

# Le Nid d'Aigle The Eagle's Nest



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February 2016

Hard to believe that February is already here. January, as usual, was a busy month at Edward Johnson. Students have been busy learning about structures, endangered animals, geometry, and line designs amongst a whole host of other subject areas. The junior volleyball teams have been diligently practising in the gym to get ready for the tournament on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Ken Danby Public School.

During the first week of February (1-5) from 10:00am to 2:00 pm, we will be registering new Kindergarten students in our school for the 2016/2017 school year. Please help us spread the word! Be sure to check our website to get all the details.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming events:

- Feb. 1- 5 Kindergarten Registration
- Junior Volleyball Tournament at Ken Danby P.S. (boys in the am, and girls in the pm) Tuesday, February 2
- North Riverside Neighbourhood Group selling dance tickets Wed. Feb. 3 at Edward Johnson (see attached flyer)
- National Sweater Day February 4 (wear a warm and colourful sweater)
- Pancake Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> offered by School Council
- School council meeting Monday, Feb., 8 at 6:30 in the library
- Reports go home Thursday, Feb., 11
- Scientists in the School (am for Mme Pilesnik's class) Friday, Feb. 12
- Family Day (no school) Monday, February 15



### **National Sweater Day (Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016)**

In an effort to raise awareness around energy consumption, Edward Johnson will be participating in National Sweater Day on February 4. We will be lowering our school temperature by 2 degrees that day, so students are encouraged to wear a warm and fun sweater. The Environment Club will be making announcements to students to remind them about this special day.

### **Safe Arrival Program**

We appreciate your calls when your child(ren) are going to be absent or late. Please call the school at 519-763-7374 and leave a message. You do not need to speak to Mme Buitendyk to report an absence or late arrival. The school's answering machine is available to the community 24 hours a day. Calling in advance also alleviates early morning telephone congestion. Thank you for your support.



### **UGDSB Recognizes February as Black History Month**

Every year Canadians are invited to take part in the festivities and events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present, during Black History Month. Black History Month exists to remind us all of the rich contributions within our society from people of African and Caribbean descent, and of their ongoing struggle for equity and social justice. This is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation we know today. It is also an opportunity for the majority of Canadians to learn about the experiences of black Canadians in our society, and the vital role this community has played throughout our shared history.

Please check the display in the front foyer of the school. Many thanks are extended to Laura McNeilly for putting the display together.



## **Helping Your Child with Report Cards**

On February 11, 2016 Report Cards will be going home with students. You are encouraged to read this report card thoroughly and talk about it with your child/ren. There is a section for students and parents to complete and send in. Please take the time to fill in these sections as it is helpful for students to reflect on their learning and to communicate this to teachers. Should you wish to discuss the report card you're your child's teacher, please contact them to set-up an appointment.

- Set aside time to talk with your child. Ask your child why they think they earned the grades they did. It is important to help them see the connection between the things they did and the grades they earned.
- Ask your child whether they did their best. What is important is not that your child be the best, but that they do their best.
- Think about the messages you're sending to your child when you are discussing their report card with them.
- If grades are unexpectedly low, you may need to talk with the teacher. Now is the time to find out about and correct, any problems that may be interfering with your child's learning.
- If the report card is disappointing, try to find something positive to say. Children need to know that they are loved even when they make mistakes.
- If the report card is especially good, avoid giving your child a monetary reward. Instead, give them a chance to plan a special outing. Or, choose a book and write a note inside the front, telling them how proud you are of these accomplishments.
- Set specific goals for the next grading period. Review the goals set earlier in the year. Help your child make plans to improve in at least one area. Write out an action plan to be worked on over the next term.



## **School Routines**

Thank you so much to everyone for making sure that your children are well prepared for the winter weather at school with warm mittens, scarves, hats and snow suits. These little steps go a long way to make their experience at school a happy one.

Please note that the school day begins at 8:45 am and it is very important for all students to be at school and ready at this time. Routines are fundamental to the beginning of each day and help students succeed throughout the entire day.

Please remember, if your child is arriving after 8:45 am, they must report to the office to receive an admit slip prior to arriving in class and all late arrivals are documented in the

school attendance files. In some cases, students also miss out on early morning tasks such as pizza orders which cannot be submitted when orders have already been placed. Taking these steps now will establish routines and help to ensure that your child has a positive and successful experience throughout their school career.

### **Life-Threatening Illness**

Parents, please inform the school if your child has a life-threatening illness. We will ask you for more details and with your help, develop a classroom and playground plan. Also, please note that Edward Johnson has a number of children with very serious allergies. They include: dairy products, eggs, peanuts and tree nuts. We are especially asking that students not bring food items to school that contain nuts and/or peanuts.



### **Lost and Found**

As is often the case by mid-winter, our school's Lost & Found Bin is overflowing with student clothing. As prior to the break, we will again display the items from the bin on tables and students will be encouraged to take a look and gather any clothing that belongs to them. Unfortunately, many clothing items remain unclaimed and we have no other choice than bagging and sending unclaimed clothing to a charitable organization. Please continue to encourage your children to visit the Lost and Found bin when clothing items are missing.

### **Public input sought for draft policies**

The Upper Grand District School Board has adopted a new approach to the development of policies and procedures, important documents that guide the board, staff and activities of our school system. Our goal is to improve policies and procedures at the draft stage, with your help. By providing an opportunity for input from parents, the community and stakeholders we are aiming for greater openness and transparency in our governance.

The first policy, procedures and guidelines to be posted for public consultation are related to "Equity and Inclusive Education". You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at [www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/policy). The deadline for public input is April 13, 2016. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.





## February's Environmental Theme: ENERGY CONSERVATION

Because many of our energy sources cause pollution and damage our Earth, energy conservation is about finding ways to reduce or eliminate unnecessary energy usage. We all know to turn off the lights when not in the room, turn down the heating or cooling and buy energy efficient appliances. But do you know about Energy Vampires? Energy Vampires are electronics that use energy even when you think they are turned off. Many "Vampires" have LED lights, clocks or digital displays that are powered continually. Cell phone chargers, TVs, DVD players and gaming devices all draw current even when not in use. We can unplug these or plug them into smart power strips that stop idle energy currents.

But what about the future? What types of energy can we use that are renewable energy sources that don't damage the planet? Let's put solar energy to work! When it is sunny outside, let your laundry dry on a clothesline. Or open the curtains in the winter and let the sun heat your home naturally.

Or, let's be Eco-Smart in our choices. Design new houses that are angled to use the maximum warmth and light from the sun's rays in the winter and have a roof overhang designed to decrease sun penetration in the summer. Install lights that only turn on by using a sensor that monitors brightness. Plant trees to strategically provide shade. In your community, ask local governments to support more solar panels and more wind turbines in Ontario. We can use these great ideas ourselves to slow down Global Warming and keep our planet healthy.

***Slogan of the month:*** Conserve our energy - we are using more of it than you think!



### Physical Activity Can Make You Smarter?

Yep! It's true!

We have heard a lot about how exercise is important for children to remain healthy but research from Harvard Medical School (and many other studies) has shown that children do better in school if they get plenty of exercise. As it turns out, exercise has a positive influence on concentration, memory, behaviour, sequencing, and making priorities.

According to one study in the Journal of Pediatrics, "school-age youth should participate daily in 60 minutes or more of moderate to vigorous physical activity that is developmentally appropriate, enjoyable, and involves a variety of activities". But other studies have found that even 20 minutes of activity such as walking can increase brain functioning.

There are so many fun physical activities to do in the winter, tobogganing, skating, snow-shoeing, hockey. Why not build a snow man, a snow fort or make snow angels? Whatever you and your family decide it is important for children to exercise every day, the more, the better.

It's good for the brain and the body!

(Information adapted from Journal of Pediatrics, Edutopia, Everydayhealth.com and Globe and Mail online)

### **Partnering for Bright Futures Scholarship Program**

A new scholarship is hoping to help families save for their child's education through a shared savings program. Family Counselling and Support Services for Guelph Wellington has launched a scholarship pilot program for low to modest income families in Guelph and Wellington County.

If accepted to the program, families are asked to save a minimum of \$56 per month for 6 months for a total of \$336 per year to a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP). The scholarship donor will double the contribution by providing up to \$667 per year for up to three years. The family will also receive government contributions to the RESP as defined by the Canada Learning Bond and/or Canada Education Savings Grant. To be eligible for the scholarship program children must be born in 2004 or later and be a resident of Guelph Wellington. The family's gross income must be less than \$50,000 per year, and families must make the required contributions to a RESP.

For more information on the scholarship, and to learn more about eligibility criteria, please email Diane Vert at Family Counselling and Support Services, at [DianeVert@familyserviceguelph.on.ca](mailto:DianeVert@familyserviceguelph.on.ca) .



## February School Council Newsletter



*January certainly has been an exiting month here at Edward Johnson and the excitement continues into February and March we have some great events planned!*

### **Pancake Tuesday February 9 2016**



*School council is planning our 4<sup>th</sup> annual "Pancake Tuesday" on February 9. Parents will be making pancakes for the entire school. A list of ingredients will be sent home. We are in need of volunteers to flip pancakes and to lend equipment such a griddle. Email Amanda at [ejschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ejschoolcouncil@gmail.com) for more information.*

### **Upcoming School Council Meeting**

*Our next School Council meeting is Monday February 8 from 6:30-7:30 at the school library all are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.*

## **Upcoming School Council Events**

*February 9 Pancake Tuesday*

*March 11 Dance a Thon*

*April Date TBD Spring Thaw Art Show*

*June 2 Family Fun Night*



G<sub>2</sub>

A<sub>1</sub>

M<sub>3</sub>

E<sub>1</sub>

N<sub>1</sub>

I<sub>1</sub>

G<sub>2</sub>

H<sub>4</sub>

T<sub>1</sub>

*bring your family and a board game*

*come for some community, games,  
and some life sized board games  
in the waverley school gym*

*Friday, March 4  
from 7:00-8:30pm*

*email [nrngprogrammer@outlook.com](mailto:nrngprogrammer@outlook.com)  
with questions  
see you there*



# Games Night

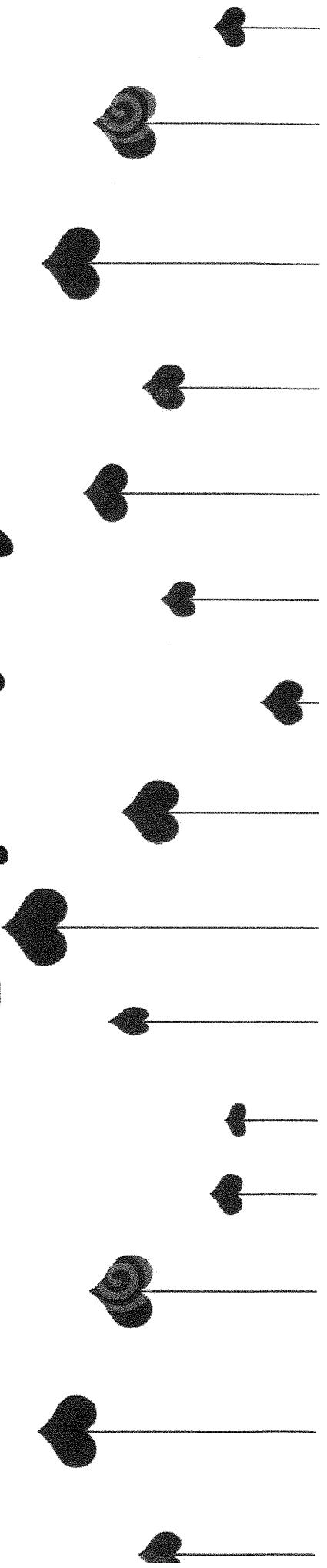
**Friday, March 4 | 7:00-8:30pm**  
**in the waverley school gym**  
**completely FREE**

*bring your family or a friend*

*\*bring your own board game if you're comfortable sharing and we'll have some extra-special ones of our own*

*questions? email [nrngprogrammer@outlook.com](mailto:nrngprogrammer@outlook.com)*





# *Valentine's Dance*

*a time to spend with friends*

## **grades 1-5**

*Friday February 5*

*6:00-7:30pm*

*Waverley school gym*

*pick up in the NG room*

*(doors at smaller parking lot)*

## **grades 6-8**

*Friday February 5*

*7:30-9:00pm*

*Waverley school gym*

*pick up and drop off at gym*

*tickets are \$5 in advance or \$8 at the door*

*parent MUST drop child off*

*parent MUST sign consent on ticket*

# SUMMER CAMP 2016

for completed JK-gr.6

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## Registration Day

Friday, April 1\*

from 5:30-7:00pm

in the waverley school gym

(free food and refreshments)

\*last day to make a deposit with early bird prices

**CASH ONLY**

email [nrngprogrammer@outlook.com](mailto:nrngprogrammer@outlook.com) with questi