



## ÉCOLE JOHN McCRAE SCHOOL

189 Water Street, Guelph, ON N1G 1B3

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*Le monde à notre portée. The world awaits us.*

Principal: Mme Leslie Newman  
Vice-Principal: M. Olivier Cutz

Office Coordinator: Mme Kathy Lambkin

## **NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2015**

### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

We have had a smooth start to the 2015-2016 school year and hope that it will be a good one for students and staff. Although we had to move a few students (approximately 30), it seems that everyone has adjusted to their new class and teacher. Thank you to the parents who helped their children with the transition.

This year at John McCrae, we will continue to help our students build on their French language skills and literacy and numeracy achievements. It is also important that we review our motto "**The World Awaits Us**". Hopefully, if you have had a chance to come through the front door of the school, you have seen the newly painted world with our motto below it. Every time I pass it, I am reminded of how well-prepared our students are and know that they are ready to face the world that awaits them. Time and again, I wander the halls and classrooms and see the engagement of our students. Today in fact, I walked into an intermediate science class and had no less than seven students want to describe to me what a cell was. I think I got it by the seventh student!

Thank you to School Council for providing the necessary money to complete not only the painting in front of the school, but also the beautiful renewal of the games out the back of the school. We appreciate all your efforts in helping us in so many areas. We hope that if you are interested in joining School Council, that you know that you are most welcome. We meet in the school library at 6:45 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. We have a group of parents that will make you feel welcome. Participating in School Council will help you to keep up to date with everything happening at John McCrae. The next meeting is on Tuesday, October 13.

Thanksgiving is next weekend. We have had a beautiful fall and we have so much to be thankful for. I do hope that you are able to enjoy some time with family or friends. Personally, I am looking forward (and thankful) to having my children home for a short period of time and spending time with them and my husband.

Happy October!

*Leslie Newman*

### **FIRE SAFETY AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS**

We have already had three fire drills (which went well), and during the next month or so, we will continue to practice our fire safety and lockdown procedures. If you happen to be visiting during these drills we would ask that you follow the same procedures as the students and staff (exit the building immediately upon hearing the alarm).

### **CURRICULUM NEWSLETTERS**

Be sure and look for grade and subject specific newsletters posted on our website. Just click on the link to read about what your child is learning about at school this term, what teaching strategies the teachers are using and how students are being assessed. It's just one click of the button to get the answer to, "What did you do in school today?"

### **PA DAY**

Friday October 30<sup>th</sup> will be a Professional Activity Day. There will no school that day.

## **TERRY FOX WALK**

Special thanks to all who helped in organizing our annual Terry Fox Run on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks also, to the many parents who volunteered to line the walking/running route. As always, it was a great success. Donation totals will be available in next month's newsletter.

## **THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**

Thanksgiving is a time of year for giving and gratitude. In this tradition, our school community will again participate in our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive in support of the Guelph Food Bank. The Social Justice Club will be collecting non-perishable food items and personal supplies (e.g. diapers, toothpaste, and deodorant) from September 28 to October 9. Please help us fill the collection bins!

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER**

**Next School Council Meeting** - Please join us for the next School Council meeting on Tuesday, **October 13th** from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the school library. This meeting will be focused on discussing events / activities that School Council will be holding throughout the year. If you require childcare, please contact Mme Newman at [leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca) before Friday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>.

School Council meetings run from 6:45-8:00 p.m. Mark your calendar for future dates of School Council meetings:

- November 10, 2015
- December 8, 2015
- January 12, 2016
- February 9, 2016
- March 8, 2016
- May 10, 2016
- June 14, 2016

**ART Image** – Don't miss the opportunity to participate in this art education program delivered by parents in the Grades 1 to 6 classes. See the website for details and/or contact your ART Image co-ordinator Lisa Mactaggart 519-821-7371, [lmactaggart@sympatico.ca](mailto:lmactaggart@sympatico.ca).

## **IB INFORMATION NIGHT**

**All Grade 7 and 8 parents invited!** Guelph CVI is proud to be an International Baccalaureate Candidate School. Parents interested in learning more about the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, the Grade 9 Preparatory Program, and the application process are invited to attend the Information Night:

**Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**  
GCVI Auditorium, 155 Paisley St

## **PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF STUDENTS**

Thank you for diligently using the sign-in and sign-out procedures and wearing visitors badges when at John McCrae. Please also note the additional safety procedures we have in place at McCrae.

1. No matter what the reason (even dropping off a child), we ask that all of our visitors and volunteers check into the office and obtain a visitor badge.
2. When leaving the school, all visitors and volunteers must sign out and return their visitor badge to the office.
3. At the beginning or end of the day all parents are asked to drop-off and pick up their Grades 1-8 children at the side library doors. **We would really appreciate if you did not come into the school, but rather, help them to become independent by allowing them to go into the school and hang up their own bags.**
4. Parents picking their children up during the day need to report to the office. Their children will be called down to meet them.

5. Any parents visiting the playground need to check into the office and obtain a visitor badge. They will also be asked to identify themselves to the staff on yard duty.

## **DRIVING AND PARKING**

It's always busy at our school during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times! We continue to be a growing community with a number of buses picking up our students.

Please consider having your child walk home from school or part way home where a less busy pick-up point can be arranged. Parking along many of the arterial streets is currently permitted by the City of Guelph as long as you obey the no parking signs posted, remain one meter from a private driveway and are nine meters from a stop sign. We ask that you watch for our street patrols, follow their directives, and always keep our emergency routes open for the safety of all our students, staff and families.

Thank you so much to our street patrols for being on time and at their post every day. Thanks also, to the parents and students who are patient and follow the direction of our safety patrols as they do their job in keeping our students safe. We know that sometimes you have to wait quite a while to cross the street, but we appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Thanks too, for all the hard work that M. LeDuc puts into training and making sure that our patrols are doing their best!

## **MEDIC ALERT BRACELETS**

Safeguarding your child's health is a priority. The Canadian Medic-Alert Foundation has created a *No Child Without* program aiming to provide students, from age 4 until 14, with the 24 hour protection of MedicAlert emergency information services, at no cost.

For more information and/or to enroll your child, please contact MedicAlert at:

**Call:** 1-877-282-5378 (Toll free)

**Online:** [www.nochildwithout.ca](http://www.nochildwithout.ca)

## **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY & PROGRAM**

The Upper Grand District School Board places a high priority on the safety of our students. The Child Abuse Prevention Policy is evidence of our commitment to this priority. The following is a quote from the policy:

*“Every citizen in the community shares a responsibility for our children. School officials and teachers share this collective community responsibility for creating safe and nurturing environments for children. Under the Child and Family Services Act, this responsibility includes the legal requirement to report to the local Children’s Aid Society any suspected child abuse or other situations where a child may be in need of protection. Teachers and other Board employees have a special opportunity to know and understand children during their most influential years of development. They are in a unique position to be able to see early signs of maltreatment, and to know or hear about the abuse and neglect that is often suffered by children.”*

As required in the Policy, we will be teaching age-appropriate lessons to help our students identify abuse and protect themselves from abusive situations. The goal is to provide children with the tools they need to keep themselves safe. The lessons cover a broad range of safety issues including bullying, stranger danger and abuse by a known and trusted adult.

These lessons will occur this fall. For grades 1, 3 and 5, the lessons will be team taught by our Child and Youth Counselor and classroom teachers. There is no formal program in grades 2, 4 and 6, although the safety concepts are reviewed by classroom teachers informally. Students in grades 7 and 8 will also participate in a Red Cross program presented by the school’s Child & Youth Counselor entitled “**It’s Not Your Fault**”. These two hour presentations will occur in homeroom classes.

We encourage you to discuss with your child at home, the concepts taught in the Child Abuse Prevention Curriculum.

For more information regarding the Child Abuse Prevention Policy and/or Programs please contact Mme Newman or Mme Longtin, our Child and Youth Counselor.

## PETS

Please understand that due to safety reasons **no pets of any kind are allowed at school or on school property without permission**. Teachers may give permission for pets to be brought to school as part of a special display or project, although they must be consulted first. Some children are highly allergic to certain animals, while others are sometimes fearful of them due to prior experiences. While walking your dog or playing in the playground with your children, please encourage all who use our school and city walks and grounds to be sure and scoop whatever is left behind! We appreciate your understanding in this matter.

## KIDS HELP LINE

Students and parents should be aware of the toll-free help line that is available 24/7 for students of all ages. This line provides anonymous, confidential, and non-judgmental support from professional counsellors. The phone number is 1-800-668-6868. Their web site is: [www.kidshelpline.ca](http://www.kidshelpline.ca). We will be displaying posters in the school throughout the year to remind our students of this service.

## WALK TO SCHOOL DAY



International Walk to School month (IWALK) is an annual global event taking place each October. It celebrates active transportation and its benefits such as: increasing physical activity, decreasing traffic congestion, improving safety, developing a sense of community, promoting social interaction, and preserving the environment.

**International Walk to School Day October 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**IWALK week is October 5-9 or Walk/wheel to school all month!**

It is important to keep your child's immunization records up-to-date with Public Health. Students who do not have up-to-date immunization records, may be suspended from school. Please report your child's immunizations to Public Health by calling 1-800-265-7293 ext.4396.

## OCTOBER'S ENVIRONMENTAL THEME: "PROTECT OUR EARTH"

This year we will challenge ourselves to LIVE green every day, because one small change one day at a time adds up to a world of difference. The environmental theme for September is sustainability. 'Sustainability' means protecting our Earth and using Earth's natural resources carefully, like forests, water, minerals, and fossil fuels.

Part of living in a sustainable way is using, buying and eating only what you really need. This saves resources and cuts down on waste too. For example, do you really need a new pencil case or pencil crayons or a brand new eraser every year, or do your old ones still work? Do you throw your leftover lunch items in the garbage at school, or do you take them home and eat them for a snack after school? Do you buy vintage clothing or wear hand-me-downs? Do you eat meat every day, or do you eat vegetarian at least once a week, like those who have accepted the 'Meatless Monday Canada' challenge.

To find out how carefully you use the Earth's resources, Google the following words: "zero footprint calculator" and take the footprint calculator quiz. It will tell you how many Earths we would need to survive if everyone lived like you!

*Slogan of the month: Sustainability – choosing to live better with less!*

## TALKING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

The UGDSB has many resources available on its website, <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/>, for parents and students to access. To access these resources: click on the Parent tab then click on the Mental Health Tab. There is also a Student tab with a Mental Health tab, which you can share with your children and youth.

Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington Dufferin Branch (CMHA WWD)

- To access Addictions, Mental Health (including eating disorders and first episode psychosis) and Crisis Services (Guelph/Wellington for Children/Youth and Guelph/Wellington/Dufferin for Adults) contact:
  - HERE247 at 1 844 437 3247 (1 844 HERE247)
  - [www.here247.ca](http://www.here247.ca)
- Walk in Services on Tuesdays for Children/Youth 1:30- 7:00
  - 485 Silvercreek Pkwy, Guelph
- [wwd.cmha.ca](http://wwd.cmha.ca)

There is an Access to Mental Health Resources document that provides more details about counselling and supports in Guelph Wellington Dufferin.

There are also links to useful websites with information for parents about mental health and addictions such as:

- Kids Help Phone (1 800 668 6868) [www.KidsHelpPhone.ca](http://www.KidsHelpPhone.ca) provides phone and web counselling for youth under the age of 20. Support is free, 24/7, anonymous and confidential.
- The ABCs of Mental Health <http://www.hincksdellcrest.org/ABC/Welcome> provides information related to different mental health concerns, according to developmental ages.

*Dr. Lynn Woodford is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board*

## **The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**

The Upper Grand District School Board has established a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) in accordance with the Education Act. SEAC is made up of local parent representatives of Provincial Associations, two school trustees and interested local community representatives.



SEAC members receive orientation and training to become informed on important topics in Special Education:

- Sections of the Education Act relating to Special Education
- Regulations and Ministry memoranda
- Board policies regarding Special Education
- The Board Special Education Report
- Roles and responsibilities of SEAC
- The funding of Special Education

### **What does SEAC do?**

- Makes recommendations for the establishment, development and delivery of Special Education programs and services for exceptional pupils in our Board.
- Participates in the Board's annual review of its Special Education Report.
- Participates in the Board's annual budget process and financial statement review as they relate to Special Education.
- Provides information to parents, as requested.
- Supports the Special Olympics Annual Track and Field day.

### **Procedures for Selecting Members**

- nominations from local associations
- approaching local chapters of provincial associations for suggestions
- writing a presentation that can be shared with parent councils, families of schools, etc. to get the information about SEAC into the community

### **Meeting Times and Dates**

The SEAC meets on a regular basis. Meetings occur on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Upper Grand District School Board office at 500 Victoria Road North, in the Board room. Meetings are open to the public. Members of the public should contact Program Services (Krystyna Gazo at 519-941-6191 ext. 254) to confirm the time, date and location of the meetings.

Further information regarding SEAC, as well as Special Education in Upper Grand District School Board can be found on the [UGDSB Special Education Plan](#)., as well as the [Board website](#)

# Chromebooks in your public library!



Upper Grand students can now get a Chromebook to do assignments after school, evenings and Saturdays



# My Healthy Mind

## A MIXED-MEDIA CONTEST

FOR YOUTH AGED 10-25 YEARS  
in Guelph and Wellington County

In celebration of Norfolk Psychological Services'  
10th Year Anniversary

- Tell us what it means to YOU to have a "healthy mind" through essay, poem or art.
- Free medium pizza for all contestants.
- Celebration and Awards Ceremony on Nov 19, 2015. Door prizes available!

ENTRIES DUE BY OCTOBER 23, 2015

For details go to:

**f** [www.facebook.com/myhealthymindcontest](http://www.facebook.com/myhealthymindcontest)  
[www.norfolkpsych.com](http://www.norfolkpsych.com)



**WIN**  
Cash and Gift  
Prizes!

