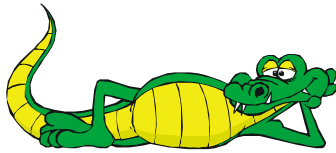


# ALMA NEWS



MAY 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

Happy Spring to all our friends and families! We are down to 8 weeks of school before the summer break and its shaping up to be a fun and action packed two months. Be sure to mark your calendar for Family Fun Night on June 4<sup>th</sup> as this is always a big highlight for the school year. This year we will be having a Ford test drive event where Ford will donate twenty dollars to the school for each test drive taken. EQAO testing runs the last week of May and the first week of June, the teachers and students have been working extremely hard to prepare for this examination. Please do your best to have your child rested, nourished and on time for school especially during these two weeks. Take care and enjoy this month's news letter!

## 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
- Primary & Junior Reading Tutoring (Thanks to Shannon Pegg)
- Fundraisers (Thanks to the School Council and parents )
- Student Leadership Opportunities:
  - Lunch supervision
  - Character education
  - Crossing guards
  - Healthy snack program
  - Environmental incentives
  - Milk distribution
  - Morning announcements
  - Office helpers
  - Kindergarten helpers
  - Composting & recycling

## Grade 6 Camp & Transition Dates

Grade 6 Camp Trip - June 17 – 19 (Parent information night, May 27<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 6:30 pm Mr. Ladner's room)



Grade 6 Parent Information Night at Elora Public School – TBA

Grade 6 Students Visit Elora P.S. for Orientation - TBA

Grade 6 Farewell - June 22<sup>nd</sup> , 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

### **TENTATIVE School Organization & Class Placements: 2015 – 2016**

The TENTATIVE school organization for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year looks like this:



JK/SK – Full Day Kindergarten (FDK)

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Grade 1/2

Grade 2/3

Grade 3/4

Grade 4/5

Grade 5/6

Knowing that the school organization could change again in September, and, if you believe you need to make a request for next year for a specific class placement for your child, please keep in mind that making a request of this nature is an extraordinary step which must be supported by specific and detailed reasons. If you are going to make a request, please outline in detail the **extraordinary circumstances and special identified needs** of your child. This must be done in writing and addressed to the Principal for consideration on or before the **29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2015**.

### **Are You Moving?**

We are working on staffing again for the next School Year. If you know that you will be moving it would be helpful for us to know. Please contact the School if you are planning on moving.

### **EQAO Dates**

Our Grade 3 students will write the EQAO assessments May 25 - 29, and our Grade 6 students will write June 1 - 4. The best way to prepare your child at this time is to ensure they receive adequate sleep and nourishing food. Avoid appointments during this time if at all possible.

## Pizza Nights Fundraising

From 4 p.m. until close on May 4, 5 & 6 New Orleans Pizza will donate \$5.00 of every purchase of \$10.00 or more that is accompanied by a Donation Form to the school of customer's choice! At the end of the campaign, New Orleans Pizza will present a cheque to the school representing the donations made to our school. The form will be coming home on Friday. . Thanks in advance to one helping with this campaign.



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## 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.
- ✓ **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!!

## Library News

The Forest of Reading Program is wrapping up for another year. Junior students who have read five books or more from the Silver Birch Fiction or Non-Fiction categories or the Silver Birch Express category will submit a vote for their favourite, which I will forward to the Ontario Library Association.

Congratulations to those students who read five or more! Primary students will vote on their favourite Blue Spruce book as well. Winning authors will be announced at the end of May. You may check out student comments about the Forest nominees by choosing the Forest of Reading Blog icons on UG2GO.

On May 26, the Aboyne Library will be visiting to talk to us about the Summer Reading Program at our local libraries.

If you are spring cleaning and come across any of our school library books, please return them to the library.

## **Talking about Mental Health - May 2015**

### **May 2-9 is Child and Youth Mental Health Week!**

Have a **SUPER** Week! Let's increase everyone's mental health and well being! Let's focus on increasing these positive skills!

**S**ocial Connections

**U**plifting Emotions

**P**ersonal Health

**E**motional Calming

**R**esilient Thinking

Now that you have started building all those wonderful skills, keep it going throughout the month and the year!

Our community partners have some excellent activities planned:

Norfolk Psychological Services is presenting a series of free seminars, hosted at the Guelph Public Library on Child, Youth and Family Mental Health.

For more information and to register, please visit [www.guelphpl.ca](http://www.guelphpl.ca) or 519-824-6220.

DCAFS and Shed the Light will be presenting in schools and a display and information will be available at DCAFS. Shed the Light is hosting 'Artistry in Mind' at ODSS on Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> in the evening.

For more information go to [dcafs.ca](http://dcafs.ca).

CMHAWWD is hosting: a film showing, May 4, 7:00 pm of The Mask You Wear at 10 Carden St., Guelph. A BBQ and Art Show, May 8, 1-4 pm at 30 Centre St., Orangeville and a BBQ/Open house on May 8, 1:30-1:30 at 292 Stephenson St. N., Guelph.

GLOWW and CMHAWWD are hosting a family day and walk to bring Mental Illness out of the dark into the light, May 2, 12-5, at Exhibition Park, Guelph.

For more information go to <https://wwd.cmha.ca/>

**Enjoy and participate and keep talking about mental health!**

*Dr. Lynn Woodford is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board*

*Follow me on twitter: @drlynnwoodford*

## **Supporting Students with Learning Disabilities**

Learning disabilities refer to a number of disorders that affect processes related to the learning, organization, and recall of information, as well as the understanding or use of language and/or nonverbal information. A student with a learning disability demonstrates some average or above average cognitive abilities that are essential for thinking and reasoning. Despite this, he or she can have academic underachievement, or achievement maintained only by unusually high levels of effort and/or support. At school, this means that the student has good ideas and is able to do the thinking required to make connections and problem solve, however one or more areas of academics (oral language, reading, writing or math) cause significant difficulties and frustration.

The Upper Grand District School Board supports students with learning disabilities in a variety of ways. Some students who struggle to learn to read will be recommended by the school to attend a special education class for students with learning disabilities. If parents agree that this is a good option for supporting their child, the student may attend this program for one or more years in Grades 4 through 6. In some areas of the Board, where special education classes are not available, a student with a learning disability might receive the support of one of the Board's four Itinerant Technology Resource Teachers. These teachers are qualified special education teachers and have an expertise in the use of assistive technology. The support of an Itinerant Technology Resource Teacher would occur during Grades 4 to 6 and would take place while the student is in the regular classroom. For most students with learning disabilities, the regular classroom, with the support of a resource teacher, is the best fit.

A student with a learning disability, receiving instruction in a regular or special education class, will benefit significantly from the use of assistive technology. This may include computer programs that are designed to read printed materials, turn speech into written words, or predict what words students are trying to spell. Assistive technology is often an important strategy for learning and letting students demonstrate what they know and have learned. The use of these technologies can also help students to become more independent, can increase their self-confidence and improve self-esteem. While assistive technology is often necessary for some students with learning disabilities and other difficulties at school to be successful, it can benefit ALL STUDENTS in the classroom. Each and every student at the UGDSB has access to Read&Write for Google, which does read print, turn speech into words and predict the words as they are being typed. These program options are available to students on any computer, at school or at home, as long as they are logged onto the internet browser

Chrome and their UGCloud account. For information on how to access your child's UGCloud account at home, speak to his or her classroom teacher.

## May Environmental & Character Education Theme



### Live local – be HELPFUL in your neighbourhood

Think local and save the environment. It is time to celebrate our local talent and to appreciate the wealth of natural goodness grown locally. Every decision we make to purchase local products, reduces carbon emissions. Our province produces an abundance of fruits, vegetables, meat, nuts, and grains. However, the richness of local products doesn't end with food products. We have many local talented artists, sculptors, and fashion designers. Every time we choose local products we are making a choice to support our local economy and individual micro-economies.

What is an ecological ? "An **ecological footprint** is used to depict the amount of land and water area you would need to provide the resources required to support yourself." By caring about your environment and making careful choices you can have a positive impact on the planet and leave a smaller ecological footprint so that your own and future generations - not to mention the other creatures - can enjoy this beautiful planet. Help the planet by starting in your own backyard. Look around your neighbourhood to see what places—parks, gathering spots, natural places, quiet nooks, play areas, walking routes, commercial centers—could be protected or regenerated. Think about what changes could be made to reduce pollution and environmental degradation. So don't pollute, conserve water and other resources, ride your bike or walk as much as possible and eat and shop locally, and you will help keep your "footprint" small!

*If you live your life locally, you protect globally! - Let's go green, everyone!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <b>May 2015</b>					1	2
3	4 <b>Pizza Fundraising Night</b>	5 Yoga Day  <b>Pizza Fundraising Night</b>	6 >Scholastic Book Orders Due >Pizza orders Due  Pizza Fundraising Night	7 Safety Day for Gr. 1 & 4	8	9
10 <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	11	12 Bus Patrol Seminar at Alma P.S.	13	14 Thatcher Farm Trip JK,SK & Gr.1	15	16
17	18 <b>VICTORIA DAY</b>	19	20	21 >Gr. 2 Ag Awareness Day – Arthur >Jr's Green Legacy & Ducks Unlimited	22 Raindate for Ag Day	23
24	25 Grade 3 write EQAO this week	26	27	28	29	30
31	Grade 6 write EQAO this week June 1 - 4					