

January-February 2023 Updates

Hello everyone,

We hope everyone has had a happy holiday season and has had an opportunity to spend some time visiting with family and friends. We continue talking about Learning Skills as a school, which leads to setting some goals as the second term of school starts. It would be a nice idea to perhaps reinforce that at home and revisit the topic with your child or ask them what they would like to improve on for the next term of school and how might they go about that. We continue to emphasize that good learning skills, or work ethic, will go a long way towards improving achievement in any category.



- As a school, we also set goals and some of ours are of course improving academic achievement and helping our students learn to read, write and be proficient in mathematics. To that end, reading, at any age or level, is one of the most effective ways to help children learn. Good readers are good learners. Please take some time to read either with or to your child, whatever their age.
- Below is an outline of our school goals, some things that are already in the process of working towards meeting them and some things we have planned
 - 1. Academic achievement- Literacy and Numeracy**
 - a. Intensive Early Reading Program
 - b. Reading Tutor
 - c. Focus on Learning Skills
 - d. Focus on high leverage teaching strategies (small group instruction; explicit learning goals; differentiated instruction; Number Talks mental math; descriptive feedback)
 - 2. Sustainability**
 - a. Water bottle filling stations (to reduce single use plastics use)
 - b. Recycling
 - c. Organics collection
 - d. GOOS paper bins in every room and by every photocopier
 - e. Community clean-ups
 - 3. Mental Health-Sense of Community and Belonging**
 - a. Sports intramurals and tournaments
 - b. Staff vs Students games
 - c. DanceEd
 - d. Terry Fox Run
 - e. Learning/Reading Buddies
 - f. Community/Nature Walks
 - g. School Pride Clothing

- h. Spirit Days
- i. Board Games Club
- j. Transition planning for students who struggle

4. Equity and Diversity

- a. Recognition of various holidays and celebrations
- b. Staff training on establishing inclusive classrooms
- c. Beyond Labels Club
- d. Spirit Days to celebrate Diversity

- The grade 8 students continue to work with their classroom teachers, high schools and MyBlueprint for grade 9 course selection. Virtual visits have taken place with the students and some high schools have had Virtual Open Houses. All of this information had been posted on your child’s Google Classroom. There will be more opportunities for virtual visits and other information coming in the spring.
- Course selection for most high schools is due at the end of January or beginning of February. High Schools will be connecting with our grade 8 teachers to help with the course selection process / MyBlueprint. If you have any questions about that please reach out to your child’s teacher.
- Kindergarten students may still register for the 2023-2024 school year
- Some supports:
 - Parent Tech Help <https://sites.google.com/ugcloud.ca/parenthelp/>
 - Common Issues with Chrome <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1y6AtotMabdShA-hp9eqdNOjxsBOZLHMBN-dmKHRphEY/edit>
 - How Do I Share My Child’s Work with the Teacher? https://sites.google.com/ugcloud.ca/eitc/resources-to-share-with-parents?authuser=0#h.p_R9VjXirC3M2F
 - How Do I Use Google Classroom? https://sites.google.com/ugcloud.ca/eitc/resources-to-share-with-parents?authuser=0#h.p_hG1pa8kDNwX1
- UGDSB Mental Health Supports and Resources <https://www.ugdsb.ca/students/mental-health-for-students/>

Save The Date:

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| January 20 | gr. 2-3 Personal Safety and gr. 4-5 Online Safety presentations |
| January 27 | PD Day Teachers will NOT be teaching online |
| February 2 | Intermediate Basketball Tournament |
| February 7 | Intermediates River Run Trip |
| February 14 | Show The Love Spirit Day- wear pink, red or white if you like |
| February 16 | Reports available online |
| February 17 | Grade 8 IPRC Reviews begin |
| February 20 | Family Day - No School |



February 22	National Pink Shirt Day
February 28	Central IPRCs
March 3	PA Day No School for students
March 13-17	Spring Break
March 23-24	Annual IPRC Reviews Gr. 1-7 begin

- **Early Pick-Up**

If you are picking up your child early, ***you do not need to call in advance.*** Please just come in early enough and we will call the child down once you arrive. We respectfully ask that parents do their utmost NOT to pick up students early unless it cannot be avoided. This creates a lot of disruption in the classroom.

- **Contact Information**

If your home or email address or phone numbers have changed, please be reminded to update the school as well

- **NEW Volunteer Policy**

There have been changes made to the Volunteer Policy. It was passed by trustees recently and is effective immediately. This will mean that any volunteer that comes into contact with a student will need a Vulnerable Sector Check.

Attached you will find the required information that needs to be completed prior to volunteering at École Arbour Vista Public School. Two of the attached forms need to be returned to the school (School Volunteer Application and Volunteer Agreement) as well as a Criminal Record Check.

You will need to obtain a Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening. You can apply for a Criminal Record Check including a Vulnerable Sector Screening online through the Guelph Police Service site

<https://www.guelphpolice.ca/en/request-for-information/vulnerable-sector-check.aspx>. If a personalized letter is required by the Police Services, please contact the school.

Once you have all three required documents please bring them into the school office or send them in with your child to school. We will then add this information to our central volunteer binder. You are only required to complete the forms once for the year and criminal record checks are good for 5 years. In years when you do not complete a criminal record check, you will be asked to sign an offense declaration form in lieu of having a new Criminal Record Check completed.

We are incredibly grateful for our many volunteers. We appreciate the extra work that this may take, however the safety of our students is our utmost priority.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact the school.

- **SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS: CITY OF GUELPH ONLY**

The City is experiencing a shortage of crossing guards and are currently struggling to cover all locations. They are doing their best to fill these gaps; however, the program may have unforeseen vacancies due to guards calling in for same-day coverage.

The priority is to cover the no-control intersections first. Control locations include intersections with traffic signals, intersection pedestrian signals (IPS) and all-way stops. We will cover these locations if we can.

The [City's website](#) has some helpful tips for crossing at traffic signals. Following is the internal listing of all locations, noting those with no-control and control intersections. [2023 January 16 ASCG listing](#)

- **COURSE SELECTION CONVERSATIONS - GRADE 8 AND GRADE 9**

As a complement to career/life planning programming, parents play an important role in supporting students with information sharing as well as scaffolding the development of reflection, goal setting, decision making and self-advocacy skills.

The following resource is available to you:

- [Grade 7/8 Transitions Page on UGDSB Pathways Website](#)

- **FAMILY LITERACY DAY CELEBRATION IN UGDSB**

What is Family Literacy Day?

Family Literacy Day is on Friday January 27th. Since this is a PD day, schools will engage in Family literacy Day activities in the week leading up to the 27th!

Family Literacy Day was started in 1999 to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

The theme this year is [Celebrate your Heritage](#). Taking time to explore and learn about the culture and heritage of students in our school community is a way to celebrate student identity.

- **Hot Lunch Programs**

Both Pizza and Popcorn orders will reopen once again just before March break. Please be sure to watch for an email from SchoolCash online alerting you to a new item for sale. We also update our school online calendar with those dates. There will not be an extra email from the school. Also, the orders for Terra Cotta heart-shaped vanilla cookies are now open on SchoolCash online



Happy Chinese New Year To All Who Are Celebrating!!!!