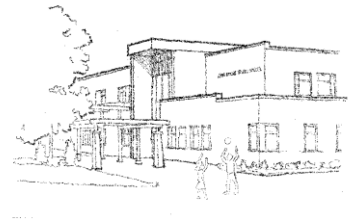


École John McCrae School

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2020

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: Lynn-Michelle Fortier

Office Co-ordinator: Kathy Lambkin

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Talk about a year like no other! This will go down as the most unusual year in my 36 year career. It has certainly been a time of learning for our teachers as they navigate how to teach and provide an education for our students on an on-line platform. For me, it's been amazing. We meet as a group every Tuesday Morning and the learning and sharing of ideas, solutions, and new ways of doing things is inspiring. While it's not perfect by any means, we will continue to improve and refine what we think is a good start. Thank you to all our parents for their support and thank you for learning along with us. Having said that, we all miss our students and routines very much. We miss the connections with each other and the feeling of community. We are trying to rebuild this on-line. Hopefully, in the end, we will look back and remember this year with a feeling of accomplishment.

Speaking of the end of the year. It's my last one at John McCrae. I will be retiring in June (I will never forget the year that I retired, that's for sure) after 36 years in education. I can hardly believe that my time at JMC is over, but I want to spend time with my husband who retired ten years ago. A new principal hasn't been chosen yet, but I wanted to give you a head's up. We will likely know by June who will be the new principal at John McCrae. I will save my goodbyes for next month...

Please look for weekly "announcements" from the office over the next few weeks. Mme. Fortier, myself, and hopefully other office staff will be sharing information and saying hello. We will be telling you what special week it will be (PJ Week, Crazy Hair Week and whatever else we come up with). We hope to have some fun! Please note: if your student participates in our Spirit Days, parents are invited to send a photo to their child's teacher if they wish, and a slide show will be shared with families school-wide. **Please only send a photo if you would like it to be shared school wide with JMC families and staff.**

We love our John McCrae family and we hope that things get back to "normal" as soon as possible. Take care and stay healthy.

Leslie Newman

SCHOOL COUNCIL

While we won't have our regular School Council Meeting we will have a Virtual Council Meeting on Google Meet on Tuesday, May 12th from 6:30 to 7:30p.m. On May 12, the School Council Chairs will share a link and password for you to attend.

If you would like to be on the School Council emailing list, please write to johnmccraeschoolcouncil@gmail.com

Unfortunately, this year's **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** has been cancelled. Thank you so much to the committee (led by Tammy Yakabuskie) for all of the hard work they put into planning it. We can only look forward to next year.

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 2020-2021 school year, that you notify the office as soon as possible. Please email johnmccrae.ps@ugdsb.on.ca

Attention current JK families: If you are moving out of our area or moving out of FI, contact the school ASAP as your student's spot could be offered to a child on our current JK waitlist up until August 31, 2020. johnmccrae.ps@ugdsb.on.ca



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

“We couldn’t do it without you!” Thank you, to all of our volunteers. While we can’t do it in person this year, we celebrate our parents, grandparents, and community members for all the ways you help us at JMC through your volunteering. We appreciate those who volunteer at the school, who work on the School Council, who do cutting and prepping for us and those who support our students by working with us. We cannot tell you how much we appreciate you and all you do. On behalf of all John McCrae Staff-merci beaucoup!

KINDERGARTEN LEARNING FAIR

As we head into spring at John McCrae, we are already awaiting the arrival of our new junior kindergarten students. We are looking forward to getting to know you better, but unfortunately, we cannot have a Kindergarten Learning Fair this year. Kindergarten teachers and Early Childhood Educators will meet together in May in order to finalize a plan to help you become familiar with the school. We know that this is not ideal, but we will find a way to welcome you to our school! Kathy Lambkin, our Office Coordinator, has your email addresses and she will email you with information about the fall. Welcome to John McCrae in very unusual circumstances!

CLASS PLACEMENT REQUESTS

As in past years, **we will not be taking any class placement requests for September 2020.** If your child has some exceptional circumstances that require consideration, please email Mme Newman directly at 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.

YEARBOOKS

We are working hard to see if it is possible to have one this year, but please stay tuned for more information.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

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. 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-we have done our two for the year
- One (1) tornado drill-we usually do this in May
- One (1) bomb threat drill-we usually do this in May

While we are not at school to do these drills please take some time to talk about what they may look like at school.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION

We have a number of students who will leave John McCrae this year. Typically, we get together as a community to celebrate their accomplishments and their next steps. In all likelihood, that will not be possible this year. The board is trying to be consistent in their approach to what we do, so please stay tuned. When we have any information, we will pass it along.

UPDATE REGARDING STUDENTS’ BELONGINGS IN SCHOOLS

We have received a number of requests for the retrieval of student belongings from schools. Please note that in order to adhere to the provincial school closures order and Public Health protocols around physical distancing, access to our schools is restricted. The board is currently developing a plan for safely retrieving students’ personal belongings from our schools, which will continue to respect the current provincial and Public Health protocols. Once the plan is finalized and approved by Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, we will communicate next steps to our UGDSB families and students. Thank you for your understanding.