

John Black Public School

150 Lamond St., Fergus, Ontario, N1M 2A1
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Principal: Kathy Gosling-Spears

Office Coordinator: Sheri MacKenzie

PRINCIPAL'S OCTOBER MESSAGE

Welcome Fall! We certainly had wonderful weather in September and are thankful for our beautiful outdoor spaces. This has allowed our students to participate in a variety of outdoor learning activities beyond the walls of the classroom and the school. Our staff have been very creative by integrating many subject areas into their outdoor learning lessons.

“Nature is a tool to get children to experience not just the wider world, but themselves”.

Stephen Moss

On September 30th we had our first virtual assembly to honour the land we live and work on as well as honouring Terry Fox. Each class did their own “walk” on our school property and shared in Terry’s story and mission to end cancer. It was a perfect day. If you would still like to contribute to the Terry Fox Foundation you can go to <https://terryfox.org> and click on Donate Now and look for John Black. At the assembly we also celebrated all of the birthdays for the month of September.

Success in learning is best achieved when there is a partnership between the school and the parent community. We believe that students are more successful when we all work together. Through cooperation and collaboration, students will develop respect and responsibility and will work towards meeting and fulfilling their educational goals.

We are always open to new ideas and welcome your input and suggestions. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving weekend with your families and take time to enjoy the beauty of the season.

Sincerely,

Kathy Gosling-Spears,

Principal



SCHOOL SCREENING TOOL

Please ensure you are accessing the Ministry online COVID-19 school screening tool everyday before school. This tool can be used by parent(s)/guardian(s), students, and employees:

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Please note Public Health is always a good next step for any concerns or questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

October 5- World Teachers' Day

October 6- School Council Meeting - (Virtual)

October 7 - International Walk to School Day

October 8 - Virtual Open House

October 12 - Thanksgiving Holiday

October 30 - P.A. Day

COMMUNICATION



Communication between school and home continues to be very important. As items come up, they will be posted in our News and Announcements section of the school website. To keep up to date with all things John Black PS please visit us at <https://www.ugdsb.ca/jblack/>. For information relating to the school board you can visit <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca>. School Council has also set up a closed group on Facebook that you can join once it has been verified that you are a parent or guardian of a John Black PS student(s). Please check out **John Black Public School Community** to join. We also post some updates on our Twitter page using the address @JohnBlackPS. We will also be using the messenger phone call out and email system and Please consider downloading **UGConnect** from the App Store/Google Play. Classroom teachers will be using Google Classroom and email to support home and school communication. Teachers will be providing specific details on this with you.

MORNING AND AFTERNOON DROP OFF

Please be reminded that the front of the school is for bus drop off and pick up at the beginning and end of the day. Students who are driven to school can be dropped off at the side parking lot and enter the school yard from there. Also, many students continue to arrive early in the morning; please note that students are not to arrive before 8:34 A.M as there is no supervision until that time. Thank you for your help in keeping our students safe.

SAFE ARRIVAL



During the school day, your child's safety is of utmost importance to us. It is IMPERATIVE that you call the office before 8:50 a.m. if your child is going to be absent or late to school. For your convenience, we also have voice-mail which allows you to contact the school at any time during the night or over the weekend.

The school phone number is 519 843-2665. When you call please note your child's name, teacher and reason for absence.

If a child is absent and we have not heard from a parent or guardian we will attempt to contact a parent or guardian to ensure your child is safe. If a parent cannot be reached we will contact the emergency contacts you have provided.

If your child is late arriving at school he/she must call the office before.

SAFE DEPARTURE

Please send authorization in an email if someone other than the legal guardian is going to pick your child up from school. The authorized adult will be asked for photo identification.

If it is necessary for a child to leave early, or to leave for a period during the day for an appointment, an email must be sent to the teacher. For the safety of your child, we request that you call the school to let us know that you have arrived and Mrs MacKenzie will **sign him/her out at the office.**

Please also remember to notify us if your child is not taking the bus home by 2:30 pm as the office is busy and we do prepare bus lists on a daily basis. We appreciate your efforts to keep all students safe.

SCHOOL SECURITY AND SAFETY

Only essential visitors are allowed to enter the school at this time except in a case of an emergency. At entry and dismissal times, parents are to remain outside the school and adhere to physical distancing protocols.

FIRE SAFETY AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS

During the next months we will be practicing our fire safety and lock down procedures in a physically distanced manner. During these drills everyone in the school building is responsible for following the same procedures as the students and staff.

BOOMERANG LUNCHES

We are encouraging a Boomerang Lunch. This means that all items (recyclable and garbage) will return home at the end of each day to be put in your home garbage or recycling containers. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle to refill.