



ELORA PUBLIC SCHOOL

288 Mill Street East

Elora, Ontario

N0B 1S0

519-846-5999

Curt McQueen, Principal

**Dawn Airdrie-Donovan – Vice
Principal**

September 2021 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Hello Elora families and welcome back! It was amazing to finally have all of our students back at school. It was a tremendous amount of work at the end of August to “reset” everything and be ready for September 7th. Thank you to our custodial team and the entire staff for their time and effort getting the school prepared.

As you know, shortly into the school year, we found ourselves working closely with Public Health in regards to positive COVID-19 associated with the Elora PS community. I know this has been a stressful time for those families directly impacted and our school families in general. Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding with these circumstances and for respecting the protocols that need to be followed. I had many families reach out with excellent questions. As always, please ask rather than wonder. We will do our best with your queries. As well, appreciation goes out to our teachers for shifting to provide learning at home for some of our students. Please continue to be attentive to everyone in your family regarding symptoms and follow through on the school day screening every day. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Our September staffing process is complete. We will not have any class re-organization this year.

Please review the general information below. If you have any questions, please reach out by phone or email us elora.ps@ugdsb.on.ca

Sincerely,

Curt McQueen
Principal

Terry Fox Run - 2021

Once again, Elora PS is proud to take part in this year's Terry Fox Run on Friday September 24th. We would really appreciate any financial donations to our school reach a goal of \$1000.00 to put towards The Terry Fox Foundation. Donations can be made online directly to <http://www.terryfox.ca/EloraPS> or on schoolcashionline.com and we will forward the funds the foundation. No cash donations can be brought to the school at this time. Our plan this year is to have a relay style walk/run/jog where each class will have a scheduled time to participate throughout the day. We look forward to a great day of fun in the sun, however students should be prepared if it is a little cold and wet.

THANK YOU for your supporting our school in the fight against cancer and continuing Terry's legacy!

Elora Staff - 2021-2022

KA Teacher - Tanya McLaren KA ECE - Sheila Bauman KB Teacher - Tara Lichty KB ECE - Danielle Leies 1/2A - Anna Mark 1B - Linda deKleine 2/3C - Janet Stelter 2/3D - April Wasson 4/5B - Kari McCracken 4/5C - Gary White 5/6A - Morgan Basile 6B - Joe Garofalo/Jessica MacKenzie 7A - Nola Spicer Gore 7B - Jude Fletcher 7C - Andy Speers 7D - Bill Jewett 8A - Jeff Turner 8B - Sonya Mason 8C - Eric Kristensen 8D - Dave Gear Intermediate Art - Donna Hull Junior/Intermediate French - Lanny Fleming Grade 4 and ½ French - to be hired	Library - Michelle Youngblood Music - Jessica MacKenzie P.E. - Dave Gear/Nola Spicer Gore Intermediate French - Laurel Farrell Gr. 4-8 MID - Jennifer Rupnow Life Skills - Carolyn Farrell Resource - Cathy Abercrombie Planning Time - Katelyn Wall CYC - Danielle Schwindt EA - Karen Pell EA - Becky Pyke EA - April Tindall EA - Jami Laing EA - Zdenka Uddin EA - Melissa Corbit EA - Nikki Ruzycski Office Coordinator - Paola Malyk Admin Office Asst. - Linda Peyton Vice Principal - Dawn Airdrie Principal - Curt McQueen
--	--

School Council

School Council is an excellent opportunity for parents to become involved in school life. It is a chance to discuss school programs, support the purchase of resources through fundraising, and be an advisory group for the administration and staff at the school. Anyone can be involved. We will have approximately five general evening meetings through the year, plus committee meetings if you are interested. Our first meeting will be virtual and will be held on Tuesday, September 21st in the evening. Time and meeting access instructions are posted on our website.

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/elora/2021/09/14/school-council-meeting-september-21-2021-at-630-pm/>

Information about Communication

For overall communication, information will be put on our website. Please check it often:

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/elora/>

As well, on our website, you will find a link to our school email address: elora.ps@ugdsb.on.ca

Email addresses for all teachers are available on our website. Within the first few days, teachers will let families know of the preferred mode of communication. This could include email or Google Classroom.

While we cannot get together face-to-face, we are still available to meet about your child. This can be done over the phone or in a virtual meeting using Google Meet. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

School Messenger “App”!!! UG Connect!

We continue to use a School Messenger App as a parent communication tool for your smartphone. Designed to streamline communication between schools and the communities they serve, the Upper Grand Mobile app provides parents with a simple interface with up to date information including news, calendars and social media feeds.

The Upper Grand Mobile App (called UG Connect) is available today for free at either the Google Play Store or at iTunes. Use the search term “**Upper Grand**” to find the app. Once you have the Upper Grand app on your device, go into “Settings” within the app and select Elora Public School. Information from our website can be seen in the News section of the app and our calendar details will show up there too.

Safe Arrival Procedures

If your child is going to be absent for any reason, please phone the school at any time and leave a message on our answering machine at (519)846-5999. If your child is absent at 8:50 AM when morning attendance is taken, or at afternoon attendance, and we have not heard from you, a call home will be made from the school. If we are unable to reach you, we will then try the emergency contact number. If this fails, we must report to the police. When your child returns to class, or before a planned absence, a note of explanation is required. If it is necessary for your child to leave early, or to be absent for a period of time during the day, please send a note.

If your child is coming in late, please call the office. We will meet you at the front door to pick up your child.

Student Safety During Arrival and Dismissal

If you are driving and dropping off or picking up your child, please remember that the entrance to the parking lot is one way only. Allow cars to move through the parking lot. Please do not block the entrance to the road, or park your car in the laneways of the parking lot to wait for your child. **If at all possible, do not use our parking lot for pick up or drop off.** We strongly encourage you to walk your child to school or park on a side street and walk. This is for the safety of the children who will be arriving at and leaving a busy school. Thank you!

Do not enter the front driveway of the school during morning drop off and afternoon pick up times. This is for buses only.

Meet the Teacher Night

Stay tuned for a virtual option to Meet the Teacher Night! More details to come.

Let’s Limit the Lost and Found! - Label Clothing Items Please

Please label your child(ren)’s clothing. We have a Lost and Found that grows and grows daily.

PD Days This Year and School Year Calendar

All PD Days are full days this year. They are October 29, November 26, January 28, June 3. Please note that the school year for students goes until Wednesday, June 29th. As well, the way the schedule

has worked out, there is an **additional day off prior to March Break**. Friday, March 11th is a Board Holiday. The full school year calendar can be found at <http://www.ugdsb.ca/schools/school-year-calendars/>

Smoke and Vape-Free Environment

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke and vape-free environment for its students, staff and others while on Board property, in accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and Board policy 208. This policy refers to all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed, including e-cigarettes.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of the indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents will be informed using the school's usual forms of communication when smudging is going to occur in our school. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.

School Emergency Response Training and Annual Drills

This is to provide you with some information regarding our emergency drills for this year. The safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. Although we hope that an incident that requires response from emergency personnel will never occur in our school, we must be prepared to respond quickly and effectively in case it does.

Fire drills will continue to occur in a modified way this year. At a pre-arranged time, the alarm will sound so classes know what it sounds like. Each class will practice exiting the building at a separate individual time so that the hallways are not too crowded.

Tornado, and bomb threat drills will not take place during COVID-19, however, students will participate in a modified drill and review of emergency procedures in case of a real life-threatening situation. The modified practice drill must adhere to physical distance requirements. Lockdown drills will occur within each regular classroom

Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol and Suicide Protocol Notification A Message from Director of Education Peter Sovran

■ **Threat Risk Assessment and Suicide Protocol Notification.pdf**