



Gateway Drive Public School

Chad Reay - Principal

Linda Ellis - Office Coordinator

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Bonjour and welcome back to all of the students, staff, and parents! We are looking forward to a great year together. We hope you enjoyed time with your families and were able to relax and recharge. Before you know it, we will be well into the new year.

As the new year begins, we would like to remind parents that there will be supervision on the yard beginning at 8:20 every morning. We ask that you do not drop off your child before that time. If there was ever an accident or a problem, there would be nobody around to help. The bell goes at 8:35. It would be great if everyone was on the yard when the bell goes. One important message that the office would like to convey is the importance of making sure arrangements are made for the end of the day with an email or a phone call.

We ask that you perform a daily screening of your child(ren) for COVID-19 symptoms BEFORE leaving for school.

As always, after a summer of hard work, the school is spotless and clean. We are so thankful to Mr. DaSilva and Ms. Moni who spent the summer disinfecting surfaces, cleaning chairs and desks, shining floors, polishing windows, moving furniture, unpacking boxes, moving more boxes, and an endless array of other jobs! We are very grateful. We know that you will show your appreciation of their hard work by encouraging your children to do their part to help keep our school and grounds clean and free from garbage by taking it home and by simply taking the time to say, "Thank you."

We would also like to acknowledge all the extra time and commitment our teachers and staff have put into getting their classrooms and our school ready. Many staff members attended workshops and seminars to complement their already excellent teaching skills and strategies. To each of these dedicated professionals, I offer my sincerest thanks. It is your hard work, commitment, and dedication that make a difference in the lives of our students.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. For the remainder of the year, you will be notified that the newsletter is available online. (Please go to the school website at www.ugdsb.ca/gateway/ to view it each month. We will only provide a hard copy of the newsletter if you request it by calling the school.

Lastly, welcome to our new staff: Linda Ellis (Replacing Mrs. Chambers in the office), Christin Stephan (Returning from leave), Lorena Ranalli (Returning from maternity leave), Jayme Watters (Returning from the Remote School), Courtney Drewry (ECE), Chrissy Miller (Kindergarten-FI), Michelle Patterson (ECE), Alexis Nitsch (Gr 3/4-FI), JD Hamel (Core French), Nelson DaSilva (Head Caretaker), Stephanie Moni (Evening Caretaker), and Mark Pettipiere (EA).

Bienvenue! We look forward to working with your children and with you, their families.

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New Bell Times -BALANCED DAY SCHEDULE

******Please note that the school day will end at 2:55 this year***

8:20- 8:35	Supervision begins on the playground
8:35	School Entry
10:15 - 10:55	1st Nutrition Break
12:35 - 1:15	2nd Nutrition Break
2:55	Dismissal

A Reminder about the Board App:

There is now an App that you can download onto your phone to help you keep up-to-date with all that is happening at Gateway Dr..

1. Go to the App store.
2. Put in Upper Grand District School Board
3. The “UG Connect” app will appear
4. Download
5. Go on and pick GAteway Dr. (and any other schools your children attend).

SCHOOL REORGANIZATION

The school has built class lists based on tentative organizations. As always, it is possible that changes may be necessary in order that our Board remain compliant with Ministry parameters. Any changes would be implemented as quickly as possible. Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed via letter by the school. We know that children are adaptable and while there may be some discomfort with class changes, this rarely lasts longer than a day or two. **We ask that you please do not call asking for a specific class or requesting that your child not be moved.** If we all work together and encourage our children to have a positive attitude it will go smoothly and everyone will be happy.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

A very important and necessary part of parent and community involvement is the Gateway Dr School Council. Every year a dedicated group of parents meets once a month to discuss the learning goals of the school, collaboratively explore where support can be provided to enhance student learning, and create opportunities to increase parent involvement through special events and programs. Typically we meet the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm. More information will come as we look to hosting these meetings virtually.

MEDICATION

Please remember that all student medication must be stored and administered from the office. In order to give any medication we must have the appropriate form completed and signed by a parent or guardian. If your child will require medication at school, please contact Mme Lambkin in the school office so that she can make sure that you have the appropriate form to fill out. We require updated and signed forms each year.

CALL-OUT AND EMAIL COMMUNICATION

We often communicate important school news through a call-out system and/or email blast. If you need to change the phone number we use, please contact the school office.

LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

UGDSB Policy 518: Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions outlines the roles and responsibilities for all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes, and Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders. If your child has one of these, or any other life-threatening medical condition, please visit www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy (and look for Policy 518) or contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a “Plan of Care” to support your child.

Children requiring medication such as EPI-PENS for life-threatening medical conditions are required to carry this medication with them at all times. We suggest a fanny pack. Additional EPI-PENS may be kept in the school office. Please call Mr Reay (ext. 223) if you have any questions.

PARKING LOT – NO PARKING ZONES

You will notice that no parking zones are clearly indicated in our parking lot. Besides no parent access to the parking lot during school arrival and dismissal times, the large Fire Route area has been clearly highlighted and there is to be NO STOPPING, WAITING, or PARKING in this area. The City has ticketed in the past. Please observe these no parking areas. Plan your visits and pick-ups accordingly, allowing for extra time to find appropriate street parking.

BUSSING UPDATES

Follow the transportation consortium on Twitter for information on bus delays / cancellations @STWDSTS.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Please register for School Cash Online TODAY! For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. You can pay for field trips, spirit wear, yearbooks (almost everything) ONLINE! Here's how to register:

- Step 1: Visit <https://ugdsb.schoolcashionline.com> or find a direct link from our school's website (using the above icon).
Step 2: Register by selecting "Get Started Now" and following the steps (to register yourself as a parent user).
Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, select the 'click' here option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account. (Do NOT input a "Student Number.")

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

It is very important that you notify the school office if your child is going to be late or absent for any reason. There is an answering machine on 24 hours a day so please use this system to keep us informed. **Please call the office if your child is going to be late or absent from school.** Please help us ensure that all students arrive at school safely. We also require a note (or in an emergency a phone call) from parents if you will be picking up your child(ren) during or after school. Be sure to SIGN IN at the office when dropping off or picking up your children during the school day.

LATE ARRIVALS

School begins at 8:35 a.m. If a student arrives after this time, they must sign in at the office. Parents will need to call the school for us to make arrangements to allow students into the building systematically and safely. Please encourage your child to be on the school yard no later than 8:30 so that they can enter the school with their class.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

For everyone's safety, we require ALL visitors to pre-arrange an appointment with the school so we anticipate your arrival. Anyone visiting or volunteering in the school (including parents). Please call the school number posted on the door and we will make arrangements from there.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

A computer-printed form showing our current data for each child will be sent home with your child. **Please check the information carefully making any necessary corrections and additions.** Please remember to sign and date the bottom line and return it to the school as soon as possible. The first class to submit a complete set of verification forms to the office will receive a popsicle party!

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Parents and guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises or 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.

A Director's letter will be sent home with students containing information with respect to two Programs available for the purchase of Student Accident Insurance. The Insuremykids Program is offered through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada and the Studyinsured Program is underwritten by Certain Lloyds's Underwriters through AON Insurance.

Each program offers a variety of options, including family rates at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by the parent or guardian. Paper copies of the application are no longer available. Purchase is done directly online or by contacting the provider:

www.insuremykids.com or call toll free 1-800-463-5437

www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com or call toll free 1-833-560-0527.

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.

STREET PATROLS

Street patrols will continue to be at the crosswalks between 8:20 -8:35 a.m. and again at 3:55– 3:05 p.m. We ask that students and parents respect the students who have taken on this huge responsibility. They are there to help make crossing safe for everyone.

BUSES AND ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

At Gateway Dr we have a number of buses taking students to and from school safely. All buses will be loaded and unloaded at the Bus Loading Zone at the front North side of the school. This zone is reserved for buses only. Each bus has a number associated with it and bus patrols have been assigned to help our younger students get safely off and on the correct bus. Teacher supervision at bus arrival and departure times is also a constant at Gateway Dr. Students will be escorted around the side of the building and brought to their respective classes to prepare to enter the building.

STUDENT PICK-UP

If you are picking up your child at school, **PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE WELL AHEAD OF TIME** and your child will be called to the office. A staff member will walk the student out to you to eliminate the need for extra people in the school.

*If students are going to be picked up by someone other than the parent/guardian, an email or phone call is needed from the parent/guardian in order to ensure the safety of the children.