

# January 2018 Newsletter

*From the Principal's Desk*



*Happy New Year to all!* I hope everyone had an opportunity to enjoy the company of family and friends during the holiday season. The school staff would like to take this opportunity to express a sincere thank you for the tremendous support that the school has received over the past year. The staff greatly appreciate everything that has been done to assist the students and staff at our school. A special thank you to our School Council members for all of the work they continue to do for our students and school community, including raising funds to purchase valuable resources, organizing Hot Lunch Programs and coordinating fun-filled activities. We wish all of you a safe, happy and prosperous 2018!

**Allergies:** A number of students in our school have a life-threatening severe allergy to peanuts and tree nuts. In order to reduce the risk of exposure, we respectfully request that allergens, or other products that mimic the qualities (taste and smell) of the known allergen, not be brought into the classrooms or cafeteria. If there is a different life-threatening allergy in your child's classroom, we will send out a reminder letter specific to that classroom as well. We thank you in advance for helping keep all our children safe and healthy.



**Cold Weather:** A reminder to parents and guardians to send their children to school dressed warmly enough to be outside during recess breaks, which are 30 minutes long, even on very cold days. We will generally call an indoor recess when it is -20C with wind chill, otherwise we go out. It is healthy for children to get fresh air and exercise during the day. It helps them to concentrate and learn better. Please send a scarf to cover the face, snow pants, a warm coat, a hat, mittens and insulated, waterproof boots. Extra mitts and socks are nice in case things get a little damp at first break and don't completely dry by second break. **We are noticing that our Intermediate students in particular, are not dressed for the weather.** If your family is going through a difficult time financially and you need some support to ensure that your children are warmly dressed, then please do not hesitate to call the school (519-833-9685 ext. 223). There is funding that we can access through the Board to help out.



**Bus Cancellation Procedures:** There are several ways you can find out if the buses are cancelled. You can check the UGDSB app (search "upper grand" where you get apps); you can check the UGDSB Transportation Website (<http://www.stwdsts.ca/> updated by 6:30 am); you can follow the Transportation Consortium on Twitter (@stwdsts); and you can listen to the local radio station. Our own school website and Twitter account will also be updated as promptly as possible.



On days when school buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not be running at the end of the school day, even if the weather improves. If you wish to drive your child(ren) to school on days when buses are cancelled, you must pick them up at the end of the day as well.

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**Lates and Absences:** Please continue calling our Safe Arrival line (519-833-9685 ext. 100) if your child will be late or absent. With the onset of colder weather, we see a sharp increase in the number of students who are late or dropped off late. Being late puts students at a disadvantage because the instruction on what the day is going to look like, as well as the instruction in the subject, are missed and the student starts his or her day in a "catch up" mode. This is a particularly stressful and difficult situation for students who are already struggling at school and who benefit from stability and predictability. Of course, life happens and who hasn't been late once or twice? But chronic lateness is a concern: it disrupts the teaching and learning that has already started for other students. If your child is chronically late, please speak with the teacher or the principal if there is an explanation; we sincerely want to support our students and families and may be able to work out a reasonable solution together. But if students continue being late without demonstrating an effort to solve this problem, they may have to wait in the office until the end of the period to transition into class more smoothly without interrupting others.

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**Get ready! JK Registration is from January 9-19**



Junior Kindergarten Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is from January 9 to 19, 2018 at all schools in UGDSB between the hours of 9 AM and 4 PM. All Kindergarten students (JK and SK) who are new to the UGDSB must pre-register online at [www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten).

For more information, you may wish to use [this link](#) as well. The school website has a link on the Homepage if that is more convenient for you.

Each elementary school will have a computer available for families to pre-register online at the school if you do not have access at home. Once they've pre-registered online, parents must go into their child's home school before the Jan. 19th deadline, to drop off required documentation and complete their registration.

Required documentation:

1. Proof of Age (child's birth certificate or passport)
  2. Proof of Immunization (Health Record card)
  3. Proof of residency identifying parent/guardian's current home address (e.g. utility/tax bill, bank statement, purchase/lease agreement)
  4. Verification of date of arrival/immigration documents (if child was not born in Canada)
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**School Supplies:** January is a good time to take stock of your child's school supplies and replenish them if need be: paper, pens, pencils, crayons and markers, calculators, rulers, sharpeners, erasers and scissors are some of the items that get used up quickly or lost.

**Indoor shoes:** All children must have indoor shoes at school. Boots bring in snow, which creates unsafe, slippery puddles. They also tend to scuff the floors. Indoor shoes will keep the students' feet dry and warm while inside.



**Forest of Reading:** The Forest of Reading® is Canada's largest recreational reading program! This initiative of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) offers eight reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. The Forest helps celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators. More than 250,000 readers participate annually from their School and/or Public Library. All Ontarians/Canadians are invited to participate via their local public library, school library, or individually. We are participating in 4 of the programs here at EPS: **The Blue Spruce**, which will start next week; **The Silver Birch Express** (Grades 2-4), **The Silver Birch** (Grades 4-6) and **The Red Maple** (Gr. 7-8); the latter three will start in early February. Please encourage your youngsters to participate in this wonderful program!

Goals of The Forest of Reading:

- Love of reading: Create a meaningful experience for young readers and create exciting opportunities for reluctant readers to create lifelong readers.
- A proven head start: The results are in! Children who read for fun have higher literacy scores, have more success in science and math, and are more socially and civically engaged (Reading for Joy, P4E, 2011).
- Libraries at centre stage: With fun activities, prizes and more, the Forest of Reading puts libraries at the heart of the action!
- Reading Canadian: Help support and celebrate Canadian books, publishers, authors and illustrators by taking advantage of the Forest's curated, all-Canadian reading lists for all ages and levels.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018 FOREST OF READING NOMINEES!**

For the full nominated lists, visit [accessola.com/forest](http://accessola.com/forest)

## **Family Literacy Day is January 27**



- ABC Life Literacy Canada is encouraging Canadian families to have "15 Minutes of Fun" learning together. Learning can happen at any time. Practicing literacy together every day has tremendous benefits for both children and parents. Here are some great ways to get started:
- Read a "wake up" story in the morning (after reading your bedtime story the night before).
- Search online for fun places to go in your community. Pick out a spot for your next family day trip.
- Make up a new recipe together and post it online.
- Tell knock-knock jokes together while doing the dishes.
- Create a story with your family: take turns writing one sentence at a time, then read the whole story aloud when you're done.
- Write a review of a book you read together as a family. Send it to the author through email or snail mail.
- Organize a book swap at your school or with your friends.
- Track your trip to school, the park, and the grocery store on a map. Find a different route to take to each place.
- Learn to play a musical instrument. What about the ukulele?
- Write a note to include in a grown-up's lunch – ask them to write back!
- Make a popsicle stick model with your family.
- Write your names graffiti-style using chalk on your sidewalk – you may need to shovel first!
- Play a board game together.
- Look up the words to your favourite song online. Have a sing-off with your friends!
- Count how many steps it takes to get from your bedroom to your kitchen. Find out who in your family has the most steps to a snack!



From: <http://abclifeliteracy.ca/fld/15-minutes-of-fun>

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## **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 [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.



Monthly environmental activities to help celebrate our planet

**JANUARY** is the time to carry out your resolutions!

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*“There will be more waste plastic in the sea than fish by 2050”*

*Dame Ellen MacArthur*

**It's a brand new year and the perfect time for positive change. For example, let's end plastic pollution.**

Based on the daily news, it's never been more critical to increase your environmental efforts. This year the Earth Day Network is calling to end plastic pollution. Imagine a future free from harmful plastic garbage! Single-use plastics are especially wasteful and many plastics are also not properly recycled and take up precious landfill space or pollute our oceans, killing marine life and washing up on pristine beaches. Plastic garbage 'islands' are appearing in seas and oceans all over the world. One of these - the Great Pacific garbage patch, is estimated to be the size of Alberta. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>



**PLASTIC FREE**

[www.wuftp.org](http://www.wuftp.org)

### Tips on how to reduce single-use plastics:

- Extend your use of cloth shopping bags beyond the grocery store. Use them at all other retail stores too. (You can carry purse-sized, reusable folded bags.)
- Avoid buying over-packaged food. The choice is yours. Do you need to buy the carrots that are shrink wrapped on a Styrofoam tray, or can you buy a bundle that is tied together with a simple twist tie?
- Let the restaurants you frequent know that you would like them to join the growing movement to ban the use of straws. Restaurants, organizations, institutions and schools worldwide have gotten rid of plastic straws or implemented a 'serve-straws-upon-request' policy.
- Tap water is best. Bottled water can deplete our precious groundwater resources and produce unnecessary green house gas emissions through the production and transport of plastic bottles. Carry a reusable water bottle instead.
- Lug a travel mug to your local coffee shop. (The plastic lining makes coffee cups unrecyclable, and they all end up in the garbage and in our overflowing landfills.)
- Write letters to the government asking them to fix a problem that you are concerned about such as: mandating the reduction of plastic packaging, banning Styrofoam, or promoting research for recyclable coffee cups, etc.

