

GATOR NEWS

Chris Popofski, Principal | Linda Ellis, Office Coordinator

Balanced School Day

Start of Day - 8:35

8:35-10:15 Instructional Time

10:15-10:35 Nutrition Break

10:35-11:00 Outdoor Recess

11:00-12:40 Instructional Time

12:40-1:00 Nutrition Break

1:00-1:25 Outdoor Recess

1:25-3:05 Instructional Time

End of Day - 3:05

Important Dates:

Jan 9 to 19th - Kindergarten Registration

Jan 11 - Gr 8 GCVI Info Night

Jan 11 - Gr 7/8 Tech Presentations

Jan 17 - School Council Meeting - 6:30pm

Jan 17 - Gr 3/4 River Run Trip

Jan 18 - Primary Author Visit

Jan 18 - Gr 8 College Heights Info Night - 6:30pm

Jan 25 - Jersey Day

Jan 26 - PD Day



Principal's Message:

Welcome to 2018! I hope your holiday was a restful and warm one! Please remind your children of this and make sure that they come with proper Canadian winter attire.

Twenty-five minutes is a long time to play outside when you do not have snow pants, a hat, boots and mittens!

Many thanks again to everyone who donated to our "Five Days of Giving". It was a huge success and our families in the community were very grateful. We would also like to thank our School Council and the many volunteers who take the time to make a difference for our students. We would be unable to do the many extras without their commitment of time and effort.



Thanks
Chris Popofski

School Council News:

Next meeting is **Wednesday January 17, 2018** at **6:30pm** in the school library. We would love to see you there!

Special thanks again to the following companies and their continued support:

No Frills - Speedvale
Shoppers Drug Mart - Willow Road
Tim Hortons - Wellington Road
Costco

Intermediate Volleyball:

On January 12th, the Intermediate girls volleyball team took part in the city tourney held at Taylor Evans P.S. The intermediate boys were at Kortright P.S. on the same day for their tourney.



Junior Volleyball:

On Tuesday, December 5th our Junior volleyball teams competed in a tournament at Willow Road P.S. The boys, were coached by Mr. Perry and the girls, were coached by Ms. Ranalli. Both teams did extremely well and had a great day.

Holiday Concert:

Our holiday concert was a big hit this year with parents, grandparents and students alike. Our kindergarten teachers led their students in a wonderful singing performance. We all enjoyed the many showcased talents of our primary/ junior students as well. Thanks to all teachers for the many hours of planning and rehearsals dedicated to making our concert a success.

Grade 8 Parent and Student Info Nights:

Guelph CVI - Jan 11: 6:00pm

College Heights - Jan 18: 6:30pm

Kindergarten Registration 2018/19:

Get ready! Kindergarten Registration is from January 9-19th.

Kindergarten registration for the 2018-2019 school year will take place from January 9 to 19, 2018, and will feature a new online pre-registration process.

www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten

In the online pre-registration site, use the school locator feature to determine which school your child can attend

Check for a confirmation email indicating you've successfully completed pre-registration

Once you have pre-registered, go to your child's home school to drop off required documentation to complete your 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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Junior Kindergarten French Immersion

In the UGDSB, admission into the French Immersion (FI) program begins in Junior Kindergarten (JK), which is the only entry point into the program.

All UGDSB schools that offer JK FI have an enrolment cap, and there is a defined selection process for students if a school exceeds its enrolment cap.



JK FI registration is considered complete when:

- The Student Admission Form is completed and submitted online (pre-registration)
- Required documentation has been verified by the home school (as listed above)
- A 'FI Pre-Registration Receipt' is completed, signed and provided to you by the school
 - Parents wanting to register their child in JK FI must have completed their registration by 19, 2018 at 4 p.m., in order to be considered 'on time.'

For more information on the JK FI registration and selection process, visit www.ugdsb.ca/jkfi.

Talking to Children

How many times have you asked your child what they did in school today and they said "nothing"? Do you feel that most of the conversations you have with your children are just about telling them what to do? Many parents feel this way; life is busy.

Giving children opportunities to have conversations is really important for their growth and learning. What to do? Children often ask a lot of questions, especially young children. Parents answer those questions and the conversation often just ends. How do you keep the conversation going? Instead of answering the question what if next time you ask a question instead? Consider these questions: What do you think it is? What do you think about that? What interests you about that? What do you notice? How do you think that works? If you get a one word answer you might make a comment such as, "tell me more", "I'd like to hear more about that" or ask another question.

Listening carefully is also important when talking to your child. Children respond positively if they know they have been heard and that you are interested in what they have to say. Use comments to encourage your child to keep talking: "Tell me more about that", "that must have been difficult/interesting", "it sounds like you had fun", "you must have felt disappointed/frustrated/angry". Talk while having dinner together, preparing dinner, going out for a walk, at bedtime, on the way to school or while standing in the grocery line. Think of yourself as a partner in the conversation.



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/>

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 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.



***Newsletters from now on will be online. If you require a hard copy they will be found in the office. You can also register on our website to get it emailed to you. A school calendar has also been added to our website to keep you up to date.**

Get ready for school!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

January 9-19, 2018

NEW! Online pre-registration

A new fast and easy tool allows parents to pre-register online when it's convenient for them!

Online pre-registration is required for all NEW JK and SK students in the Upper Grand District School Board

For more information and to pre-register online visit:

www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten



How to register:

- 1) Pre-register online at www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten
- 2) Make sure you get a pre-registration confirmation email after completing the online form
- 3) Visit your home school to drop off required documents
- 4) If registering for French Immersion, you must submit all documentation and receive a FI Pre-Registration Receipt from the school office by Jan. 19 at 4pm

