



ÉCOLE JOHN McCRAE SCHOOL

189 Water Street, Guelph, ON N1G 1B3

Phone: (519) 824-0028 Fax: (519) 824-7067 Website: <http://ugdsb.on.ca/jmc>

Le monde à notre portée. The world awaits us.

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

Office Coordinator: Mme Kathy Lambkin

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2016

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



As always, welcome back to everyone – new students and those who have been at John McCrae before. We are so happy to have you returning to us. We hope that you enjoyed the very hot, dry summer. If you are new to the John McCrae community, I know that you will come to understand that it is a caring, dedicated school, filled with

hard-working students and staff. Your children will be challenged, motivated, and will eventually leave here ready for whatever awaits them.

One important message that the office would like to convey is the importance of making sure arrangements are made for the end of the day with a note in your child's agenda instead of a phone call during the day. While we are very happy to help out during emergencies, the office staff is often making between 15-20 calls into classes to let teachers know of after school arrangements. This is very disruptive to both the teacher and the students and takes a lot of time for our office staff. If you send a note in the agenda, the teacher/office will get it and make the necessary arrangements.

We would also like to remind everyone that the bell goes at 8:35 this year. This is fifteen minutes earlier than in the past. It is expected that students will be on time for school. When a child is ten to fifteen minutes late, a teacher has to re-teach a lesson and the child misses important announcements. It is also a very busy time in **the office and often busier when there are ten or so students waiting in line for late slips.** Please have your child on the tarmac ready to enter the school by 8:30. We really do thank you for your help with this.

We would like to remind parents that there will be supervision on the yard beginning at 8:20 every morning. We ask that you do not drop off your child before that time. If there was ever an accident or a problem, there would be nobody around to help.

Each year we are welcomed back to a spotlessly clean and shining school. Thank you to Mr. Curran and his staff, who as always, spent the summer cleaning chairs and desks, shining floors, polishing windows, moving furniture, unpacking boxes, moving more boxes, and an endless array of other jobs! Mr. Curran's extra efforts to have our school ready are second to none. I hope you will show your appreciation of his hard work by encouraging your children to do their part to help keep our school and grounds clean and free from garbage, wearing of indoor shoes, and by simply taking the time to say "Thank you."

I would also like to acknowledge all the extra time and commitment the teachers and Mme Lambkin have put into getting their classrooms and our school ready. Throughout the summer, many staff members have been in and out of the school preparing their lessons, classrooms and meeting with their colleagues. What you wouldn't have noticed are the workshops and seminars many have attended and given in the past two months to complement their already excellent teaching skills and strategies. To each of these dedicated professionals, I offer my sincerest thanks. It is your hard work, commitment and dedication that make a difference in the lives of our students.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. For the remainder of the year, you will receive an email to indicate that the newsletter is available online. (Please go to the school website at <http://www.ugdsb.ca/jmc/> and click the box at the very bottom of the page to subscribe to receive email notifications.) We are a Gold-Eco School and are working really hard to reduce our paper consumption. For that reason, **we will only send a hard copy of the newsletter to your house if you send a note to the school indicating that you require such.** This should be addressed to the school office.

Bienvenue! We look forward to working with your children and with you, their families. Please be sure and stop in and say hi during the next few weeks.

Leslie Newman

2016-2017 SCHOOL STAFF

Leslie Newman – Principal
Olivier Cutz – Vice-Principal
Kathy Lambkin – Office Coordinator
Melinda Rice – Office Assistant
Janet Woziak – Office
Murray Curran – Head Custodian
Cynthia Hewitt – Cleaner
Sarah Katsaounis / Lisa Tanner-Proude – KA
Melissa Ellis (LTO Alannah McGregor)/Rebecca Miller – KB
Sarah Farquhar / Elisa Tran (LTO Pamela Harrison) – KC
Margie Johnson / Emily Nofall / Patty Horack – KD
Lisa Maggio-Laughlin / John Black – 1A
Susan Sinclair – 1B
Gail Roussy – 1C
Désanges Duguay – 2A
Hayden Plawiuk/Sarah Allen – 2B
Karley Elias – 2/3C
Dawn Spark – 3B
Lynne Michelle Fortier – 3/4A
Diana Baggio Favrin – 4B
Andrea Higgins – 4C
Alain Remillard – 4D
Julie Mercure – 5A
José Gratton – 5B
Caitlin Beaton – 5/6C
Katie Siversky – 6B
Lisa Jones – 6A
Rhys Bennett – 7A (Science and English)
Alli Gauvreau – 7B (Intermediate Math)
John Black – (Intermediate Core Language/Hist/Geog)
Krista Bird – 8A (Art/Hist./Geog)
Chantal Hearn – 8B (Core Language)
Beth McEwen – 8C / Library / Grade 8 English
Anthony Moore – Music
Mary Rankin – (LTO Courtney Riley) Junior English
Zara Henry - Intermediate Math/Primary Planning
Ray Leduc (LTO-Christina Tucker) – Primary Planning
Julie Paton – Physical Education and English
Christy Wilson – Resource
Sarah Griffiths – Resource
Suzanne Boudreau – Educational Assistant
Petra Pfeil – Educational Assistant
Deborah White, Nicole Gallagher, Zachary Prattis - Laurier
Student Teachers who will be with us for the entire year

SCHOOL REORGANIZATION

The school has built class lists based on tentative organizations. As always, it is possible that changes may be necessary in order that our Board remain compliant with Ministry parameters. Any changes would be implemented as quickly as possible. Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed via letter by the school. Please understand that children are adaptable and while there may be some discomfort with changes, this rarely

lasts longer than a day or two. **Please do not call asking for a specific class or requesting that your child not be moved.** If we all work together and encourage our children to have a positive attitude it will go smoothly and everyone will be happy.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

A very important and necessary part of parent and community involvement is the John McCrae School Council. Every year a dedicated group of parents meets once a month to discuss the learning goals of the school, collaboratively explore where support can be provided to enhance student learning, and create opportunities to increase parent involvement through special events and programs. Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13th at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

PICTURE DAY

Mark your calendar. Student pictures will be taken on Wednesday, Sept. 28th. More information to follow.

MEDICATION

Please remember that all student medication must be stored and administered from the office. In order to give any medication we must have the appropriate form completed and signed by a parent or guardian. If your child will require medication at school, please contact Mme Lambkin in the school office so that she can make sure that you have the appropriate form to fill out. We require updated and signed forms each year.

LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL PLANS

If your child has a life-threatening illness of any kind, please inform the principal so that a “Life Threatening Management and Prevention Plan” is completed promptly. This plan is essential so that the school can take appropriate action in the event of any emergency. (i.e. use of EpiPen).

Children requiring medication such as EPI-PENS for life-threatening medical conditions are required to carry this medication with them at all times. We suggest a fanny pack. Additional EPI-PENS may be kept in the school office

Please call M Cutz (ext. 224) if you have any questions.

CHANGES IN HOME-TIME PROCEDURES

If there is a change in home-time procedures, please send a note in your child’s agenda with the details. If you must communicate any details with the office, please do so **BEFORE 2:00 p.m.** ***If at all possible, please try to communicate through the agenda and not by calling the office.***

BUSSING UPDATES

Follow the transportation consortium on Twitter for information on bus delays / cancellations @STWDSTS.

BALANCED DAY SCHEDULE

Please note! There have been some changes to our school day. Below are the timelines.

8:20- 8:35	Supervision begins on the playground
8:35	School Entry
10:15 - 11:00	1st Nutrition Break
12:40 - 1:25	2nd Nutrition Break
3:05	Dismissal

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Please register for School Cash Online TODAY! For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. You can pay for field trips, spirit wear, yearbooks (almost everything) ONLINE!



Here's how to register:

- Step 1: Visit <https://ugdsb.schoolcashionline.com> or find a direct link from our school's website (using the above icon).
- Step 2: Register by selecting "Get Started Now" and following the steps (to register yourself as a parent user).
- Step 3: After you receive the confirmation email, select the 'click' here option, sign in and add each of your children to your household account. **(It is not necessary to input a "Student Number.")**

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

It is very important that you notify the school office if your child is going to be late or absent for any reason. There is an answering machine on 24 hours a day so please use this system to keep us informed. **Please call the office if your child is going to be late or absent from school.** You may leave a message on ext. 100. Please help us ensure that all students arrive at school safely. We also require a note (or in an emergency a phone call) from parents if you will be picking up your child(ren) during or after school. Be sure to **SIGN IN** at the office when dropping off or picking up your children during the school day.

LATE ARRIVALS

School begins at 8:35 a.m. If a student arrives after this time, they must sign in at the office and pick up a late slip. Students who are late will not be admitted to their classroom without a late slip. Please encourage your child to be on the school yard no later than 8:30 so that they can enter the school with their class.

VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

For everyone's safety, we require ALL visitors to report to the office each time they enter the school. Anyone visiting or volunteering in the school (including parents) **MUST**

SIGN IN AT THE OFFICE and wear an identification badge when you are in the school or on school grounds. Our students recognize those who are wearing the school badge as members of our school community.

Please do not be offended if a staff member stops you to ask why you are in the school. Even if you have been in the school before, not all teachers will recognize you. Again, we request this for the safety of your child(ren).

NEWSLETTERS & HANDBOOKS

Monthly school newsletters will continue to be posted online on the first Friday of every month. Visit our website <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/jmc/> to view them.

We encourage you to "Subscribe" to receive email notifications from the school (do this from the main page of our website). These notifications will include monthly reminders that the newsletter has been posted, information about school events, etc. Parents often miss important information because they do not receive the notification. Please take the time to do this.

Grade team curriculum newsletters will be sent home and/or posted on our website at the beginning of each term. These newsletters will include the curriculum expectations to be covered in the classroom during that time period, the teaching strategies being used and the assessment practices teachers will be implementing.

We encourage you to use your child's agenda for ongoing communication and to read our Parent Handbook and Code of Conduct on our website for additional information.

NEW HEALTH CURRICULUM

Last September the new Health and Physical Education curriculum was fully implemented in Ontario schools. For elementary schools, the new curriculum has existed for several years, but now includes an updated portion of its 'Healthy Living' component to include Human Development and Sexual Health. The document as a whole aims to educate children to understand themselves and others, think critically to make healthy choices, develop and maintain healthy relationships, be safe physically and emotionally, and to be physically active for life. The curriculum is available on the Ministry of Education's website. The Human Development and Sexual Health component of the curriculum had not been updated since 1998. Since then much has changed and kids need to know more to keep themselves healthy and safe. This education starts with children learning about themselves, their feelings, their bodies, and about showing respect for themselves and others in a reliable and accurate way. This learning is most effective when parents and schools work together. Parents help their children form values about relationships and their behaviours. Teachers will endeavour to communicate upcoming topics from the Human Development and Sexual Health units to families. Open

and honest conversations at home about body parts, their functions, physical changes, healthy relationships and effective living habits help children connect learning and lets them know they have someone to talk to about questions they might have. Questions about topics can always be directed to the teacher or school principal. As mentioned above, Human Development and Sexual Health is one sub-component of the curriculum. The document also focuses on skills related to Active Living, which involves physical fitness, safety and active participation; Movement, which teaches specific movement and physical activity skills and tactics; and Healthy Living, which focuses on understanding health concepts, making healthy choices and making connections to healthy living.

There are plenty of ways you can support your children's learning from the Health and Physical Education curriculum. Consider what you and your child can do together that is fun and healthy. Enjoying physical activity or making meals together is a great start. Ask your child and their teacher about what is being taught and have discussions where you provide factual, straightforward answers to your child's questions. Finally, learn how to be safe online and use that information to guide your child's use of any device that connects to the internet. There are plenty of resources available for parents to support the learning from the HPE curriculum. The best place to start is the Ministry of Education's website: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health.html> or at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/sex-education-ontario>.

STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS

A computer-printed form showing our current data for each child will be sent home next week with your child. **Please check the information carefully making any necessary corrections and additions.** Please remember to sign and date the bottom line and return it to the school as soon as possible.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Parents or guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises 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.

Information will be sent home the second week of school with respect to Student Accident Insurance offered by the Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada ("Old Republic"). You should receive the Director's letter, an Acknowledgment to be signed by parents (and returned to school) and a Student Accident Insurance Application form (to be mailed directly to Old Republic). Old Republic offers

a variety of options, including family rates and multi-year plans, at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by parents or guardian.

Subscription is directly through Old Republic by mail or online. Questions should be directed to Old Republic at 1-800-463-5437 or www.insuremykids.com 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.

STREET PATROLS

Street patrols will continue to be at the crosswalk in front of the school on Water Street and at the parking lot between 8:20 -8:35 a.m. and again at 3:05 – 3:20 p.m. We ask that students and parents respect the students who have taken on this huge responsibility. They are there to help make crossing safe for everyone.

BUSES AND ARRIVAL PROCEDURES



At John McCrae we have a number of buses taking students to and from school safely. All buses will be loaded and unloaded on Water Street at the Bus Loading Zone at the front west side of the school. This zone is reserved for buses only. Each bus has a number associated with it and bus patrols have been assigned to help our younger students get safely off and on the correct bus. Teacher supervision at bus arrival and departure times is also a constant at John McCrae.

Please remember that students need to enter the playground off Water Street at the west side of the school and that the parking lot is reserved for our staff. Designated stopping and parking zones for our McCrae families are available to the east and west of the school or on Maple Street.

If you do park at the end of Water Street, please do not pass through the school busses to get to and from your car. This is a safety concern to all of us, but quite worrisome for the bus drivers.

AGENDAS

All students in grades 1-8 will be receiving agendas. Agendas are an excellent means of communication between home and school. ***As well, this year, we have included a section specific to John McCrae which we know will be very helpful to you.***

If at all possible, we would appreciate a contribution of \$5.00 for each agenda to help cover their cost (students will receive an agenda regardless of whether you contribute money). Preferred payment for the agenda is online at www.schoolcashionline.com. Likewise, cash or cheques, made payable to John McCrae PS will be accepted. Thank you in advance.

STUDENT PICK-UP

If you are picking up your child at school, **PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE** and your child will be called to meet you there. For our students' safety (in the event of a bus emergency), please sign your child out at the office before taking him/her out of the school at any time during the day. Also, if the school has *not* received a note or call (in emergency cases) from the parent/guardian, students will be sent home in the usual way.

*If students are going to be picked up by someone other than the parent/guardian, a note is needed from the parent/guardian in order to ensure the safety of the children.

Classes end at 3:05. Please inform the classroom teacher if you are picking up your child. It would be beneficial if students knew the end of day plan. It gets very busy in the office and it is often difficult to call into classrooms to make students aware of plans.

CANADIAN TIRE MONEY

We will be collecting Canadian Tire money again this year. If you could please send any you have collected to the school with your child it would be greatly appreciated. The money will go a long way in providing additional resources for our school.

OPEN HOUSE

Our fall Open House will be held September 22 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We look forward to meeting with you that night. More information will follow.

VOLUNTEERS

Every year our children and staff have been supported by the many volunteers who generously donate their time. Could you help out this year? If you are interested in being a volunteer please contact M. Cutz in the office. You will receive information about our school and Board policies around volunteering and be asked to fill out a volunteer form.

