



Aberfoyle Public School

16 Old Brock Road, Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
519-763-7040 @AberfoylePS



Dear A.C.E. Families,

December is here! November was an active and exciting month. I will attempt to touch on as many of the high points as possible.

Your children not only have been immersed in academic pursuits, but also in the importance of being good citizens.

All the best,

Paul Tribe, Acting Principal]

Safe Arrival Reminder

If your child is going to be late or absent, please call the school at [519-763-7040](tel:519-763-7040), press extension [100](#), and leave a message. In order to ensure the safety of your children, if your child is marked absent and you have not called, we will call you.

If there is any change in your child's end-of-day routine, please write a note in your child's agenda in the morning and Mrs. Warden will get that information from the classroom teacher.

Thanks very much!

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.

PA Days 2016-2017

Please note for babysitting purposes that there is no school for students on the following days:

- January 27th,
- April 28th,
- June 9th, and
- June 30th.



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER	EVENT
01	Grade Eight Quebec Trip <u>First Payment</u> 2:30 – 6:00 PM - Maple Syrup pickup
02	First Break - DASH
06	Grade Eights visit high schools
07	9:00 AM – Grade 5 EcoStars Event
12	Grade 2/3 to Doon Heritage Village
15	Crazy Hat Day 9:00 Grade 7 Vaccine
16	Intermediate Boys and Girls Volleyball Tournament 10:05 - DASH
19	Craft Extravaganza Book Fair 19 to 21
20	Colour Day: Relationships , Caring about Others 3:00 to 5:00 - Book Fair open for Parents
23	DASH
January 9	<i>Welcome Back to the First School Day in 2017!</i>

Volunteers are Awesome!

Aberfoyle considers its parent and community volunteers a special resource.



Parents and community members are encouraged to help in the classroom, on school trips, assist in the library or with extra-curricular activities and to participate on School Council. Being a volunteer is a wonderful way of participating in your child's education! Contact your child's teacher to find out how you can help.

Medical Concerns

If your child has a serious medical condition, please contact the child's teacher and the office. We need to be provided with up-to-date information and medication. A Life Threatening Management Form must be completed by the parent and the doctor. This information will be kept on file and shared so that all staff will be knowledgeable of emergency procedures. Parents should administer medication at home whenever possible. When medication must be administered by school personnel, it will be kept in the office. Non-prescription oral medication as well as prescription medication requires the completion of an authorization form before medication can be administered. This form is available at the school office.

Life-Threatening Allergies

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies to various foods and other materials called anaphylaxis. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to food or other materials, and can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students.

Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you may refrain from sending foods to the school that contain peanuts and nuts. We aim to create an allergy safe environment at our school.

If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, or your child has anaphylaxis, you will be contacted by the classroom teacher.

Our school has procedures in place to help manage anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps.

Strong scents such as perfumes and certain deodorants can cause an allergic reaction in some of our students and staff who experience sensitivity to

these products. Please be considerate of others in the building and try to use scent free products. Our noses thank you!

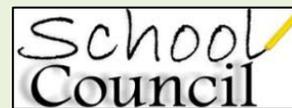
Getting Ready for the Tournament!

Here you see our Girls' Volleyball Team practicing to be at their peak for the tournament. They will be ready, as will the Boys' Volleyball Team. Both groups have displayed excellent team efforts and have been great ambassadors of our school.



School Bus Safety

Now that the weather has begun to change it is very important that the driver is allowed to focus on the job of driving children safely to and from school. Most children do sit very well and understand that if the driver is looking in the rear-view mirror to check on noise, he or she is not as focused on the road.



Here is the link to our Aberfoyle Public School Facebook group. It will give you access to what is happening with our School Council.

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

Thank-you,
Minu Basi, Chair Parent Council

Board Wide Fundraising Initiative for Syrian Newcomers in our Community

We have been pleased to welcome almost 75 Syrian newcomer students into our Upper Grand schools since last January. We are hoping that you will consider helping us in a board wide fund raising initiative to raise funds to help Syrian newcomers settle into our schools

and community. We have partnered with Orca Book Publishers to raise funds by selling their newly published book entitled, "Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey" by Margriet Ruurs through our school and board websites. For every book that is sold through our board or school websites, Orca will donate \$10 to our local settlement agencies to support Syrian refugees.

This unique picture book was inspired by the stone artwork of Syrian artist Mizar Ali Badr, who was discovered by chance by Canadian children's author Margriet Ruurs. She was immediately captivated by the strong narrative quality of Mr. Badr's art, and, using many of Mr. Badr's already-created pieces, she set out to tell a story about the Syrian refugee crisis. Stepping Stones tells the story of Rama and her family, who are forced to flee their once peaceful village to escape the ravages of the civil war raging in their homeland. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama and her family set out to walk to freedom. Mr. Badr's stunning stone images illustrate the story. This book is a dual-language (English and Arabic) edition.

To order this book, please visit your school's website or the board website and click on the buy button to place your order. Payment is made directly to Orca and the books are shipped directly to your address from their warehouse. Payment for the order will go through at the time of purchase and it will include shipping. Orca will keep track of how many books are sold in our board and will send us \$10 for every book sold, which will then be donated to a local resettlement agency.



For more information, contact Bonnie Talbot at bonnie.talbot@ugdsb.on.ca or 519-824-4420.

Y Activities for PA Days 2016/17

Check out these links for terrific things to do at the Y and Puslinch Centre. They have attached what the YMCA currently has on their website regarding their sign up brochure for camp and also their link to their website.

<http://www.guelphy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/PD-Day-and-School-Break-Camp-2016-2017-FINAL.pdf>
<http://www.guelphy.org/camp/pd-day-camps/>



Puslinch Library Events

Story Time (All Ages)

Every Thursday, September 8 to December 15, 11:00 am to 11:45 am

Story Time is created to help your child get ready for reading. Share stories, songs, rhymes, and activities aimed at

developing your child's early literacy skills. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate. Please register.



Special Class Placement in UGDSB

Students who require special education programs and services receive support through the classroom teacher and the special education resource teacher at their home schools. However, in some circumstances, students can be referred to a special education class placement where focused instruction in the area of need is provided. These classes have smaller numbers and can provide targeted instruction to meet student needs. In elementary there are four specialized class placements for the following exceptionalities: Learning Disability, Mild Intellectual Disability/Language-based Learning Disability, Developmental Disability (Intellectual Disability), and Intellectually Gifted. Students need to have a diagnosis of an exceptionality before they can be eligible for class placement, and parents and the school team should feel like the placement would best meet the student's learning needs. Contact your school team if you would like to have more information on special class placement options.



Thank you so very much for signing on to this new approach to handling money in our school. Ms. Warden has been working very hard to help you through the inevitable issues that do crop up when starting a new process.

We are pleased to note that as of Monday, October 31, that 82% of our school populations has signed up. This is wonderful!

1. If you have not yet had an opportunity get involved, just do the following: Register by going to ugdsb.schoolcashonline and select "Get Started Today". Complete the three registration steps, remembering to make the password 8 characters, which includes one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.
2. A registration email will be sent to you. Click on the link inside the email that confirms both your email and School Cash Online account. This link will open the site and prompt you to sign into your account. You use your email address and the password you just created.
3. This next "Find Student" step will connect your children to your account. You enter the School Board name, the school name and your child's name and birth date. Leave student number BLANK. Then select "Continue". On the next page confirm you are related and select "Continue". Your child will have then been added to your Account.
4. If you have more children, just follow the above steps after selecting "Add Another Student". Five children can be added to one account. After all are added, select "View Items for Students". A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

- *Friday, April 28/17
- Saturday, May 6/17
- * Friday, June 9/17
- Friday, July 7/17

Wellington Centre for Continuing Education
1428 Gordon Street
Fee: \$60

Home Alone Ages 10-12

- Monday January 30, 4:30-6pm, 2 Wks
- Thursday March 16, 9-1pm, 1 Day
- Monday, May 1, 4:30-6pm, 2 Wks

Wellington Centre for Continuing Education
1428 Gordon Street
Fee: \$35

To register online, go to:

<http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/coned> or

<http://www.learningforyou.ca>

Call: 519-836-7280

Colour Day!

Our Community Builders celebrated a Colour Day on November 23 where groups helped everyone better understand the concept of "empathy". As you can see, children, along with learning this important social necessity, also had a good time. Thank you Community Builders, Ms. Hauwert and Ms. Partlow!

Thanks again for your part in reducing the handling of cash in our school!



Babysitting Course Ages 11+ - 9-4:30 pm 1 Day

This **Canadian Red Cross** course targets youth aged 11 years of age & up who are planning to start babysitting. Learn basic first aid and how to respond to emergency situations, basic baby and childcare and advice on becoming a responsible babysitter. Develop confidence, create a safe environment and find out tips for getting babysitting jobs.

Upon completion of the course, students are given a Red Cross Babysitter's participatory certificate. Must be 11 years old within 2 months of course date.

* are PD Days or Holidays.

- Friday, January 6/17
- *Friday, January 27/17
- *Friday, March 17/17



Maple Syrup Fundraiser!

Thank you for your support of this! The intent is to use the proceeds to plant more trees at our school.

On December 1, this efficient team moved several boxes into Mr. Skeoch's Room (Thank you very much!) for sorting and distribution.

As you can see, the volunteers had a really sweet experience!



Fresh from the Farm!

Thank you very much for buying local and supporting this Aberfoyle School Council fundraising effort! As you can see much organization was required along with enthusiastic volunteer assistance. On November 23 these energetic folks moved many items, along with the help of Mr. Skeoch's class into the Body Break Room for sorting and bagging.



Important changes to Junior Kindergarten French Immersion registration and selection process

The Junior Kindergarten registration process for the upcoming 2017-18 school year has changed, including changes to how students register and are selected for the UGDSB French Immersion program.

Every UGDSB school that offers FI at the JK level will have a cap on the number of students who can enrol in FI, starting Sept. 2017. JK is the only access point to FI as of Sept. 2017. Parents and guardians must register their children in FI between Jan. 9 and Jan. 26, 2016 for their application to be considered 'on-time.' Please note that registration will take place in person, and that registration is NOT prioritized on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information on JK registration and the FI registration and selection process, please visit www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi

Santa Claus Parade!

It was perfect day for a parade on November 27. Thanks to Sonia Sabbadin, a parent at our school and one of our bus drivers for Elliott's for organizing and decorating the float. I am sure Santa was very pleased to see ACE the Alligator and some very helpful elves!





Teacher Gift Idea – Donate to Free to Achieve!

This Holiday Season, consider making a donation to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation **Free to Achieve Fund** in honour of your child’s teacher. Funds provide for student needs such as winter coats and boots, running shoes, eye glasses, hearing aids, field trips and programs that are outside of school hours.



You can also direct your donation to Aberfoyle Public School and specify to what programs within the school you would like to assign the benefit. Tax Receipts are provided for donations of \$20 or more.

For more information visit the [UGLF website](http://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com) at www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com

Aberfoyle Public School has a New Address!

Canada Post has recently changed the school address to the following:

Aberfoyle Public School,
16 Old Brock Road,
PUSLINCH, ON N0B 2J0



The phone number remains unchanged, 519-763-7040.

Me2We Stuffy Drive

Thanks to you our Me2We groups was able to gather many stuffed toys for children who not have had the opportunity to receive such a gift this Season. The person who came to pick them up was overwhelmed by your generosity and, as a result, filled her car to overflowing.



Makerspace

As you are aware, we are in the process of preparing for a Makerspace. It is a set of projects that provide children with the opportunity to design and build structures, machines and flights of fancy. The concepts taught reinforce Science, Technology, Engineering the Arts and Mathematics, hence the acronym STEAM. Friday, December 2 was our first experience with this process. As you can see the grade seven and eight students were actively engaged building cardboard structures using connectors called “Makedos”.



LEGO Mechanics

Another learning experience for your children involves the Tech Club. They are also involved in learning about structures and how things go together to make a whole much more than the sum of its parts. As you can see, children are working within an activity called LEGO Mechanics assisting in sparking the imaginations of some of our future engineers and inventors.



Scientist in the School

A number of classes have enjoyed this experience as a result of the support of School Council. Happily, many children through this program learn about the possibilities of science and just how much fun it can be!



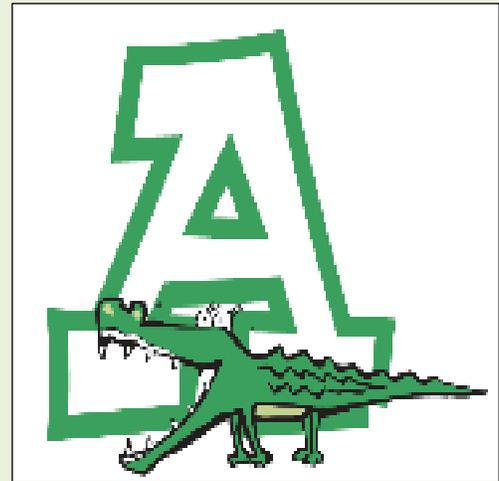
Thank you Mrs. Holford!

You may have noticed the very attractive decorative pots at the front of our school. They are thanks to the generosity and artistic flair of Ms. Kathy Holford. Here is a picture of one of them!



Snow is Here!

As you can imagine, we do remind children to 'dress for the weather' now that snow has officially visited the yard. It becomes increasingly important to wear warm enough clothes in order to allow them to fully enjoy the benefits of winter.



Thank you again for everything you do to support the school in its drive to provide a meaningful and fulfilling education for your children. As you know this is the time of year when we do reflect upon what we do and what impact we have upon others; whether it is through your chosen faith, what you do in your community, or how you choose to make a difference in what you feel is important in making our society a great place within which to prosper.

I wish you well and hope to see many of you over the course of the school year. As always, please feel free to say hello at the school or contact me to chat.

~ Paul Tribe, Acting Principal