

OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

Open House

Thank you to all parents/guardians who were able to join us for our Open House this year. The evening was a huge success as we welcomed new families, returning families and several new as well as returning staff members. Thank you to the Lion's Club for the hotdog BBQ.

School Emergency Response Training and Annual Drills

The safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. Although we hope that an incident that requires response from emergency personnel will never occur in our school, we must be prepared to respond quickly and effectively in case it does.

Each year our school must conduct drills to ensure staff and students are prepared in the event of a real emergency.

The following number of drills is required each school year:

- Three (3) fire drills in the fall and three (3) fire drills in the spring
- Two (2) lockdown drills
- One (1) tornado drill
- One (1) bomb threat drill

For each of these drills, there is an education component to explain why they are necessary. All drills are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of our students.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

School Accident Insurance

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

Drive Away Hunger!

Our school will again be partnering with Farm Credit Canada to collect food through its program Drive Away Hunger. It is a national program, but the food we collect will go to our local food bank, CONCERN. Students are asked to bring in donations of non-perishable food items such as canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, rice, cereal, canned or powdered milk and fruit juices. Infant formula and baby food are also much needed. The items can be brought in between Monday, October 2 to Tuesday, October 10th. The food will be picked up at 9:00am on October 11th.

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club is in need of volunteers. If you are able to help out for about 1 hour on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday mornings, please contact the school office (519)928-2172. The time would be from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. Thank you.

On October 4th, UGDSB is Celebrating Walk To School Day And Walk At School Day!

Walk to School Day is an international event that encourages students to be active on their journey between home and school. The Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Active and Safe Routes to School (ASRTS) committee encourages parents and guardians to walk, bike or wheel to school with us on Walk to School day October 4th. The ASRTS committee is encouraging schools with bused students to also participate by organizing a walk around the school yard at lunch or before bell time.

Walking and riding to school are great ways to include physical activity into the day, and it is well known that students who use active travel to get to school arrive alert and ready to learn.

As a parent you can help your child learn about walking or riding to school safely:

- Be a good role model. Demonstrate road safety rules with your child (e.g. looking both ways when crossing the street).
- Plan a walking or riding route. Assess potential hazards with your child. Encourage your child to stick to the route.
- Remind your child about personal safety. Point out the houses of people you know where they can go for help if needed.
- Adopt a buddy system. Walk with a “walking buddy” – a sibling or a friend.
- Ask that electronics like iPods and cellphones be put in their bag while walking to school. Pedestrian safety is compromised by texting, earphones and cellphone conversation.
- Talk about the rules of the road and pedestrian safety.

Visit www.saferoutestoschool.ca for more information and resources on active school travel.

Nutritional Break Supervisors

We are currently looking for substitute Nutritional Break Supervisors. If you would be interested in having your name added to our list, please contact the office, this is a paid position and we would require you on an occasional basis. A police check will also be needed and kept on file.

Waste Reduction & Litterless Lunch

Grand Valley School does a great job of recycling! October 16th – 20th is Waste Reduction Week. Many classes will be having presentations on waste reduction and waste diversion during this week from our Eco Team members. One step to consider, in our effort to reduce waste, is to try to pack a 'Litterless' lunch each day. This means using reusable containers, a thermos or a drinking bottle. Any efforts would be appreciated.

Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures

Student safety is always our number one priority at GVDPS. Consistent pick up and drop off procedures are extremely helpful in helping us 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.

Newsletters

Newsletters will continue to come early 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.ca/grandvalley.

Cross Country Running

Good luck to our Cross Country runners who will compete in our annual meet on Wednesday October 4th at Orangeville Agricultural Centre. Thank you to coaches Mrs. Stratton and Ms. Butler and to Mrs. Paterson for being a convenor for this event.

Halloween Dance-a-Thon.

This year's annual Dance-a-thon will be held on October 31st during the first block. Students are asked to wear black and orange for the dance rather than a Hallowe'en costume. Please keep costumes at home where they will be safe and sound for the big night.

Students will bring home a Hallowe'en Dance-a-thon envelope the week of October 11th. Funds raised for the Dance-a-thon will support Phys. Ed., Inter School Athletics and Technology.

Asthma Friendly Schools Policy

Asthma is a very common chronic lung disease that can make it hard to breathe. The Upper Grand District School Board adopted a new policy in June 2016 to provide support for students with Asthma. If your child has asthma, the policy requires an Asthma Management Plan (AMP) to be completed by parents, a child's doctor and the principal of the school. A copy of this plan is available on the Board's website under Policy 516. Parents are requested to complete the AMP and return it to the school as soon as possible at the beginning of the school year. Authorization for the collection of this information is in the Education Act. The purpose is to collect and share medical information and to administer proper medical care in the event of an emergency or life-threatening situation. Users of this information may be principals, teachers, support staff, volunteers, bus operators and drivers. This form will be kept for a minimum period of one calendar year. Contact person concerning this collection is the school principal.

Smoke-Free Environment

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke-free environment for its students, staff and others while on School Board property, in accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. This policy refers to all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed, including e-cigarettes.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of the indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents will be informed using the school's usual forms of communication when smudging is going to occur in our school. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.

Life-Threatening Allergies

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies to various foods and other materials called anaphylaxis. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to food or other materials, and 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 may refrain from sending foods to the school that contain peanuts and nuts. 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 contacted by the classroom teacher. Our school has procedures in place to help manage 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.

School Council

The first meeting of the year takes place on Monday, October 2nd, 2017. All meetings are open to parents/guardians of students within the school community. Meetings commence at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the staffroom. FREE childcare is available by calling the school prior to the meeting.

Hot Lunch Dates

Mark your calendars! Here are the dates for Term 1 Hot Lunches:

October: 5, 12, 19, 26, November: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 December: 7, 14, 21.

Milk Program

Our School milk program will begin on Monday, October 2, 2017.

Community Corner

The Grand Valley Door Youth Centre welcomes students ages 10 and up to visit the Centre Monday and Tuesday after school between 3pm and 5pm. Play basketball or ball hockey in our gym, play a game of pool or play some video games. We also have an art corner where you can paint and draw. Free drinks and snacks available. Come check us out.

Grand Valley Public Library will be running a Home Alone Program for a one day session on Friday, October 27th (PA Day) from 9am – 1:00pm. Fee is \$25 per person. For details please visit the Library, sign up and get a package!

Grand Valley Public Library Cocoa Club

Beginning Oct 3rd 3:15pm – 4:00pm for ages 6-9. Join your friends for hot cocoa, cookies, crafts, activities and stories.

Starting Oct 5th 3:15pm – 4:00pm Snacks & Crafts for ages 10+