



Aberfoyle Public School

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MARCH 2016 *** FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!!! @AberfoylePS ***

Dear A.C.E. Families,

WOW do we have a lot to brag about at Aberfoyle PS! I know it is important to be modest but sometimes we just have to celebrate all the amazing things going on in our school. Chess Club, Choirs, Instrumental Band, Me to We, Community Builders, Art Club and sports teams are just a tip of the iceberg when it comes to all the exciting things that our ACE students are participating in.

One area of real excitement currently is our Cardboard Boat Design and Race Teams. Two teams of grade 8 boys and girls spent the time during and after school to prepare with prototypes and show their overall ability to be ACEs and participate in the Guelph and Wellington County area local cardboard boat races. Both teams were given a set amount of time, limited tools and resources and they had to create a cardboard boat that could pass stringent tests in one of the local pools. Our future engineers and true problem solvers did amazing and placed 1st and 3rd in the competition in a field of over 30 teams! Both teams will compete in the provincial championships on March 1st in Waterloo and I know they will represent our school and school board well. Good Luck teams and a giant thanks to Mr. Fiddes for organizing this awesome learning adventure.

Watching these students prepare and the pride they had returning from the competition and sharing the results of their hard work was truly inspiring. They have set an example to the younger students in our building and I know that when they graduate from our school they will all do whatever they set their minds to accomplish. They are a real example of the ACE spirit. GO ACEs GO!

- C. Guyitt



UP-COMING EVENTS

MARCH	EVENT
1st	Cardboard Boat Teams Compete at Skills Canada Provincial Championships
3rd	In School Chess Tournament
4th	Jr Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament
14th to 18th	March Break - No School
23rd	Colour Day
24th	Intermediate Spring Dance
25th	Good Friday - No School
28th	Easter Monday - No School
31st	Grad Photos - SK and Gr 8 Students

PLEASE COMPLETE OUR SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

During the week of Feb. 29 - March 4, students in grades 4-12 will be completing a School Climate Survey. The purpose of this survey is to determine whether or not our students feel that their school provides a safe and inclusive learning environment. The survey asks general questions about how the student is feeling at school, as well as specific questions about bullying. Staff and parents are also being asked to complete a climate survey about their school. Parents can use the following link to access the survey, or the survey can be accessed through our school website.

https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_

[87VA0CZ4TdwN52Z](https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_87VA0CZ4TdwN52Z)

DO YOU KNOW A CHILD WHO NEEDS TO REGISTER FOR KINDERGARTEN NEXT YEAR?

If you have a child or know of someone in our community who has a child that will be starting kindergarten in the fall please have them come to the school for registration. Please bring birth certificate, immunization record and proof of living in our school's area (ie. Driver's Licence). If you have any questions please contact us at the school 519-763-7040.



Everyone is encouraged, especially those who are new to the school with young children to join Parent Council as many current members will be moving on after this year. You are welcome to attend as an

observer to get a feel for what the meetings are about.

Public Policy Input. Parents can provide input and feedback on new policies. Deadline April 13th

<http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy>

A School Council Parent Survey will be coming home before March Break. Your feedback is important to plan year-end and next year activities. The survey will also be accessible through Aberfoyle School - Parents Community Facebook group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1509233629393288/>

Thank you Mrs. Hauwert and Mrs. Robbins for managing the reading program. It has been well perceived and students are already seeing the benefits.

Note: There is no School Council meeting in March and the next meeting is April 5th at 6:30. New members welcome.

Kind Regards,
Minu Basi, Chair Parent Council

NEW PA DAY:

We would like to make all parents and guardians aware of an additional PA Day that has been added to the school calendar. Following central collective agreements reached in the fall, an additional Professional Activity Day has been added to this school year. In the Upper Grand District School Board, this PA Day will be on **April 25, 2016**. You can read more about this at http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/news_article.aspx?id=63168&blogid=32405

There will be three more Professional Activity days this year. There are NO half days this year. Please note for babysitting purposes that there is no school for students on the following days: **April 25th, June 3rd and June 30th.**



Public input sought for draft policies

The Upper Grand District School Board has adopted a new approach to the development of policies and procedures, important documents that guide the board, staff and activities of our school system. Our goal is to improve policies and procedures at the draft stage, with your help. By providing an opportunity for input from parents, the community and stakeholders we are aiming for greater openness and transparency in our governance.

The first policy, procedures and guidelines to be posted for public consultation are related to "Equity and Inclusive Education". 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, 2016. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.

Free to Play Program

The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington's Free to Play Program can help low-income families pay for their children's recreational activities, such as sports, camps and the arts. Up to \$400 per child per year is available for youth from birth through to 18 years who live in Guelph or Wellington County and fall below the low-income cut off. Applying is easy and confidential. Go to: www.childrensfoundation.org/free-to-play or call 519-826-9551, ext 23.

ATTENTION ALL EMAIL USERS!!!!!!!

Get up-to-date important information about everything that is going on at Aberfoyle sent straight to your email. Go to the homepage of our website <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/Aberfoyle/> and click on the button that looks like the one below to sign up for great email updates. It only takes a minute to sign up and you will never again miss out on important reminders and our monthly newsletters.



Strong scents such as perfumes and certain deodorants can cause an allergic reaction in some of our students and staff who experience a sensitivity to these products. Please be considerate of others in the building and try to use scent free products, our noses thank you!



Volunteers: WE NEED YOU!

Do you have a half hour or even a full hour once a week to listen to and encourage students while they read? If yes then we need you! We are looking for volunteers who can dedicate some time once a week to help students practice their reading skills. Please email Margaret Hauwert at margaret.hauwert@ugdsb.on.ca to sign up and get more information. Thanks!

Safe Departure

Please send authorization in writing if someone other than the legal guardian is going to pick your child up from school. The authorized adult may also be asked for photo identification. If it is necessary for a child to leave early, or to leave for a period during the day for an appointment, a note must be sent to the teacher. For the safety of your child, we request that you come into the school to **sign him/her out at the office**. We cannot send students out to waiting cars. *****Please also remember to sign your child off the bus using the bus lists located in the foyer if they are not taking the bus home.** We appreciate your efforts to keep all students safe.



Wellington County Library – Puslinch Branch, March Programmes

BookFace Contest (Teens)

Picture yourself on the cover of your favourite novel! Match your face up with a book cover that has a face on it. Use your phone or ask at the circulation desk for a camera. Submissions will be entered into a draw for a gift card! Ask staff for details.

March 1 – March 19

3D Printer Certification Course (All Ages)

Interested in using our 3D printer? Register for this one hour course and get your certification. You will then be able to reserve the printer and create!

**Saturday, March 12, 11:00 am or
Thursday, March 17, 2:00 pm**

Special March Break Programmes:

Captain Corbin presents: Tiki Troubles! (All Ages)

Join the Captain for Hawaiian hi-Jinks, Pirate adventures and Tiki Treasures. Captain Corbin, the magical pirate, is sailing into the library this March break but he's not alone. A mischievous Tiki statue has followed him to cause all kinds of trouble. The Captain needs your help and a bit of Hawaiian magic to overcome! Family friendly pirate fun! Please register.

Tuesday, March 15, 10:30 am

Outer Space Adventure! (Grades K- 6)

3, 2, 1, blast off! Explore the wonders of the universe with out of this world crafts, games and stories. Please register.

Wednesday, March 16, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Mermaids, Magic, Manatees and Much More! (Grades K- 6)

Join us under the sea as we explore sea creatures, mythical and real. We will sing songs, play games, do crafts, and more. Are there really hidden treasures under the sea?

Let's find out! Please register.

Thursday, March 17, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Magical Mapping (Grades K- 6)

Whether you are building your own world, or hunting for treasure, maps will be the key to adventure! Please register.

Friday, March 18, 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Canadian Red Cross Babysitting Course (Pre-teen)

This course is for 11 - 16 year olds and includes caring and safety for babies and children, understanding their needs and stages, rescue breathing, basic first aid, choking skills, coping with common situations, injury prevention, handling emergencies and creating a safe environment. Cost \$55. Please register.

Friday, March 18, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Wellington County Library – Puslinch Branch

**29 Brock Rd. S, RR 3 Guelph N1H 6H9
519.763.8026 • www.wellington.ca/Library**



UGDSB invites parents to learn about classroom technology at 'Digital Saturday'

The Upper Grand District School Board is hosting an open house featuring displays and workshops on how students are using technology to learn. "Digital Saturday" takes place on March 5, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Westminster Woods Public School in Guelph.

"In the last few years there has been exponential growth in the use of technological tools and resources in Upper Grand schools," said Brent McDonald, Superintendent of Education responsible for Information Technology. "Students don't stop using what they're learning as soon as the bell rings at the end of the day. A good number of these resources are available 24/7, so they're used at home and school."

A presentation on technology in the classroom to the board's Parent Involvement Committee was the inspiration for the idea of hosting a technology open house for all parents.

"We thought a Saturday morning would be the best time for both parents to come out and see what we're doing," said McDonald. "Students can come too."

Digital Saturday will be an opportunity to explore and learn about:

- New technologies in the classroom like Chromebooks, UGCloud
- Assistive technologies to support all learners including Kurzweil and Read&Write for Google
- Robotics and coding and virtual reality in the classroom demonstrations
- Online digital resources for assisting student learning such as UG2GO, UGCloud and Homework Help

There will be lots of opportunities for interaction and co-learning. Older children (8 and up) may find the display tables and workshops informative and engaging.

Event details:

- **DATE:** Saturday March 5, 2016
- **TIME:** 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Open House closes at 12 p.m.
- **LOCATION:** Westminster Woods Public School, 140 Goodwin Drive, Guelph

For more information: Heather Loney, Communications and Community Engagement Officer
519-822-4420 ext.725 heather.loney@ugdsb.on.ca

Engaging Your Child in Mathematics At Home!

As parents we have the wonderful opportunity and responsibility for nurturing our children's growth. Parents play a key role in the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of their child. As parents we can usually find time to read a story to our children, thereby instilling a love of literature, but we are often at a loss as to how to instill a love and appreciation for mathematics.

Like reading, mathematics is a subject that is indeed necessary for functioning adequately in society. More than that, mathematics is a subject that should be more enjoyable than it is perceived to be. Parents' attitudes towards mathematics has an impact on their children's attitudes. Children whose parents show an interest in and enthusiasm for mathematics around the home will be more likely to develop that enthusiasm themselves.

Activities in the Home

If you have dice, playing cards, and a bit of time....oh the "number sense" fun you can have.

1. Work on Place Value-use a grade appropriate number of dice and use the numbers rolled as digits to "make the biggest number you can, make the smallest number you can, make a number close to 100" etc.
2. Work on Number Sense-use 2 die to add numbers together....to make it harder, you can use the 2 die to subtract, and multiply.
3. War-Use a deck of cards to compare numbers. Each person flips their cards at the same time, the person with the higher number gets both cards.
4. What's my number? Someone holds a card on their forehead and asks the other person questions to try to guess their number (for example, is it greater than 5, is it odd or even).

Give it a go and have fun building number sense fluency together.

March's Environmental Theme: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

The environmental theme for this month is not a new one. We are talking about Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. These are the 3 R's of environmental stewardship and by practicing them we will help planet Earth. Did you know all of them are not created equal? The best one of the three is: Reduce.

Reduce means to use less of something. This is the best of the 3 R's because we don't even use our natural resources to begin with! What could we use less of? There are many things you can think of. Use less water, or use less paper, or – very important - buy less 'stuff'.

Recycle is critical if we want to keep things out of the landfill. More and more items are starting to be recycled, so be responsible and put them in the proper containers provided. If you don't, they end up in the regular garbage and harm nature by forcing us to create more garbage dumps that pollute our planet. We also need to make sure toxic items like paint and batteries don't end up in the garbage, but are brought to the hazardous waste depot. And never throw out your old smartphone. Take it back to your cell phone company for recycling. It contains minerals that are being mined in areas that are destroying precious habitats.

The Möbius loop is the universally recognized recycling symbol. It consists of those 3 circular arrows. We can put compostable items into our organic bins, like food scraps including fruit & vegetables, dairy, meat, breads, as well as paper tissues and paper towels. We can recycle containers including plastics, glass, metals and tetra paks and milk cartons. And we can also recycle paper, boxboard like Kleenex boxes, and cardboard. So DO NOT throw these items into the garbage at home or the garbage containers here at school. Find the right recycling bin. Let these items be turned into something new again!

**Slogan of the month: Don't trash our future!
Recycle!**

Talking About Mental Health - March 2016

Kids Do Well If They Can - Collaborative Proactive Solutions

In our schools we use a positive supportive approach with all our students. One such approach that we follow in our schools is Collaborative Proactive Solutions (CPS). This is a very effective way to help children and youth who are struggling by working with them to building skills and resources.

Dr. Ross Greene, who developed Collaborative Proactive Solutions, believes that **Kids Do Well If They Can**. If they are not doing well it is because they're lacking the skills not to be challenging. If they had the skills, they wouldn't be challenging. Dr. Greene also stresses that **Doing well is always preferable to not doing well** (*if a kid has the skills to do well in the first place*).

When children and youth are faced with challenges that are too much for their skills and resources, they often engage in challenging behaviour because they do not have the skills to engage in positive behaviour.

Challenging behavior in children and youth is best understood as the result of lagging skills (in the terms of flexibility/adaptability, frustration tolerance, and problem solving) rather than as the result of lack of motivation on the child/youth's part. And second, the best way to reduce challenging behaviour is by working together with the child/youth - collaborating - to solve the problems setting them in motion in the first place.

Dr. Greene's Collaborative Proactive Solutions is a very successful approach for children and youth presenting with a variety of challenging behaviours, which is why we use this approach in our schools.

Dr. Greene also has many tips for parents, so they can use Collaborative Proactive Solutions at home. If you are interested in learning more, please see his website:

<http://www.livesinthebalance.org/parents-families>

Information for this article has been taken from Dr. Ross Greene's website.

Dr. Lynn Woodford, Psychologist, is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board-Follow me on twitter: @drlynnwoodford

