December is always a busy month. Interviews were held on November 24 and 25<sup>th</sup>. If you were unable to attend an interview please contact your child's teacher to get information about your child's progress and how you can assist them at home.

We look forward to a very busy month of December. Please read the dates carefully as there are many school events you may choose to attend.

On behalf of the Victoria Cross staff we wanted to wish you and your family a happy holiday and a healthy new year.

Karen Sims  
Principal

### ***CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE FINISHED-UP***

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our food drive. When it was completed we received 11 boxes of food for the Food Bank.

### ***CHRISTMAS CONCERT***

We invite all families to join us for our Primary Christmas Concert.

The dates and times are listed below:

Dress Rehearsal – December 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:50 PM

Evening Concert – December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- December 1 Picture Re-takes
- December 2 Learning Skills Assembly
- December 6 Jr. volleyball Tournament
- December 6 Gr. 8 Parent and Student Information Night Wellington Heights
- December 7 Junior Volleyball Snow Date
- December 7 Pointsettia's Arrive
- December 9 Waste Audit
- December 15 Intermediate Volleyball Tournament
- December 16 Intermediate Volleyball Snow Date
- December 19 Primary Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal
- December 20 Primary Christmas Concert
- December 22 Wellington Heights Band Visits

December 23 Last Day of school

January 9 School Resumes

## **WELLINGTON HEIGHTS PARENT AND STUDENT INFORMATION NIGHT**

All grade 8 students and parents are invited to an information night at Wellington Heights on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 PM. You will be able to tour the facility and learn about course selection, learning pathways, clubs and teams. Please be involved with this important transition for your child.

## **Discover the Awesome Tools that Students Can Access in the Read & Write Toolbar**



*Every student* in the Upper Grand District School Board has access to a handful of incredible tools via an app called **Read & Write** that can help them with reading, comprehension, written expression, & gathering research.

Read & Write is attached to student accounts, so students need to be logged into Chrome to use this feature.

**Check it out!** ... Supports on the R&W toolbar include;



**Word Prediction**



**Quick access to dictionary tools**



**Having text read out loud in English or in French**



**A tracking tool that provides a focus when reading**



**The ability to turn your speech to text**



**Highlight and collect text, & build vocabulary lists**



**Changes to Voice, Speed & Language can be made easily in Settings**

Read & Write tools are powerful for **ALL kids**, but they make a huge difference for those with **learning disabilities**. These tools allow students to read independently, comprehend more of what they are reading, and demonstrate their understanding; allowing them to work smarter, not harder.

## ***SAFETY CONCERNS***

As we are heading into the time that slippery driving and snow banks begin to appear, please review the safe walking rules with your children. Cross only at the cross walks and obey all crossing guards. Because of the potentially unsafe conditions at the intersection in front of the school parking lot, please remind your child to stay well back of the intersection until the crossing guard indicates it's okay to cross.

## ***JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION***

Junior Kindergarten registration for the 2017-18 school year begins on January 9, 2017. Children born in 2013 are eligible to begin Junior Kindergarten in September 2017.

Please note that the **registration process for the upcoming school year has changed**. This includes changes to the French Immersion registration and selection process. Information nights are currently underway at all of our JK French Immersion sites. For more information about this process or to find the time and date of our JK FI registration process information nights at a school near you, please visit [www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi)

## ***ME TO WE CLUB***

Our school Me to We Club is alive and well! We are busily working on various ideas and projects that will create positive change in our school, our town and our world. We are going to have a distracted driving awareness activity that will encourage drivers to put their cell phones in their glove compartment while driving. We are planning a loose change collection in classrooms from December the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. We are calling this campaign "Loose Change that Cares" and all of the money raised will be donated to Louise Marshall Hospital. We are so lucky to have a hospital in our town and we want them to know we appreciate how important they are to our community!

We are also planning a bake and craft sale (with a table for gently used items) for December. The funds raised from this event will be divided between supporting the exciting, new accessible playground being planned for Victoria Cross and our needy friends in Osenetoi, Kenya.

We know there are many demands for every penny earned in families today. Twenty five cents donated to the "Loose Change that Cares" campaign can make a difference and would be greatly appreciated. At the craft and bake sale we will make sure that there are some items sold for as little as twenty-five cents so that all students can participate.

We so much appreciate the support you show for our club and its projects and want you to know that through your encouragement we are helping our youth to be better, more compassionate individuals!

Victoria Cross Me to We Leaders: Marjorie Small, Nicole West, and Donna McFarlane

## ***SPIRIT BREAKFAST***

Every year, as part of the chocolate fundraiser, the class selling the most chocolate cases, wins a breakfast hosted by Ms. Sims and Mr. Bodiam. This year, we had two winning classes: Mrs. MacDougall's KA and Mrs. West's Cove class. On November 23, school council prepared a breakfast of pancakes, sausage and juice which was served to our KA and Cove students by Ms. Sims and Mr. Bodiam.

School council is especially grateful to the families of KA and The Cove for their efforts in making our chocolate fundraiser a success. We thank Harriston Packing Co. and No Frills for their support of our Spirit Breakfast.

School Council would like to wish all of our families a very merry Christmas, a fun filled holiday season and a Happy New Year ! May 2017 bring continued success and achievement to our school community. Our next school council meeting is January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## **CHRISTMAS FLOAT**

This year, thanks to Mr. Gauci, our Christmas float was designed by students – Mr Gauci led a float design club for our students during the fall months.

Our Christmas float build will be from 6 p.m. to approximately 9 p.m. on Thursday December 1 – it will be a drop in styled event. Please contact Axy Leighl at 519-665-7440 if you would like further details.

The parade takes place on Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m – if you're not able to participate in the build and / or the float, come out and cheer our students on. They will be handing out special treats guaranteed to make you smile.

Many of the materials used in the build are borrowed but financial support is provided through funds raised by you through our chocolate fundraiser. School Council would like to thank Tina's Sugar Shoppe for generously providing treats for our float participants to hand out during the parade.

## **A&W BREAKFAST**

Once again, thank you to Patrick and Cathy Torpey and their wonderful staff at A&W and the community for their support. We raised \$734 while having fun and enjoying a delicious breakfast back on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **CODING NIGHT**

Coding night was a success – we had a great turnout and were able to engage parents and students in learning about coding. Some of you may have seen the “Codemobile” about town. It was hard to miss. Watch out for future events with Kids Learning Code coming to the community – for example a full day workshop for kids on PD Days and possibly a summer coding camp for kids.

The evening was made possible by a Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant from the Ministry of Education to our school council and by funds raised by you through our chocolate fundraiser. Thank you for your support!

School Council would like to thank the Colonel's Rest B&B and No Frills for their generous support of the evening. Support from our business community has been overwhelming – please shop local whenever you can.

## **BUS CANCELLATIONS AND SCHOOL CLOSURES**

Please be aware that the Inclement Weather announcements for bus cancellations and school closures are posted on the home page of the Upper Grand District School Board's website [www.ugdsb.on.ca](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca) Click on the yellow bus on this page for the transportation link, the information which is updated daily by 6:30 am. Or go directly to the transportation link at [www.stwdsts.ca](http://www.stwdsts.ca)

## **UNWANTED KEYBOARDS**

Do you have a good working, electronic keyboard, that you no longer want? Victoria Cross is looking to establish a keyboard program. You are invited to donate your gently used, working keyboard to our school. Drop them off at .... anytime before Christmas Holidays.

Thank you for supporting our Victoria Cross Musical Community.

## Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet



December 10<sup>th</sup> is Human Rights Day!

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

### Celebrate Human Rights Day on December 10th!

*“This year, Human Rights Day calls on everyone to stand up for someone's rights. It starts with each of us.” Step forward and defend the rights of someone whose voice is not being heard. Demonstrate an understanding of equality, human dignity and justice. Consider and be respectful of the rights and opinions of others, especially if they are different from yours. Recognize that human rights include the right for all of us to have access to clean water, unpolluted air and healthy food.*

***“There is no action that is too small: wherever you are, you can make a difference. Together, let's take a stand for more humanity.”***

-- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein”

<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsdays/>



### Simple yet meaningful ways for your family to celebrate the rights and responsibilities that we all share as human beings!

- **Learn about how children live in other parts of the world.** Look at pictures on the web and discuss how we are the same and how we are different.
- **Read the book: *We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures* by Amnesty International**
- **Read the *Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights*.** Decide if there is a cause your family wants to support, or an Ecojustice action you want to take on.
- **Talk to someone you know who is from another country.** Where are they from? What was their life like there? What language did they speak? Did they go to school? What do they miss? What do they like about their new country?
- **Start a tradition of doing a family service project on Human Rights Day.** There are many opportunities to volunteer, such as preparing and serving meals at a local homeless shelter or simply gathering enough to put together a bunch of care packages of simple needs and necessities. <https://humanrightswarrior.com>

***“For the bigger picture we can (and should) do what we can to fight injustice. But on a smaller scale, in the day-to-day, practicing kindness can help knit a web of compassion to give humanity a boost of resilience”***

**NEW JK/SK Registration for September 2017-2018**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete Address:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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