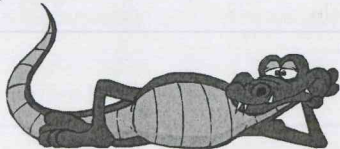


ALMA NEWS



MAY 2017

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 9 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 8th as this is always a big highlight for the school year. This year Council has been looking into further enhancing our playground with another new structure. At the time of printing this letter plans are not finalized but we are hopeful for a big announcement soon. EQAO testing runs May 23 to June 5, 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
- 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



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 6 students will write the EQAO assessments May 29, 30, 31, and our Grade 3 students will write May 23, 24 & 25. 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.

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!!

Feedback welcome on draft policies

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is Policy 413 Safety (Behaviour Prevention and Intervention) and Policy 603 Provision of Learning Resources. You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy. The deadline for public input is May 25, 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.

When picking up your students early please remember to sign them out. The sign out sheet is on the front desk in the office. Thanks

Grade 6 Camp & Transition Dates

Grade 6 Camp Trip - June 21 – 23 (Parent information night, ????)

Grade 6 Parent Information Night at Elora Public School – TBA

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

Grade 6 Farewell - June 26th , 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

TENTATIVE School Organization & Class Placements: 2016 – 2017

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

JK/SK – Full Day Kindergarten (FDK)

Grade 1

Grade 2

Grade 3/4

Grade 4/5

Grade 5/6


Please notify Mr. Hill by the end of May if you have a specific consideration regarding your child's class placement for next year. 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 30th of May, 2017.

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.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Lunch Orders Due Scholastic Book orders Due	4 10-2:00p.m. Empowerment Day –Sleeman Centre (Gr.6)	5	6
7	8	9	10 School Council Mtg. 6:30 p.m.	11 Bus Patrol Training 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Gr. 2 Ag Awareness Day in Arthur a.m. Gr. 1 & 4 Safe Kids Day in Drayton	19	20
21	22 Victoria Day	23 Gr. 3 EQAO	24 Gr. 3 EQAO Green Legacy Tree Planting – Gr. 4,5 & 6	25 Gr. 3 EQAO	26 Groundwater Festival - Gr. 2, 3, 4, & 5	27
28	29 Gr. 6 EQAO	30 Gr. 6 EQAO	31 Gr. 6 EQAO	 <small>chilindres.com</small>		

2017