

# **JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER**

## **Welcome Back!**

We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday. We want to thank all of our families for their continued support, and we wish each of you all the very best in 2018!

## **Professional Development at Grand Valley**

**January 26, 2018** will be a Professional Development Day for all elementary schools in the Upper Grand District School Board. Please note there is no school for students this day. Our staff will be working all day on student assessments and evaluations.

## **JK/SK Registration**

Kindergarten registration for the 2018-19 school year is from January 9-19, 2018.

**NEW THIS YEAR:** All Junior and Senior Kindergarten students who are new to the UGDSB must pre-register online during registration at [www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten). Parents/guardians registering their child for Junior Kindergarten French Immersion must have completed the registration process by Jan. 19, 2018, at 4p.m. to be considered 'on-time.' Please note that Junior Kindergarten is the only entry point into the French Immersion program in the UGDSB. For more information on Kindergarten registration, including how to pre-register online and what documentation must be brought into the home school, visit [www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten).

## **Report Cards**

In December, you received a Progress Report Card that emphasized learning skills and work habits, along with an update on language arts, mathematics and various other subjects. On **Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**, the Term 1 report card will go home. The term 2 report card will go home in June.

## **Morning Supervision**

Parents are reminded that teachers are not on duty until 8:30 in the morning. We ask that students not arrive prior to this time as there is no one on the yard to supervise them.

## **Grade 8 Graduation Photo Day**

On Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Edge Imaging will be at the school to take Graduation portraits of our Grade 8 students. Students will be provided with a black graduation gown and V stole in red and white to wear for the photo. A white shirt with a collar looks best with this attire, a tie may also be worn.

## **Christmas Concert – Thanks!**

We had a very successful Christmas Concert here at the school on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to those of you who were able to join us for this special day. A special thanks to all the teachers involved for their efforts preparing the children.

## **Indoor Shoes**

Please remember to send indoor shoes with your child. In the event of a fire, students are able to exit the building more quickly if they have indoor shoes on their feet.

## **Winter Safety**

Please remind your child(ren) to stay off the roads as they walk to and from school each day and that the safest place to cross Main St. (if required) is with our Crossing Guard at the crosswalk.

The icy weather makes it difficult for cars and trucks to stop quickly. Bus students, in particular, are reminded to stay off the snow banks and the roads as they wait for their bus to arrive each morning.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

It is well known that regular attendance and punctuality are essential for students to succeed in school. When students are habitually absent, they miss valuable instruction, learning experiences and discussions that happen on a day-to-day basis that cannot be replicated. Being late for school can be just as detrimental as missing an entire day since core subjects such as language arts and math are often taught first thing in the morning each day. Please help us to ensure the best possible instruction for our students by making sure they are here and on time each day.

## **Upper Grand Mobile App**

The Upper Grand District School Board is committed to parent engagement and ensuring strong lines of communication between home and school. The Upper Grand Mobile App allows parents to receive communications from their school(s) immediately on their mobile device.

The Upper Grand Mobile App is free and available in both Android and iOS. Use the search term "Upper Grand" in either the iTunes store or Google Play. Download the app and once installed the app will appear as an icon on your phone. Click on the app to open.

The first time you open you will need to click on the Start-up set up link to see a list of schools. You may select more than one school. To select, slide the button to the right. Once you have selected your school(s) use the arrow in the top left corner to return to the home page. Select the News and Calendar icons to get the latest information. The Transportation icon will update you on bus cancellations. We hope this new communication tool will be useful for you and your family.

## **School Eco Team**

Our School Eco Team helps improve our commitment to greening our school. The team completed a one-day waste audit of all waste (garbage and recycling) within our school. The results demonstrated that we are diverting more waste than we are creating. Most of our disposable waste comes from food packaging in lunches. The grade 5 Earth Keepers learned "Buy big. Pack small" to minimize lunch waste. While we have developed compost and recycling programs, we have cross contamination, which means we need to carefully monitor which items belong in which containers. The Eco Team will set school wide waste minimization goals and develop an action plan for improvement and begin its implementation in January.

## **Bundle Up!**

Please make sure that your children are dressed adequately for outside play. We go outside at both Nutritional Breaks every day except for days with extreme cold. Your help in ensuring students have appropriate winter clothing is greatly appreciated.

## **CONCERN Food Bank**

Through a donation of a nonperishable food item as their admission into the Christmas Dance, our students from Grades 6, 7 and 8 generously helped this vital community support at a significant time of the year.

## **Bus Cancellations**

During times of inclement weather, there are a number of 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
680 AM CFTR	99.1 FM CBC
A Channel or CKCO-TV	News Talk 570 AM
96.7 FM CHYM	98.1 FM CHFI

**2. BOARD WEBSITE** - [www.ugdsb.on.ca](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca) and click on the yellow school bus on the right hand side.

**3. Twitter** -Follow us on Twitter for the latest bus cancellation info @GrandvalleyDPS. or, Student Transportation Services @stwdsts.

**4. Subscription Services for Bus Delays and Cancellations**- receive this information from Student Transportation Service via email. To subscribe go to: <https://www.findmyschool.ca/subscriptions/login.aspx> and follow the instructions.

**5. Upper Grand Mobile App**- There is link to Transportation Services in the App

## **Avoid school suspension by keeping immunization records up-to-date**

In Ontario, the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* requires that all students attending school be fully immunized or have a valid exemption on file. Public Health mailed notices to elementary students with incomplete records at the end of November. If you received a notice that your child's record is incomplete, the deadline to update your child's record with Public Health is January 26<sup>th</sup> at 4PM in order to avoid suspension on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

If your child requires a vaccine, Public Health will have drop in clinics during the weeks of January 15-19 and January 22-26. For locations and times, please visit: [www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/news/drop-immunization-clinics-students](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/news/drop-immunization-clinics-students).

To report vaccines received from your health care provider, please choose one of the following ways:

- Online: [www.immunizewdg.ca](http://www.immunizewdg.ca)
- Email: [vaccine.records@wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca](mailto:vaccine.records@wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca)
- Phone: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396
- Fax: 519-836-2986

Have questions? Speak with a public health nurse at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4746

## **Hot Lunch and No Bus Days**

Please remember that if a "No-Bus" day falls on a Hot Lunch day (Thursdays), pizza will NOT be delivered to the school. You will need to send a lunch with your child if they attend school that day. The Hot Lunch Day will be rescheduled for a later date and a reminder will be sent home. Thank you for your understanding!

## **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, January 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm.**