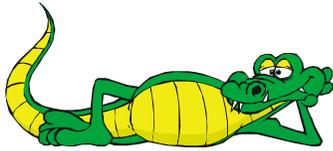


# ALMA NEWS



January 2018

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 2017 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 many parents for all of their 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 a family with some very generous gift cards. I'm sure this family deeply appreciated the help at what otherwise would have been a tough time of year. I look forward to continuing our relationship with the Optimists in 2018!

Our next Parent Council meeting is January 10<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 2018!

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
- Fundraisers (Thanks to the School Council and parents)
- D.A.R.E. Program for grade 5/6 (Drugs Abuse Assistance Education)
  
- 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**

We're getting ready to welcome our newest group of little learners to the school!

Kindergarten registration for the School Year 2018 – 2019 will take place January 9 – 19, 2018. Once you've pre-registered on line, parents/guardians must go into their child's home school before the January 19<sup>th</sup> deadline, in order to drop off documentation and complete their registration. The documentation (birth certificate, Immunization, proof of address) . If you know of a child that will be ready for Kindergarten please have them call the School, or they can go on line. 519 846-5110 [www.ugdsb.on.ca/kindergarten](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/kindergarten)

## 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.
- ✓ 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.

Cancellations are on the Board website under Transportation.

## 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 19<sup>th</sup>**

The Upper Grand District School Board will be observing FAMILY DAY on February 19<sup>th</sup> and our school will be closed. We hope you enjoy the day with your family!

### **Avoid school suspension by keeping immunization records up-to-date!**

Student's immunization records must be provided to Public Health in order to attend school. In the next few weeks, Public Health will be sending notices to students with incomplete immunization records. Anyone who gets a notice should contact their family doctor so they can update their vaccines, and then report their new vaccines to Public Health.

Report every vaccine to Public Health using one of the following methods:

- Online: Fill in the form at [www.immunizewdg.ca](http://www.immunizewdg.ca)
- Email: Send a photo of the immunization record to [vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca)
- Call: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396

If a student is not getting vaccinated for medical reasons, reasons of conscience or religious beliefs, an exemption form must be submitted to Public Health. The forms are available at [www.wdgpublichealth.ca](http://www.wdgpublichealth.ca).

Public Health is committed to helping students update their vaccination records so they can avoid suspension from school.

### **What is the Special Education Advisory Committee?**

Every school district is required to have a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).

SEAC is a broad-based, educationally focused committee that meets monthly to engage in a variety of discussions all related to the educational programs for students with special needs. These meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Wednesday of each month throughout the school year. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Upper Grand District School Board office in Guelph.

At SEAC meetings, the representative members from different organizations (ABC - Association for Bright Children, Autism Ontario Wellington Chapter, FASD- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, Integration Action for Inclusion in Education and Community (Ontario), Learning Disabilities Association of Wellington County, Parents for Children's Mental Health, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children) share knowledge about their agency programs with the committee. These community members then take back points of information about the Board's educational programs to the agencies that they represent. In addition, SEAC makes recommendations to the board with respect to any matters affecting the establishment, development, and delivery of Special Education programs and services for exceptional students within the board. The SEAC committee also participates in the board's annual review of the Special Education Plan and participates in the board's annual budget process as it relates to Special Education.

For further information about SEAC or Special Education Programs in the Upper Grand District School Board please call the Program Department at 519-941-6191 ext. 254.

### **Legion Remembrance Day Contest Winners**

Junior Posters: Austin H. – 1<sup>st</sup> place

Carter C. – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Piper W. – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Primary Colour Poster – Briar W. – 2<sup>nd</sup> place