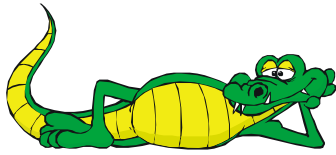


ALMA NEWS



November 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/>



Dear Parents/Guardians,

In November we **REMEMBER** the men and women who fought for our freedom. We think of our soldiers who are keeping peace in other parts of the world.

Remembrance Day

Alma Public School will hold a Remembrance Day Assembly on November 10th, beginning at 2 pm in the gym. The students will participate in the assembly along with a local piper. Parents are welcome to attend.

The students will receive a poppy before they go into the assembly. We will accept donations for the Legion if you wish to contribute.



Feedback welcome on draft policies

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is **Policy 310 – Display of Flags**. You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy. **The deadline for public input is November 30, 2017** at 4 p.m. EST. Persons without internet access may call 519-22-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.

Important Notice!

Your Parent Council has made the decision to stop sending home a paper copy of the monthly newsletter en masse. Paper copy newsletters will only be sent home to those who send in the request form below. If you send in a request form to the office you will continue to get your newsletter as usual. For those who do not want a paper copy of the newsletter you will be able to access it in two very convenient formats! You can find it posted on our school website at <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/AlmaPS/> or you can access it via the ugdsb smart phone app. Download the app (find by searching upper grand district school board), select Alma P.S. as your school and you are off to the races! The app is also great for accessing the school calendar, news, special events and announcements. There is also a convenient link to bus information such as cancellations and school closures. I encourage everyone to get the app. To continue getting a paper copy of the newsletter please fill out and send in the form below. Thanks and I hope you will appreciate our efforts toward environmental protection!

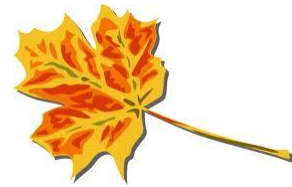
Our family would still like to receive a paper copy of the Alma monthly newsletter.

(family name, please print)

Please detach and return this request to the office ASAP

Events and Activities in October included:

- Pumpkin Contest
- Cross Country Run
- Volunteers reading with students
- Optimist Disc Golf
- Optimist Soccer



Fall elementary progress report cards

The progress reports will be sent home on November 14th.

The following week the teachers will be scheduling interviews. Please fill in the interview request sheet that was in with the report card and return it to the school on or before Monday November 20th. Thanks

School Crossing Location

Please remind your children to cross at the United Church crossing when walking to and from school. The township has a paid crossing guard there for the safety of your children. We have seen students crossing at the corner of Simpson and Country Road #7. This corner is extremely dangerous.

Bullying Information

“Bullying” means aggressive and typically repeated.

A) The behaviour is intended by the pupil to have the effect of, or the pupil ought to know that the behaviour would be likely to have the effect of:

i) causing harm, fear or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social

or academic harm, harm to the individual’s reputation or harm to the individual’s property, or

ii) creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, and

B) The behaviour occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the pupil and the individual based on factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education; (intimidation)

Bullying takes different forms of contexts with age. It can be physical, verbal, social/emotional or through electronic means (cyber-bullying). Bystanders contribute to bullying by doing nothing to prevent it or become actively involved in supporting it.

EXAMPLES OF BULLYING

- Ganging up on someone
- Taunting someone in a hurtful way
- Using put-downs, such as insulting someone’s race or making fun of someone for being a boy or girl
- Spreading rumours about someone, person to person or electronically
- Excluding someone intentionally or trying to get others to not associate with someone

You can help your child if/when they experience bullying. By working with the school to help your child handle the bullying problem, you are leading by example. Encourage your child to talk to you and you may give advice such as:

- Walk away from the situation
- Don’t hit back, don’t talk back, don’t email back
- Tell an adult whom you trust – a teacher, the principal, the school bus driver....
- Talk about it
- Find a friend to be with in places where you don’t feel safe
- Call Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868, or visit their website at

www.kidshelpphone.ca

www.ontario.ca/safeschools

~Ministry of Education~

Ways to Extend Learning At Home:

- After sharing a story together, or for older children, after some reading, ask them to **retell** in his/her own words the major events, then ask them to **relate** the events in some way that is meaningful (making connections) to their lives, and have them **reflect** upon what they read by asking questions such as ...I wonder where,...When might....., How would you ..., Why can?
- When booklets and papers are brought home, look at them; comment on them; review them with your child. Show genuine interest in the work. This helps communicate that education is important and encourages your children to do well in school.
- Talk with your children about school and everyday events. Checking their agenda may help to begin conversations. Encourage your child to use their agenda (junior students should learn to take this initiative on a more independent level and this is being encouraged at school).



Soccer Tournament

Our Junior Alma Gator's played in an inter-school tournament at Elora on October 18th . . Our girls' team came home with 1st place. The boys' also did very well. All students demonstrated great tenacity and superb sportsmanship! **GO GATORS GO!** Thanks to Mr. Bachuk and Mrs. McDougall.

Cross Country



Congratulations to the Alma Gators Cross Country Team who participated with other area schools at the Fergus Sportsplex. Alma participated and we had some excellent results! Every student ran with their respective grade and gender. The students represented our school well. Thanks Coach Ladner!

School Safety Check

Continue to keep our school safe:

We have new bus times so please make sure that you are out of the bus parking area by 3:30 p.m.

**If you are picking up your son/daughter early please sign them out.
Thanks**

- ✓ Please continue to call the office if your child is away. Let us know if they are sick or have an appointment as we report all illness to the Health Unit.
- ✓ As colder weather arrives, ensure your child has appropriate clothing.
- ✓ Students are not supervised before 8:20 a.m. in the mornings. Please make sure that you do not drop your children off before 8:20 a.m.
- ✓ **Play Structure** is closed for safety, by the UGDSB, starting November 1st – March 31st.
- ✓ If your child has any changes for going home at the end of the day, please let the office know by way of a note or phone call. This is very important for the continued safety of your child(ren).

Inclement Weather Procedures

Alma Public School is in the Centre Wellington Area. When buses are cancelled in the morning it will be announced on various radio stations. Notices will be broadcasted between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. over radio stations: CJOY (1460), CKKW (109), CHYM (570 Kitchener). You can also go to <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca>, or our school website, <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/AlmaPS/> and check the Transportation area for cancellation news.

Board Policy

It is a parent's responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for their students to leave for school in inclement or severe weather.

A parent must be aware of the following:

- When a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice or snow conditions, it will not travel that route in the afternoon.
- If a parent elects to drive their child/children to school, they are responsible for their pick-up at dismissal time (3:30 p.m.)



Food & Friends

Supporting Student Nutrition

Our school is proudly supported by Food & Friends, which provides funding towards our nutrition program so we can offer our students a healthy snack when they are finished their lunch and are still hungry.

All food that we serve in our nutrition program must meet the nutritional guidelines set out by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services..

Here at Alma we have a snack program that we set out at the second nutrition break. After children finish their lunch from home they are able to have a snack from the bins if they are still hungry or if they forget their lunch and we are unable to contact parents we can share something with them from the snack program.

