

Victoria Cross Public School Newsletter

355 Durham Street West
Mount Forest, Ontario N0G 2L1
Principal: Karen Sims

www.ugdsb.on.ca/victoriacross

Phone: 519.323.2460
Fax: 519.323.2962
Vice Principal: Adam Bodiam

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Principal's Message

As you may be aware, as a school we are working on higher order thinking skills. We know that students, if they are unable to read a text, can engage in learning if the text is read to them. All students can learn about content if the text is read to them. This is the power of the read-aloud to children of all ages. All teachers, JK-8, read to their students. The conversation that follows before, during and after the read-aloud is what is important. During this conversation, teachers can draw student's attention to text features, encourage them to make and confirm predictions and to confirm understanding of the text by using prior knowledge.

When reading to or with your child at home keep in mind that books should spark discussion and help children engage in meaningful conversation and make connections. The conversation that is involved in reading text is what encourages your child to think about the text.

Ms. Sims
Principal

EQAO Testing Time

Provincial EQAO testing will occur this year for Grade 3 and 6. Students will be writing this assessment the last week of May and the first week of June. Further information will follow once dates have been confirmed. Please ensure that your child is well rested during the test and has had a good breakfast the morning of the test. We ask that you do not book any appointments for your children during this testing period.

Dates to Note

April 6	Flouride Varnish
April 7	Learning Skills Assembly
April 11	School Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
April 13	Primary Students HOP for MD
April 19	Photo Day (SK and Gr. 8 graduation photos, and sibling photos)
April 19	Junior Basketball Tournament
April 20	Junior Basketball Tournament Inclement Weather Date
April 21	Colour Teams
April 21	Primary Poetry Festival
April 24	Mr. Gauci's Class Visits Public Library
April 25	Mr. Fielding's, Mr. Frank's Classes visit Public Library
April 25	Eco Team visits University of Guelph
April 26	Ms. Bahula's and Mrs. Gauci's class visits Public Library
April 26	Jump Rope for Heart Kick Off Assembly
April 27	Mrs. Ferguson's, Mr. Corrigan's and Mrs. Aitken/Mrs. Martin's Class visits Public Library
April 27	Intermediate Basketball Tournament

April 28	P.D. Day
May 1-5	Education Week
May 1-5	BUY ONE GET ONE FREE BOOK FAIR
May 1	Hep B/HPV
May 3	Lessons from the Wigwam and Pioneers Presentation
May 4	Empowerment Day
May 4	Open House
May 5	Wes for Youth Presentation

Education Week (May 1 – 5)

Education Week this year happens May 1 - 5. Plans are in the works for events at Victoria Cross. We will be hosting a Book Fair during Education Week and having an Open House during this week. The Book Fair will be a Buy One Get One Free Book Fair! More details will follow later this month.

Me to We Update

On Thursday May 4th students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will be attending We Empowerment day at the Sleeman Center in Guelph from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.. This day is organized by the Student Council at Drayton Heights P.S.

This year five amazing speakers will be delivering messages during the day:

Mariatu Kamara

She is a survivor of the Civil War in Sierra Leone and immigrated to Canada in 2002. Her memoir, *The Bite of the Mango*, has won several awards. Since moving to Canada, Kamara has toured with Free the Children and UNICEF Canada to promote equal rights for women and the importance of education. Although difficult to speak about her experiences in the war, she does so because she hopes it can make a difference for children still living in war-torn regions.

Luca ‘Lazylegz’ Patuelli

“No limits, No Excuses!” That is the philosophy behind everything that Luca ‘Lazylegz’ Patuelli lives by every day. Born with a rare muscle disorder, Luca has never let his condition slow him down. Discovering his passion for breakdancing at the age of 15, Luca created the “ILL-Abilities” crew, a group of dancers who all overcome physical limitations. Luca inspires all audiences to get up off their feet and live their dreams.

Shane Koyczan

Shane is best known for his award winning spoken word performances,. With his rhythmic verse in high gear, he navigates his audience through social and political territory with a furious honesty and a tender humanity that has brought audiences to their feet. The Opening Ceremonies for the 2010 Winter Olympics introduced us to Shane. With a collective ‘wow’ across Canada and beyond, we found the poet of our generation.

Chris Temple and Zach Ingrasci

From living in a tent in a Syrian refugee camp to working as radish farmers and surviving on one dollar a day in Guatemala, Chris Temple and Zach Ingrasci are pioneering a new style of documentary film-making, using storytelling to raise awareness and inspire action around pressing global issues. They were internationally recognized as two of the Top 100 Visionary Leaders of 2015 by WPO/YPO’s Real Leaders Magazine.

All students attending are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank.

2017-2018 School Year

At the beginning of June each year, staff meet to place students into classes. We base placement on Literacy and Math performance, Learning Skills, and at times positive/negative peer influences. The teachers always strive to place students into classrooms using this information as well as information such as who else is placed into a particular classroom. We strive in all classes to have a balance of students. At times, there are parents who wish to make requests. If you wish to make a request, please forward it to the principal, Karen Sims, in writing, and please state reasons for the request.

We are in no way promising that your child will be placed where you ask us to put them. We only promise to consider your request. Any request made must be done so by the end of May.

Bringing Healthy Food to Hungry Minds

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped to make our Food & Friends student nutrition program such a success this school year. The donation of time that you have given and your ongoing support says so much about your capacity for compassion and generosity.

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd!

“Founded in 1990, Earth Day Canada inspires people of all ages across the country to connect with nature and build resilient communities as well as foster an intrinsically motivated, enduring commitment to stewardship and conservation.” <https://earthday.ca/about/>

Why is it so important to connect kids with nature?

Kids who don't get outside, who aren't stimulated by their environment, won't grow up with the motivation to protect our planet. Kids who don't connect to their inner nature through creative play won't be as resilient as generations before them.”

Ideas for your family to celebrate Earth Day:

- **Get involved with Earth Day's EarthPlay** <https://earthday.ca/ed2017/schools/>. You can download an activity tool kit and enjoy the many suggestions to promote outdoor activities and learning for kids.
- **Spend a day outside.** In the garden with your family, plant vegetables, trees or native flowers and attract native animals and pollinators. Or join a local community event to help clean your neighbourhood or restore local plant life,
- **Make commitments to cut down on your energy usage as well as waste.** Turn lights off, power down electrical devices, turn down your thermostat and only do full loads of laundry and dishes. Always bring cloth bags when shopping, refuse to buy over packaged products, and lug a mug instead of using non-recyclable coffee cups.
- **Learn more about the environment and the effects of global warming.** Encourage awareness and promote the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle way of life.

Remember that every day is Earth Day! Don't restrict yourself to just one day a year. Make environmental actions and caring about the planet a habit - on Earth Day and every day.

Feedback Welcome on Draft Policies

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is the **First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Self-Identification** Policy 500. You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy. **The deadline for public input is April 13, 2017** at 4 p.m. EST. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.

School Council

On March 2, 2017 from 6:30-8:00 Parent Council hosted a parent information night with Merrilynn Downey from CMHA. She spoke to parents about Circle of Security, parents roles in organizing and validating feelings and different strategies. It was a great information night for parents.

Winter is finally over and while we are in the final stretch of the academic year, school council has a busy few months planned. We hope to host an event in late April or early May so please keep an eye out for an announcement. If you have an ideas or suggestions, we encourage you to forward them to council executive through the school.

Electives took place the two weeks prior and two weeks following the March break. School council would especially like to thank the following volunteers: Raymond Langston, Rick Reuwarda (R&R Pet Paradise), Caroline Beren and Mary McTavish (Toastmasters), Tina Grant, Chris Clark, Mike Wilson (The Confederate), Bob Tokarsky, Heather Guerin, Josh Hobbs, Terry McFarlane, Dave Griffiths, Herb Gibson, Michaela Greenfield (Dance Energy), Dave Reeves (Phoenix Performance Centre), Cathy Turner, Caroline Bahula, Jeremy Franks, Dawna Gauci and Scott Corrigan.

All of our volunteers did a tremendous job in running their elective unit. If your child enjoyed their elective unit, be sure to thank our volunteers.

We are in a final push to complete our playground fundraising. School Council fundraising efforts have included clean up at the Holstein Rodeo for the past 2 summers, operating a food booth at the Fireworks festival for the past 3 summers, direct appeals to local businesses and of course a portion of our chocolate bar sales.

Our playground fund currently sits at approximately \$46,000.00. It has taken us 3 years to get this point and we are so close to our target of \$50,000.00.

Our next council meeting is on Tuesday April 11th in the school library from 6:30 pm to 8:00 p.m. and as always, childcare and refreshments are available. Please give us the chance to show you how easy it is to get involved.