

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

February is here and that means we are at the half way point of our school year. First Term report cards will go home on Thursday, February 15^h. Please take the time to go over the report with your child(ren) and help them to set some learning goals for Term 2.

Kindergarten registration is on-going. Any child who will turn 4 this year is eligible to register for Junior Kindergarten. If you have friends or neighbours who have a child that would be eligible to register, please let them know that our registration will take place this month. Having accurate numbers of students helps us in the planning process for staffing our school for the 2018-2019 school year.

February is Black History Month! Every year Canadians are invited to take part in the festivities and events that honour the legacy of black Canadians, past and present, during Black History Month. Black History Month exists to remind us all of the rich contributions within our society from people of African and Caribbean descent, and of their ongoing struggle for equity and social justice. This is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation we know today.

It is also an opportunity for the majority of Canadians to learn about the experiences of black Canadians in our society, and the vital role this community has played throughout our shared history.

Hey Gator! Have you got S.W.O.L.E.?

In partnership with the One Voice One Team program and our Student Leadership Team, we are working to teach all students in our community about 5 Leadership Principals: - **S**elf-Respect , **W**ork Hard, **O**vercome Adversity, **L**ead By Example, **E**xcellence (S.W.O.L.E.), so that they will be able to practically apply what they have learned into their families, schools and communities. We will be meeting regularly as a school community to talk about and highlight these traits. Our first assembly will be on Friday February 16th at 9:00 am.

Student Leadership Team Fundraising

Our Student Leadership Team is involved in a number of fundraising initiatives. The team is raising money to attend the Upper Grand District School Board Empowerment Day in Guelph on May 3rd where world-renowned motivational speakers, presenters and performers are brought together to share powerful messages with UGDSB youth.

Candy Grams

Valentine Candy Grams will be sold in the front hallway from February 5th-9th for 50 cents each. Candy grams are a way for students to send a Valentine's Day message to their friends.

Cookies

Every Monday at First Break, cookies will be for sale for \$1.00 each. These cookies are individually packaged and are made by the Terra Cotta Cookie Company. There are 3 kinds: Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal and Chocolate with Caramel bits.

Child Abuse Prevention Programs

It is the policy of the Upper Grand District School Board to provide child abuse prevention education for all students. The goal of the Prevention Curriculum is to give children and parents the knowledge and skills to reduce the incidence of child abuse and encourage the reporting of suspected cases.

Elementary schools within the Upper Grand District School Board are required to implement personal safety programs for students in Grades 1, 3, 5 and 7. The purpose of the programs is to develop personal safety strategies and prevention of child abuse, which involves recognizing and avoiding potentially dangerous situations. The programs are taught in sessions which include an informative piece and a fun activity for the children to participate in. These programs will be taught here at Grand Valley PS in the coming months. The following is an overview of topics covered:

- Rights and responsibilities.
- Identifying safe friends and adults.
- Knowing what is public and what is private.
- Personal responsibility and knowledge of their body.
- Safe touch and unsafe touch.
- Safe and unsafe secrets.
- Teaching student how to say “no”, get away, and tell a trusted adult. (“No, Go, Tell”)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school and speak with your student’s Teacher, the Principal, or the Child & Youth Counsellor.

O.P.P. K.I.D.S for Grade 6 Student

Our Grade 6 students are currently participating in the Dufferin County Ontario Provincial Police K.I.D.S. program. K.I.D.S. stands for Knowledge, Issues, Decisions and Supports 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. A special thank you goes out to Constable Shannon Gordanier for teaching the program.

Winter Safety

Please remind your child(ren) to stay off the roads as they walk to and from school each day. 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.

Grade 8 Graduation

The Grade 8 Graduation celebration is scheduled for Monday, June 25th, 2018. Traditionally, this event is held at the Grand Valley Community Centre. Parent volunteers are always needed in various places. Several parents are required to sit on the committee as parent representatives, along with staff and school administration. Other parents may assist with various committees such as Decorations, Invitations, Food, Entertainment and Setup & Cleanup Crews. Please contact the School Office if you are interested in helping out with this! The committee works at organizing the event along with some financial assistance from School Council.

Update from the Eco Team

We will support “**National Sweater Day**” on February 2nd by turning the heat down by 2 degrees and wearing sweaters. This helps reduce the emission of greenhouse gas by about four megatons. All classes are being challenged to move for 20 minutes outdoors on “**Winter Walk Day**” (Feb. 7th). Set aside some time as a family to count birds in your backyard from February 16 -19th during the “**Backyard Bird Count.**” Try to identify the types of birds you see and the songs they sing. Send your results in with your child(ren) so that classes can compare the bird data. And, as always, the Eco Team will continue to support classes in minimizing and diverting waste and energy use appropriately, by encouraging waste free lunches, boomerang lunches, and lights out lunches daily.

Stay Well Month

Reduce the risk of serious infections - proper hand-washing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick. Stay home when you are sick and limit contact with others. Children should not be in school with a fever, undiagnosed rashes, vomiting, or diarrhea and should stay at home at least 24 hours following the end of symptoms. Cover your mouth and nose - when you sneeze or cough; use a tissue or the bend of your elbow. You can prevent many serious illnesses by keeping immunizations up-to-date for you and your children. Call 1-800-265-7293 for more information.

Hot Lunch No Bus Days

Please remember that if a no-bus day falls on a Hot Lunch Day (Thursday), 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. If a no bus day falls on a Pita Pit day the Pita Day will be the following day. Thank you for your understanding.

Live Free Campaign

Grand Valley & District Public School is participating in the 9th annual Live Free Campaign and we are looking for your help. On March 2nd, 2018, the students at our school are being challenged to Live Free for one day of something they take for granted, like their computer or candy for example. Students are asked to donate a toonie to symbolize what they are “living free” of. 100% of the money raised through our campaign comes back to our breakfast club program.

We are asking you to help our campaign by making a donation to our school. Thank you for your time. If you would like further information about the Live Free Campaign or the Children’s Foundation Food and Friends Program, please visit www.livefreewdg.ca.