

September 2022-2023 Newsletter



Message from the School

Welcome back John Black students and families! We have had a wonderful week reconnecting with our students and are excited to start a new year with this strong, vibrant and caring school community.

Big thanks to our students, staff and families for such a great first week of school. For more information about changes to this school year please visit this link to the board website: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/board/back-to-school-2022-23-general-information/>

As we strive to keep our families up to date with important information, please ensure that you check the school website <https://www.ugdsb.ca/jblack/> for the most up to date information. Additionally, email and phone communication through School Messenger will be shared as needed. At John Black PS, we believe that all students are capable of achieving success, especially if they have support from both home and school. We look forward to your participation in your child's education. If you have any questions or concerns at any time throughout the school year, please feel free to call the school. We welcome and encourage communication between home and school, and look forward to maintaining a strong community partnership throughout the upcoming year.

Sincerely

Sarah Schoettler

Principal

Calendar - [Elementary School Year Calendar 2022-2022](#)



School Hours and Bell Times:

BALANCED SCHOOL DAY

Time	Event
8:50 am - 9:40 am	Period 1
9:40 am - 10:30 am	Period 2
10:30 am - 10:50	<i>BREAK -see duty/recess schedule</i>
10:50am - 11:15 am	<i>BREAK</i>
11:15 am - 12:05 pm	Period 3
12:05 pm - 12:55 pm	Period 4
12:55 pm - 1:15pm	<i>BREAK - see duty/recess schedule</i>
1:15 pm - 1:40pm	<i>BREAK</i>
1:40 pm - 2:30pm	Period 5
2:30 pm - 3:20 pm	Period 6

Forms

Walking Trip, Media Consent and Student Verification forms were sent home on this week. Please sign and return all forms as soon as possible. Thank you!

Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions

UGDSB Policy 518: Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions, outlines the roles and responsibilities for all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders. If your child has one of these, or any other life-threatening medical condition, please visit:

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy/policy-518-students-with-life-threatening-medical-conditions/> and contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a Plan of Care to support your child.

School Council

School Council would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our returning families as well as send a warm welcome to all our new families. The first 2022/2023 School Council meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 15th from 6:30pm-7:30pm** in our Library Learning Commons. This meeting will be in-person and a link for people to access virtually if preferred will be shared next Tuesday through email.



We welcome all members of the school community, new and returning, to come and see what council is about. The night will consist of a Meet and Greet, elections and planning for the upcoming year. We hope to recruit a few new members this year. You can give whatever time you have available and there is never any pressure to sign up for anything.

If you wish to nominate yourself or someone else for a position on the School Council Executive Committee, please follow the link below to complete the online nomination form prior to the first meeting: <https://forms.gle/YdyGekR1FEMhw5gy9>

Look for upcoming information regarding our Fall Fundraiser! School Council fundraising is how we help support our kids and our school. Last year School Council was able to purchase new chromebooks, a Gagaball court and resources for our classrooms. We appreciate all of the support our families give to our students and their success at John Black PS.

We look forward to a fun filled year and if you have any questions for School Council you can email us at SC.JohnBlack@ugdsb.on.ca

September Open House

We are over the moon to invite families to our Open House on **Thursday, September 29th from 6:30-8pm**. It has been three years since we have had families in our school, and so this makes this event even more special. More information will be shared about the event closer to the date.



Late Arrival:

Students who arrive after 8:50 am will need to come through the main doors and check in at the office. If there is any communication that needs to come to the office, please call 519-843-2665. Parents please remind your child to check into the office before going to the classroom.



Occupational Therapy Support at John Black

Occupational Therapist (OT) from KidsAbility Centre for Child Development will be working with students and teachers in our school. A letter is being sent home to provide an overview of their services.

BYOD – Bring your own device

Parents/students please make a cooperative decision about their child bringing technology to school. Laptops, tablets and hand-held devices are allowed within classrooms, for educational use only. They are not to be used without teacher permission. These electronic devices are not allowed in areas that are not directly supervised, such as the hallway, school yard, washrooms and the lunchroom. Please review the school Code of Conduct, Use of Technology section for more information. The school is not responsible for damages that might occur to devices.

Pizza Days will be Coming Soon

We are in the midst of setting up pizza days once again. More information will come out next week!



Notifying the School of a Student Absence – Safe Arrival

The rules of the Safe Arrival program state that the school must know why a student is not present on any particular day. This means that school office staff will continue to try to contact parents until one is reached; we sometimes make four or five calls for one child. This takes an inordinate amount of time and often stretches the office staffs' ability to carry out other duties. Please assist us in speeding this process up and calling when you know if your child(ren) is/are going to be late or absent. Messages can be left by phoning the school (519 843-2665) and choosing extension 100. We prefer that messages are left as our morning entry time is very busy. Please send any notes or information about absences to your child's teacher if you are aware in advance and we will make sure it is noted. Thank you!

Arrive Home Safely and Timely

After being dismissed from class at the end of the day, students are requested to go directly home or to a caregiver before proceeding to other activities. This includes playing after school on the playground. Please reinforce this message with your child.

Student Safety on Lamond St.



As you may have noticed we now have a visual and physical barrier creating a pathway for our students. This has helped to highly improve the safety on Lamond St. To ensure the utmost safety, we ask that parents/guardians drive slowly on Lamond St. during drop-off and pick-up times.

Lunch Time

Students are expected to stay at school during the lunch hour unless going home with a parent. We do not encourage students leaving the property without an adult.



We would also like to remind our families that we are a nut-free school and that products such as Wow Butter and Nutella are avoided in lunches. Thank you for your support in keeping our students safe.

Bus Riding Expectations

Students are expected to follow the rules of the bus by listening to the driver, remaining in their seats, refraining from eating or drinking anything while on the bus, and following the directions of the bus patrols when entering or exiting the bus. A newsletter has been sent home from the bus company along with their expectations for student behaviour. It is very helpful when parents review these rules with their children at home. Thank you for your partnership in keeping our students safe.



Bus Reminder

Bus transportation is provided to students based on the distance their home is from the school. Such students are placed on a regularly scheduled bus route and must travel on this route and no other. Bus students may not switch buses for any reason. In addition, students who walk to school may not travel on a regularly scheduled bus route. Courtesy seating is available this year depending on the number of seats available. Parents/Guardians need to fill in the courtesy seat form and hand it in to the office. Courtesy seats become available in early October.

Food & Friends Snack Program

Dear Parents and Guardians,



Again this year, we have received grant money from the Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington (Food and Friends) and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, to support our snack program at John Black. This snack program will continue to be offered to all students. Each classroom has a snack bin that contains healthy food choices such as applesauce and granola bars. Sometimes we also have fresh fruit and vegetables available.

In addition this year, we are able to bring back our special food days (i.e. salad day). If you would like to help with our special food days, we would love to have you. We could use help with things such as cutting and preparing vegetables in the morning, as well as helping with set up and serving. Please let us know by emailing Miss Matheson at terra.matheson@ugcloud.ca

As always, thank you for your support.

A Message From The Green Team

In our quest to make the planet greener, The Green Team is excited to announce that we are bringing back recycling of containers and compost! Each classroom is going to be equipped with 2 recycling bins (paper and container), as well as a green bin. Our green team will be working hard throughout the year to promote good environmental habits throughout the school and bring awareness to ways in which we can decrease our carbon footprint. Stay tuned for many new (and old) initiatives that the green team will be running throughout the year!



Thanks to everyone for supporting the Green Team!

Reminder for parents/guardians: Accidents happen – be prepared with Student Accident Insurance

Reminder for parents/guardians: Student Accident Insurance Parents and guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial health care or employer group insurance plans.

The Upper Grand District School board is empowered under The Education Act to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students. A Director's letter will be sent home with students containing information with respect to two Programs available for the purchase of Student Accident Insurance.

The Insuremykids Program is offered through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada and the Studyinsured Program is underwritten by Certain Lloyds's Underwriters through AON Insurance. Each program offers a variety of options, including family rates at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by the parent or guardian. Paper copies of the application are no longer available.

Purchase is done directly online or by contacting the provider: www.insuremykids.com or call toll free 1-800-463-5437

www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com or call toll free 1-833-560-0527.

For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable.

Video Surveillance Cameras

As an added security measure, please note that video surveillance cameras have been installed in several areas in our school. These areas are clearly marked with signage and video cameras are not being used in areas where students, staff and authorized visitors have a high expectation of privacy including change rooms, washrooms and staff rooms. Information obtained through video surveillance provides us with an additional way to enhance the protection of students, staff, the public and property.

Should you have any questions please refer to the Upper Grand School Board's Video Surveillance Policy #203.

Mabel's Labels

One way to help keep you and your family organized and prevent your child's belongings from getting lost is to label them! Right now, is a great time to get back to school label packages from Mabel's Labels and contribute to our school fundraiser by searching "John Black" at check out! https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/

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