



École FA Hamilton

December 2016

Newsletter

Important Dates

Dec. 2 - Jr. volleyball tournament

Dec. 5 - Mlle Mui's class to Stone Lodge

Dec. 7 - Grade 6 Camp info meeting - 6:30 PM in Library - Mme Brown and Mme Junemann's class to Stone Lodge

Dec. 8 - Winter Event - 6-8 PM

Dec. 11 - Storm Game for Safety Patrols

Dec. 12 - Mme Holmes' class to Stone Lodge

Dec. 14 - Mme Nibaruta's class to Stone Lodge

Dec. 15 - Zakaib, Hartmans, McLleish classes on a trip - AM

Dec. 16 - all books due to the Library - Milk orders due for January

Dec. 19 - Pizza orders due for January - Mme McLeish's and Mme Zakaib's classes to Stone Lodge

Dec. 20 - JK, SK, gr. 2 dental screening

Dec. 21 - Mme Woodward's class to Stone Lodge

Dec. 22 - Hartmans - cartooning workshop

Dec. 23 - December assembly - PJ Day!

[Click here to see our whole calendar!](#)



Winter Event!



Please join us for an FAH tradition! Cookies, hot chocolate, games, student art, raffle baskets and an amazing **graphic novel/comic book fair** hosted by The Dragon! Check out the flyer below for all the details!

Second Steps Social Skills Lessons

We have started a new program here at FAH. Teachers are delivering lessons to students on important social skills to help build everyone's capacity to get along with others, feel safe at school, and meet academic potential. So far, most classes have worked through through three lessons. Here is an overview of the topics of discussion. Perhaps you will



find some time to follow up with your child at home. Reinforcement of these concepts helps kids to consolidate their learning.

Mlle Mui, M. Devenny, Mme Burkhart

These classes did a lesson on empathy and respect and one on listening with attention. Empathy and communication skills have been shown to increase school success and decrease youth involvement in problem behaviours, such as substance abuse and aggression. Empathy is a crucial foundation for healthy communication and interpersonal relationships. Empathy and perspective-taking skills help students establish better peer relationships and offer help and emotional support to others. These prosocial behaviours, in turn, are linked to better grades and higher achievement.

Students also participated in a lesson on being assertive. It is important for students to learn the differences between assertive, aggressive, and passive ways of communicating. Much of the violence that occurs at school begins with aggressive interactions. Aggressive communication causes problems with other students, school staff, and adults in the community. Students can reduce their involvement in aggressive and violent behaviours by using assertive communication skills to stand up for themselves and get a point across without disrespecting others.

Learning to be assertive also has value for students being bullied or otherwise mistreated by peers. These students can use assertiveness as a tool to stand up for their rights. Finally, students need assertiveness skills to get help in school and to communicate respectfully with adults across a variety of situations.

Mme McLeish, Mme Woodward, Mme Hemsley

These classes have done lessons on being respectful, focusing attention and listening, and using self-talk. Being respectful helps children be better learners. Listening is a critical skill for learning. Students need good attention and listening skills to focus on what their teacher says, hear directions, and understand lessons. Focussing-attention and listening skills can also help students get along with peers. Self-talk helps children stay focused and on task.

Mme Nibaruta, Mme Holmes, Mme Zakaib, Mme Hartmans

These classes have done lessons on listening to learn, focusing attention, and following directions. Being good listeners helps children be better learners. Following the “Listening Rules” discussed in class helps children listen and pay attention in class. Being able to focus attention also helps children be better learners. Your child is learning that you need to use your eyes, ears, and brain when you focus attention on something. Your child is also learning that saying things to yourself (self-talk) can help you pay attention. Finally, your child is learning that repeating directions to him- or herself helps to remember what to do.

Kindergarten classes address these same skills at their level and in a less formal way than the students in grades 1 through 6.

Please try to find some time to talk with your child about what they are learning in these lessons!

And many thanks to those of you who participate in our Wednesday lunches. The money we raised from those lunch sales last year went towards the purchase of these kits. Our hope is to buy a few more for next year so that, eventually, we won't have grades sharing kits.

Toy Drive



The Me to We Team under the direction of Mme Burkhart is collecting new toys to donate to the Adopt-a-Family program in town, and new socks for 40 Baker Street, a drop-in centre for youth - many of whom are homeless. Please consider sending a toy or some socks in for a person in need right in our own community.

Inclement Weather

As the weather conditions become more wintery, please make sure to listen to the radio (106.1 FM) for up-to-date information about delays or cancellation of buses. Anyone can check the [Transportation website](#) for information about busing and school closures. If your child takes the bus and they are cancelled, then you do not need to call the school. Only call if your child is ill or going to be late.



Dress For the Weather!



Colder weather is here! At FAH, we go out for recess in all but the most extreme weather. Fresh air and a chance to run around are not only fun, but healthy. It allows kids to burn off some energy and then they can focus and learn much more effectively after the recess break. This means that children should come to school with warm coats, hats, mitts, snow pants and boots. A change of socks and an extra pair of mitts are a great idea because things can get wet at first break and then second recess is a little less comfortable if there is nothing dry to put on. In

very cold, windy weather, a scarf will keep delicate faces covered and safe from frostbite.

If you are having trouble providing your child with warm winter clothing, then please call the Principal (ext. 223) so the school can help.

Let it snow!

Food and Friends

Give a gift with special meaning. This year, instead of purchasing a gift, why not honour your teacher with a donation to the Children's Foundation's Food & Friends program? The Children's Foundation would be pleased to provide a tax receipt for donations over \$20 and the recipients with a card to notify them that you have made the donation in honour of this holiday season. Click [here](#) to make your donation today.

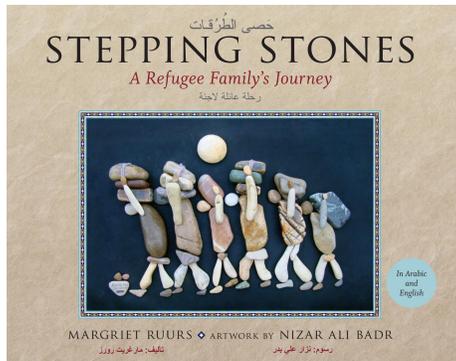


JK Registration for September 2017

Junior Kindergarten registration for the 2017-18 school year begins on January 9, 2017. Children born in 2013 are eligible to begin Junior Kindergarten in September 2017.

Please note that the **registration process for the upcoming school year has changed**. This includes changes to the French Immersion registration and selection process. Information nights are currently underway at all of our JK French Immersion sites. For more information about this process or to find the time and date of our JK FI registration process information nights at a school near you, please visit www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi.

Board Wide Fundraising Initiative for Syrian Newcomers in our Community



We have been pleased to welcome almost 75 Syrian newcomer students into our Upper Grand schools since last January. We are hoping that you will consider helping us in a board wide fundraising initiative to raise funds to help Syrian newcomers settle into our schools and community. We have partnered with Orca Book Publishers to raise funds by selling their newly published book entitled, “Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family’s Journey” by Margriet Ruurs through our school and board websites. For every book that is sold through our board or school websites, Orca will donate \$10 to our local settlement agencies to support Syrian refugees.

This unique picture book was inspired by the stone artwork of Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr, who was discovered by chance by Canadian children’s author Margriet Ruurs. She was immediately captivated by the strong narrative quality of Mr. Badr’s art, and, using many of Mr. Badr’s already-created pieces, she set out to tell a story about the Syrian refugee crisis. Stepping Stones tells the story of Rama and her family, who are forced to flee their once peaceful village to escape the ravages of the civil war raging in their homeland. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama and her family set out to walk to freedom. Mr. Badr’s stunning stone images illustrate the story. This book is a dual-language (English and Arabic) edition.

To order this book, please visit your school’s website or the board website and click on the buy button to place your order. Payment is made directly to Orca and the books are shipped directly to your address from their warehouse. Payment for the order will go through at the time of purchase and it will include shipping. Orca will keep track of how many books are sold in our board and will send us \$10 for every book sold, which will then be donated to a local resettlement agency.

For more information, please see the attached flyer or contact Bonnie Talbot at bonnie.talbot@ugdsb.on.ca or 519-824-4420.

Teacher Gift Idea – Donate to Free to Achieve!

This Holiday Season, consider making a donation to the Upper Grand Learning Foundation **Free to Achieve Fund** in honour of your child’s teacher. Funds provide for student needs such as winter coats and boots, running shoes, eye glasses, hearing aids, field trips and programs that are outside of school hours. Or you can direct your donation to projects that



benefit your child's school. Tax Receipts are provided for donations of \$20 or more. For more information visit the [UGLF website](http://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com) at www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com

Feedback welcome on draft policies

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review are **Code of Conduct** Policy 213 and **Child Abuse and Protection** Policy 502 (submit feedback by January 13, 2017). You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy.

Celebrate Human Rights Day on December 10th!



This year, Human Rights Day calls on everyone to stand up for someone's rights. It starts with each of us." Step forward and defend the rights of someone whose voice is not being heard. Demonstrate an understanding of equality, human dignity and justice. Consider and be respectful of the rights and opinions of others, especially if they are different from yours. Recognize that human rights include the right for all of us to have access to clean water, unpolluted air and healthy food.

“There is no action that is too small: wherever you are, you can make a difference. Together, let's take a stand for more humanity.”

-- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein”
<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>

Simple yet meaningful ways for your family to celebrate the rights and responsibilities that we all share as human beings!

- **Learn about how children live in other parts of the world.** Look at pictures on the web and discuss how we are the same and how we are different.
- **Read the book: We Are All Born Free:** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures by Amnesty International
- **Read the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights.** Decide if there is a cause your family wants to support, or an Ecojustice action you want to take on.
- **Talk to someone you know who is from another country.** Where are they from? What was their life like there? What language did they speak? Did they go to school? What do they miss? What do they like about their new country?
- **Start a tradition of doing a family service project on Human Rights Day.** There are many opportunities to volunteer, such as preparing and serving meals at a local homeless shelter or

simply gathering enough to put together a bunch of care packages of simple needs and necessities.

<https://humanrightswarrior.com>

“For the bigger picture we can (and should) do what we can to fight injustice.

But on a smaller scale, in the day-to-day, practicing kindness can help

knit a web of compassion to give humanity a boost of resilience”