



Drayton Heights Public School

75 Wellington Street South, P.O. Box 40
Drayton, Ontario, NoG 1P0
(519) 638-3067

Mr. M. McNamara
Principal (extension 223)

Mrs. Linda Turton,
Office Coordinator (extension 100)

Principals Message . . .

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you well, following our Christmas holiday. This is a great time of year to set goals and action plans.

With the New Year upon us, we are definitely experiencing more typical winter weather. With this colder weather, we ask that parents please remember to assist your child in wearing warm clothing to school. All students are expected to participate in outdoor recesses, weather permitting. During extremely cold or harsh winter conditions, we always balance the need for fresh air and exercise with safety and health conditions. This may involve the short recess outdoors and a shortened noon-hour recess so that students are never exposed to the colder weather for too long. In extreme conditions, all recesses may be indoors.

Mr. McNamara

Important Dates:

Jan. 9 - 16	Kindergarten Registration
Jan. 13	Ugly Sweater Day
Jan. 17	Intermediate Volleyball Tournament
Jan. 26	Book Drive Assembly – Me2We
Jan. 27	PA Day

DIVISION III



During inclement weather, please note the following:

Your Child rides a “North Wellington” school bus or taxi to school. When you hear the radio announcement “All school taxis and buses in North Wellington will not be operating today” your child’s bus or taxi is cancelled.

During times of inclement weather, please listen to: 1460 AM CJOY, 106.1 Magic FM, Oldies 1090 AM, 105.3 Kool FM, News Talk 570 AM, 96.7 FM CHYM, 920 AM & 101.7 FM CKNX, CKCO-TV for school transportation cancellations.

A decision to cancel transportation is made by 6:30 a.m. in order to give all parents and drivers sufficient notice. The decision is based on a number of factors, including the actual weather and road conditions, as checked first-hand by designated Bus Operators in each area, weather predictions made by Environment Canada, and information on road conditions from the local Road Superintendent.

Parents can also check their school board’s web sites for bus cancellations. Information will be posted daily on the web site by 6:30 a.m. November to April or as required at other times of the year.



Service de transport de
Wellington – Dufferin
Student Transportation Services



Safe Arrival Routines

Each school day, one of the first priorities of our Office is to ensure the safe arrival of our children. If you know that your child is going to be late or absent, please call the office (extension 100) and leave a phone message so that we know that your child is safe.

New to Drayton Heights is a sign in/sign out sheet in the office for any students leaving between 8:45 a.m. and 3:20 p.m. Parents/Guardians are asked if you are picking up your son or daughter for an appointment, please sign him/her out and back in again if he/she returns. Any intermediate students going out for lunch with a note, must also sign out and in again.

If there is to be a change to your child's schedule through the day (eg. Early pickup, change to lunch routine, etc.), please send a signed note with your child to be forwarded to the office. Whenever possible, we ask that these arrangements be made before school so that calls are not being made to the office throughout the day to change these plans. We wish to reserve mid-day calls for urgent matters, rather than for arranging student social-events.

The start and end of each school day is a very busy time for everyone, and the school yard at these times is full of activity. **To ensure the safety of your children, I ask that parents and students NOT use the parking lot to access the back of the school yard.**

There are times when it is very difficult for drivers to see pedestrians, and particularly



small children, passing through our parking lot. Though less convenient, it is much safer for students and parents to use the walkway in front of the school adjacent to our bus lanes, to access the school tarmac near the climbers.

Your understanding and support with these routines, as we work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our youngsters, is greatly appreciated!

Hot Lunches and Milk

We would like to thank all parents with their understanding with the ordering procedures for hot lunches for their child(ren). Please understand that this is an Upper Grand District School Board move to reduce the amount of cash in schools. Many options are available for your child, should you wish to take advantage of them.

Drayton Heights Offers:

Every Day - Milk/Chocolate Milk
Wednesday and Fridays – Pizza
These start the week of January 9th

School Council Offers:

Tuesdays - Ham & Swiss Cheese Kaisers
Thursdays -Turkey Pita
These start the week of Jan. 16th

Monday – Hot Lunches
Start the week of Jan. 23.

Deadline to order Hot Lunches is January 18th!

All of the above run until March Break. Ordering for the next term will open in February to start after March Break. Website is:

Ugdsb.SchoolCashOnline.com to register

Creative Thinking

The Ministry of Education recently released a document entitled *21st Century Competencies* that outlines four key competencies. They include critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and **creativity and innovation**. The document outlines how these key competencies impact learning in the classroom, in the world, and later in life in careers.

Looking for some ideas to inspire creativity at home? Consider these invitations to create and innovate:

Read picture books that promote creative thinking with everyday materials such as *Not a Box or Not a Stick* by Antoinette Portis. Then collect some sticks or a few boxes and let your child's imagination run wild!

Explore the idea of provocations at home. A provocation is simply putting materials or items together that provoke thinking and curiosity. It could be as simple as a basket of unusual household items (old vinyl records, a variety of nuts and bolts, open-ended building materials, some paper and writing materials, etc.) and asking your child what they might be able to do with these items. Offering similar materials over a period of time allows children to challenge themselves to come up with even more creative ideas using the same things.

Offer your child a variety of open-ended art materials (markers, watercolours, plasticine, buttons and loose parts, etc.) to allow them to do the creative thinking and planning instead of pre-planned crafts.

Together create a dance routine to a current song, or even better, use an oldie but a goodie. Inspire your child to create dance moves for the verses, and then change up the moves in the chorus. Engaged in the fun of being innovative; your child will be creating *dance phrases* and exploring *musical form* by doing this!

Re-purpose containers, or small boxes and create a scavenger hunt outside in the snow. Place found objects in the containers/boxes as clues that your child needs to piece together. By placing the containers/boxes ahead of time as a scavenger hunt, you will have created a large scale "provocation" that can lead to imaginative play afterwards. Use the idea of discovering artifacts in the outside environment as an invitation to create a map of your backyard, or a forested area near your house. Build on this idea...and make new scavenger hunts and maps as an inquisitive way to learn about your home and local environment together.

"Awareness of one's inner feelings and thoughts is a prerequisite to making art. Inspiration and innovative thinking spring from this awareness and provide us with new answers and solutions, and new questions to pursue" (The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: The Arts, p.19).

Talking About Mental Health January 2017 – Nature and Mental Health

Getting outside makes such a difference to how we all are doing inside. Spending time in nature improves our mental health and well-being. It is a simple way to add some much needed down time from screens. Adding some time in nature is having some much deserved peace and quiet in our busy lives.

If you want your family:

- To be less stressed
- To be happier
- To be more resilient
- To feel better about themselves
- To have increased attention
- To have a better ability to learn

Then GO OUTSIDE! Take your kids outside! Enjoy and be part of nature.

One study showed that even 5 minutes in nature improves our mood. 5 minutes! We all can take 5 minutes (or more if have it) to go outside and enjoy nature.

Go for a walk or a ski or a skate or a run. Head for the woods. Go birdwatching. Follow tracks in the snow. Watch the sunrise or the sunset. Watch the clouds drift by. Visit a river or lake or pond. Listen for all the sounds of nature. Take in the smells. Notice all the colours and textures. Notice the light as the days get longer.

If you are not sure where to go, check out the links below for lots of great parks in our area.

<http://guelph.ca/living/recreation/parks/>

<http://www.wellington.ca/en/discover/trailsandforests.asp?hdnContent=>

<https://www.grandriver.ca/en/grand-river-parks.aspx>

<http://headwaters.ca/experience/parks-conservation-areas/>

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/arboretum/>

Have a mentally healthy 2017!

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

Follow me on Twitter @drlynnwoodford.



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.

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
- Email: Send a photo of the immunization record to 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. Public Health is committed to helping students update their vaccination records so they can avoid suspension from school.



Kids Design Studio (Grades K- 6)

Learn what makes the world go round. Discover the basics of science, technology, engineering and math through experimentation and play. January 3 and 4 during open hours

Baby Time (0 - 12 months)

Introduce your baby to the library and a love of books through finger plays, songs, rhymes and stories. Please register. Mondays, January 9 - 30, 11:30 am - 12:00 pm.

Toddler Time (1-3 years)

Come explore the alphabet with us! Share stories, songs, rhymes and activities aimed at developing your child's early literacy skills. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate. Please register. Mondays, January 9 - 30
10:00 - 10:30 am or 10:45 - 11:15 am

Story Time (3-5 years)

Our Story Times are created to help your child get ready for reading. Share stories, songs, rhymes and activities aimed at developing your child's early literacy skills. Parent and caregivers are encouraged to participate. Please register. Tuesdays, January 10 - 31
10:15 - 11:00 am or 11:15 am - 12:00 pm
Fridays, January 13- 27, 10:15 - 11:00 am

Afterschool Adventures (Grades K- 6)

Art Attack!
Wednesdays, January 11- 25, 4:00 - 5:00 pm

Booktastic (Grades K- 6)

In the Wild!
Tuesdays, January 10 - 31, 3:45 - 4:45 pm

Wild about Upcycling (Pre-teen)

Be creative with something "old"! Please register.
Friday, January 20, 3:45 - 4:45 pm

iPad Basics (Adult)

Learn how iPads work, some basic apps that everyone should know about, and more. Bring your iPad or test one of ours! Please register. Monday, January 16, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Book Club (Adult)

Join us as we read "The Round House" by Louise Erdrich.
Wednesday, January 25, 6:45 - 8:00 pm.

Scrabble (Adult)

Join us for an afternoon of casual word building entertainment! No experience necessary. Please register.
Monday, January 23, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Wellington County Library

106 Wellington St S, Drayton N0G 1P0

519.638.3788 • www.wellington.ca/Library



Family Literacy Day: Stuffie Sleepover

(All Ages)

Bring your stuffed animal to the library for a sleepover adventure to celebrate Family Literacy Day! What will those cute and cuddly creatures get up to overnight in the library? Please register.

Friday, January 27, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Movie Morning (Grades K- 6)

Join us for a showing of "The Secret Life of Pets". Rated G. Please register.

Friday, January 6, 10:30 am

Happy Birthday Canada! Open House (All Ages)

We're celebrating 150 years of Canada! Drop in for cake and refreshments and join the party! Saturday, January 28 during branch hours

Paws 4 Stories (SK – Grade 6)

This is reading programme is designed to help kids practice reading fluency with a certified dog and handler in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. Offered in partnership with St. John's Ambulance. Please register.

Saturday, January 21, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Celebrate Family Literacy Day with a Stuffie Sleepover!



Celebrate Family Literacy Day with a special Stuffie Sleepover event for parents, children, and a special stuffed animal. Together, we'll share stories, sing songs, and play – everything designed to promote early literacy skills. Children will tuck their stuffed animals in for the night so they can have a library sleepover. Families can pick up their stuffie friends and a special memento the next day. Contact your local branch for more information.

For information on all our programmes, visit www.wellington.ca/Library



ALTERNATE FORMATS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet

January 5th is National Bird Day!

It is vital to teach our children to respect and take care of the environment.

Celebrate the 15th Annual National Bird Day on January 5th!

“Nearly 12 percent of the world's 9,800 bird species may face extinction within the next century, including nearly one-third of the world's 330 parrot species. The survival and well-being of the world's birds depends upon public education and support for conservation”.

“National Bird Day is on January 5 each year, as it's scheduled to coincide with the end of the annual Christmas Bird Count. This count lasts three weeks and is the longest running citizen science survey in the world that helps to monitor the health of our nation's birds.”

<http://www.nationalbirdday.com/index.php>

Activities to get your kids involved on National Bird Day!

- Sharpen your senses and take a bird call quiz! *“Fun for fledgling birders and experts alike.”*
http://www.nationalbirdday.com/g_birdquiz.php
- Design a poster for National Bird day that you can put up on the fridge at home.
- Spend the day learning about endangered bird species and find out what you can do to help to keep all birds safe, like Audubon's “10 Things You Can Do For Birds”. <http://www.audubon.org/magazine/march-april-2013/10-things-you-can-do-birds>
- Go out and count how many birds you can spot and learn to identify the common birds in your neighbourhood. You can use a bird identification guide such as the National Geographic online backyard bird identifier tool.
<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birding/backyard-bird-identifier/>
- Design and make bird feeders that you can put up to help feed the birds in your area.
<http://frogsandsnailsandpuppydogtail.com/10-bird-feeders-kids-love-to-make/>