



Katherine Wainman, Principal Jylian Buitendyk, Office Co-Ordinator

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SEPTEMBER 2016

**Principal’s Message**

Welcome to the 2016 – 2017 School Year!

Hard to believe that September 6th has arrived and we are back to school. Hope everyone had a chance to rest up and enjoy the hot summer. I am so looking forward to this coming school year. It will be great to see some familiar faces and get to meet the new members of our school community.

Meet the Teacher Night will take place **on Thursday, September 22 from 5:00 to 6:30**. Please come out and say “hello”.

Our newest staff members are:

A. Ammon Grade 4 Teacher

M. Hassen Primary/Junior Planning Teacher

M. Henke Kindergarten KB Teacher

C. Phillips Child Youth Counsellor (CYC)

A. MacKenzie Administrative Office Assistant

I would like to thank M Sweeney, Mme Duigan and their team for making our school clean and shiny. What a great way to start the year.

Also, many thanks go out to the teachers who spent numerous hours preparing their classrooms for the exciting learning opportunities in the upcoming school year. Everything looks great!

I would like to remind all parents that should you need to pick up your child during the day**, you must go to the office and Mme Buitendyk will call down to your child’s class**. As you can appreciate, we need to vigilant about safety. Also, our hallways are very narrow and with over 20 kindergarten students alone, we need to keep them clear. Please refrain from bringing strollers in the halls. You are welcome to wait with strollers in the front foyer. Thank you for your attention to these requests.

**School Organization**

Kindergarten A M. Stolfi/ N. Szabo

Kindergarten B P. Henke (Robbins) / S. Reill-Teasdale

Kindergarten C K. Forbes / M. Finlay

Kindergarten D L. MacDonald / E. Andrews

Grade 1 Y. Tendick

Grade 1 S. White

Grade 1/2 K. Prilesnik

Grade 1/2 E. Young

Grade 2 N. Potwin

Grade 2/3 M. Webster

Grade 3 T. Owen

Grade 4 A. Ammon

Grade 4 N. Anselmini-Lofton

Grade 5 S. Roberts

Grade 5/6 S. Lachmansingh

Grade 5/6 J. Caswell

Planning H. Patrick, A. Mizutani, M. Hassen, J. Macleod, J. Davis, T. Tan

Library A. Mizutani

Resource V. Motto

Educational Assistants C. Scheffold

Child and Youth Counsellor C. Phillips

Office Co-Ordinator J. Buitendyk

Administrative Office Assistant A. MacKenzie (Wednesdays)

Head Custodian D. Sweeney

Custodian B. Duggan

Principal K. Wainman

Over the next few weeks, several important pieces of paper will be coming home. Please return any forms by indicated return dates.

Katherine Wainman

**Meet our Staff**

**Year at a Glance**

September 6 First day of School April 14 Good Friday

September 30 PD Day April 17 Easter Monday

October 10 Thanksgiving April 28 PD Day

October 28 PD Day May 22 Victoria Day

November 25 PD Day June 9 PD Day

Dec. 24 – Jan. 8 Christmas Break June 29 Last Day of School

January 27 PD Day June 30 PD Day

February 20 Family Day

**Twitter at Edward Johnson**

We will continue to use the Edward Johnson Public School twitter feed in an effort to stay connected with our families. Follow us at @EJ\_PS for news about our school, as well as helpful links about learning, school events, and community resources. In addition, we’ll make sure we continue to update the website and communicate through school newsletters.

**Facebook Account for School Council**

Just click on the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1721631101383972/>

**Open House/ Meet the Teacher**

You are invited to join us on Thursday, September 22nd, 5:00-6:30 pm for Open House. Come and visit your child’s classroom. Open House is great opportunity to meet your child’s teacher early in the year. Hope you can join us for this great school event.

**School Council**

Being a member of School Council is an excellent way of having input into our school’s activities and becoming involved in your child’s school life. School Council members take lead roles in numerous projects to enhance the learning environment at school. An information session is planned for all interested parents on September 12th, 6:30 PM, and our first meeting will be held on September 19th, at 6:30 PM in the school library. Elections will take place on September 19th for the upcoming school year.

**Eddie the Eagle is back!!**

Eddie the Eagle was on an extended holiday but he’s back. He’s scouting around for random acts of kindness. When staff members spot a random act of kindness on the part of a student, they’ll put in a ballot into the box. There will be a monthly draw in each division (kindergarten, primary, junior).

**Important Driveway Information**

Please note that the driveway at École Edward Johnson is closed to automobile traffic from 8:20 - 8:45 a.m. and 2:45 - 3:30 p.m. Only staff vehicleswill be allowed to enter and leave the parking lot during these times. If you drive your child to school or pick up your child at the end of the day, you will have to park on a nearby side street.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE!**

**Life-Threatening Illnesses**

Parents, please inform the school if your child has a life-threatening illness. We will ask you for more details and with your assistance, we will develop a classroom and playground plan. École Edward Johnson has a large number of children with very serious allergies. They include: dairy products, eggs, peanuts and tree nuts. In particular, we are asking that students not bring food items to school that contain nuts or peanuts. Please note, depending on individual circumstances, there may be classes where we ask to extend the list of foods to avoid, to ensure student safety for all.

**Student Information Sheets**

It is important to let the school know if there is any change in your personal information (i.e. home/work numbers, emergency contact, etc.) so that in the event of an emergency, we can contact you immediately. The student information sheets coming home on are critical in keeping accurate student records. Please sign this sheet and return it to school ASAP.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

****The Freedom of Information Act directs schools to be careful about the information they collect about students and it limits how schools can use this information. Please read the Freedom of Information letter carefully and respond if desired. It is understood that we have FOI consent unless we receive a written objection from you.

**Bus Cancellations**

Busing information can be accessed at http:/www.stwdsts.ca Information on all busing status is posted here daily. The inclement weather card can also be found here. For Edward Johnson, the card color is yellow. There is also an option to sign up for notifications regarding bus delays and cancellations.

**School Photo Day**

[](http://www.google.ca/imgres?imgurl=http://www.bishopoconnell.org/uploaded/Student_Life/photographer.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.bishopoconnell.org/page.cfm?id%3D107%26noticeid%3D12%26isnewsletter%3Dtrue%26sitechoice%3D0&h=512&w=484&tbnid=kY7dpAI0TmMBfM:&zoom=1&docid=59pp6PXwUD4q_M&ei=A7YEVJCUFIPn8gGB2oCgDQ&tbm=isch&ved=0CIoBEDMoTjBO&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=519&page=6&start=72&ndsp=17)We have to re-schedule photo day so please stay tuned!

**School Supplies**

Many parents enquire about school supplies for September. While we provide for most of the essential supplies such as notebooks and writing utensils, here are some suggestions for items that you may purchase to assist your child at school.

**Primary** – pencils, pencil crayons, pencil case, school bag or back pack, markers, glue, stick, gym shoes.

[](http://www.google.ca/imgres?imgurl=http://www.usd450.net/imageGallery/ABeam14471/handbook.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.snh450.k12.ks.us/SHHigh.cfm?subpage%3D1354926&h=198&w=198&tbnid=JMMJieTgsb15FM:&zoom=1&docid=fIcYlcmx_3RT1M&ei=xLUEVKXYNqv98AG7jIG4BA&tbm=isch&ved=0CGgQMygsMCw&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=424&page=3&start=33&ndsp=23)**Junior** – pencils, pencil crayons, pencil case, pens, markers, small scissors, metric ruler, gym shoes.

**School Handbooks**

Our Parent School Handbook has been uploaded to our school web site for your perusal. The handbook includes school routines and guidelines as well as our Code of Conduct. We ask that you please read and review this document with your child. Being informed about our school will help everyone know what is expected and what needs to be done.

**Escarpment Outdoor Adventures**

EOA will be coming to our school from Monday, September 19 to Friday, September 23. This wonderful opportunity will be partially funded by the school along with a contribution from parent. More information will be coming in the near future.

Rock Climbing and Roped programs are being used as an educational tool to promote healthy active living and to help students develop teamwork skills, mental focus and improved group dynamics. The activities we bring right to your school include top rope rock climbing, belaying, ascending, as well as a variety of high rope elements each designed to challenge and motivate. These activities find a venue for non-traditional athletes to excel, and for all participants to set and achieve personal goals.

Escarpment Outdoor Adventures has been safely providing indoor and outdoor climbing programs since 1996. We look forward to sharing the sport we love with your staff and students in a safe and challenging environment.

**Aizan Messaging System**

École Edward Johnson will be using the Aizan messaging system for school-wide notifications. This system will be used when information needs to be communicated with our school population in a timely manner (bus cancellations, school closures, emergencies, etc.). When used, this system will place one call per household to communicate information. The system is currently registered to call the home number (if you do not have one, it is set up to call the provided cell number). If you do not answer, it will leave a voice message with the caller ID being the school number (519-763-7374). Please call Mme Buitendyk or Mme Wainman should you have any questions. (Note: In the event of power failure, we will not be able to access the system.)

**Volunteers**

****The importance of parent involvement in student achievement and success in school is well documented and recognized as an essential ingredient. At École Edward Johnson, we welcome parent volunteers to help by preparing learning materials for teachers, assisting in classes and on trips, supervising on special event days or in the library. If you are interested in becoming a regular volunteer at the school, please ask to see Mme Wainman. Volunteers are asked to complete a form which is kept on file at the office.

**Student Lunchroom Behaviour Expectations and Responsibilities**

The following lunchroom expectations have been discussed at school. Students understand that while eating lunch in the classroom, they are expected to respect the rights of others by:

* sitting in assigned seats
* speaking in soft, indoor voices
* not sharing or asking for others’ food
* following the direction of the lunchroom supervisor and the student helpers
* leaving to go to the bathroom only with permission from the lunchroom supervisor
* waiting to be dismissed before going outside
* placing items in the garbage or recycling bins when dismissed to go outside
* ensuring that their area is clean before leaving



Our Board has a wonderful resource for all of our students that can be accessed 24/7 from school or from home. It’s called UG2GO and includes Learn360 (educational video streaming), Student Link (a site children use at school that gives them access to web sites that are kid-friendly and relate directly to their current units of study), Tumblebooks (a site that has hundreds of books children can click on and have read to them), Noodletools (gives children help making bibliographies), Knowledge Ontario (a variety of approved encyclopedias, magazine articles suitable for elementary students), and much more. When students are at home, they can go to the main address: **https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go** which will prompt them to enter the same Windows username and password that they use at school to get onto the school network. Once they enter their Windows username/password, they will enter the site and they can then click on any of the resources and be taken directly to the individual resource without the need to login.

Please take a few minutes to explore the site with your child. It is an important tool that will aid them in their education, and may make your life easier when it comes to homework and projects. We are excited that students will be able to access information from anywhere and at any time in this information age!

**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 ext.100 and leave a message. You do not need to speak to the school secretary 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.

**School Yard Updates**

Please check out the tarmac when you get the chance. It was transformed over the summer☺

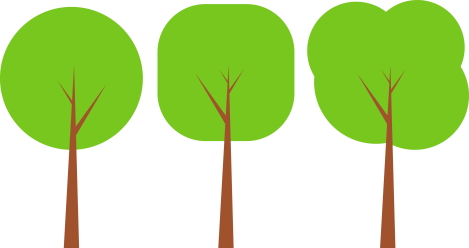
**Nutrition Program**

We have received substantial funding from a variety of sources to continue with our snack program. This will be communicated to you in the near future. Many thanks to Amanda Gudino for filling out those forms!

**Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet**

**September 21st is National Tree Day!**

***It is vital to teach our children to respect and take care of the environment.***

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**Celebrate National Tree Day on September 21st 2016!**

*“National Tree Day will serve as a celebration for all Canadians to appreciate the great benefits that trees provide us - clean air, wildlife habitat, reducing energy demand and connecting with nature.”*

[*http://www.nationaltreeday.ca/*](http://www.nationaltreeday.ca/)

“*Children today spend less time outdoors than any generation in human history.”* [*http://getbackoutside.ca/*](http://getbackoutside.ca/)

*“For children, studies show that time outdoors, especially unstructured time in more natural settings, can increase curiosity, creativity and problem solving ability. It also improves their physical fitness and coordination.”*[*http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/*](http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/)

**Some great activities for your family to do on Tree Day, or any day!**

* Read a book on trees: *The Lorax*, by Dr. Seuss; *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein; *What Good Is a Tree*by Larry Dane Brimner; *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry
* Learn the names of the trees in your backyard or neighbourhood
* Do tree art – e.g., a leaf collage, or leaf/bark pencil rubbing art, or tree photography
* Create a tree book: "adopt" a favourite tree, name it and throughout the year record and examine its characteristics and the changes that it goes through.
* Organize a Tree Walk game - Look for trees that are: the tallest, oldest, has the widest trunk, has the largest leaf, is the most prickly, etc.
* Research all the great forest hiking trails in your area and pick one to try out.
* Hold a Tree Day birthday party with your family, friends, neighbours or community! Serve tree-shaped foods! *(Find lots of ideas on Pinterest.)*

**For more ideas:**

* Join the **30x30 Nature Challenge**: If you want to feel healthier, happier and more focused - add a daily dose of nature to your routine! Find out more at [*http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/*](http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/)
* Do a Google search: “What to do on a nature walk” or “Arbour Day activities”

**The Benefits of Making Mistakes**

As the new school year begins, there is one quote that educators wish that all students would consider they enter their new classrooms, “making mistakes is part of life—and a really big part of growing up. It’s how you learn who you want to be” (<http://talkingtreebooks.com/quotes/quote-making-mistakes.html)>. As adults, we understand that making mistakes is an important part of life, however, students sometimes struggle to see the benefits of their errors.

One of the ways that we, the adults in children’s lives, can support youngsters is to be open about the mistakes that we make and share with students how we take responsibility for our errors. It is important that children see that everyone makes mistakes and that mistakes are a valuable part of our lives due to the fact that they encourage brain development. Researcher, Jo Boaler, states in her book Mathematical Mindsets (p. 12) when the brain is challenged and mistakes are made, that is the time when “the brain grows the most.”

When students are taught about the importance of mistakes, it can have a positive impact on their lives. New York Times author, Peter Sims, identified the following habits of successful people:

1. They feel comfortable being wrong.

2. They try new ideas.

3. They are open to different experiences.

4. They try out ideas without judging them.

5. They are willing to go against the crowd.

6. They do not give up when things get hard.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if all of our students followed these ideas?

It would be wonderful if students believed that every time they entered school they were going to a place where they were going to make mistakes that will help them grow and learn. It is vital that we understand that learning means not being afraid to examine the mistakes that we all make. It would be great if children remember this quote from former President of the United States, Bill Clinton, “[everyone] will make mistakes. But if you learn from them, you'll be a better person. It's how you handle adversity, not how it affects you. The main thing is never quit, never quit, never quit. “

UGDSB Program Department

**Back to School Blues**

Although for many there is excitement and anticipation about going back to school, for some children transitioning back in September can be tough. Moving into a new classroom, having new teachers, new friends and classmates, and new schedules can all bring about a feeling of stress. The angst children feel, questions they ask, and worries they express about these changes are normal. Sometimes it can be the smallest detail that can be the most worrisome for children. As a parent, you may not know what to do about these butterflies, stomach aches or tears. For some of us, it may intensify our own stress. Here are a few things you might try the first few weeks into the new school year.

1. Listen carefully to your children and hear their concerns.
2. Remind them of previous times when they felt anxious, and discuss the strategies they used that helped make the situation better.
3. Review the daily routines they are experiencing at school, and what after school time and weekends look like.
4. Make a list of the things they like about school.
5. Remind them of all the things they are good at.
6. Ask about their friends.
7. Be patient and positive. You may need to have these conversations daily.

As a parent in our school, please know that you can always contact us if your child’s worries persist. We are here to support your child’s wellbeing and achievement, and getting off to a great start in September will help us all achieve just that!

**Talking About Mental Health Sept 2016 – Keeping Your Cool as You Head Back to School**

Hope that you had a good summer and enjoyed some fun, relaxation and down time. As the children and youth get ready to head back to school, it is important to plan a mentally healthy school year. Some simple steps will help to make this year more positive and less stressful.

1. **Start Each Day With A Positive Thought**
   1. “Today is going to be a good day”
   2. “I am going to have a good day”
   3. “I can do this”
   4. “I have what it takes”
   5. “I feel happy”
   6. “I am strong”
2. **Practice Relaxation**
   1. Start the day with some body stretches.
   2. Take three deep breaths each time you go through a doorway.
   3. Be present: Notice 3 things you can see, hear and touch.
   4. Tense and relax your muscles, releasing tension in your body.
   5. Imagine a place that makes you feel relaxed.
3. **Take Breaks Before You Are Stressed**
   1. Walk to school.
   2. Get outside at lunch or breaks.
   3. Listen to music to relax.
   4. Eat a good breakfast and lunch.
   5. Hang out with your friends
   6. Think of 3 things you are grateful for.
4. **Seek Support**
   1. Talk to your family or friends.
   2. At elementary school, talk to a teacher, principal, or child & youth counsellor (CYC).
   3. At high school, talk to a teacher, principal, VP, guidance, student success, social worker, CYC, or nurse.
   4. Call KidsHelpPhone 1 800 668 6868. <http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/>
   5. Talk to your family doctor.
   6. Contact community mental health services:

# Canadian Mental Health Association WW (CMHAWW):

# Tuesday Walk In - 1:30-7:00, 485 Silvercreek Parkway, Guelph.

# To access services for Children, Youth and Adults in Guelph/Wellington:

# 1 844 HERE 247 (1 844 437 3247)

# <http://here247.ca/>

**FSLAC September 2016**

The UGDSB is establishing a French Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC). The Committee will serve in an advisory role and make recommendations with respect to the FSL Action Plan and the French Immersion JK Registration Process for 2017 and beyond.

Eleven Committee members will be selected from all areas of the Board, and will be parents of current elementary or secondary FSL students in either French Immersion or Core French programs. Interested parents may forward an application to Superintendent Tracey Lindsay which includes the following:

1. A statement explaining why they are interested in serving on the FSLAC.
2. The current grade their children are in, in what FSL programs and attending which school.
3. A brief outline of your school and/or community volunteer experiences.

Applications may be emailed to Tracey Lindsay at tracey.lindsay@ugdsb.on.ca