

# École John McCrae School

## NEWSLETTER – MAY 2018

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Principal: Leslie Newman

Vice Principal: Olivier Cutz

Office Co-ordinator: Kathy Lambkin

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### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It seems that many people were ready to see April 2018 finish. When I look out the window and see the gorgeous blue sky and people walking about in shorts, it really is strange to think that just two weekends ago, we were in the midst of a huge ice storm. Perhaps, having a less than perfect April will help us to appreciate May, even if there is rain! There will be flowers that follow!

We really hope you can join us for some of the wonderful things happening in May. Next week, May 10<sup>th</sup>, is our "Open House" from 5:00-6:00 pm, followed by our "Night Amongst the Stars" from 6:00-7:30 pm. We look forward to visiting with you and sharing our art and music. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, many of our students will be presenting the play "The Lorax." Our students have been practicing before and after school and during the day. They have worked really hard and we anticipate that it will be a great night! Please read below for more information.

We have some students who will be participating in the Special Olympics on May 16<sup>th</sup>. We wish our athletes good luck and thank the student helpers who will be accompanying them.

We would like to remind the parents of our grade three and six students that this is the month our students will be writing EQAO. Grade threes will be writing it from May 23-25 and our grade sixes from May 29-31.

June will be here momentarily. Let's enjoy May.

*Leslie Newman and Olivier Cutz*

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### SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

\*Our regular School Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8<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 4<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, "Internet Safety and Screen Time," on April 10<sup>th</sup>. We hoped you enjoyed this informative event.

\*Mark your calendars! This year's **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** will be held on JUNE 5<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 ([brendacmacd@gmail.com](mailto:brendacmacd@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 2018-2019 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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### STUDENT PERFORMANCE – THE LORAX

John McCrae is excited to present the production of Dr. Seuss' The Lorax. Over the past few months, a cast and crew of about 40 students have been working together to prepare for their performances. With the generous support of School Council, we

have been able to build sets, make costumes, and rent a sound system. John McCrae would like to invite all families interested in attending on Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The performance will be held in the gymnasium and seating is first come, first serve. Please note that seating is limited. Entry is by donation at the door and all proceeds will go back to supporting future school plays.

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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 24<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 2018.** If your child has some exceptional circumstances that require consideration, please email Mme Newman directly at [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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### **JUMP ROPE / HOOPS FOR HEART**

Jump Rope for Heart (Kindergarten - Grade 6) and Hoops for Heart (Grade 7 - 8) will be taking place on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. These events promote fitness and fun, and are also a fundraiser for the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Please help us meet our goal of raising \$12 000! Not only will the funds raised help with Heart & Stroke research, 10% of the money we raise will be given back to John McCrae for use within the school. If possible, we prefer that students collect donations online. If you have not already done so, please consider registering online at:

[http://support.heartandstroke.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=jump18\\_home](http://support.heartandstroke.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=jump18_home) If you collected cash or cheques, please return the funds with the collection envelope on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure your child's name and their teacher's name are written on the envelope. Thanks for helping our school support this worthwhile cause! Feel free to come and help turn ropes or try some jumping yourself! Here's the schedule for Friday, May 11th:

8:45-9:35 Kindergarten

9:00-10:10 Grades 1-3

11:30-12:30 Grade 5-6

1:25-3:05 Grades 7-8 (Hoops)

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### **YEARBOOKS**

Order your 2017-2018 YEARBOOK NOW at [www.schoolcashonline.com](http://www.schoolcashonline.com). Orders are due by Friday, May 18th. No late orders will be accepted and no extra yearbooks will be ordered.

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### **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Here is some information regarding emergency drills that are conducted during the 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 & SKILLS CANADA**

Congratulations to the Junior and Intermediate Chess Teams who represented John McCrae at the board-wide tournament on April 5<sup>th</sup>: Simon S., Marissa W., Mea B., Kai S., Sasha A., Carl R., Stella C., Griffin H., Zach B., Callum S., Sam E. and Sebastian F. Our players were excellent ambassadors for our school and did very well overall.

The following intermediate students represented JMC at the Skills Canada competition at Centennial CVI this past April 6<sup>th</sup>: Zach B., Alex P., Madden S., Ryan D., Mara S., Mason B., Spencer C., Jayden S., Izzy U., Ben S., Tiffany L., Naomi M., Julian B., Sam E., Noah W., Callum S., James R., Isaac T., Eric E., and Aidan R. Our teams all worked very hard to solve technical challenges as a team and our Green Energy group even managed a third place finish. Congratulations and thanks for showing Guelph what great kids go to John McCrae!

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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 27<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 Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 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 to make sure that it is a great evening for your children!

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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.

- We would hope that students understand that they should 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. We would ask that students not wear muscle shirts, spaghetti straps, low-scooped necklines, bare midriffs or backs. Shorts and shirts should 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.

We will be reviewing the dress code policy this spring. If you are interested in being a part of the committee, please email Mme Newman at the school ([leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca)).

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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, Wednesday, May 16, 2018. 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. Good luck to our three athletes and to their student helpers. We will be cheering you on!