

GRAND VALLEY AND DISTRICT PUBLIC SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

September was a very busy month for us. Because of an increase in the number of students, we were allocated an additional junior classroom. After much shuffling and moving, our school organization is as follows:

<i>JK/SK - Eva Stratton, Lori Lynn Bridger (ECE)</i>	<i>JK/SK – Amy Dietrich</i>
<i>Grade 1/2 - Lisa Butler</i>	<i>Grade 1/2 - Pam Wheeler</i>
<i>Grade 2/3 - Janet VanderPloeg</i>	<i>Grade 3/4 - Jennifer Little</i>
<i>Grade 4/5 – Carrie Dunk</i>	<i>Grade 5- Meghan Close</i>
<i>Grade 6 - Ryan Dowdall</i>	<i>Grade 7/8 - Chris Servos</i>
<i>Grade 7/8 - Terri Lynn O’Gorman</i>	<i>French - Kathy Bryan</i>
<i>Library/Planning Time - Diana Kocher</i>	<i>R/W - Kim Thompson</i>
<i>RW- Terri Lynn O’Gorman</i>	<i>Planning Time – Aaron Perryman</i>
<i>Planning Time – Justin Hamilton</i>	

Thanks for all of your patience and cooperation as we worked through this process.

Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario announces phase three work-to-rule across Ontario as of Sept 21

On September 18, 2015, the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario (ETFO) announced phase three of work-to-rule in Ontario. Phase three began on Monday, September 21, 2015 and will continue, unless progress is made at the provincial, central bargaining table.

Phase two of ETFO work-to-rule is currently taking place in all public schools across Ontario. During phase two, elementary teachers did not:

- plan, organize or participate in field trips
- plan, organize or participate in fundraising activities
- collect monies
- attend open houses or ‘Meet the Teacher’ nights outside of the instructional day
- participate in board professional development, other than mandatory first-aid training, Sabrina’s Law and WHMIS
- collect or distribute to students any paperwork required by the school or school board

Phase two job action will continue during phase three of work-to-rule. As of Monday, September 21, elementary teachers will also not:

- fill in for an absent teacher or take on additional students during another teacher’s absence
- update classroom websites/blogs, complete or distribute class newsletters
- update Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) by the deadline. ETFO has directed teachers to make modifications for students and to complete IEPs at their own pace during the instructional day.

- participate in any in-school meetings or professional learning activities on the next PA Day. Instead, they will use the time for their own self-directed activities within the classroom/school
- prepare report card comments, complete or package the Progress Report. ETFO has directed teachers to provide the principal/vice-principal with a hard copy class list with the ratings for the Learning Skills and Work Habits section, and the required subject area section completed for each child. Teachers of alternative programs will provide one brief comment per area.
- conduct parent interviews related to the Progress Report unless the teacher or occasional teacher identifies a concern about a child's progress
- participate in extracurricular activities on Wednesdays

In addition, on Wednesdays, ETFO has directed elementary teachers to wear a solidarity colour, their ETFO buttons, t-shirts and ball caps.

At this time, ETFO has informed teachers that unless significant progress has been made at the provincial, central bargaining table by the end of September, they will begin phase four. This means that during the month of October, they MAY begin rotating one-day strikes. If that happens, we will provide you with as much notice as possible about the status of schools.

The Upper Grand District School Board will continue to monitor the situation and its impact on elementary students:

- visit the UGDSB board website at www.ugdsb.on.ca
- watch for updates in the local news—television, radio, newspaper

PA Day Friday October 30th

There will be no school for students on Friday October 30th as it is a PA Day.

School Accident Insurance

Just a reminder – if you have not already sent back the yellow Student Accident Insurance Acknowledgment to your child's home room teacher, please do so as soon as possible. If you require a new form, please contact the office. Please note that Application forms and cheques are to be mailed directly to Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada.

No Lacrosse sticks at school

Due to an increase in concerns related to student safety and supervision, lacrosse sticks will no longer be permitted on the yard at recess. Students are asked to please leave their lacrosse sticks at home.

Farm Credit Canada Drive Away Hunger/ Food Drive

Our school will again be partnering with Farm Credit Canada to collect food for local families that rely on food banks such as Grand Valley's CONCERN. Students will be asked to bring in nonperishable food items from October 5th – October 7th.

Dufferin OPP K.I.D.S. Program

Grand Valley & District Public School in conjunction with the Ontario Provincial Police Dufferin Detachment will be teaching the K.I.D.S Program to Grade 6 students. K.I.D.S. stands for knowledge, issues, decisions and supports. This new program replaces the D.A.R.E. program and is designed to give our students the knowledge and skills needed to make good decisions related to drug abuse and the use of social media. The program began in mid-September and continues until the end of October.

Waste Reduction Week October 19th-23rd

Our school will be participating in the Dufferin County Waste Reduction Week. Guest Speakers from Dufferin Waste Management Services will be making presentation to our junior classes. Our Eco Team will continue to promote composting and recycling in our school. They will continue to encourage students to use Boomerang Lunches and reusable lunch containers every day at GVDPS.

Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures

Student safety is always our number one priority at GVDPS. Consistent pick up and drop off procedures help ensure the safe arrival and departure of our students. In the event that there is a change to your child's regular routine, we ask that you please contact the school as soon as possible to let us know. Last minute changes (i.e. within the last hour of the school day) can be particularly problematic as this is a very hectic and busy time in the school. We appreciate your understanding as we work together to make our school a safe environment for our students.

Electronic Devices at School

Personal Electronic Devices (PED's) such as iPods and cell phones should not be brought to school. We ask students to please keep these items at home for the following reasons:

1. During the school day, we encourage students to be physically active during breaks in the day and to socialize with their friends. These devices discourage that type of activity from taking place.
2. It is difficult to monitor the kind of music or type of game the students are using. We feel this monitoring is best done at home by parents.
3. These items are fragile and expensive. They are easily lost, broken or stolen and the school cannot be responsible for them.

Cell phones today pose a unique problem because of their ability to take pictures, videos, record audio and access the internet. Again, from a supervision point of view, they are an extremely difficult device to monitor effectively. Students are reminded that cell phones, when brought to school, must be turned off and be kept out of sight for the duration of the school day. Students who need to contact home are asked to come to the office and use the school phone. Likewise, parents who need to contact their child during the day are asked to contact the main office and we will be happy to pass along any messages to students. In an effort to deal with this in an effective manner, students who are using a cell phone or other electronic device will have the device confiscated and it will be kept in the office until a parent comes in to pick it up. Again, we thank all parents for their continued support!

Newsletters

Newsletters will continue to be sent home at the beginning of each month and will be sent home with the youngest child in the family. There is always important information in the newsletter, so please try to find a few minutes to sit down and read it with your child (ren). Newsletters are also posted online each month. The website address is www.ugdsb.on.ca/grandvalley.

Student Safety - School Lockdown Drill Wednesday October 21st

In the interest of student safety, the Upper Grand District School Board has directed all schools to conduct two Lockdown drills each school year. A lockdown is used when it is suspected that an intruder has entered the school and poses a threat to the safety of our students and staff. Detailed procedures have been developed in conjunction with our local police services and provided to all schools as part of our emergency procedures manual.

In a Lockdown, students and staff are directed to secure areas where doors can be locked and the children are kept out of sight (such as classrooms). No one may leave their secure area until they receive an "all clear" from the authorities.

Students and staff will be instructed on what they are to do when a drill is held. Lockdown drills have become familiar to students just like fire and tornado drills which we are also required to do every year.

If you have any questions or concerns about Lockdown drills, we would be happy to discuss them with you.

Severe Allergic Reactions: No Nuts Reminder and No 'Wow Butter'

We would like to remind everyone that we have students at Grand Valley with life-threatening allergies to nuts (all kinds). Please help us in closely checking food products before sending them to school to ensure they do not contain nuts. We are also not able to allow 'Wow Butter' at school as an alternative. Because it looks, smells, and tastes like real peanut butter, it is therefore difficult to tell the difference from real peanut butter. Staffs are unable to be sure that students are not eating real peanut butter and students with life threatening allergies may develop a false sense of security when students around them are eating it.

Medication taken at School

A reminder from our September newsletter: It is a requirement of the Ministry of Education that we receive the signature of the parent/guardian BEFORE any medication can be administered by school personnel. A Medical Permission Form must be filled in by the parent, then sent to the school office. This applies to both prescription and non-prescription drugs and must be completed on a yearly basis. If you require a Medication Form, please contact Mrs. Sevenco in the office.

School Council Meeting

You can make a difference in your child's school today!

The first School Council meeting is scheduled for Monday October 5th at 6:30 pm in the School staff-room! Please join other parents & guardians along with parent & community members who work along with staff and school administration to enrich the school environment every day! You may be the missing piece to our puzzle!



STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION ROUTINE USES AND/OR DISCLOSURES

If you have questions about this notice contact your principal or the Freedom of Information Coordinator, Upper Grand District School Board, 500 Victoria Road North, Guelph, Ontario N1E 6K2, (519) 822-4420 ext. 721

The Upper Grand D.S.B. keeps **personal information to provide educational services**. Some examples of personal information are names, addresses, phone numbers and date of birth.

School boards have a duty under provincial law to protect personal information (*Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*). The *Act* requires that parents/guardians of students under the age of 16 (and students 16 years of age and older) be informed about how their personal information is used, disclosed and maintained.

All students have an **Ontario Student Record (OSR)**. The OSR is the record of a student's educational history and progress in Ontario. The school principal is responsible for the OSR. In addition to the OSR, we maintain secure electronic student records that contain personal information.

The personal information identified in this form is collected pursuant to the provisions of the *Education Act* including but not limited to sections 169.1-173

Information shared without notification

We will disclose your child's and or your personal information **without further notification to you** in the following ways:

- If your child suffers from a life threatening medical condition**, a Life Threatening Management and Prevention Plan will be developed and shared with appropriate staff and transportation services.
- The Board provides the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit** with the pupil's full name, address and telephone number; if applicable, every alternate name; gender; date of birth; school; Ontario Education Number; grade or class and the full name, address and telephone number of every parent of the pupil and their preferred language. (As per Regulation 645 made under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA))
- Secondary schools will:**
 - o receive information in advance about incoming grade 8 students
 - o share information about individual student's progress with the student's previous elementary school
 - o send information about potential graduates (contact information, marks and transcripts) to the Ontario College Application Services and the Ontario Universities Application Centre
- Names and phone numbers** may be shared with school approved volunteers or parents for safety and information purposes.

Examples include:

- o emergency contact lists
- o safe arrival programs
- o school-related notices
- o safety patrol lists
- Student names (first and last) and/or photographs** may be printed in school programs for plays and musical productions, on student awards and plaques and in school yearbooks. Some schools may display the names and/or photos of graduating students in their school.
- Student names** may be included on their work displayed in classrooms or in hallways.
- Video Recordings:**
 - o **The board uses surveillance equipment** in some schools and on buses for safety reasons and property protection. The recording may be shared with authorities if necessary according to board policy.
 - o **Video Recording or Photographs:** Board staff and board-approved professionals may **record or photograph** students in school or during school activities as part of their educational program or for assessment. Informed consent is required to share this information outside of the school. (See below) **2**

What is informed consent?

To protect privacy, no personal information is provided to the public without informed consent. A parent/guardian gives informed consent when they agree to the sharing of personal information, understand what will be shared, for what purposes it will be used, and who will receive the information.

Sharing Information with Agencies Working for the Board

Personal information may be shared with approved agencies that assist the Board in providing educational and administrative services.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- transportation services (STWDSTS) to identify students who qualify for busing
- the Board insurance company and the Ministry of Labour if an **accident** takes place during school and /or on school-sponsored activities
- automated telecommunications provider to notify parents of upcoming events or that their child is absent from class
- school photographers who take individual and class photographs to sell to parents and students, for student identification cards and for school records
- vendors who provide online services to create school yearbooks
- vendors who provide specialized equipment, resources and training for special needs students
- Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) for secondary students who participate on athletic teams
- service providers endorsed by the Board/Ministry of Education for online learning and educational administrative services (e.g., Homework Help, Desire2Learn, Maplewood, etc.)

Information for the General Public

Newspapers, television and radio stations may be invited to schools to report on activities such as graduations, student achievements/awards, and current events. Their reports may include only non-identifying photos of groups of students. Students are only **photographed and/or identified with informed consent**.

Note: If photography or video recording is permitted during events open to the public, such as school concerts or sporting events, it is generally not possible for the Board to control the use of such recordings. However, we kindly remind anyone who may be taking pictures that they are respectful of the privacy rights of anyone they may capture in their recording and that they not share them in any way without the consent of the individual or if the individual is under the age of 16 the consent of their parent or legal guardian.

When informed consent is required

Listed below are some examples of where informed consent is required before sharing or disclosing information:

- to school-based Psychological Services Staff (including Child and Youth Counsellors), Social Workers and Communication, Language and Speech Services staff
- when
 - photographs or videos are taken for educational purposes and are to be shared outside the school
 - students participating in video conferencing (two-way video and audio transmissions)
 - publicly displaying student work that includes their name
 - Identifying students by name and or photograph in school newsletters and on a class, school and/or board websites and other web services (e.g., Twitter, Facebook or teacher blogs or websites)

If you have concerns or questions about any of the information described above please contact your principal as soon as possible. The above will apply unless an objection is made in writing with the principal and an alternative solution found.

Talking About Mental Health!

Welcome to the new school year! My name is Dr. Lynn Woodford and I am the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for the school board. Every month I write a column for school newsletters about mental health and provide strategies and resources for families.

Hope that the transition back to school has been a positive one for you and your family. If your child or youth is experiencing any challenges with the transition back to school, please talk to your child or youth's teacher or administrator.

The UGDSB has many resources available on its website: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/> for parents and students to access. To access these resources: click on the Parent tab then click on the Mental Health Tab. There is also a Student tab with a Mental Health tab, which you can share with your children and youth.

Once you are on site, you will find information about local mental health and addiction resources:

- Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington Dufferin Branch (CMHA WWD)
 - To access Addictions, Mental Health (including eating disorders and first episode psychosis) and Crisis Services (Guelph/Wellington for Children/Youth and Guelph/Wellington/Dufferin for Adults) contact:
 - HERE247 at 1 844 437 3247 (1 844 HERE247)
 - www.here247.ca
 - Walk in Services on Tuesdays for Children/Youth 1:30- 7:00
 - 485 Silvercreek Pkwy, Guelph
 - wwd.cmha.ca
- Dufferin Child and Family Services (Services for Children/Youth in Dufferin County)
 - To access Addictions, Mental Health and Crisis Services
 - 519-941-1530
 - Talk in Services on Tuesdays 1:00- 7:00
 - 655 Riddell Road, Orangeville
 - <http://dcafs.on.ca/>

There is an Access to Mental Health Resources document that provides more details about counselling and supports in Guelph Wellington Dufferin.

There are also links to useful websites with information for parents about mental health and addictions such as:

- Kids Help Phone (1 800 668 6868) www.KidsHelpPhone.ca provides phone and web counselling for youth under the age of 20. Support is free, 24/7, anonymous and confidential.
- The ABCs of Mental Health <http://www.hincksdellcrest.org/ABC/Welcome> provides information related to different mental health concerns, according to developmental ages.

Hope these resources are helpful for you and your families. Hope you have a wonderful fall!

Dr. Lynn Woodford is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Public Health provides dental screening for all students in JK, SK, Grades 2, 4, 6, 8 and other students as appropriate. Screening is provided under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* and any information is collected according to our privacy policy (Please see the back of this page).

We will be visiting your school on October 28th & 29th, 2015.

What is a screening?

Screening is a quick look in the mouth by the registered dental hygienist. She uses a sterilized dental mirror and protective vinyl gloves for each child. You will be notified if we see an urgent dental condition. A screening is important. It identifies children who have dental problems and helps them to get care. It also gathers statistics about the dental health of children in our community and helps us to identify programs that may be needed.

This screening is not meant to replace a full examination by your family dentist.

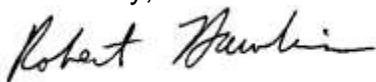
If you don't want your child screened at school, please call us at **1-800-265-7293 ext. 5662** one week before the date of our visit. Leave your child's full name, school, birth date, and grade.

What dental programs and services are available at Public Health?

Children aged 17 and under, whose families can't afford dental care, may be eligible for one of our **free** programs to help with urgent and preventive care.

For more information or to book a **free** appointment please call the **Dental Intake Line** at **1-800-265-7293 ext. 2661**.

Yours truly,



Dr. Robert Hawkins
Dental Consultant

Our privacy policy at WDG Public Health:

The information collected for Dental Screening is under the authority of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*. This information will be used for the delivery of public health programs and services; the administration of the agency; and the maintenance of health-care databases, registries and related research, in compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. Any questions about the collection of this information should be addressed to the Chief Privacy Officer at 1-800-265-7293 ext 4354.



INFORMATION LETTER Partnering for Change

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We want you to know about the model of service delivery that our school is receiving in partnership with the Central West Community Care Access Centre (CW CCAC). This model was developed and studied by *CanChild*, a research centre at McMaster University. This model provides educational opportunities for our teachers. Teachers will learn more about how children develop motor skills and how they can help promote motor development using activities in the classroom. An occupational therapist (OT) will work in our school to help teachers learn more about motor development in all children and about how to help children who may be having difficulty with some motor skills.

OTs are health professionals who work with children in many different settings and who know a lot about fine and gross motor skill development. Fine motor skills are things like printing and writing, cutting with scissors, opening juice boxes and doing up zippers. Gross motor skills include things like jumping, getting onto the school bus, climbing stairs and running.

The OT will spend time in our classrooms, gym, and playground. She will observe children and then suggest different materials, tools and instructional methods that make it easier for children to learn and do motor-based activities. The OT will also help teachers to understand how they can use centres and other activities in their classroom to help children develop their motor skills. If the OT feels that your child is having more difficulty learning new motor skills than is typical for his/her age, the OT will contact you.

Starting in September, the OT will be in our school *one day every three weeks*. The OT will be working at our school and available so that all the teachers in the school will be able to ask her questions. She will work with teachers to share useful information and ideas that support teacher and student learning. Educational sessions will be offered for parents as well – watch our school newsletter for details.

We hope that you will introduce yourself to the OT when you are in the school to attend a parent function or to visit your child's classroom. If you have concerns about your child's ability to do motor-based activities at home, feel free to let her know. If you have any questions about this service, please feel free to talk with your child's principal. For more information, you can also contact a Pediatric Intake Care Coordinator, at the CW CCAC by phone 905-796-0040 or Toll Free: 1-888-733-1177, ext. 7328

Community Corner

Grand Valley Air Cadets

If you are 12 or older, want to meet friends and try something new then we have the thing for you !
By joining Air Cadets you are saying YES! To fun activities and exciting challenges supervised by trained adult leaders.

Air Cadets offers lots of different activities many of which relate to flying.

Gliding	music
first aid	effective speaking and leadership training
survival	summer camps and international trips
team sports	marching and parades.

Join us on our Parade Night every Tuesday Night 6pm – 9:30pm at Grand Valley Public School.
Commanding Officer: Lt. John Smith or contact Trng0@85TornadoSquadron.com for more information.

Dance Fuel

Local Dance lessons starting in October for ages 2 – Adult !
Jazz, Acro, Ballet, Tap, Hip Hop and more! Save your spot by visiting
www.dancefuel.ca to express your interest or call 519 925 9942 for more information.

Grand Valley Public Library – Cocoa Club

Starts again on Tuesday October 6th, 2015 at 3:15pm – 4pm Age 6 plus
Join us every Tuesday for hot cocoa, cookies and crafts.