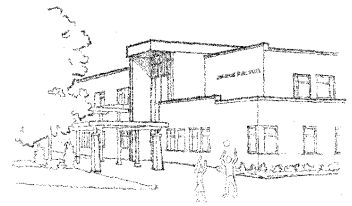


# École John McCrae School

## NEWSLETTER – MAY 2017

189 Water Street, Guelph, Ontario N1G 1B3  
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Principal: Leslie Newman

Vice Principal: Olivier Cutz

Office Co-ordinator: Kathy Lambkin

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### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

How it became May, I don't know. I guess it happened while we were celebrating Earth Day, preparing for our Open House and Night Among the Stars (thank you to the many parents who came out to enjoy the night), enjoying our educator visitors from Vichy, France, learning to become proficient wrestlers and of course, working hard in the classroom. It has been an excellent month. Thank you to our parents, staff, and students.

The next two months will be busy. Next year's junior kindergarten students will visit in May, current grade three students from Paisley Road School will spend a morning with us in June and our grade eights are more than ready to head to high school. We hope that if you have a child in grade eight, you will consider attending the graduation committee meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the School Office. The more people we have willing to help plan and execute the graduation, the less the burden for anyone.

We were so lucky to have had three visitors from France during the past week and a half. Visiting, were one administrator and two teachers. Staff and students gained valuable learning from them and I know that they were extremely impressed with everything they saw and heard at our school and at other schools that they visited throughout the board. We have made friends and colleagues. I am very pleased that various classes will continue the relationship with the school in France through email, Skyping and letter writing.

We look forward to May and June. Our running shoes are on!

*Leslie Newman*

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### SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

\*Our regular School Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. (in the school library). If you require childcare, please contact Mme Newman at [leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca) by Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

\*If you would like to be on the School Council emailing list, please write to [johnmccraeschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:johnmccraeschoolcouncil@gmail.com)

\*Thanks to everyone who attended School Council's Speaker Series on April 11<sup>th</sup>. We hoped you enjoyed this informative event.

\*Mark your calendars! This year's **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** will be held on JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>! Planning is already underway, but we are still looking for parent volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Brenda MacDonald ([brendamacd@gmail.com](mailto:brendamacd@gmail.com))

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### MOVING IN? MOVING OUT?

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT that if you are planning a move to another school this summer, or know of someone moving into our school area for the 2017-2018 school year, that you notify the office as soon as possible.

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### MORNING SUPERVISION – STUDENT DROP-OFF

Please be reminded that supervision at school does not begin until 8:20 a.m. Students should not be dropped off until after that time (unless they have a specific teacher supervised activity they are attending). If you must drop off your student, please do so after 8:20 a.m. Likewise, all students should leave the school grounds promptly after school end, 3:05 p.m., unless supervised by a parent. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students safe.

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## **KINDERGARTEN LEARNING FAIR**

As we head into spring at John McCrae, we are already awaiting the arrival of our new junior 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 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30 pm. Be sure and mark the date!

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## **CLASS PLACEMENT REQUESTS**

As in past years, **we will not be taking any class placement requests for September 2017**. If your child has some exceptional circumstances that require consideration when doing class placements, please email Mme Newman directly, [leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto: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.

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## **YEARBOOKS**

Order your 2016-2017 YEARBOOK NOW at [www.schoolcashionline.com](http://www.schoolcashionline.com). Orders are due by Friday, May 19th. No late orders will be accepted and no extra yearbooks will be ordered.

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## **MAD SCIENCE**

The "Mad Science" after school program is returning to our school. This six week program, "Crazy Chemworks," takes place on Thursdays from 3:10-4:10 pm starting May 4<sup>th</sup>. If you submitted a registration form, please note that the program starts this Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. Students must be picked up promptly at 4:10 p.m. All inquiries should be directed to Mad Science, 519-621-0600, ext. 23 and 28.

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## **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Here is some information regarding emergency drills that we will be conducting this school year.

The safety and well-being of our students is our highest priority. Although we hope that an incident that requires response from emergency personnel will never occur in our school, we must be prepared to respond quickly and effectively in case it does.

Each year our school must conduct drills to ensure staff and students are prepared in the event of a real emergency. While our school has been conducting fire drills, lockdown drills and tornado drills for the last several years, beginning this school year, we are also required to conduct a bomb threat drill. Each year, we are required to conduct the following drills:

- Three (3) fire drills in the fall and three (3) fire drills in the spring
- Two (2) lockdown drills
- One (1) tornado drill
- One (1) bomb threat drill

For each of these drills, there is an education component to explain why they are necessary. All drills are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of our students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

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## **CHESS CLUB**

The junior chess club represented John McCrae at the board-wide tournament last month in Aberfoyle. Congratulations to Sasha A. who placed first out of all the grade fours and congratulations goes out to Stella C. who came in second place out of all the grade six students. John McCrae's junior students won first place this year!

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## **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.

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## **GRADE 8 GRADUATION**

Mark your calendars...Grade 8 graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in being a part of the Grad Committee, please join us for a planning meeting on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. in the school office, or email Mme Newman at the school, [leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca) We need lots of parents!!!!!!

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## **CITY OF GUELPH – TRAFFIC FIELD INVESTIGATION**

Due to ongoing issues around morning and afternoon drop-offs and street parking, as well as neighbor complaints, the City of Guelph conducted a site investigation in January. The following issues were relayed to the Board and our school:

- parents are parking in “no stopping” and “no parking anytime” zones on both Water and Maple Streets
- parents are blocking the transit bus stop when parking on Water Street; this makes it difficult for the transit bus to use the transit stop and blocks the roadway in the meantime
- very few parents are using the sidewalk and cross walk, instead they are waiting for gaps in traffic to cross Water street as well as walking in front of school buses that are unloading/loading
- some students who are dropped off on the street are not using the crosswalk and instead wait for gaps in traffic
- vehicles are parking within 1m of residential driveways on Water Street; some are blocking part of residential driveways

Needless to say, these scenarios are dangerous for our students and inconsiderate of our neighbours. Please be mindful of all traffic and parking signage, and be sure to use our crosswalk. Set aside plenty of time in the morning to arrive and find appropriate/legal parking as necessary, use the crosswalk, and arrive in time for your student to enter the building with their fellow classmates at the morning bell – 8:35 a.m.

Please watch for reminders on our front signage. Thank you in advance for your cooperation to ensure the safety and consideration of the entire John McCrae neighbourhood!

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## **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.

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## **SUMMER CLOTHING AT SCHOOL**

Hopefully we have seen the last of snow and ice for many months! As the temperature rises, we ask you to remember that students must dress appropriately for school.

- All students are expected to dress in a manner appropriate for the learning/working environment.
- Appropriate dress is free from symbols of hate, gang membership, violence, rebellion, death, abuse, cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, racism or discrimination, obscenities, put downs, political or sexual messages, or anything detracting from a positive learning environment.
- School is a public institution where expectations may differ from personal choices. Muscle shirts, spaghetti straps, low-scooped necklines, bare midriffs or backs are inappropriate. Shorts and shirts must be a reasonable length. Undergarments should not be visible.
- Jewelry or apparel (such as large chains, spiked bracelets) that present a safety hazard or distraction should be avoided.
- Baseball caps (or any hats) need to be removed upon entering the school.
- Fashion trends change over time. Any decision regarding clothing will be considered by school staff.

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## **FEEDBACK WELCOME ON DRAFT POLICIES**

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is Policy 413 Safety (Behaviour Prevention and Intervention) and Policy 603 Provision of Learning Resources. You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at [www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy). **The deadline for public input is May 25, 2017** at 4 p.m. EST. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.

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## **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

600 students from the Upper Grand District School Board and Wellington Catholic District School Board will be joining together to celebrate sport at the Special Olympics, May 17, 2017. The event will be held at St. James sports fields, and includes track and field events as well as adaptive events. Athletes flock to the sports fields for the opening ceremonies at 10:00, and compete in 3 events each throughout the day. Family and friends are welcome to join in the fun and cheer on the athletes. Parking is available at the Grange plaza.

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## ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS – Celebrate International Day for Biological Diversity on May 22<sup>nd</sup>!

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 the International Day for Biological Diversity to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. Biodiversity, a simple word with some very broad reaching implications quite simply means: ‘A wide range of life.’ We need to learn more about it in order to protect it.

*“Biodiversity, at the level of species and ecosystems, provides an important foundation for many aspects of sustainability.”*

*António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations*

<https://www.cbd.int/idb/2017/>


### Ideas for your family to celebrate Biodiversity Day!

- Visit farmers markets in your local area to try new types of produce. Whether you incorporate heirloom tomatoes into your cooking, or try one of the rainbow of colors of carrots out there that aren't orange, biodiversity can bring a great new experience to your table.
- View photos of endangered species on the Internet and discuss the reasons why these animals are threatened and why they should be protected.
- Join a community group and help to remove invasive plants from your local environment. These teams of volunteers will gather to remove plants that are impacting the local fauna's biodiversity by taking over natural grow areas.
- Get out into the world and enjoy all the different types of life your local area offers. Even a local park can have an amazing variety of life you've never noticed, from the insects crawling through the grass, to the flowers we so clumsily lump together as 'wildflowers'.

Adapted from: <https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/international-day-for-biological-diversity/>

*Celebrate the diversity of our natural world every day!*

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GCVI School Council  
present an educational  
evening for parents:


### Parents Connect for Student Mental Health

Keynote Speaker:  
Lynn Woodford, UGDSB Mental  
Health Specialist, will share  
tips and resources for parents  
to improve the mental health  
and well-being of students.

Guest Speakers include:  
GCVI Social Worker, Lori Lutes and  
GCVI Child & Youth Counsellor,  
Bill Bulmer.

Location: GCVI Auditorium  
May 4th 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Information on local resources will be  
available.  
Refreshments served



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## TALKING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

May 1-5 is Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-being Week!

Participate! Have Fun! Increase Awareness! Increase Well-being!



The UGDSB is participating in Mental Health and Well-being Week and so are our community partners. Here are some of the events in the community for you and your family to participate in:

CMHAWW is presenting the following:

(see <http://mailchi.mp/2d253253c223/mental-health-week-events-2017?platform=hootsuite> for details)

**May 1st** Canadian Comedian and Mental Health Advocate **Mike MacDonald** - \$20 - CIGI - Waterloo - 7:00 p.m.

**May 1st** Free film viewing of '**Resilience**' - Recital Hall at the Guelph Youth Music Centre - 7:30 p.m.

**May 2nd** - Free **SafeTALK training in Guelph** - provided by our Education and Promotion - 6:00 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.