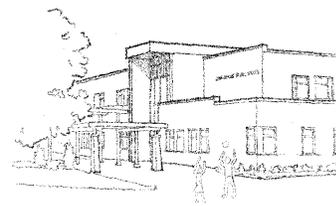


École John McCrae School

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2016

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Principal: Leslie Newman

Vice Principal: Olivier Cutz

Office Co-ordinator: Kathy Lambkin

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It's April already. I can hardly believe that seven months of the school year are gone. With the cold weather returning, it's hard to remember that June is but nine weeks away.

As always, there is much going on. We have our second Tech Night happening (read below for more information and please join us if you can), a floor hockey tournament will be held at our school, we have visitors coming from France, there is an author visit, Shark Swimming, an emergency preparedness day (for our grade fours), Jump Rope for Heart and much more. To keep up to date, please refer to the calendar on the School website as there is always so much more happening. **Please save May 19th as that is our Night Among the Stars.**

Just before March Break we bagged up seven bags of clothing from our Lost and Found. There was nothing left in either one of our bins. Unfortunately, just two weeks later, they are both half full. Please help us by labeling your children's clothing and by coming by and checking the bins periodically. While we try to make sure everyone takes coats, sweaters, hats and other pieces of clothing home, they do get lost and end up in the Lost and Found...

As always, drop by or call if you have any concerns about your child.

Leslie Newman

SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

*A reminder that On Tuesday April 12 we will be holding our second John McCrae Tech Night (from 5:30-7:00 PM). Bring your Ipads and other devices. Our plan is to allow parents and students time to work and play (and ask questions). Our hope is that this time allows parents to understand what kinds of programs students use at school. While we have experts coming from the board (Emma Reay and Jen Apgar), the plan of this night is for them to wander and answer your questions while you have a chance to explore some of the programs that your child uses at school. Please join us! Forms should come home later this week.

*Our regular School Council Meeting will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (in the school library). If you require childcare, please contact Mme Newman at leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca by Friday, April 8th.

*Family Fun Night – After the resounding success of last year's Family Fun Night, many of us are looking forward to June 2nd for this year's event. Lots of help is needed! Please return the violet information sheet that came home with your student last month (extra forms are available in the office). You may also contact Brenda MacDonald, brendamacd@gmail.com, or Shannon Doyle, sparkes_edu@yahoo.ca, if you can help in any way!

MOVING IN? MOVING OUT?

If you are planning a move to another school this summer, or know of someone moving into our school area for the 2016-2017 school year, please notify the office as soon as possible.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE – NOW YOU CAN USE YOUR CREDIT CARD!!

GREAT NEWS!! School Cash Online now accepts CREDIT CARD payments. If you have been hesitating to use this convenient and secure online payment system, hesitate no longer! Please visit www.schoolcashionline.com to register and pay for your student's school items, trips, and more! Be sure to select the option to receive email notifications so that you receive notices when items are available to purchase and reminder emails before an item expires. You can also visit www.ugdsb.on.ca/jmc and follow the prompts through the link at right to sign up.



KINDERGARTEN LEARNING FAIR

As we head into spring at John McCrae, we are already awaiting the arrival of our new kindergarten students. To help them and their families get to know us better, and learn about what it is like to go to kindergarten, we will be hosting a Kindergarten

Learning Fair. At this evening event, you and your children will have an opportunity to meet our staff, talk to community members who support our students, and have a tour of the school and classrooms. This year our Kindergarten Learning Fair will be held on Thursday, May 26th from 5:30-7:00 pm. (although the last tour will begin at 6:30). Be sure and mark the date!

MAD SCIENCE

The "Mad Science" after school program is returning to our school. This six week program, "Secret Agent Lab," takes place on Thursdays from 3:30-4:30pm starting April 28th. Registration forms have been sent home with each Grade 1-6 student. Forms must be returned to the school with payment of \$78 to "Mad Science" no later than Wednesday, April 13th. All inquiries should be directed to Mad Science directly, 519-621-0600, ext. 23 and 28. (Participating in this program requires parents to pick-up their student(s) from school at 4:30pm.)

MMMM....MAPLE SYRUP TIME!

Despite ever changing weather that created less than ideal maple tapping conditions this spring, we managed to tap 14 of our maple trees for one week. This yielded 6 litres of delicious maple syrup. We will be holding a syrup raffle this week so you could win 500mL of delicious John McCrae syrup to enjoy. Tickets are \$1.00 each and are available for students to purchase during recesses in the library, and to parents in the office. The draw will take place Friday, April 8th. All proceeds will go to covering the cost of maple syrup supplies (we need lids for our buckets!). Any extra money will be donated to our school library. We wish to extend a huge thank you to TRANSITION Guelph's "Urban Sugaring" project for collecting our sap and boiling it down into syrup. Another extra special thanks to all the parents, staff and students who helped with tree tapping, syrup collection and syrup storage.

CLASS PLACEMENT REQUESTS

In the past, we have received a number of class placement requests for the coming school year. This can make class building very difficult and sometimes hinder the process significantly. Due to our ever changing school population and the fact that our grade 7 and 8 students are on rotary, **we will not be taking any class placement requests for September 2016.** If your child has some exceptional circumstances that require consideration when doing class placements, please email Mme Newman directly, leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca. Please know that when placing your child in a class, we consider their ability, personality, friendships, learning style, and behaviour. Class building is a lengthy process that is given a great deal of thought by the staff. Thank you for recognizing that we do our very best for each and every student.

CD CASE FOUND

A CD case for multiple CDs was found in our parking lot on March 31st. If this fell out of your car, please contact the school office to identify and claim.

CONCUSSION AWARENESS / MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

Concussions can have a serious effect on a young, developing brain. Proper recognition and response to concussion can prevent further injury and help with recovery. Children and adolescents are among those at greater risk for concussions due to body trauma at any time. Although falls and motor vehicle accidents are the leading causes of concussion, physical activity and sports can also cause a concussion. To address the risk of concussion and to assist parents and students to identify the signs and symptoms of concussion, the Board is presenting free workshops to increase awareness.

Wednesday, April 20 th	7-8:30 pm	Westside SS, Library, 300 Alder St, Orangeville
Tuesday May, 10 th	7- 8:30pm	Norwell DSS, Library, corner of Main and Cumberland St, Palmerston
Wednesday, May 11 th	7-8:30 pm	Centennial CVI, Lecture Room, 289 College Ave W, Guelph

EXTENDED ABSENCES

Please remember that if you are taking an extended vacation that will mean an absence of 15 or more consecutive days, you must contact the school office to ensure the proper paperwork is completed. Thank you for your cooperation.

DO YOU KNOW AN EVERYDAY HERO?

Please nominate someone in your school community – an individual or a group - whose actions and efforts foster the development of a positive learning and working environment. Deadline for nominations is Thursday April 14, 2016. For more information, visit the board website: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/community/article.aspx?id=3546>

NEW BELL TIMES FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

We would like to inform you of a bell time change at our school that will be in effect starting in September 2016. Over the past year, our transportation provider, STWDSTS, has been reviewing its bus routes in Guelph, looking for a way to reduce the number of buses in school loading zones.

STWDSTS believes that routes should be efficient and cost effective without jeopardizing student safety and customer service. The transportation service is therefore moving to a multi-tier route system. Under the current 'one bus, one road' system, a bus will travel down a road to pick up students from multiple schools and either transfer them or drop them off at schools A, B, and C. The problem is that when the bus breaks down, a chain reaction of bus delays occurs. Also, having multiple schools on a run may increase the time students spend on a bus and increases the number of buses in the school bus loading zones, causing congestion and delays.

The new 'multi-tier' model means that students from school A would be picked up and dropped off at school A. Then the bus would go out and pick up the students from school B and drop them off at school B, and so on. With this model, fewer buses are on the road, leading to reduced congestion in bus loading zones. This model is also more cost effective, and eases the pressure to find bus drivers – as there is currently a shortage of drivers in the City of Guelph. Starting for the 2016-2017 school year, a number of schools in Guelph will have new bell times, including John McCrae.

Bell time changes for the 2016-2017 school year:

Current: 8:50am – 3:20pm

New time: 8:35am – 3:05pm

If you have any questions, please contact the school. Thank you for your understanding.

NO CHILD WITHOUT – MEDIC ALERT

Did you know that one in five children lives with a medical condition, allergy, or special need that must be communicated during a medical emergency? In many cases, children are the most vulnerable because they are often too young, too afraid, or too hurt to express themselves. "No Child Without" is a charitable program that protects children and supports school officials to address concerns about students living with chronic medical conditions, allergies or special needs. For information on FREE medical identification services, please see the office for a brochure.

APRIL HEALTH CORNER

Healthy School Committee helping your family eat well, move well and think well!

For significant health benefits children aged 5-11 years should accumulate at least 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous intensity (cause them to sweat and breathe harder) physical activity every day. Being active can improve their health, help them focus better in school, make movement a habit for life, have fun, feel happier, improve self-confidence, learn new skills.

Moderate: bike riding, playground activities

Vigorous: running, swimming

Parents can help plan their child's daily activity.

Kids can:

- Play tag in the backyard (many different versions)
- Go to the playground after school
- Walk/jog, bike, scooter, skip or skateboard to and from school
- Play active games at recess (brainstorm some new games to take to school)
- Go 'puddle hopping' on a rainy day
- Go for an evening walk to park or around the block (challenge your child to skip with a rope around the entire block)
- Family hikes in the woods (scavenger hunts in the woods are a great way to stay engaged while in the woods)
- Enjoy a team sport with friends or family
- Family swims at local pools

Recipe of the Month: Apple Protein Wheels

- Slice an apple into thin wheels using the whole apple and then cut the core out of the middle
- Spread a nut butter or seed butter on the top
- Top with granola and any other topping desired (cheese, raisins, blueberries, dried fruit, etc)
- Have your children help you prepare this fun afterschool snack that takes only minutes to prepare.