



L' École Edward Johnson School  
*Learning for Life Apprendre pour la vie*  
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Katherine Wainman: Principal  
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## January 2018



### Principal's Message

I sincerely hope that everyone had a chance to unwind over the holidays and spend some family time together.

I wish a Happy 2018 to everyone. This is a great time of year to reflect upon our accomplishments, and to look forward and set goals.

Again, thanks to our School Council for their continued support. We really do appreciate all the extra programming you help to provide. Please don't forget to come out to our School Council meeting on **Monday, January 8th** at 6:30 PM in the library. All are welcome to join us!

Katherine Wainman (Principal)

### Important Dates

- Jan. 8 - Back to school! School Council Meeting in Library at 6:30 PM
- Jan. 9 - **JK registration at 9 AM**
- Jan. 10 - Grade 4 Swimming at Centennial; DASH Program
- Jan. 11 - Scientists in Schools (White and Forbes)
- Jan. 12 - Scientists in Schools (Paxman and Davis)
- Jan. 16 - River Run (Grades 3 and 4)
- Jan. 17 - Grade 4 Swimming at Centennial
- Jan. 19 - **JK registration closes**; Little Jammerz starts in library
- Jan. 24 - Grade 4 Swimming at Centennial
- Jan. 25 - Edward Johnson Community Event (6-7 PM; more details to come)
- Jan. 26 - **Deadline to update immunization records**; PD Day (no school)
- Jan. 29 - Scientists in School (Stolfi); Guelph Police Visit (grades 2 and 3)
- Jan. 30 - Guelph Police Visit (grades 4 and 5)

## **Get Ready!! FI JK Registration is from January 9-19, 2018**

Junior Kindergarten Registration for French Immersion is from January 9 to 19, 2018 at all FI schools in UGDSB between the hours of 9 AM and 4 PM.

Our **new online registration process** for both English and French Immersion for September 2018 is available at [www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten).

Anyone wishing to enrol their child in French Immersion (FI) should be aware that there are caps on Junior Kindergarten registration. For more information, please visit [www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi). For more general information on Kindergarten Registration in general, please go to [www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkregistration](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkregistration).

Please bring the following documents to registration:

1. Birth certificate or Immigration papers
2. Immunization Record card
3. Proof of address (e.g., driver's license)

Children born in 2014 are eligible to be in Junior Kindergarten in September 2018. If you are registering your child for French Immersion, you must have your registration complete, including all documentation, by 4:00 PM on January 19, 2018.

### **Avoid School Suspension by Keeping Immunization Records Up-to-date!**



Students' immunization records must be provided to Public Health in order to attend school. The deadline is **January 26, 2018**. In the next few weeks, Public Health will send notices to students with incomplete immunization records. Anyone who has received a notice should contact their family doctor so they can update their vaccines, and then report their new vaccines to Public Health.

Report every vaccine to Public Health using one of the following methods:

- Online: Fill in the form at [www.immunizewdg.ca](http://www.immunizewdg.ca)
- Email: Send a photo of the immunization record to [vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca)
- Call: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396

If a student is not getting vaccinated for medical reasons, reasons of conscience or religious beliefs, an exemption form must be submitted to Public Health. The forms are available at [www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca).

Public Health is committed to helping students to update their vaccination records so they can avoid suspension from school.



### **Dress for the Weather!!**

It looks like winter with its cold temperatures is here to stay. With the cold weather, I would like to remind parents and guardians to send their children to school dressed warmly enough to be outside during recess breaks, even on very cold days. I will be using the “Wind Chill Hazards and What To Do Guide” published by Environment Canada to help make decisions regarding whether recesses are indoor or shortened during the day.

Please help your child come to school prepared with a heavy coat, boots, snow pants, warm mittens, scarf and hat. It is helpful to have an extra pair of mitts and socks in their backpacks.

### **Bus Cancellation Procedures**



There are several ways you can find out if the buses are cancelled. You can check out the UGDSB app; you can check the transportation website; you can follow the the Transportation Consortium on Twitter; and you can listen to the radio.

UGDSB app -- search “upper grand” where you get apps

Transportation Website - <http://www.stwdsts.ca/>

Follow on Twitter - @stwdsts

Listen to the radio - FM 106.1 or AM 1460

If you choose to drive your children to school school on days when buses are cancelled, then you must also pick them up by 3:00 PM. If there are no buses in the morning, then there are no buses in the afternoon, even if weather is improved. If you are not able to

pick them up by 3:00 PM, then you will have to keep them home for the day. If you choose to stay home with your children on a “No Bus” day, consider checking out our UG2GO website which has many great activities for students. Using the username: jk1234 and the password: jk1234, students can find some wonderful activities.

## **Change of Pick-up Plans**

Please write a note to the teacher in the agenda, indicating if there is a change in pick-up plans or leave a message with Mme Buitendyk as early as possible in the day. (Remember, the end of day is often quite hectic and not the best time to be phoning with changes in plans.) If there is no note in the agenda, nor a call to the main office outlining the new plans, then your child will be sent home following the normal routine.

## **Before and After Yard Supervision**

Teachers and ECE’s are on duty from 8:15 - 8:30 AM, and 3:00 - 3:10 PM. For safety reasons, please ensure that you plan your time so that students do not arrive prior to 8:30 AM or stay after 3:10 PM. Please remember that all children are reminded to follow our guidelines regarding safe play (including no snowball throwing and respectful interactions) before and after school.

Please remember that the creative playground structures are closed for the winter season. Weather permitting, we will be opening them for student play on Tuesday, April 3rd. Please do not let your children play on the playground equipment between November 1st and March 31st, including before and after school.



## **Talking to Children**

How many times have you asked your child what they did in school today and they said “nothing”? Do you feel that most of the conversations you have with your children are just about telling them what to do? Many parents feel this way; life is busy.

Giving children opportunities to have conversations is really important for their growth and learning. What to do? Children often ask a lot of questions, especially young children. Parents answer those questions and the conversation often just ends. How do

you keep the conversation going? Instead of answering the question what if next time you ask a question instead? Consider these questions: What do you think it is? What do

you think about that? What interests you about that? What do you notice? How do you think that works? If you get a one word answer you might make a comment such as, “tell me more”, “I’d like to hear more about that” or ask another question.

Listening carefully is also important when talking to your child. Children respond positively if they know they have been heard and that you are interested in what they have to say. Use comments to encourage your child to keep talking: “Tell me more about that”, “that must have been difficult/interesting”, “it sounds like you had fun”, “you must have felt disappointed/frustrated/angry”. Talk while having dinner together, preparing dinner, going out for a walk, at bedtime, on the way to school or while standing in the grocery line. Think of yourself as a partner in the conversation.

## **JANUARY is the time to carry out your resolutions!**

“There will be more waste plastic in the sea than fish by 2050” Dame Ellen MacArthur

## **It’s a brand new year and the perfect time for positive change. For example, let’s end plastic pollution.**

Based on the daily news, it’s never been more critical to increase your environmental efforts. This year the *Earth Day Network* is calling to end plastic pollution. Imagine a future free from harmful plastic garbage! Single-use plastics are especially wasteful and many plastics are also not properly recycled and take up precious landfill space or pollute our oceans, killing marine life and washing up on pristine beaches. Plastic garbage ‘islands’ are appearing in seas and oceans all over the world. One of these - the Great Pacific garbage patch, is estimated to be the size of Alberta.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>

## **Tips on how to reduce single-use plastics:**

- Extend your use of cloth shopping bags beyond the grocery store. Use them at all other retail stores too. (You can carry purse-sized, reusable folded bags.)
- Avoid buying over-packaged food. The choice is yours. Do you need to buy the carrots that are shrink wrapped on a Styrofoam tray, or can you buy a bundle that is tied together with a simple twist tie?
- Let the restaurants you frequent know that you would them to join the growing movement to ban the use of straws. Restaurants, organizations, institutions and schools worldwide have gotten rid of plastic straws or implemented a 'serve-straws-upon-request' policy.
- Tap water is best. Bottled water can deplete our precious groundwater resources and produce unnecessary green house gas emissions through the production and transport of plastic bottles. Carry a reusable water bottle instead.
- Lug a travel mug to your local coffee shop. (The plastic lining makes coffee cups unrecyclable, and they all end up in the garbage and in our overflowing landfills.)
- Write letters to the government asking them to fix a problem that you are concerned about such as: mandating the reduction of plastic packaging, banning Styrofoam, or promoting research for recyclable coffee cups, etc.