

GRAND VALLEY & DISTRICT PUBLIC SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

PROGRESS REPORTS AND PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

In November, all schools will be issuing a Progress Report Card that does not include “marks”. Instead, it reports on learning skills or work habits, as well as strengths and next steps to assist in improving student learning in subject areas.

This Progress Report will provide students and parents with early and specific feedback on the progress made during the first two months of the school year. It will tell you how your child is doing in all subjects using the words: “progressing very well”, “progressing well” or “progressing with difficulty”. After the Progress Reports go home, there will be an opportunity to schedule a parent/teacher interview, on the evening of November 24th and during the PA Day on November 25th. This is your chance to find out early in the school year how your child is progressing, what the school will do to help and what you can do at home to support his/her learning.

The February and June report cards will follow a more traditional format with marks for all subjects. Learning skills will once again be highlighted because developing good work habits is crucial for your child to be successful in school and later in life.

Remembrance Day

We will be having our Remembrance Day ceremony at 12:00 p.m. on Friday November 11th in the gym. We are holding it a little later so that our students who attend the Cenotaph ceremony can also be a part of the one at school. Parents and community members are welcome to join our assembly as we remember those who fought for our freedom. Our choir will be singing a couple of songs and students will be sharing traditional Remembrance Day poetry.

Introducing School Cash Online

Grand Valley PS is pleased to now offer the option for parents to pay for school items online. It takes less than 5 minutes to register and helps reduce the amount of cash and cheques being sent to school with students. Parents can conveniently purchase items 24/7 using a protected and encrypted website. Please visit www.ugdsb.SchoolCashOnline.com to register today.

Cross- Country Running

On Wednesday October 5th, 2016 members of our cross country team travelled to Orangeville to compete in the Dufferin Family of Schools Cross Country Meet. Our team trained for weeks before the event and should be commended for their hard work, dedication and effort. Way to go! Congratulations as well to Adia M. who placed first in the Tyke girls race. Well done! Thank you to Mrs. Stratton and Mrs. VanderPloeg for coaching this team.

Terry Fox School Walk

Wow! Students at GVDPS really showed their support for Terry Fox. We raised \$370.25 this year. Way to go Gators. This will be added to our overall total from all the years we have been collecting Toonies for Terry, with a grand total of just over \$10,450.00. So proud of you Gators !!

Changes to End of Day Plans

The end of the school day is often a busy time of day. Parents are reminded to please call the office before 1:30pm if you are making a change to any same day pick up, bus information or after school activities such as play dates.

Stop a Bully! On-Line Reporting Tool

Did you know that in the majority of cases, bullying stops within 10 seconds when peers intervene or don't support the bullying behavior? The Upper Grand District School Board takes all incidents of bullying seriously. That's why we developed an online bullying reporting tool. Stop a Bully gives students and parents 24/7 access for reporting bullying. You don't have to identify yourself – just your school – and your message gets sent directly to your school principal for follow-up. We will follow up on your report. You'll find the Stop a Bully button on our school's website and the board's website (www.udsb.on.ca/stop-a-bully). If your child is the victim of bullying or sees bullying behavior at school, please encourage him/her to speak with someone at school or use the Stop a Bully tool. For more information, contact the school.

What's the Difference between Conflict and Bullying?

Is conflict the same as bullying? People may sometimes confuse conflict with bullying, but they are different. Conflict occurs between two or more people who have a disagreement, a difference of opinion or different views. Conflict between students does not always mean its bullying. Children learn at a young age to understand that others can have a different perspective than their own, but developing the ability to gain perspective takes time and the process continues into early adulthood. In conflict, each person feels comfortable expressing his or her view point, and there is no power imbalance. Each person feels able to state his or her view point. How people deal with conflict can make it positive or negative. Conflict becomes negative when an individual behaves aggressively by saying or doing hurtful things. Then the conflict is an aggressive interaction. Conflict only becomes bullying when it is repeated over and over again and there is a power imbalance. Over time, a pattern of behaviour may emerge where the person who behaves aggressively in the conflict may continue or even make it worse. The person who is the recipient of the aggressive conflict may feel less and less able to express his or her point of view and feel more and more powerless. That is when negative conflict may turn into bullying. A school will respond to bullying and conflict differently. For example, in the case of a conflict, a school staff member may try to have the students come together to tell their side of the story and help resolve the situation together. In the case of bullying a principal will consider progressive discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion.

Playground Structures Closed for Winter

We want to remind parents that UGDSB Policy states that all playground structures must be closed, for safety purposes, from November 1st to March 31st. Our playground structures are now closed for the winter.

Eco Team

Eco Team members are busy applying their learning from the Dufferin Waste Management presentation to minimize waste around our school. The Team continues to encourage students and staff to bring litterless lunches to school and held a “Waste Free Lunch” challenge where the lunch waste was weighed each day for a week. If a litterless lunch is not possible, they encourage a “Boomerang Lunch” where students are asked to take waste back home after lunches / snacks have been eaten.

The Eco Team has also placed pizza box lid covers over garbage cans and asked that classes decorate them with waste minimizing messages.

There are wonderful “GOOS” bins, (“Good On One Side,” bins containing scrap photocopied paper that only has print on one side) in each classroom which encourages the re-use of paper.

Please remember that we recycle magic markers through ColorCycle and Lunchables through TerraCycle. We will hold our annual waste audit in December.

The Eco Team is also supporting wise energy use by having “LOL’s,” “Lights Out Lunches” every day. All of these environmentally friendly practices should divert waste and support our goal of becoming waste free while also reducing our environmental footprint.

Thanks to all parents and caregivers for your efforts to support our initiatives.

Grand Valley Litterless Lunches

Yes Please	No Thank You
Reusable lunch container	Single use paper or plastic bags
Reusable food storage containers	Disposable plastic, foil, wax, styrofoam
Reusable drink bottle/thermos	Single use containers
Cloth napkin	Paper napkins
Silverware to wash and reuse	Plastic forks/spoons

Grand Valley Supports Terra Cycle

Terra Cycle’s mission is to eliminate the idea of waste. A variety of programs are offered to collect previously non-recyclable or hard to recycle waste. The collected waste is then converted into new products, ranging from recycled park benches to upcycled backpacks. Grand Valley students bring a lot of these hard to recycle waste products to school in their lunches. Terra Cycle points are collected (we currently have 1600) and can eventually be used to redeem items in each classroom. The following products may be dropped off in your child’s class or the Custodian’s Office: Kool Aid Jammers and Schneider’s Lunchmates.

Scholastic Book Fair

Come to this year's Scholastic Book Fair where "Books are the Treasure". A percentage of all books sold is used towards the purchase of new books and materials for our library. Every little bit helps! The book fair begins on **Thursday November 24th from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Students from Grades 1 to 8 will be coming in during the day to write their wish lists or buy. Check their bags for the wish list before you come to your interview if you plan to do any holiday shopping!

It will be open **Friday November 25th from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

LAST DAY to BUY! **Monday November 28th from 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The book fair is **CASH ONLY** please. Parents or Guardians, please make sure you come and visit before or after your interviews to enter your family in the contest to win \$25.00 in free books for your family and \$25.00 in free books for your child's teacher. Please find the entry ticket on the "Sneak Peek" flyer. Flyers will be coming home the week before the Book Fair. The draw will be made on Friday at noon and the winner must select his/her books on Monday. **Volunteers needed!** Mrs. Kocher is looking for help with setting up the Book Fair after school on November 23rd, selling on the 24th and 28th, and packing up the fair on the 28th. Please let her know if you are available to assist in any way by November 11th. Leave a message at 519-928-2172 x 312 or pop into the library to speak with her in person.

Please Respect the Privacy of Others

Grand Valley Public School welcomes parents who wish to photograph or videotape their child at school events. Please respect the privacy of others. If you don't have permission from the people captured in your images, **do not** post your photos or videos to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flickr, YouTube... anywhere online.

Bus Cancellations

During times of inclement weather, there are two ways to obtain information regarding bus cancellations and/or school closures for both bus and town students:

1. RADIO STATIONS

1460 AM CJOY	106.1 Magic FM
Oldies 1090 AM	99.1 FM CBC
105.3 Kool FM,	News Talk 570 AM
96.7 FM CHYM	CKCO-TV

2. BOARD WEBSITE - www.ugdsb.on.ca and click on the yellow school bus on the right hand side. SCHOOL WEBSITE - www.ugdsb.on.ca/grandvalley

If your child does not ride a bus to school and will not be attending on a day when the busses are canceled, please call the school to report his/her absence.

Our Food and Friends Student Nutrition Program

There are many different reasons a student comes to school hungry. Did you know that a dedicated group of volunteers here at Grand Valley & District Public School help to alleviate hunger for our students by providing a Food and Friends Breakfast program? Each week we help an average of 50 of our students start their day with a healthy meal in a safe and inclusive environment. Our program runs Monday to Friday 8:00 – 8:40 am.

Farm Credit Canada's Drive Away Hunger

We would like to thank the school community for donating food items in support of Farm Credit Canada's Drive Away Hunger Campaign. Our local food bank, CONCERN, will benefit from 346.5 lbs of food.

School Council News

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2016-2017

Chair –Dawn Lyons
Treasurer – Yolanta Kut- Moniz
Secretary –Position Open
Community Rep- Shann Leighton
Hot Lunch Co-coordinator – Angela MacKenzie
Milk Co-coordinator –Dawn Lyons
Teaching Rep – Kim Thompson
Non-teaching Rep- Dave Limbeek
Principal- Andy Pink

School Milk Program

The school milk program has begun. Milk will be delivered to classrooms during First Nutrition break to those students who have placed an order. Milk orders are placed for the entire month. Crown Dairy in Guelph supplies milk to our school. Thank you to Mrs. Lyons for volunteering to operate the milk program!

Farm Fresh Fundraiser

Thanks to all of those who supported our Farm Fresh Fundraiser. The food will be arriving at the school this month. Exact dates will be provided soon. Please note students will not be allowed to take orders home on the bus.

Partners in Education

Parents play a vital role in the development and education of their children and in the success of schools. Parent involvement includes a range of activities from good parenting, helping with homework, serving on school councils and board or provincial committees, communicating and meeting with teachers, and volunteering in the classroom or on school trips.

Good schools are better where there is a stronger connection with parents as part of the learning environment.

School councils focus on engaging parents and fostering parental involvement within their school community as a key factor in assisting with student achievement.

Where does your role as a parent fit into this partnership?

Join other parents at the next school council meeting and be a more active partner in your child's / children's success at school.

Our next School Council will be on Monday, November 7th, 2016 at 6:30pm.