



L' École Edward Johnson School
Learning for Life Apprendre pour la vie
397 Stevenson Street North Guelph, Ontario N1E 5C1
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Katherine Wainman: Principal
Jylian Buitendyk: Office Coordinator



SEPTEMBER 2017

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2017 – 2018 School Year!

It is with great anticipation that I prepare for my third year at Edward Johnson PS. I am so excited to get started and feel like I have made such a wonderful connection with this school community. This upcoming school year promises to be a great one. School council has planned many community events and the calendar is starting to fill up. The calendar will be updated on a frequent basis. There are already many noteworthy events already inputted into the calendar.

The first event that you will really want to take note of is our “**Meet the Teacher Night**” taking place on **Thursday, September 14th from 6:00pm to 7:30 pm**. This a great chance to touch base with your child's teacher.

The floors at Edward Johnson are sparkling and the classrooms are clean thanks to our custodian team; specifically, B. Duigan and D. Sweeney. The classrooms are looking really spiffy thanks to the hard work of all the teachers. And the office, is really taking shape and getting organized thanks to J. Buitendyk and E. Schletz.

Although the weather this summer wasn't quite as cooperative as one would like, I hope that everyone had a chance to have some family time over the summer and to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. At this time, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the families who are returning to our school with a “bienvenue” and another “bienvenue” to those who are joining us for the first time this year.

Our newest staff members are:

Mlle L. von Waldburg	Primary/Junior Planning Teacher
Mme A. Rathburn	Kindergarten Teacher
Mme P. Martinez	Kindergarten Teacher
Mlle S. Crawford	Kindergarten Teacher
Mme. B. Powers-Anderson	Educational Assistant (EA)

Over the next few weeks, several important pieces of paper will be coming home. Please return any forms by indicated return dates. I wish for all a very successful and enjoyable year ahead! Here's to a WONDERFUL 2015-2016 school year!

From your School Council!!

Edward Johnson School Council Newsletter
September 2017

School Council would like to welcome all new and returning parents and caregivers. We hope you had a relaxing summer vacation and are ready to begin the new school year! We have many fun events planned for our students and families. We look forward to working with everyone to make Edward Johnson an extra special place for our students this year.

What Does School Council Provide?

Have you ever wondered what our school council offers? A school council is a group of parents working with school staff members to reach goals on school improvement. Our school council's main focus is building a strong sense of community here at Edward Johnson and working towards goals to improve and enrich student learning. Here is a snapshot of what our school council will offer this school year:

1. Monthly community events held at the school. For example, games night, dance night and yoga nights. We also host an art show in the spring, and help the school with their holiday events.
2. Pizza lunches will be offered every Friday beginning in October.
3. Fundraisers including farm fresh produce, dance a thon and our amazing Family Fun Night in June.
4. The school council funds a snack cupboard in the office for students that may need a top up on their lunch; the cupboard will contain fresh fruit and granola bars.

Last school year the school council funded classroom programs such as Scientists in the School, Do-re-mi music program, a school bus trip for each class, and a new media screen in the library-learning center.

First School Council Meeting:

The first school council meeting will take place on **Monday, September 18th, 2017 from 6:30-8:30** in the Edward Johnson library. Meetings are typically held the first Monday of the month unless there is a holiday and are usually one hour. Elections will take place for the school council's executive members during this meeting. The positions that are available are Chair, Co-chair, Treasurer, Co-Treasurer, Secretary, Co-Secretary, Communications, Co-Communications and Fundraising and Co-Fundraising. Come and visit the school council table at the school open house in September date TBD, to find out more of what we have to

offer. Joining your school council is a great way to get involved in the school and meet other parents. You can commit to as much or as little time as you would like! We look forward to seeing you at our first school council meeting.

School Council Contact Information

You can contact school council anytime at ejschoolcouncil@gmail.com and join our Facebook page "Edward Johnson School Council" for up to date school information.

Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet

September 27th is National Tree Day! 

"Let nature be your teacher." William Wordsworth

Celebrate National Tree Day on September 27st 2017!

"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/>

"Children today spend less time outdoors than any generation in human history."

<http://getbackoutside.ca/>

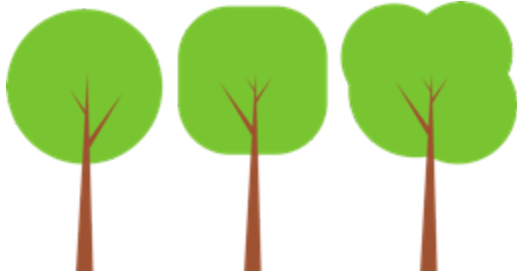
"For children, studies show that time outdoors, especially unstructured time in more natural settings, can increase curiosity, creativity and problem solving ability. It also improves their physical fitness and coordination." <http://30x30.davidsuzuki.org/>

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.
- Download a bird app and start to help your child learn to identify the colours and songs of birds in your neighbourhood
- 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/>
- 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

Talking About Mental Health Sept. 2017 – Heading Back to School

Hope that you had a wonderful summer! As the children and youth head back to school, here are a few suggestions on how to make this a mentally healthy school year.

1. Start each day with a positive thought.

Everyone in the family choose a positive thought for the day.

2. Talk about what they like about school and what they are good at.

Have them name 1 thing they like about school.

Have them name 1 thing they are good at.

3. Set a goal for the day.

Have each child or youth set a small goal to achieve each day.

4. Brainstorm ideas of how to deal with challenges.

Have your child or youth make a list of ways they can deal with challenges at school. At the end of the day, ask them which strategies they used to deal with challenges.

Encourage them to try out different strategies to build their coping tool kit.

5. End the day by being grateful.

Name three things you are grateful for today.

Have each child or youth name three things they are grateful for today.

Have a wonderful and mentally healthy school year!

Dr. Lynn Woodford is the Mental Health Lead for Upper Grand District School Board

Follow me on twitter: @drlynnwoodford

School Organization

Kindergarten A. Rathbone/ M. Finlay
Kindergarten S. Crawford / N. Szabo
Kindergarten P. Martinez/ S. Teasdale-Reill
Kindergarten L. MacDonald / E. Andrews

Grade 1 K. Forbes
Grade 1 M. Stolfi
Grade 1/2 K. Prilesnik
Grade 2 V. Paxman
Grade 2 S. White
Grade 2 J. Davis/A. Mizutani
Grade 3 T. Owen
Grade 3 M. Webster
Grade 4 N. Anselmini-Lofton
Grade 4/5 N. Potwin
Grade 5 S. Roberts
Grade 6 S. Lachmansingh
Grade 6 J. Caswell

Planning H. Patrick
A. Mizutani
J. Macleod
T. Tan
Y. Tendick
C. Robbins
L. von Waldburg

Library A. Mizutani
Resource V. Motto/Halina Patrick

Educational Assistants Carla Scheffold and Barbara Powers-Anderson
Child and Youth Counsellor (To be announced.)
Office Co-Ordinator J. Buitendyk

Head Custodian D. Sweeney
Evening Custodian B. Duigan
Principal K. Wainman

Exciting News!! Upper Grand Mobile App!!

We are pleased to announce that the Upper Grand DSB is introducing a new parent communication tool for your smart phone. Designed to streamline communication between schools and the communities they serve, the Upper Grand Mobile app provides parents with a simple interface with up to date information including news, calendars and social media feeds. The Upper Grand Mobile App is available today for free at either the Google Play Store or at iTunes. Use the search term "Upper Grand" to find the app.

Reminder for parents/guardians: Accidents happen – be prepared with Student Accident Insurance

Insurance for Students

Parents/guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial Health Care or employer group insurance plans.

The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under The Education Act to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students.

Information will be sent home with respect to Student Accident Insurance offered by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. You should receive:

1. The Director's letter and an Acknowledgment to be signed by parents/guardians and returned to school. Attached to the Director's letter is a translation sheet for your reference.
2. An InsureMyKids application form

Old Republic offers a variety of options, including family rates and multi-year plans, at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by parents/guardians.

Subscription is directly through Old Republic by mail or online. Questions should be directed to Old Republic at 1-800-463-5437 or www.insuremykids.com.

For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable.

Asthma Friendly Schools Policy

Asthma is a very common chronic lung disease that can make it hard to breathe. The Upper Grand District School Board has a policy to provide support for students with Asthma. If your child has asthma, the policy requires an Asthma Management Plan (AMP) to be completed by parents, a child's doctor and the principal of the school. A copy of this plan is available on the Board's website under Policy 516. Parents are requested to complete the AMP and return it to the school as soon as possible at the beginning of the school year.

Smoke-Free Environment

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke-free environment for its students, staff and others while on school Board property, in accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. This policy refers to all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed, including e-cigarettes.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of the indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents will be informed using the school's usual forms of communication when smudging is going to occur in our school. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.

Life-Threatening Allergies

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies to various foods and other materials called anaphylaxis. This is a medical condition that causes a severe reaction to food or other materials, and can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.

Re: School Organizations

Schools have built class lists based on their tentative organizations. Changes may be necessary at your child(ren)'s school in order that our Board remain compliant with Ministry parameters (see below). Any changes would be implemented by Monday, September 18th. Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed by the school.

Ministry of Education Parameters:

*Full Day Kindergarten Class Size Average for the Board is 26 students

*90% of the Board's primary classes with 20 or fewer students

*10% of the Board's primary classes up to a maximum of 23 students

*Grade 3/4 classes have a cap of 23 students

*Junior/Intermediate Class Size Average for the Board is 24.85 students to 1 teacher

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.

Open House

You are invited to join us on Thursday, September 14th, 6:00pm – 7:30 pm. Be sure to come out and meet your child's teacher and see what everyone has been up to for the first few weeks. Hope you can join us for this worthwhile event.

School Security

Visitors are welcomed at our school but we ask that you enter through the front doors and sign in at the office. For the protection of all students please obtain a visitor/volunteer badge.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

Please note that the driveway at École Edward Johnson is closed to automobile traffic from 8:15 - 8:30 a.m. and 2:45 - 3:00 p.m. Only staff vehicles will 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 US KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE!

Student Information Sheets and Student Insurance Acknowledgement Forms

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 in the near future are critical in keeping accurate student records. Please sign this sheet and return it, along with the Student Insurance Acknowledgement form 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

Bussing information can be accessed at <http://www.stwdsts.ca/>. Information on all bussing 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

Photo Day at l'École Edward Johnson will be Thursday, September 28th. Please try to avoid any appointments for your child on this day so that all our students can have their individual photos taken and most of all, be part of the traditional class photo. We'll expect everyone to be wearing their smiles to school on the 28th!

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 backpack, markers, glue, stick, gym shoes.

Junior – pencils, pencil crayons, pencil case, pens, markers, small scissors, metric ruler, gym shoes.

Agendas

Agendas are a great tool for organizing school work and communicating with home. We have made them available for the Grade 1-6 students at the cost of \$7.00. Please be sure to check your child's agenda for deadlines, assignments, and upcoming events.

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.

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 Mrs. Buitendyk or Mrs.

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 Mrs. 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 anytime 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.

