

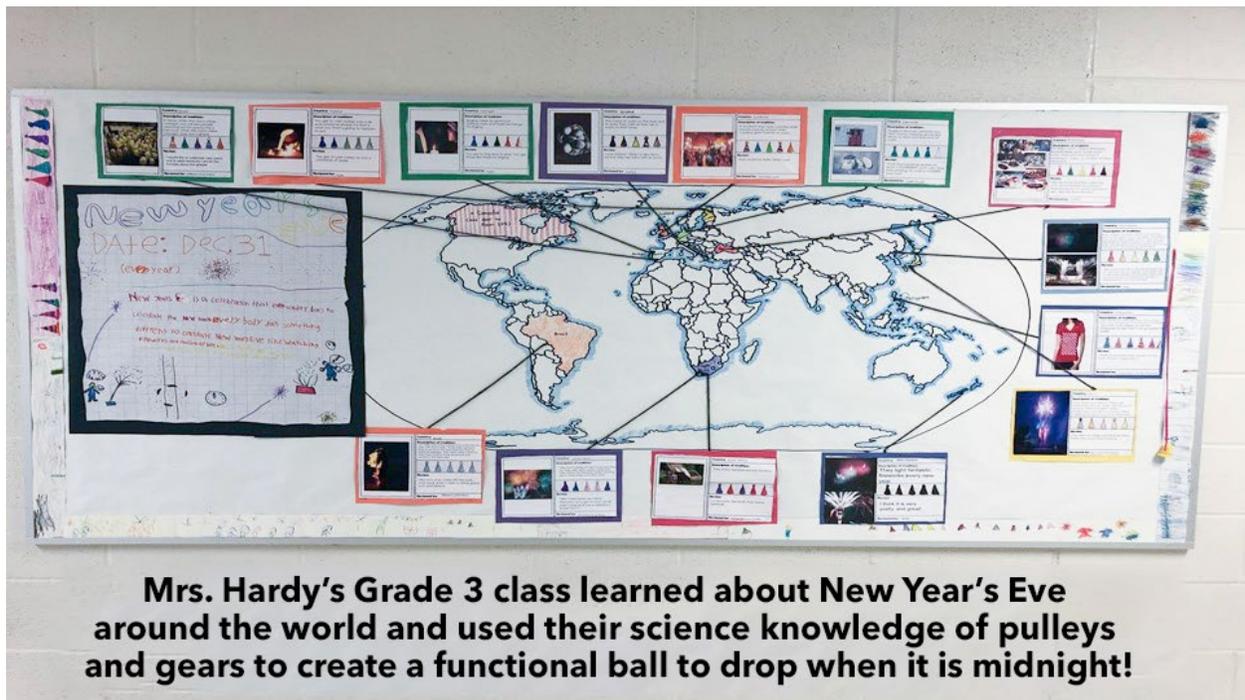


School Council Newsletter
January 2022

Dates and activities are always subject to change. We're doing our best to help keep you informed, however be sure to check the school website and/or UG Connect for the most up to date information.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Happy New Year!



Mrs. Hardy's Grade 3 class learned about New Year's Eve around the world and used their science knowledge of pulleys and gears to create a functional ball to drop when it is midnight!

Staff Updates

We've said hello to new staff and goodbye to some favourites.

Welcome

- Lorie Allen – Grade ½ LTO
- Kylie Burchat – Grade ¾ LTO
- Lacey Capobianco - Core French/Planning LTO
- Jessie Gaumond – Grade 1.2 LT
- Katelyn Terry – Teacher/Librarian
- Michelle Scoular - Planning
- Madeleine Smyth – Grade ½ (currently on mat leave)

Farewell

Mrs. Poster – Teacher/Librarian – Happy retirement!

Events

Harris Mill Holiday Extravaganza



The Equity Team hosted the Harris Mill Holiday Extravaganza! Each class learned about one of the many holidays celebrated over the winter months, including Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice from an Indigenous perspective, Hannukah, Saint Nikolas Day, Christmas, Eid, and Diwali. They showcased their learning by decorating their classroom door and hall bulletin boards in a festive tribute to their holiday. Students participated in a museum-style tour of the school hallways to learn about the featured holidays.

Equity and Inclusion Presentation

Gerry Walker, UGDSB Principal of Equity and Indigenous Studies, joined the Parent Council and special guests from Rockwood Centennial on January 4th to share a presentation on The Foundations of Equity and Indigenous Education in the UGDSB.

For more information, visit the [UGDSB website](#).

Policy 503 & 504

Policy 503 - Safe Schools

It is the policy of the Upper Grand District School Board to support and maintain a positive school climate for all students, staff and the community. A positive school climate is accepting and inclusive of all. As part of this mandate the board will strive to eliminate all forms of bullying through prevention and intervention strategies which foster positive learning environments, support academic achievement and help students to reach their full potential.

Policy 504 - Equity and Inclusion

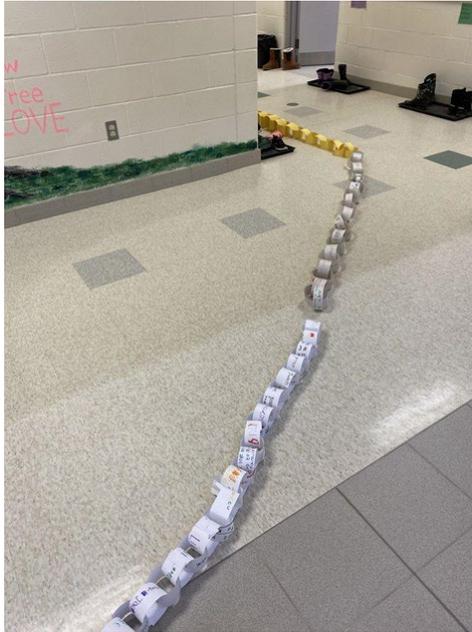
It is the policy of the Upper Grand District School Board to ensure a safe and inclusive learning and working environment for all students, staff and the community, regardless of age, ancestry, colour, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, creed, disability, family status, marital status, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, employment, housing, sex, and sexual orientation,

5 Days of Giving Holiday Food Drive – November 29 – December 3



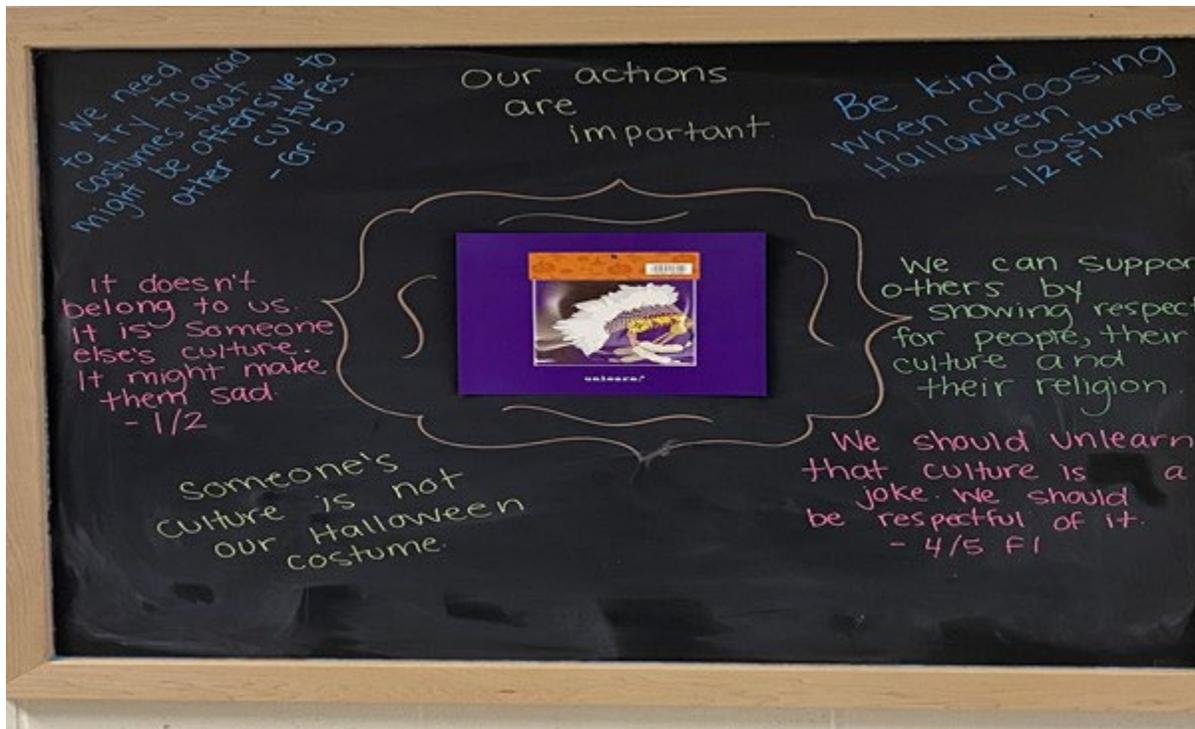
Food and toiletries were collected and donated to the local food bank.

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week – November 22 – 26



Students were encouraged to wear pink on November 25 and to add a link to their classroom chain to represent kind acts in the school. Students were amazed to see how long the Kindness Chain was, once all the class chains had been linked together.

“Unlearn” Poster of the Month



Each month a poster is pinned up on the chalkboard. Students discuss what they think about the images and what it means to “unlearn” at a virtual assembly.

Remembrance Day - November 11



Staff and students honoured our veterans and fallen heroes in a virtual ceremony which included a moment of silence, a reading of “In Flanders Field”, a message about the symbolism of the poppy, and some class presentations. Donations for poppies raised \$67.00 for the Royal Canadian Legion.

Recipes in a Jar

277 jars were purchased, raising \$828.23 in the first fundraising campaign of the year. For every jar purchased, soup ingredients will be donated to the local foodbank. They will receive 23 twelve-serving packages. Funds raised go towards purchasing books or technology, subsidizing activities and the snack program, and playground equipment and supplies.

Truth and Reconciliation Day/Orange Shirt Day - September 30

We commemorated our first Truth and Reconciliation Day to honour the lost children and the survivors of residential schools, families and communities. Students were encouraged to wear orange on Orange Shirt Day which is inspired by Phyllis Webstad’s story of having her favourite orange shirt taken from her when she was sent to residential school.

Terry Fox Run – September 29



Madame Webster led a virtual assembly, and each grade group had a chance to walk/run. The school raised \$375 for the Terry Fox Foundation.

International Dot Day – September 13

Students and staff joined over 20 million people in 195 countries around the world to celebrate International Dot Day! Children read the story, *The Dot/Un Bon Point Pour Zoé*, by Peter Reynolds and participated in “dot” activities (art, writing, conversations, etc.)

Spotlight on...Mrs. O'Malley



Name: Cheryl Renée O'Malley

Role: Head Custodian

Famous for: Rescuing roofed balls. When kids ask me how I get to the roof for the balls I tell them I have magic shoes that only work for me.

My favourite thing about working at Harris Mill: All the great kids I get to see every day and how kind and caring they are towards me, always drawing pictures and kind letters thanking me for keeping their school clean.

Favourite song: *Don't Stop Believin'* by Journey. The Harris Mill choir once performed the song for me as a surprise. It was amazing.

My advice for students: Aim for the stars. Never stop believing in yourself. You all rock!

Pick up and Drop off



Particularly during the cooler weather, there may be an increase in vehicle traffic at the school. For student safety, we ask that families with kindergarten students continue to come to the front of the school. Students in grades 1-5 can be dropped on Parkinson Drive. We encourage families to drop off their children and continue driving. If used in this way, the cul-de-sac provides cars with the ability to loop around and drive straight out.

Starting on Monday, January 24, there was a school greeter at the Parkinson entrance to greet and direct students to their lineups. This process went really well.

Drivers, please continue to pay particular attention to students as they walk to school. We also ask that you remind your children about pedestrian safety on a daily basis. The school will review pedestrian rules as well.

COVID information

UGDSB was proactive and installed HEPA filtration in all elementary classrooms back in the fall.

For the latest information on health and safety measures and protocols visit:

- [Harris Mill website](#)
- [School Screening Tool](#) - Please remember to do the school screening tool daily.
- [Latest UGDSB updates](#)

Mark your calendars

January 4 – [Kindergarten Registration](#)

January 28 – PA Day

February 1 – [School Council](#) Meeting (Everyone is welcome to these remote meetings. Request the link to join: jen@jentulloch.com)

February 21 – Family Day

March 1 – School Council Meeting

Quick Links

[UGDSB Mental Health Resources for Students and Families](#)

[School Council Minutes](#) (December 2021)

[UG Connect app](#): Stay in touch with the Upper Grand District School Board by downloading our new mobile app!

School Messenger App ([Apple](#), [Android](#)): Receive classroom news the way you choose

Twitter: [École Harris Mill PS](#)

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



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This newsletter is created by School Council. For questions please contact:
Vanessa Ireson (vireson044@gmail.com)

