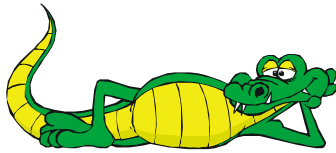


# ALMA NEWS



January 2015

Alma Public School, 12 Simpson St E. Box 118, Alma, ON N0B 1A0

Principal – Mr. Andy Hill

Visit our WEBSITE: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/AlmaPS/>

## Principal's Message

### Welcome Back! Happy New Year!

What a wonderful finish to 2014 here at Alma Public School. The highlight in December had to be our Christmas Concert. The children and teachers worked very hard to make it an evening to remember. A special thanks to Mr. Ladner and Mr. Bachuk who produced the show and had the students decorate the gym.

Another special event was the Christmas luncheon, what a lot of festive fun! Thanks to Janet L. for all of her work pulling that together and thanks also to all of the volunteers and donations of food. I know that the spaghetti luncheon will be one event that the children are sure to remember for many years to come.

The Alma Optimists helped out a few of our families with some very generous gift cards. I'm sure those families deeply appreciated the help at what otherwise would have been a tough time of year. The Central Pentecostal Church was also very generous in helping some of our less fortunate families out. They put together beautiful gift bags full of gifts for each member of some families in need.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Hons for working with our Choir. They did an amazing job at the Sleeman Centre singing Oh Canada! Great job!

Our next Parent Council meeting is January 14<sup>th</sup>. Council does so much to help enrich our school. Please consider joining us for the meeting and did I mention we are a really fun bunch????

I sincerely wish each and every family a safe and prosperous 2015!

A. Hill

## **Around the School**

During the past month, students have been involved in many and varied ongoing academic and social learning activities:

- Scientists in the Classroom
- Mad Science Weekly Workshops
- Primary & Junior Reading Tutoring (Thanks to Shannon Pegg)
- Fundraisers (Thanks to the School Council and parents )
- D.A.R.E. Program for grade 5/6 (Drugs Abuse Resistance Education)
- Chess Club
  - Morning Announcements
  
- Student Leadership Opportunities:
  - Lunch supervision
  - Character education
  - Crossing guards
  - Healthy snack program
  - Environmental incentives
  - Milk distribution
  - Morning announcements
  - Office helpers
  - Kindergarten helpers
  - Composting & recycling

## **Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten registration for the School Year 2015 – 2016 will take place during the week of February 2 – 6, 2015. The green sheet attached with this newsletter is a form to fill in if you have a child ready for school or know of a child that is ready for school.



## School Safety Check

Please continue to help keep our school safe:

- ✓ Call the office if your child will be absent and, **if they are ill please say that** as we have to report to Public Health daily.
- ✓ As the weather worsens, ensure your child has appropriate clothing, and for the little ones, you may consider sending extra clothing should they need to change (i.e. mittens, socks).
- ✓ **Thanks to the many parents who are picking up their children in the front foyer.** This has reduced the number of people in the main hallway where students line up for buses at the end of each day.
- ✓ **Bus Zone** – This area must be kept clear between 8:10 – 8:30 a.m. and again between 3:40 – 4:00 p.m. We do not want to have an unfortunate accident occur.
- ✓ **NEVER drive into the school parking lot, or out of the school parking lot when there are children boarding busses. PLEASE , SAFETY is PARAMOUNT where our children are concerned.**
- ✓ For our walkers, who have to cross County Rd 7, we continue to encourage that you use the crossing guard. This is in place for the safety of all!!

## Bus Cancellation Days

On a day when the buses are cancelled and the school remains open, all walkers can come to school if parents feel it is safe to walk, or if parents decide it's safe to drive them. **We need the parents of the students who walk** to call the school if their child is not going to be at school (sick, unsafe to walk).

When buses are not running, we do not need a call from parents who have children who are bused because we know why your child(ren) are away. If you're driving your regularly bused students to school, remember to pick them up at the end of the school day (3:30 p.m.). Once buses are cancelled in the morning, they do not run in the afternoon.

Thanks so much for helping us with our efforts with safe arrival for all students.

Announcements will be made on the following radio stations in the event of bus cancellations and/or school closure: 1460 CJOY AM - Guelph, 106.1 Magic FM - Guelph, Oldies 1090, 99.1 FM CBC, 105.3 Kool FM, 570 AM, and 96.7 FM CHYM.

CKCO TV will also announce bus cancellation and parents can check the Alma Public School website (site at top of this newsletter) for bus cancellations and on the Board website under Transportation.

## **RMC – Battery Recycling Challenge Update**

Just a reminder, the grade 4/5 class has organized and entered Alma Public School in an Ontario wide challenge!

We are currently in 5<sup>th</sup> place and are showcased on the provincial leader board! We are still accepting batteries.



## **Legion Poster/Literacy Contest Winners**

The following students won:

Kezia Skerrit – 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Primary Poster Contest

Kaija Donaldson – 1<sup>st</sup> in the Junior Poster Contest

Hilary Wilkinson – 1<sup>st</sup> in the Junior Poetry Contest

## **What do we do at school on “No Bus” days?**

On days when the buses do not run due to inclement weather and the school is open, there is sometimes a general perception that nothing educational happens. Our teachers have strategies in place designed to ensure that student learning continues.

At our school you will find staff and students who are able to arrive safely, doing a number of educational things including:

- Language Arts Block
- Math Activities
- Physical Education
- Social Studies/Science/Art/Music

Depending on the number of students, we may group classes together, and all teachers who are present will help with curriculum focused activities throughout the day. While it's your decision to determine if it's safe for your children to go to school please don't make that decision based on the idea that nothing worthwhile occurs. Students are engaged and learning even though some of their friends can't make it to school.

Please note that if you have children who used to attend Alma Public School and are now moved on to Senior or High School, and if they are unable to get to their own school due to weather conditions, we are not able to accommodate them here at the

school. On these days, we are responsible for the safety of registered, Alma Public School Students who are able to attend. Thanks for your understanding. Your child's school provides suggestions for student activities that can be implemented at home during inclement weather days if your child is not able to get to their own school.




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- Our board has a wonderful resource for all of our students that can be accessed 24/7 from school or from home. It's called UG2GO and includes Learn360 (educational video streaming), Student Link (a site children use at school that gives them access to web sites that are kid friendly and relate directly to their current units of study), Tumblebooks (a site that has hundreds of books children can click on and have read to them), Noodletools (gives children help making bibliographies), and much more.
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- When students are at home they can go to the main address:  
<https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go>
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- They will be prompted to enter the same Windows username and password that they use at school to get onto the school network. Once they enter their Windows username/password they will enter the site and they can then click on any of the resources and be taken directly to the individual resource without the need for any additional passwords.
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- Please take a few minutes to explore the site with your child. It is an important tool that will aid them in their education, and may make your life easier when it comes to homework and projects. We are excited that students will be able to access information from anywhere and at anytime in this information age!
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- Also, a great, fun game to practice math facts is Prodigy Math:  
<https://www.prodigygame.com/Login/>

### **Family Day – February 16<sup>th</sup>**



The Upper Grand District School Board will be observing FAMILY DAY on February 16<sup>th</sup> and our school will be closed. We hope you enjoy the day with your family!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>JANUARY 2015</b></p>				1 HAPPY NEW YEAR	2	3
4	5 Welcome Back!	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Lunch orders go home  Scholastic Orders Due	13	14 School Council Mtg.	15	16	17
18	19	20 Gr. 1 & 2 Linamar Production	21 <b>Lunch orders are due!</b>	22	23 P. A. Day	24
25	26	27 Gr. 5 & 6 Linamar Production	28	29	30	31