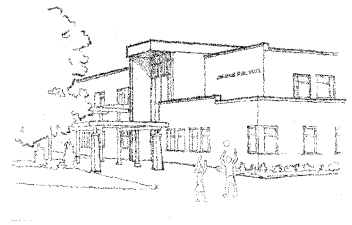


École John McCrae School

NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2019

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

I want to begin this newsletter by congratulating M Reay and Mme Fortier on their promotions. M Reay will be leaving us after the holidays to become principal of Gateway Drive Public School. I will miss M Reay for so many reasons. He is positive and caring and he has been an outstanding Vice-Principal. Gateway is lucky that he will be joining their team. Our new Vice-Principal will be Mme Fortier who is currently a teacher at our school. I am looking forward to working with her and know that she will be excellent in her new role.

Last Thursday and Friday we were able to meet a large number of you during interviews. Your positive comments, caring, and commitment to the school came out in conversations again and again. All of the staff at John McCrae feel lucky to be part of this school community. If you didn't get a chance to come in because it wasn't convenient, please feel free to call or email your child's teacher to book another time.

On November 11th we held our annual Remembrance Day Service. This year we tried something a bit different and held half the service at John McCrae House and the other half at the school. We feel that this worked well and that the services were good. We appreciate the many parents who were able to attend and hope that you enjoyed what our students prepared. We always feel that it is important to take time to remember the sacrifices so many men and women have made for us.

As always, thanks to our parents, our Dance-A-Thon was a great success (we raised \$6,401.40)! Students also had a lot of fun. Congratulations to our top three money raisers Georgia, Benjamin and Solange. Each of these students received a prize of their choice. We appreciate your hard work! Last week, M Reay and I made pancakes for the top three money raising classes (Mme Craig, Mme Henke, and Mlle McCallum).

Our "Mitten Tree" will go up shortly! Like in the past, we hope that you help us decorate it with new mittens, hats, and scarves. We will then donate these to charities who will give them to children in need. We will also celebrate "12 Days of Giving" where we collect and donate food and paper supplies for needy families.

During the last week of school we will be holding our holiday concerts. While we do not yet know specific times for the classes that are presenting, we have scheduled them for December 17, 18, and 19 between 11:00 and 12:40. You will get information if your child's class is presenting. We hope you can join us.

Again, we wish everyone the very best of the holiday season. Wherever you are or whatever you celebrate, our wish is for you to be safe and happy. Thank you for a great fall and we look forward to 2020.

Leslie Newman and Chad Reay

PERSONAL THANK YOU

I would like to take the time to thank everyone in the John McCrae community. You have welcomed me into your community with open arms and have made my experience here an amazing one. You are an incredible group of parents who have amazing kids that I get to work with every day. They are polite, respectful, courteous, and intelligent. This is due to the hard work that you put in each and every day to help them be successful. Thank you for being you!

To the teachers, thank you for allowing me to learn alongside you on your daily adventures. You are an inspirational group of leaders who make every decision based on what's best for your students. You have made me feel welcome and have encouraged me to take risks through your openness to feedback and role modeling best practices. Your level of professionalism truly is amazing!

To Mme Newman and Mme Lambkin, thank you both for supporting me at all times. You are both amazing people who are kind, caring, and loving at the core. I admire your compassion, dedication, and commitment to our staff and student's well-being. I will miss the day to day conversations and joy of working together. Thank you for mentoring me and demonstrating the power of positive thoughts and actions. You are both amazing people!

Sincerely,
Mr Reay

SNOWMAN RUN

Our whole school will be participating in our 3rd annual Snowman Run on Wednesday, December 18th during the last block. Students will take to the course around the river at 1:25pm. The snowman signs will lead the way! Following the run, students will be invited back for a hot chocolate and marshmallow social. In order to reduce our environmental impact all students must **lug-a-mug** (bring their own reusable mug labelled with their name) in order to participate in the hot chocolate social.

We are in need of volunteers to help supervise the trail and serve hot chocolate. Please contact Mme Bauman (caitlin.beaton@ugdsb.on.ca) if you are interested in volunteering

“12 DAYS OF GIVING”

From December 3-13 we will be having our Twelve Days of Giving (although it's actually only 9 school days). Please consider making a donation of one or more of the following items as we support those in need in our community this holiday season:

- NEW hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for the “Mitten Tree”
- toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, tooth brushes, toothpaste, etc.)
- paper products (Kleenex, paper towel, toilet paper, etc.)
- non-perishable food donation

Thank you for your continued support!

GRADE 8 HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHTS

*GCVI – Wednesday, January 15, 2020 – 6:30-8:00pm

*College Heights – Thursday, January 16, 2020 – 5:00-8:00pm

*Centennial CVI – Thursday, February 6, 2020 – 7:00pm

SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

Please join us for the next School Council Meeting on Tuesday, December 10th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. (in the school library). If you require childcare, please contact Mme Newman at leslie.newman@ugdsb.on.ca by Friday, December 6th.

Dance-a-thon: Thank you students and parents for a fun and successful Dance-a-thon fund raiser. We raised \$6,401.40!! Congratulations to all and thank you to the many volunteers who helped before, during and after the dance.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

In case of severe winter weather, with poor driving conditions and bus cancellations and delays, please listen for announcements on radio stations 1460 AM CJOY, 106.1 Magic FM, 900 AM CHML, 107.9 FM CJXY (Y108), Oldies 1090 AM, 105.3 Kool FM, News Talk 570 AM, 96.7 FM CHYM, 1150 AM CKOC, 102.9 FM CKLH, 820 AM CHAM and CKCO-TV. Announcements for John McCrae PS are included in “**South Wellington and the City of Guelph**”.

Please note: If buses do not operate in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. If you elect to drive your student to school, you **MUST** make arrangements for them to be picked up at the end of the day. Please communicate the pick-up arrangement with your student, or leave a note in their agenda, prior to drop-off. Likewise, if you choose to keep your “walking” student at home on an inclement weather day, you **MUST** notify the office (Attendance Mailbox 100) of the student’s absence, otherwise the office will contact you to confirm your student’s absence. Eligible bus students do not need to report their absence.

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION – 2020-2021

We’re getting ready to welcome our newest group of little learners to the school! Junior Kindergarten registration for the 2020-2021 school year takes place from January 7-17, 2020.

All Junior Kindergarten students new to the UGDSB must pre-register online. Pre-registering online between January 7-17 will save families time by allowing you to fill out important forms and documentation when it’s convenient for you. Once pre-registered, you will bring all supporting documents to the school to complete the registration. A complete registration will include completion of the online Student Admission Form (online pre-registration), and submission to the school of the child’s birth certificate, and proof of address. JK French Immersion registrations will be considered as ON-TIME if all documentation is received by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17. Please visit www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten for more details.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION – INFORMATION NIGHTS

The UGDSB is hosting information evenings to share information about our online registration process, the Kindergarten program, and our Before and After School Programs. These information nights are for both English and French Immersion. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend any evening that suits them:

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 – Montgomery Village PS, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday December 4, 2019 – John Black PS, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 9, 2019 – Arthur PS, 6:30 p.m.

For more information on Kindergarten Registration, please visit www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten

LOST AND FOUND

Please take a moment to peruse the lost and found. All items are displayed on tables in the front hall. Many of you were able to check it out while you are in the school for parent/teacher interviews. If you did not come in, please stop by over the next couple of weeks and see if there is something that belongs to your child. Students will be asked (many times) to check for items that may belong to them. There are many expensive items including coats and boots. All clothes not claimed by December 13th will be donated to a charity.

TIMELY REMINDERS

We would like to remind all of our parents that our school day begins at 8:35 a.m. We would ask that you have your children on the playground no later than 8:30 a.m. so that they can enter school with their class at the bell. Our classroom activities begin before the announcements at 8:45 a.m. and teachers need to have everyone in class promptly. MANY students are arriving after the morning bell and we often have a long wait for students to sign in. Thank you for your help in having your children to arrive at school on time. This one small detail makes a great deal of difference to starting the day off right!

STUDENT ABSENCES AND LATES

Please remember to always call the school office to report when your student will be late or absent. You may leave a message on the Attendance Mailbox (100) 24 hours a day.

UGDSB

SEVERE INCLEMENT WEATHER

WHERE TO GET UPDATES ON SEVERE INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS IN THE UGDSB

BUS DELAYS/ CANCELLATIONS



Bus updates are communicated by STWDSTS

Check www.stwdsts.ca in the morning for info on bus cancellations

STWDSTS will also tweet bus cancellation info @stwdsts

Sign up for bus email alerts at www.stwdsts.ca

SCHOOL CLOSURES



School closure alerts are communicated by UGDSB

Check www.ugdsb.ca in the morning for info on school closures

UGDSB will also tweet school closure info @ugdsb

When schools are closed due to weather, an alert will be posted on all school websites