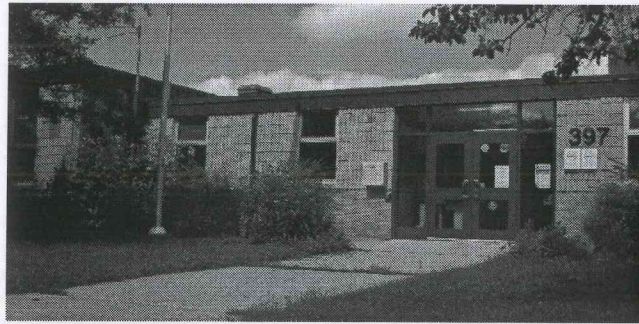
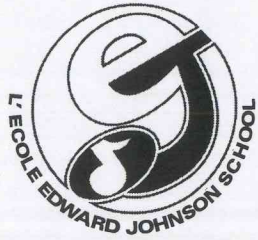


Le Nid d'Aigle The Eagle's Nest



Katherine Wainman, Principal

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DECEMBER 2015

Principal's Message

Thanks so much to everyone who attended our Holiday Market on November 14th! It was wonderful to see so many families out and about. Special thanks are extended to the School Council parents who spent so many hours organizing this event. I am amazed by all of your efforts! Also, it was great to see so many out at our first movie night on Friday, November 20th. A fun time was had by all.

Holiday time is just around the corner and as always, December promises to be an extremely busy month both at home and at school.

This time of year is one of holiday traditions for many of us, be it a part of Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas, New Year or other family traditions. We are sure you will appreciate this diversity at our "**Célébrons La Diversité Pendant Les Fêtes**" on Wednesday, December 16 during the third block (1:45 – 3:15). Come and visit your child's class and participate in the events.

It's a fun and busy season with positive messages of love and appreciation for all we have, especially family and friends. I wish for everyone peace and happiness during these times of celebration. I'm sure you and your children are also looking forward to the holiday break to enjoy some family time together.

On behalf of the staff of Edward Johnson School, I wish you a relaxing and restful holiday with your families. All the best for 2016!

Katherine Wainman (Principal)

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

December 18	Last Day of School
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	Happy New Year
January 4	First Day Back

Upcoming Events at Edward Johnson

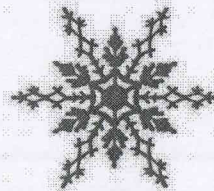
Big Kid Entertainment presentation of *Rapunzel* for all grades (December 8th at 11:15 a.m.)

'Rapunzel' tells the story of two characters, Rapunzel and the Baker, who are unhappy with their looks and place in society. A witch casts a spell to turn the Baker into Prince Charming and put Rapunzel into a tower. Each character soon learns they'd rather embrace who they were than hide from others or turn into someone new.

"Célébrons La Diversité Pendant Les Fêtes" (December 16th from 1:45 – 3:15).

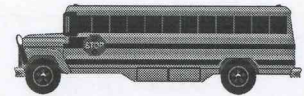
Come visit your child's class during this Open House that celebrates the diversity in our school and community. A variety of different events will be planned in each class. Come make a craft or see a classroom performance. More details to be shared as the event gets closer!

Winter



This is a reminder to ensure that all our learners come to school prepared for the weather. Appropriate jackets, boots, mittens and hats are a must as temperatures get colder. Also, a reminder to students that when the snow finally does fall, due to safety reasons snowballs are not allowed to be thrown on school property nor on the way to and from school.





Student Punctuality

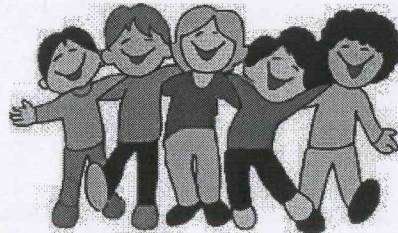
Being on time is an important life skill that we encourage all our students to display. When students arrive on time, they receive an overview of the day's activities and allow the teacher to efficiently complete the general housekeeping activities such as taking attendance or the collection of forms and money. They hear the announcements which inform them of general school information and are a part of the opening exercises. Being on time also eliminates unnecessary disruptions to classes. We appreciate the effort made by most students to be on time. Punctuality is a benefit for the students as well as a courtesy to others.

Late Students

If you are arriving late please be sure to come to the office and sign in your child. He/She will be given a late slip. This helps to avoid unnecessary calls home which can be very worrisome for all concerned.

School Council

A reminder that Council meetings are a great way to become involved in your child's education. Generally, we meet the second Monday of each month. The next official Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the library.



Buses

Please be advised of the UGDSB Transportation Policy:

It is the responsibility of parents to determine whether or not it is safe for their children to leave for school in inclement or severe weather.

- a) When a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice or snow conditions, it will not travel that route in the afternoon.
- b) If parents elect to drive their children to school, they are responsible for their childrens' pick-up at dismissal time.

A reminder that if the buses are cancelled in the morning, they do not run in the afternoon. If you decide to drive your child to school in the morning, please be sure to pick them up at the end of the day as well.

Head Lice

Head lice are a nuisance but not a health hazard, and they don't result from a lack of cleanliness. Recently there have been cases of head lice in our school. Having said that, it is very important to check your child's head frequently. If you do discover head lice, please notify the school office so that we can try to keep it under control in the school. At Edward Johnson, we strive to be a lice-and-nit-free school so in the eventuality that your child were to have lice, we ask that you treat your child and ensure that he/she is lice-and-nit-free before returning to school.

Talking About Mental Health – December 2015

31 Days of Taking Care of Ourselves

In December, as the days get shorter and colder, we all need to take some time to do something good for ourselves. Taking a little time each day to take care of ourselves makes so much difference to keeping in good mental health. You may choose to do some activities on your own or with your family or with a friend. Try one or a few or try them all. Enjoy!

December 1 : One Minute – Take deep breaths, in and out, for one minute.

December 2 : Two Minutes – Smile at yourself in the mirror.

December 3 : Three Minutes – Listen to a favourite song.

December 4 : Four Minutes – Eat some fresh fruit.

December 5 : Five Minutes – Light a candle and quietly watch the flame.

December 6 : Six Minutes – Sit quietly for six minutes.

December 7 : Seven Minutes – Enjoy the taste of a holiday snack.

December 8 : Eight Minutes – Spend fun time with someone who is a person or pet .

December 9 : Nine Minutes – Think of the best things that happened this week.

December 10 : Ten Minutes – Take some time out with a cup of tea. Sip slowly and enjoy.

December 11 : Eleven Minutes – Sing along with your favourite songs.

December 12 : Twelve Minutes – Send an email to a friend setting up a time to meet up during the holidays.

December 13 : Thirteen Minutes – Draw, paint or doodle.

December 14 : Fourteen Minutes – Go outside and breathe in the cool, crisp air.

December 15 : Fifteen Minutes – Read a favourite story.

December 16 : Sixteen Minutes – Call or skype with someone.

December 17 : Seventeen Minutes – Do something active: dance, walk, run, skip, play.

December 18 : Eighteen Minutes – Make a cup of hot chocolate and pay attention to the flavor and warmth as you sip– add marshmallows if desired.

December 19 : Nineteen Minutes – Help someone else out who needs some extra help in the holidays.

December 20 : Twenty Minutes – Watch the sunset on the shortest day of the year.

December 21 : Twenty One Minutes – Enjoy the holiday decorations in your neighbourhood.

December 22 : Twenty Two Minutes – Reflect on traditions you have enjoyed or currently enjoy.

December 23 : Twenty Three Minutes – Make your favourite meal and enjoy every bite.

December 24 : Twenty Four Minutes – Enjoy a bubble bath or extra long shower.

December 25 : Twenty Five Minutes – Take a walk to appreciate nature and being outside.

December 26 : Twenty Six Minutes – Take a nap, lie down and take a rest.

December 27 : Twenty Seven Minutes – Watch your favourite TV show that makes you laugh.

December 28 : Twenty Eight Minutes – Spend time with friends or family.

December 29 : Twenty Nine Minutes – Go to the library and take out a new book, CD or DVD.

December 30: Thirty Minutes – Take some time to do a hobby or something you enjoy that you have not done for a while.

December 31: Thirty One Minutes – Make a list of all the things you were grateful for this year.

Dr. Lynn Woodford, Psychologist, is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board

Follow me on twitter: @drlynnwoodford



Monthly Environmental Newsletter Insert

December's Environmental Theme: WATER POLLUTION

Water might seem like an endless resource. It covers more than 75% of our planet, but only 1% of the water on planet Earth is fresh, usable, and drinkable. The rest is either saltwater or frozen. And now the 1% that is drinkable is being threatened by pollution because of humans.

We need to conserve the water that exists on planet Earth. Did you know that almost 1 billion people do not have access to clean water? That is really hard for us to understand because Canada's most valuable natural resource by far is freshwater.

While we have only 0.5% of the world's population we have approximately 20% of the world's fresh water resources. But unfortunately Canada is also one of the highest fresh water users in the world. Of 29 nations studied, only the United States uses more water than Canada on a per capita basis. Canada's consumption is an alarming 65 per cent above the average!

What are some of the ways we can reduce water pollution? At home, purchase environmentally friendly, non-toxic cleaning products. Or clean with baking soda, lemon or vinegar. Conserve fresh water by collecting rainwater in barrels. Use it to water your lawn and garden or even indoor plants. Don't pour chemicals or paint or oil down the drain, and especially not into the storm drains on the street, as it goes directly back to our rivers and lakes. Using natural products that are biodegradable, for example, is a great way to go. Most importantly, don't waste the clean water that we have. Turn off the taps when you brush your teeth, take shorter showers, and know that lawn watering is now no longer cool!

Slogan of the month: Conserve our water - it's all we have!

Technology

The Upper Grand District School Board now has Chromebooks for student use in all 25 public libraries across the district.

The program first launched in April at three pilot sites within the Wellington County library system and has grown to include all 25 public library branches that serve our region.

Each branch has been outfitted with five Chromebooks that are available exclusively for Upper Grand students to access and complete their homework and assignments.

For more information, visit the board website at ugdsb.ca

Supporting Students who are Gifted

In order to be successful at school, all students need support from teachers, classmates, family, and friends. Some students require supports that go above and beyond what are ordinarily received at school. In Ontario, children who have behavioural, communicational, intellectual, physical or multiple exceptionalities, may receive special education supports when their needs are not met through regular classroom instruction and assessment. Students who are gifted are one of the groups who receive additional supports in Ontario schools due to their special intellectual learning needs.

The Ontario Ministry of Education sets out the definitions school boards must use to identify an exceptional student. Giftedness is defined by “an unusually advanced degree of general intellectual ability that requires differentiated learning experiences of a depth and breadth beyond those normally provided in the regular school program to satisfy the level of educational potential indicated.” At the Upper Grand District School Board, a group ability test is done in grade 3 under the supervision of a school psychologist. Students who score at, or above, the 98th percentile are considered to be gifted. An individually administered intellectual test done by a registered psychologist can also be used to determine if a student has a full scale I.Q. at, or above, the 98th percentile.

The Upper Grand District School Board supports students who are gifted in a variety of ways. Many students are successful in their regular classes when an individual education plan is put in place to support learning in terms of depth and breadth of the curriculum. Through this type of programming, students are challenged to reach the high level of thinking and reasoning that is associated with their intellectual potential. However, some students struggle to thrive in a regular classroom. They may be recommended by their school to attend a special education class for students who are gifted. In these special classes, students work on grade level curriculum, but are provided extensions in breadth and depth of the curriculum. The criteria for these classes include an assessment that indicates a cognitive ability at, or above, the 98th percentile. The student must also demonstrate academic achievement at or beyond grade level in writing and math, and a reading ability at or above two grade levels beyond the current grade. If parents agree that this is a good option for supporting their child, the student may attend this program for one or more years in Grades 4 through 8.

More information about giftedness can be found through The Association of Bright Children of Ontario (www.abcontario.ca). For more information about the supports offered to students who are gifted at the UGDSB, talk to your child’s classroom teacher, the special education resource teacher at the school, or the principal or vice-principal. The Board’s Special Education Plan and Reports are also available online on the UGDSB website (www.ugdsb.on.ca) and provide details and in-depth explanations of special education at the UGDSB. The Ontario Ministry of Education also provides

information for parents about special education supports on its website (www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/speced).

City of Guelph adds crossing guards at 2 intersections near Upper Grand schools

November 25, 2015

GUELPH, Ontario – New municipal crossing guards will be posted at intersections near a number of Guelph schools.

According to the City of Guelph, an adult school crossing guard will be posted at the intersection of Waverley Drive and Windsor Street, near Waverley Drive and Edward Johnson Public Schools, as of Monday Nov. 30, 2015.

The crossing guard will assist students crossing the north side of the intersection and will be in place between the hours of 8:05 am to 8:35 am and 3:05 pm to 3:40 pm.

Also starting Nov. 30, an adult crossing guard will be posted at the intersection of Delhi Street and Eramosa Road, near John Galt and King George Public Schools.

The crossing guard will assist students crossing the north and east side of the intersection and will be in place between the hours of 8:05 am to 8:45 am and 3:05 pm to 3:45 pm.

School crossing guard services are provided by the City of Guelph. You can find more information about crossing guards and their locations in Guelph on the City's website.

Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA)

The Upper Grand District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, Principals use progressive discipline to help a student take responsibility for their actions, change their behaviour, and learn from their mistakes.

When safety is threatened by the potentially violent or dangerous behaviour of a student, which places either the student or others at risk, school staff follow specific protocols for the protection of all. It is important that you and your children are aware of these protocols.

For more information, please visit the board's website:
<http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/parents/article.aspx?id=51057>

December School Council Newsletter



Holiday Market

School Council would like to thank everyone that volunteered and donated baked goods for our 3rd Holiday Market! The day was a huge success and we raised \$3300 for our School! The money raised will go towards classroom arts enrichment programs. We look forward to next year's Holiday Market!



Holiday Open House

This year in place of the Holiday Concerts the school will be having a Holiday Open House. Each class will be celebrating the diversity of our community & parents will have the chance to come into their child's class. This will take place on Wednesday December 16th 2015 from 1:45-3:15. School Council is organizing the traditional holiday raffle baskets again this year.

Your classroom theme will be coming home soon. We are asking for a donation of an item valued at \$10 or less to place in the class basket. You can pre-order raffle tickets or purchase them at the Holiday Open House. Winners will be drawn before the end of the open house.

Proceeds from the baskets will also benefit your child with classroom arts enrichment programs.



Fresh Food Drive

We also know that this time of year is a great opportunity to be generous and give back to the community and those in need. We are lucky to have great student body that cares about each other and the greater community and this year we are holding a FRESH food drive for the North End Harvest Market. We are asking EJ Family's to bring a fresh food item or items to the Holiday Open House on Wednesday December 16th. Details will be sent home soon with what items are most needed. For more info on the initiative check -- <http://www.gheng.ca/north-end-harvest-market/>

Next council meeting is December 17th 6:30-7:30pm -- All are welcome!

*****Of special note the fundraising vote will be held at this meeting.*****

Also please join us online and stay up to date via the "Edward Johnson School Council" facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1721631101383972/>



Happy Holidays from your EJ School Council! We thank you for all your support!