



École FA Hamilton

May 2017

Newsletter

Important Dates

May 1 - Music Monday assembly at 11 AM

May 2 - Grades 3 & 5 swimming - AM

May 3 - Grade 4 to Emergency Preparedness Day - AM; EA & CYC Appreciation Day

May 4 - Grade 6 to Empowerment Day - all day; Grades 1 & 1/2 to Butterfly Conservatory - AM

May 12-17 - Scholastic Book Fair

May 12 - Massed drumming group (grades 1-3) performance at 11:30 AM in the school yard

May 16 - Grades 3 & 5 swimming - AM

May 17-19 - Grade 6 to Mansfield

May 19 - Jump Rope for Heart

May 22 - Victoria Day - NO SCHOOL

May 23-25 - Grade 3 EQAO - please ensure all grade 3 students are at school

May 23 - Track & Field Day for Juniors

May 24 - Milk & Pizza orders due

MAY 29-31 - Grade 6 EQAO - please ensure all grade 6 students are at school

May 30 - Grades 3, 4, 5 - bicycle safety presentation by Guelph Police

Tuesday/Thursday - Popcorn

Wednesday - Lunch Lady

Friday - Pizza

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

EQAO

I often get questions about EQAO. Here is a brief explanation of the Education Quality and Accountability Office and the test. I have borrowed very heavily from a [Wikipedia article](#), because it was a clearly worded explanation. If you want more



information, then please visit the [EQAO website](#) or give me a call.

The **Education Quality and Accountability Office** (EQAO) is an arm's-length crown agency of the Government of Ontario. It was legislated into creation in 1996 in response to recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Learning in February 1995.

EQAO is governed by a board of directors appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The chair of the board is currently Brian L. Desbiens. EQAO has an annual budget of approximately \$33 million CDN.

Purpose

The purpose of EQAO tests is to ensure that there is accountability between school boards and schools in the publicly funded system in Ontario. Educational accountability is important to three key stakeholders: taxpayers, elected officials, and teachers. By providing these yearly standardized tests, the Ministry of Education hopes to increase the quality of education in Ontario, while also using the tests to make plans for future improvement.

EQAO tests are intended to measure the students' ability to:

- Make sense of what they read in different kinds of texts;
- Express their thoughts in writing using appropriate grammar, spelling and punctuation and
- Use appropriate math skills to solve problems

EQAO vs Classroom tests

It is important to note that EQAO tests have different goals and intentions than normal classroom evaluations. These tests are not the same, but when considering the EQAO test results along with the classroom results, they can provide a meaningful picture of the students' overall learning.

Classroom evaluations:

- measure how well students have learned specific information;
- provide quick results teachers can use to modify teaching strategies;
- may have subjective components, based on the teacher's knowledge of each student, and
- provide results that may not be comparable across the school, board or province

EQAO tests:

- measure students' cumulative knowledge and skills in relation to a provincial standard;
- are given at key stages of students' education;
- are administered, scored and reported on in a consistent and objective manner and
- provide results that are comparable across the school, board, and province from year to year

Information for parents

EQAO tests are based on The Ontario Curriculum, which is the foundation for what is taught in classrooms every day. Therefore, students should not need to study or do extra preparation for the test. All of the information in the test will have been covered by the classroom teacher throughout the entire school year. The best way for parents to support their children in writing the test is simply to be supportive and play an active role in their children's learning every day of the school year. This support includes being aware of what the students are learning, being in constant communication with the

classroom teacher about the student's learning development and needs, and providing a welcoming environment at home where students are able to complete any homework or assignments they may have.

An additional way that parents can help students in preparing for the test is to visit the EQAO website (eqao.com) in order to find links explaining the format and sample test items, a result guide that explains how to interpret the marks, as well as a parent bulletin regarding the test. The school boards also provide parents with information sessions regarding the tests, to ensure that the parents are fully aware of the purpose, format and implementation of the test.

Parent Requests for Class Placements



Teachers will soon be sitting together with me in teams to build classes for next year. We consider many factors when we assign students to classes: ratio of boys to girls and leaders to followers, academic needs, social-emotional needs, support needs, friends, and many more. If you have a request for next year, then please let me know of your request by sending me an email (jane.bibby@ugdsb.on.ca) or giving me a letter in writing (drop off in main office). I will not consider a request unless I have it in writing. Discussions with teachers and/or Mme Manni will not be sufficient as I do not always hear about those conversations. The school team works very hard to ensure that class assignments give each student the greatest chance for success, and while we will take your request very seriously, there is no guarantee that we will be able to comply with it. The deadline for making requests is June 2nd.

JK Orientation

There will be an Junior Kindergarten Orientation on Friday, June 9th from 9:00 - 10:00 AM. Children will have a chance to visit classrooms and there will be an information fair in the gym for parents. All registered families will receive an invitation in the mail shortly. Please mark this date on your calendar if you have a JK student who will be joining our school family in September. And spread the word if you know of a family who will be joining us!



Music Monday



Inspired by Canada's sesquicentennial celebration, the Coalition for Music Education commemorates Canada's musical heritage with a new anthem that celebrates the unifying power of music. Music Monday will take place in cities across the country.

Our school's Music Monday assembly will be on **Monday, May 1st** in our school gym and classes will begin to arrive after first nutrition break, at 11:05am. Please consider joining us to support this musical event. [Click here for more information about Music Monday in](#)

[Canada.](#)

Lundi en musique est pour tous ceux et celles qui aiment la musique, apprennent la musique, jouent de la musique, enseignent la musique - vivent la musique!

Parent Engagement



LaToya Coore (School Council Co-chair), Katie Young (K Teacher), Megan McLeish (2/3 Teacher) and I (Principal) attended an evening event run by the Parent Involvement Committee last week. We listened to a speaker with expertise in parent engagement and began to think about all sorts of ways to engage parents more meaningfully in their child's school experience. Research shows this benefits students and results in higher levels of achievement. To move forward, we really need to hear from you! Please consider coming to School Council meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month to participate in the discussion!

Feedback welcome on draft policies

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is Policy 413 Safety (Behaviour Prevention and Intervention) and Policy 603 Provision of Learning Resources. You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy. **The deadline for public input is May 25, 2017** at 4 p.m. EST. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.



Talking about Mental Health - May 1-5 is Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-being Week!



Participate! Have Fun! Increase Awareness! Increase Well-being!

The UGDSB is participating in Mental Health and Well-being Week and so are our community partners.

Here are some of the events in the community for you and your family to participate in:

CMHAWW is presenting the following:

May 1st Canadian Comedian and Mental Health Advocate **Mike MacDonald** - \$20 - CIGI - Waterloo - 7:00 p.m.

May 1st Free film viewing of '**Resilience**' - Recital Hall at the Guelph Youth Music Centre - 7:30 p.m.

May 2nd - Free SafeTALK training in Guelph - provided by our Education and Promotion - 6:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.

(see <http://mailchi.mp/2d253253c223/mental-health-week-events-2017?platform=hootsuite> for details)

Celebrate International Day For Biological Diversity on May 22nd!

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

<https://www.cbd.int/>

Biodiversity, a simple word with some very broad reaching implications quite simply means: ‘A wide range of life’” We need to learn more about it in order to protect it.



“Biodiversity, at the level of species and ecosystems, provides an important foundation for many aspects of sustainability.” António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

<https://www.cbd.int/idb/2017/>

Ideas for your family to celebrate Biodiversity Day!

- Visit farmers markets in your local area to try new types of produce. Whether you incorporate heirloom tomatoes into your cooking, or try one of the rainbow of colors of carrots out there that aren't orange, biodiversity can bring a great new experience to your table.
- View photos of endangered species on the Internet and discuss the reasons why these animals are threatened and why they should be protected.
- Join a community group and help to remove invasive plants from your local environment. These teams of volunteers will gather to remove plants that are impacting the local fauna's biodiversity by taking over natural grow areas.
- Get out into the world and enjoy all the different types of life your local area offers. Even a local park can have an amazing variety of life you've never noticed, from the insects crawling through the grass, to the flowers we so clumsily lump together as 'wildflowers'.

Adapted from: <https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/international-day-for-biological-diversity/>

Celebrate the diversity of our natural world every day!

Special Olympics



600 students from the Upper Grand District School Board and Wellington Catholic District School Board will be joining together to celebrate sport at the Special Olympics, May 17, 2017.

The event will be held at St. James sports fields, and includes track and field events as well as adaptive events. Athletes flock to the sports fields for the opening ceremonies at 10:00, and

compete in 3 events each throughout the day. Family and friends are welcome to join in the fun and cheer on the athletes. Parking is available at the Grange plaza.

Feedback for Food and Friends

We would welcome feedback from students/parents about the Food & Friends student nutrition program at FA Hamilton. This can be regarding menu items, successes or challenges with the program for example. We would be happy to hear a story about how the program has affected your child.

<http://www.childrensfoundation.org/downloads/positioning-statement.jpg>