

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

Safe Arrival

During the school day your child's safety is of the utmost importance to us. Please remember to contact the school before 8:30 a.m. If your child is going to be late or absent in the morning and before 1:30 p.m. in the afternoon. If your child is arriving late to school, he/she must sign in at the office. For your convenience we have an answering machine which allows you to contact the school at any time during the night, over the weekend and early in the morning. The number is **519-824-4300**. When you leave a message please be sure to note your child's full name, homeroom teacher and the reason for absence.



Principal's Message:

Welcome back to our returning students and welcome to all of our new students and their families. We are all looking forward to an exciting year of learning and our school renovations look amazing. I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and that you are eager to start a new beginning.

At Gateway, we encourage a strong parent-school partnership in order to maximize student success. We have an enthusiastic staff who are committed to creating the best possible environment for learning. The staff have been working hard to get the school and classrooms ready, planning interesting and thoughtful programs, and are looking forward to getting the year started. We are dedicated to providing students with education that meets their needs at every level. Your input into your child's education is valued and your communication with the school is appreciated. Together let's make 2018-2019 a memorable year.



Thanks

Chris Popofski



Student Information Forms:

It is important to let the school know if there is any change in your personal information (i.e. home/work numbers, emergency contact, etc.) We need this information so we can be sure to contact you immediately if necessary. The student information sheets will be coming home the first day of school for you to update. Please sign this sheet and return to school **by Monday, September 17th.**

If any of this important information changes throughout the year, please remember to inform us in order to keep your child's info current.

Parking & Drop-Off:

The parking lot and loop in front on the school will be closed during school hours. Only staff, buses and parents with proper parking permits will be allowed into and out of the lot.

You can help by:

- Encouraging your child to walk to school or walk with them (this provides some great family time and health benefits),
- Parents are encouraged to park on the following streets: West Acres, Gateway Drive, Queensdale & Springdale
- Talk about a pick up location with your child (e.g., park entrance West Acres, park entrance Springdale)
- Parking in available parking zones only and respecting our neighbours' private property,
- Crossing at the intersections of the streets at the corners with our Street Patrollers,

Fall Fest -Thursday September 27:

Save the date, as this years Fall Fest will be taking place on Thursday September 27. Order forms for the Pizza Party will be coming home this week and are due September 21st. We hope to see many of you on the 27th.

Fall Fest Planning Meeting will take place September 12th at 6:30pm - We are looking for volunteers to help with the night.

Picking Up:

If you are **picking up your child before dismissal**, please send a note that morning or call the school **before 2:45 p.m.** We ask that you meet your child at the office rather than collect them from their classroom. The end of the school day is an extremely busy time and calling before 2:45 p.m. will help us to relay information to your child in a timely manner. This again will ensure the safety of your child.



We also need your cooperation when picking up primary students at school.

Please meet your child outside routinely. If parents need to enter the building for a special pick up please remain outside until 3:00 p.m. Groups of people gathered in the front foyer of the school become a distraction for nearby classes and make learning more challenging for our students. To reduce congestion in the front hall, Kindergarten drop off and pick up will occur outside in the Kindergarten play area at the back of the school.

Going Home For Lunch:

If your intermediate child is going to home for lunch you will need to send a note indicating that. Please include in the note what break this will be happening. Your child must sign out and in each time they leave the school.

Student Accident Insurance:

Parents/guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial Health Care or employer group insurance plans.

The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under The Education Act to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students.

Information will be sent home with respect to Student Accident Insurance offered by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. You should receive:

1. The Director's letter and an Acknowledgment to be signed by parents/guardians and returned to school. Attached to the Director's letter is a translation sheet for your reference.
2. An InsureMyKids application form
Old Republic offers a variety of options, including family rates and multi-year plans, at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by parents/guardians.

Subscription is directly through Old Republic by mail or online. Questions should be directed to Old Republic at 1-800-463-5437 or www.insuremykids.com.

For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable.



Gateway Drive School Council:

Being a member of School Council is an excellent way of having input into our school's activities and becoming involved in your child's school life. This year, our **first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 19th at 6:30 pm in the library.**

Anaphylaxis Info:

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies (called anaphylaxis) to various foods and other materials. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you are aware that we aim to create an allergy safe environment at our school. If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, or your child has anaphylaxis, you will be informed by the classroom teacher. Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.

Follow us on Twitter:



@GatewayDrivePS

Life-Threatening Medical Conditions:

For September 2018, a new UGDSB policy will be in place supporting students with life-threatening medical conditions.

Students with life-threatening medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, or those who are at risk of anaphylaxis due to life-threatening allergies, require the development of a Plan of Care. These students may require support for their medical needs while at school, during school-based activities, and/or while using school transportation services.

The Plan of Care will replace our existing Life-Threatening Management and Prevention Plan and Asthma Management Plan. There is a distinct Plan of Care for students with Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes and Epilepsy. In addition, there is a general LTMC Plan of Care for any condition that is not covered under the other four forms.

Attached is the Plan of Care that is specific to your child.

We are asking parents along with their health care provider to:

- Complete the appropriate Plan of Care form
- Obtain Health Care Provider Signature
- Meet with the principal to discuss the Plan of Care

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Smoke & Vape Free Environment:

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke and vape-free environment for its students, staff and others while on school Board property and at school events. Under our policy, all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed is included. Additionally, all forms of e-cigarettes are also covered under this policy.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.



Staff for 2017 - 2018

- **Kindergarten KA** – L. Ranalli
- **Kindergarten KB** – C. Marsden – **ECE** – J. Watters
- **Kindergarten KAF** – S. Farquhar – **ECE** – K. Townsend
- **Kindergarten KAB** – J. Lewis – **ECE** – S. Wardell
- **Grade 1A** – A. Negrave
- **Grade 2A** – S. Hayes
- **Grade 2/3B** – E. Unsworth
- **Grade 3/4C** – J. Commodari
- **Grade 4/5A** – J. McCoy
- **Grade 6/7B** – TBD
- **Grade 7B** – K. Muller
- **Grade 8A** – K. McGrath
- **Special Education** – T. Humphries-Abey
- **Resource** – J. Hannah, T. Humphries-Abey
- **French** – C. Kennedy Cyre
- **Planning Time** – A. Dolsen, A. Kropf
- **Teacher/Librarian** – K McGrath
- **Educational Assistants** – S. Crawford, V. Carew, L. Hoegy, M. Reeves
- **CYC** – J. Patrick
- **Custodians** – A. Robertson, S. Jones , L. Hall-Sayer
- **Lunch Supervisors** – D. Romita
- **Office Co-Ordinator** – L. Ellis
- **Principal** – C. Popofski



Silent Auction Donations Wanted:

We are looking for donations for the upcoming FallFest Silent Auction! Our last silent auction raised over \$1500 for Gateway Drive School. Do you or someone you know have a service or item that can be donated to the auction? We are looking for anything from gift baskets, gift certificates to sports memorabilia. If you would like to donate, please contact the school (519 824-4300).



Celebrate National Tree Day on September 26th 2018!:

“Let nature be your teacher.” William Wordsworth

“National Tree Day will serve as a celebration for all Canadians to appreciate the great benefits that trees provide us - clean air, wildlife habitat, reducing energy demand and connecting with nature.”

<http://www.nationaltreeday.ca/>

“Children today spend less time outdoors than any generation in human history.” <http://getbackoutside.ca/>

“For children, studies show that time outdoors, especially unstructured time in more natural settings, can increase curiosity, creativity and problem solving ability. It also improves their physical fitness and coordination and reduces symptoms associated with attention deficit disorder. It can even reduce the likelihood of needing glasses for near-sightedness.”

<https://davidsuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/one-nature-challenge/>



Some great activities for your family to do on Tree Day, or any day!

- Read a book on trees: *The Lorax*, by Dr. Seuss; *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein; *What Good Is a Tree* by Larry Dane Brimner; *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry
- Learn the names of the trees in your backyard or neighbourhood
- Do tree art – e.g., a leaf collage, or leaf/bark pencil rubbing art, or tree photography
- Create a tree book: "adopt" a favourite tree, name it and throughout the year record and examine its characteristics and the changes that it goes through.
- Organize a Tree Walk game - Look for trees that are: the tallest, oldest, has the widest trunk, has the largest leaf, is the most prickly, etc.
- Download a bird app and start to help your child learn to identify the colours and songs of birds in your neighbourhood
- Research all the great forest hiking trails in your area and pick one to try out.
- Hold a Tree Day birthday party with your family, friends, neighbours or community! Serve tree-shaped foods! (*Find lots of ideas on Pinterest.*)

For more ideas:

Join the Nature Challenge: If you want to feel healthier, happier and more focused - add a daily dose of nature to your routine! Spend 30 minutes a day in nature for 30 days to kick-start a nature habit that lasts all year-round.

Find out more at <https://davidsuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/one-nature-challenge/>

Information from Public Health - Lunchbox Essentials!

Are you getting back into the habit of packing school lunches? A balanced lunch includes a variety of foods to keep your child full and able to learn best. Try to include at least one food item from each of these 4 categories in your child's lunch every day.

Vegetables

Fruit

Protein-rich Foods (beans, lentils, chickpeas, cheese, eggs, meat, fish, plain yogurt, plain milk)

Whole Grains & Starchy Vegetables (whole grain pasta or bread, potatoes, corn)

Top 5 Tips:

1. Keep peeled and cut veggies and fruit on hand in the fridge, ready to grab and go! Try to include a fruit or veggie at every meal and snack.
2. Involve your kids in planning and making school lunches. They're more likely to eat food they helped make and they build valuable life skills in the kitchen!
3. Save time and use your leftovers for school lunches.
4. Include a reusable water bottle every day.
5. Check out UnlockFood.ca for school lunch tips and recipes.



WDG Public Health is pleased to provide elementary schools with up-to-date information on health topics for their monthly newsletters and announcements to parents. Please find below an insert you can include in your school newsletter and/or announcements if you wish. If you have any questions please contact us at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4111 or email schoolhealth@wdgpublichealth.ca

Terry Fox Run:

On Thursday, September 27 our school will be taking part in the Terry Fox National School Run Day. An assembly outside will be held at 11:00 am. for a brief presentation about Terry Fox's legacy, followed by our run around the school yard.

Possible Reorganization:

Parents are reminded that our start up organization is only tentative until accurate enrolment can be determined the first week of September.

Forms, Forms, Forms:

This week there are a number of forms for parents/guardians to complete. Please make sure to fill in all the required paperwork. All School information/permission forms are due back Monday, September 17th.

Student Verification Blue, Walking Trip

Freedom of Information

Upper Grand Mobile App

We are pleased to announce that the Upper Grand DSB is introducing a new parent communication tool for your smart phone. 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 is available today for free at either the Google Play Store or at iTunes. Use the search term “Upper Grand” to find the app.

**Learn how to use the app on our school website:
[www.http://www.ugdsb.ca/gateway/](http://www.ugdsb.ca/gateway/)**

***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.**

Adults/Seniors

Adult Gym Night: Activity is for life so get fit and have fun!
Join us for self-officiated badminton (beginner-intermediate)!



Date: Thursday (Oct. 4th)
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Place: Taylor Evans Public School
Cost: Free! Drop in!

Ban Viet: This program is geared to Vietnamese women. The goal of the group is to provide a social setting where people can meet and learn about different programs/services offered in Guelph. Children are welcome!

Date: Thursdays (ongoing)
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Place: West End Community Centre
(Hastings Room)
Cost: Free! Drop in!



Happy Fridays: – Join Lily a Settlement Counselor at Immigrant Services for a social afternoon!

Date: Fridays (ongoing)
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Place: West End Community Centre (Hastings Room)
Cost: Free – Drop in! Everyone Welcome!

Friendly Bean: Drop in for coffee and conversation. Bring a project you are working on! It's a great place to get to know your neighbours and find out what is happening in your community.

Date: Wednesday mornings (Sept 19th ongoing)
Time: 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.
Place: West End Community Centre (Hastings Room)
Cost: Free

Conversation Circle: A safe inclusive space for anyone to improve their English, make new friends and have fun!

Date: Tuesdays (October 16)
Time: 1-2:30pm
Place: West End Community Centre (Hastings Room)
Cost: Free

Programs may be subject to change.

Volunteer Opportunities

Join a Committee - PGNG has an Leadership Board, and three committees: Community Supports, Community Events/Fundraising, and Program. They meet at various times and days during the month. Please call us for more information.

Community Events & Fundraising opportunities are ongoing throughout the year. Give us a call for the latest event happening in your neighbourhood!

- ✓ Stay up to date on Parkwood Gardens events and program offerings through our **Facebook** page (Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood Group) and website www.pgng.ca

Volunteer with us! We're currently looking for volunteers for the following programs/ times:

- Get Moving Mondays (6:30- 8:00pm)
- Lab Rats (6:30- 8:00 pm)
- Wednesday afternoons (3:00- 5:30 pm)
- Lead a new program! What skill would you like to share?!
- PD Day Camp volunteers

PGNG NEWS!

Quarter Auction: Start saving your quarters! This is a fun evening out and out could go home with some awesome items from local home-based businesses. Childcare provided!

Date: Saturday, December 1st
Time: 1:00 -3:00pm
Place: College Heights HS

**** Are you a home-based business owner? We are looking for vendors for our Quarter Auction! Call/ email us for details!**

To our generous volunteers:
Your Kindness Creates a Ripple Effect



Services

Emergency Food Cupboard: If you are in need of support, please call 519-824-6340. **Please bring your own bags.**

Time: Call to make an appointment
Place: West End Community Centre



Ecott Food Cupboard: Stop by on the 3d Friday of each month from 1-3pm at Ecott Place.

Fashion Revisited...Family Apparel Renewed: Parkwood Gardens runs a Clothing Closet in our community room (Hastings Room). Drop by during office hours and have a look!

Garden Fresh Box: Operated through Guelph Community Health Centre. This is a non-profit, fresh buying service operated by and for our community.

Date: Orders need to be in by the first Thursday of the month and pick-up is the 3rd Wednesday of every month.
Cost: Large Box \$20.00
Small Box \$15.00
Place: West End Community Centre (Hastings Rm.)

Community Food Market: Guelph Community Health Centre & The Pod runs a sliding scale market that is open to everyone! Stop by the WECC on Thursdays from 3-7pm. Please bring your own bags.

Date: Thursdays (ongoing: starting August 2)
Time: 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Place: West End Community Centre main hallway
Cost: Sliding Scale (Your choosing)

Programs may be subject to change.

Families

Date Night: Do you need a night to yourself? Date night? Movie night? Let us entertain your children--- we're cheaper than a sitter!

Date: Friday November 23
Time: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Place: Gateway Dr. P.S.
Cost: \$5.00/child, \$15/family pre-registration required
For: JK to Grade 6

Ice Rink:

Help us make an awesome family ICE RINK!
Place: Gateway Dr. P.S.
For: ENJOYMENT FOR EVERYONE

Preschooler

Early Start Family Literacy Program: This popular FREE program for parents/caregivers with children 0-6 years is facilitated by Action Read and focuses on the importance of early literacy. This program includes crafts, free play, story time, and snacks.

Date: Mondays (Sept 10th)
Time: 9:30 - 11:30 am
Place: West End Community Centre (Hastings Room)
Cost: Free! (Register on site)
For: Parents/Caregivers with children ages 0 - 6 years



EarlyON Playtime: The Guelph Community Health Centre facilitates this FREE drop-in playgroup. We offer a fun place to play and meet new people. Join us for crafts, songs, stories, parenting tips, and more! Parents/caregivers are asked to bring a nutritious peanut-free snack for their child(ren).



Date: Thursdays (Sept 6th)
Time: 9:30-11:30 am
Place: Parkwood Gardens Community Church (501 Whitelaw Rd).
Cost: Free! Drop In
For: Parents/Caregivers with children 0 – 6

Programs may be subject to change

School Age

Brain Fit: Need help with your homework? We have partnered with Frontier College. All children must bring homework with them!



Date: Thursdays (October 4, 2018)
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
Place: Hastings Room WECC
Cost: Free! Registration required
For: Grade 2 - 8 (max. 20)

Get Movin' Mondays: Join us for lots of fun and games!

Date: Mondays (Oct. 1st)
Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Place: Taylor Evan P.S.
Cost: Free! Registration required
For: Grade 1-5

Indigo Girls: “A program for inspiring the young girls of today!”

Date: TBD, call us for details!
Time: 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.,
Place: Gateway Dr. P.S.
Cost: Free! Registration required
For: Girls, grade 6 to 8

Lab Rats:

Date: Tuesday (Oct. 2nd)
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Place: Mitchell Woods Public School
For: Grades 1-5



PD Day Camp:

Dates: Fridays September 28, November 2, November 30
Time: 8:30am-4:30pm
Place: Gateway Drive PS
For: School aged
Cost: \$20 per child for the day \$5 for before/after care

Programs may be subject to change.



Fall 2018

Program Registration Ongoing
Office: 21 Imperial Rd. S.
West End Community Centre

For more information call Sally or Sarah
T: 519-824-6340
New Email : pgng96@gmail.com
Website: www.pgng.ca
www.Facebook.com/parkwoodgardens

Mission Statement:

Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood Group endeavours to develop a sense of community and enrich the health and well-being of families.

Welcome Statement:

Parkwood Gardens Neighbourhood Group is a safe place of acceptance where there is something for everyone. Here, we are non judgmental and respectful of all, striving to Bring everyone together.