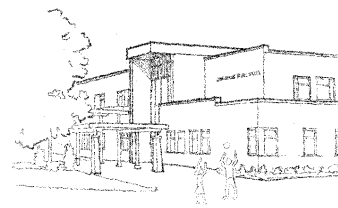


École John McCrae School

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2018

189 Water Street, Guelph, Ontario N1G 1B3
Phone: 519-824-0028 Fax: 519-824-7067 Website: www.ugdsb.on.ca/jmc/



Principal: Leslie Newman

Vice Principal: Chad Reay

Office Co-ordinator: Kathy Lambkin

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back after a very hot summer. We hope that you were able to take time to be with your families and that you may have gotten away for a bit. Although the summer was fantastic, it's always good to get back into routine.

Welcome to new students, staff, and parents. We hope that you get to know us and become an integral part of our school community. Join us at School Council (first meeting is Tuesday, September 11 at 6:30p.m.), for the fall Open House (Thursday, September 20 from 5:30-7:00p.m.), or as a volunteer in your child's classroom or throughout the school (anytime). We welcome you!

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. **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.

As always, the school is spotlessly clean. We are so thankful to Mr. Curran and his staff who 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! This was despite having a summer circus camp, the GCVI office staff and some high school courses running throughout the school. Mr. Curran's flexibility and 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 our teachers and staff 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, as well as meeting with their colleagues. What you wouldn't have noticed are the workshops and seminars many have attended during 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 office indicating that you require such.**

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 and join us at our Fall Open House Sept. 20th from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Leslie Newman

EXCITING NEWS – PLEASE READ!!

There is now an App that you can download onto your phone to help you keep up-to-date with all that is happening at John McCrae.

1. Go to the App store.
2. Put in Upper Grand district School Board
3. The app will appear
4. Download
5. Go on and pick John McCrae (and any other schools your children attend).

2018-2019 SCHOOL STAFF

Leslie Newman – Principal
Chad Reay – Vice-Principal
Kathy Lambkin – Office Coordinator
Melinda Rice – Office Assistant
Janet Wozniak – Office Assistant
Amy Cliff – Office Assistant
Murray Curran – Head Custodian
Denise Reed-Cleaner
Sarah Katsaounis / Lisa Tanner-Proude – KA
Melissa Ellis /Rebecca Miller – KB
Andrea Higgins / Elisa Tran – KC
Margie Johnson / Emily Noftall – KD
Lisa Maggio-Laughlin – 1A
Gail Roussy – 1B
Jenzaia DiMartile -1-2C
John Black– 1-2D
Désanges Duguay – 2A
Karley Elias -2/3B
Dawn Spark– 2/3E
Hayden Plawiuk – 3A
Caitlin Beaton– 3C
Michelle Van Loon – 3/4D
Diana Baggio Favrin – 4A
Lindsay McCallum– 4/5E

Lynn-Michelle Fortier –5A
Morgan Elias– 5B
Zara Henry-5C
Katie Siversky – 6A
Lisa Jones – 6B
Josée Gratton-6C
Meaghan Gutzman- 7A (LA/Hist/Geog)
Rhys Bennett – 7A (Science and English)
Alli Gauvreau – 7B (Intermediate Math)
Beth McEwen – 7/8C (Library / Grade 8 English)
Julie Wallace-7/8C (Gym/Health Junior/ English)
Chantal Hearn – 8A (Core Language)
Krista Bird – 8B (Art/Hist./Geog)
Anthony Moore – Music
Mary Rankin – Junior English
Kayla Pangos - Kindergarten and Primary Planning
Patty Horack-Primary Planning
Sarah Griffiths – Resource and Planning
Christy Wilson – Resource/Grade 7 Math
Jocelyn Bowers – Educational Assistant
Suzanne Dougan-Educational Assistant
Jane Godfrey- Educational Assistant
Santana Nickerson – Educational Assistant
Christine Miller, Paul Ling, Heather Brodie –Student Teachers

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. We know that children are adaptable and while there may be some discomfort with class changes, this rarely lasts longer than a day or two. **We ask that you 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 in the library on Tuesday, September 11th from 6:30-7:45 pm . We hope to see you there.

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.

CALL-OUT AND EMAIL COMMUNICATION

We often communicate important school news through a call-out system and/or email blast. If you need to change the phone number we use, please contact the school office. To receive emails, please sign-up on our school's website: www.ugdsb.on.ca/jmc/ The link is at the bottom of the home page, "Subscribe to Email Notifications."

LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

UGDSB Policy 518: Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions outlines the roles and responsibilities for all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes, and Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders. If your child has one of these, or any other life-threatening medical condition, please visit www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy (and look for Policy 518) or contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a “Plan of Care” to support your child.

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 Reay (ext. 224) if you have any questions.

PARKING LOT – NO PARKING ZONES

You will notice that over the summer the Board has repainted the parking lot, clearly identifying the no parking zones. Besides no parent access to the parking lot during school arrival and dismissal times, the large Fire Route area has been clearly highlighted and there is to be NO STOPPING, WAITING, or PARKING in this area. The City has ticketed in the past. Please observe these no parking areas. Plan your visits and pick-ups accordingly, allowing for extra time to find appropriate street parking. As well, please do not parking in the Handicapped designated spaces if you are not eligible to do so.

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.

PICTURE DAY

Mark your calendar. Student pictures will be taken on Wednesday, Sept. 26th. More information will follow.

BALANCED DAY SCHEDULE

8:20- 8:35	Supervision begins on the playground
8:35	School Entry
10:15 - 11:00	1st Nutrition Break (outside first, then lunch)
12:40 - 1:25	2nd Nutrition Break (outside first, then lunch)
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. (Do NOT 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

You can access the Parent Handbook and monthly school newsletters online. Visit our website <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/jmc/> to view.

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 (usually by mid-October). 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.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

A computer-printed form showing our current data for each child will be sent home with your child on the second week of school. **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 (maple bush) 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.

OPEN HOUSE

Our fall Open House will be held Thursday, September 20 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. We look forward to meeting with you that night. Please join us and meet your child's teacher! If you are looking to book ahead on your calendar, our Spring Open House will be held Thursday, May 9.

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. Reay in the office, ext. 224. You will receive information about our school and Board policies around volunteering and be asked to fill out a volunteer form.

ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOLS POLICY

Asthma is a very common chronic lung disease that can make it hard to breathe. The Upper Grand District School Board has a policy to provide support for students with Asthma. If your child has asthma, the policy requires an "Asthma Plan of Care" to be completed by parents, a child's doctor, and the principal of the school. A copy of this plan is available on the Board's website under Policy 518. Parents are requested to complete the Plan of Care and return it to the school as soon as possible at the beginning of the school year.

SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke-free environment for its students, staff and others while on school Board property, in accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. This policy refers to all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled, or chewed, including e-cigarettes.

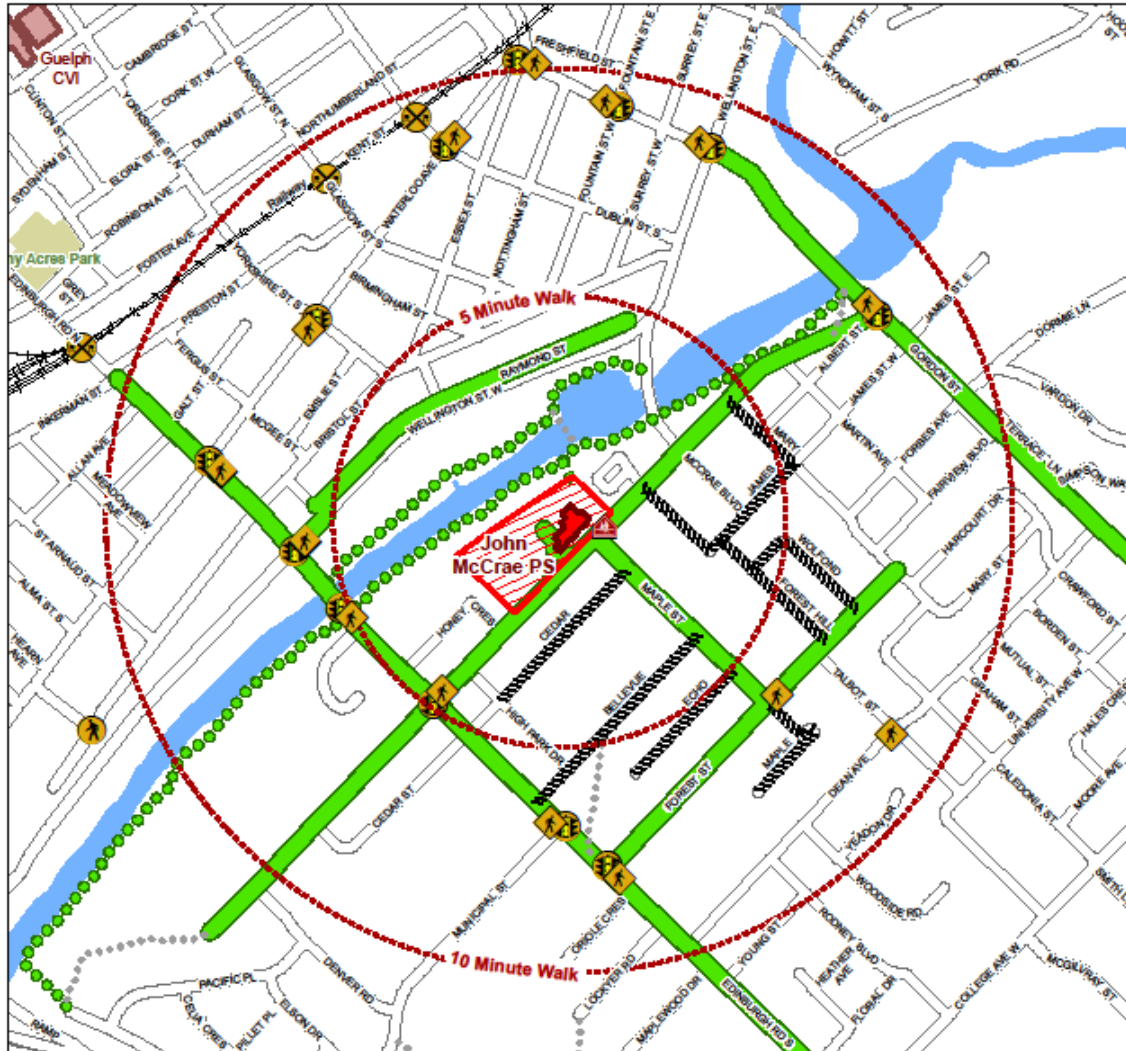
Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of the indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents will be informed using the school's usual forms of communication when smudging is going to occur in our school. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.

LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies to various foods and other materials called anaphylaxis. This is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you are aware that we aim to create an allergy safe environment at our school. If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, or your child has anaphylaxis, you will be informed by the classroom teacher. Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.

ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLANNER

Use the attached map to plan a walking or wheeling route to school! The map shows safety features such as traffic lights and crosswalks. The map also shows suggested "walk a block" locations. These locations are areas where on-street parking is allowed. If you need to drive to the school, consider parking in these areas and walking the last block or two. This will help reduce vehicle congestion around the school.



**John McCrae PS
Routes to School
Planner**
189 Water St
Guelph, ON
N1G 1B3

- Popular Walking Route - Street
- Popular Walking Route - Trail
- Popular Walking Route - On School Property
- Other Trail
- Suggested Walk-a-Block Location (see below)
- School Site
- Guard Patrolled Crossing
- Student Safety Patrolled Crossing
- Traffic Signal
- Pedestrian Signal
- Railway Crossing
- Marked Crosswalk

Plan Your Route To School:
This map shows options for popular walking routes to your school. Plan a route to school and practice the journey with your family. Even better, find friends to walk with you!

Be Active and Safe:
Take care on your journey to school and obey the traffic signs along the way. Walking, cycling, scooting, and wheeling to school are all great ways to be active and healthy.

Walk-a-Block:
If you travel to school by car, consider parking in a nearby street and walking a block or two to help reduce traffic and congestion in front of your school.

Active & Safe
ROUTES TO SCHOOL

UPPER GRAND WATERWAYS DISTRICT

N 0 50 100 150 200 Metres

Date: 23/08/2018 Version: 3

Created by: nlyer Date: 23/08/2018 S:\Planning\GIS\Map\ASRT SRoutesToSchool_JohnMcCraePS.mxd