



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



We're Going Back To School



SEPTEMBER 2018

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2018 – 2019 School Year!

The renovations are mostly finished thanks to the contractors, the classroom and hallways are sparkling thanks to our custodial staff, the classrooms are set-up for the school year thanks to the teaching staff, and the office is organized thanks to office staff.

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.



We are saying “goodbye and best wishes” to:

Kaitlin Alcock (EA)
Barbara Beattie (CYC)
Louisa von Waldberg (Planning Teacher)
Paz Martinez (Kindergarten teacher)
Carlyn Morandi (Planning Teacher)

We are saying “welcome back” to the the following returning teachers:

Amanda Ammon	Primary/Junior Planning Teacher
Aimée Rathbone	Kindergarten Teacher
Teresa Tan	Kindergarten Planning Teacher

Here's to a wonderful 2018 - 2019 School Year!!

Upcoming Important Dates:

(Please be sure to check out our calendar on-line for changes and/or updates

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/johnson/calendar/monthly-view/>)

- Monday, **September 10th** First School Council Meeting of the Year (6:30pm - 8:30pm in Library)
- Thursday, **September 13th** School Open House (6:00 pm - 7:30 pm) in classrooms
- Friday, **September 21st** Terry Fox Run (more info to come)
- Tuesday, **September 25th** School Council Sponsored Community Event (more details to come)
- Wednesday, **September 26th** Rowan's Law Day and National Tree Day
- Thursday, **September 27th** Photo Day
- Friday, **September 28th** PD Day (no school for students)



Monthly Newsletters and Weekly Updates

You will receive a paper copy of today's newsletter. Future newsletters and important information will be posted on the school website. <https://www.ugdsb.ca/johnson>. You may request a hard copy each month by calling the school, but the best way to get information is to sign up for emails and to check our website.

If you wish to receive email notifications please note that Upper Grand District School Board requires your consent to send any electronic messages which promote,

advertise or offer for sale anything including school pictures, field trips, yearbooks, books, uniforms, food programs, event tickets or entry fees, fundraising events or items, or similar events or offers to sell goods and services.

If you consent to receiving commercial electronic messages from us, please complete and submit the form at www.ugdsb.ca/casl, or [click the following link](#).

You may withdraw your consent at any time.

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

You will be receiving a lot of information in the backpack during the first week. It has happened in the past that some forms have been lost in transit! Here is a list of what you should have received. Items in boldface need to be signed and returned.

- UGDSB Violence Threat/Risk Assessment and Suicide Protocol Notification
- School Emergency Response Training and Annual Drills
- School Cash Online info
- Consent to Share Personal Information**
- Student Personal Information Routine Uses and/or Disclosures
- School Emergency Response Training and Annual Drills
- Walking Trip Permission Form**
- School year calendar



Edward Johnson School Council
Newsletter
September 2018

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.
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, and a school bus trip for each class.

First School Council Meeting:

The first school council meeting will take place on **Monday, September 10th, 2018 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

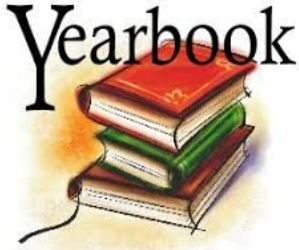
Chair, Co-chair, Treasurer, Co- Treasurer, Secretary, Co-Secretary, Communications, Co-Communications and Fundraising and Co-Fundraising. Come and visit the school council table at the School Open House (**Thursday, September 14th from 6:00pm to 7:30 pm**) to find out more of what we have to offer. Joining 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

Yearbook for the 2017 - 2018 School Year??

The Yearbook for the 2017 - 2018 school year, will be soon arriving to our school for delivery. It should be an amazing book filled with lots of great memories. Thanks to all who helped out and thanks especially to Mme Motto and Jill Gillis.



Receiving Bus Notifications



In order to receive email notifications of bus delays or cancellations, you have to re-register. Go to <http://stwdsts.ca/home/> and click on "Subscribe". Your registration from last year will not carry over to this year. 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. .



Looking for Volunteer Reading Tutors

We are looking for parents who would be willing to be reading tutors at our school this year. Mme Motto would be willing to train parents and this would involve a weekly volunteer commitment working with primary classes.

Terry Fox Run

Once again, the students of École Fred A. Hamilton will walk to raise money for the Terry Fox Foundation. On Friday, September 21st. You may send a donation to school to support this very worthy cause, or you may click on the link below to donate online. Online donations are still counted towards Edward Johnson's total contribution.



School Organization 2018 - 2019

Kindergarten A. Rathbone/ C. Robbins/ M. Finlay

Kindergarten S. Crawford / N. Szabo

Kindergarten N. Potwin/ S. Teasdale-Reill

Kindergarten L. MacDonald / E. Andrews

Grade 1 K. Forbes

Grade 1 M. Stolfi

Grade 1 K. Prilesnik

Grade 2 V. Paxman/ Y. Tendick

Grade 2 S. White

Grade 2 J. Davis/A. Mizutani

Grade 3 T. Owen

Grade 3/4 M. Webster

Grade 3 N. Anselmini-Lofton

Grade 4/5 S. Roberts

Grade 5/6 S. Lachmansingh

Grade 5/6 J. Caswell

Planning H. Patrick

A. Mizutani

J. Macleod

T. Tan

Y. Tendick

C. Robbins

A. Ammon

Library A. Mizutani

Resource V. Motto

Educational Assistants

Child and Youth Counsellor

Office Co-ordinator

Carla Scheffold and Brittany Hasson

(To be announced.)

J. Buitendyk

Head Custodian
Evening Custodian
Principal

D. Sweeney
B. Duigan
K. Wainman



Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions UGDSB Policy 518:

Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions, outlines the roles and responsibilities for all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders. If your child has one of these, or any other life-threatening medical condition, please visit: www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy (and look for Policy 518) or contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a Plan of Care to support your child.

Feedback welcome on draft board policies:

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is: Policy 503 – Safe Schools (Student Discipline, Bullying Prevention and Intervention, Suspension and Expulsion) This policy is important to students, staff, parents and guardians, school councils and the school community because everyone plays a role in maintaining a positive school climate and ensuring a safe, inclusive, and accepting learning and working environment in our schools. You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy. The deadline for public input is October 25, 2018 at 4 p.m. EST. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.

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

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.

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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.

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!**

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.



School Photo Day

Photo Day at l'École Edward Johnson will be Thursday, September 27th. 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.

First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-identification

If your child is a member of a First Nation, the Métis or the Inuit, then please consider having him or her self-identify. Self-identification helps in several ways: 1. Students will have access to more culturally relevant programming and

opportunities for unique cultural and academic experiences 2. The school system will have an opportunity to focus efforts and resources, as well as an increased awareness of the diverse needs of indigenous families. 3. The school community will have an opportunity for building relationships to increase student success and well being. Share your pride in your heritage! Please have come to the office (or have your child do so) to get a card that can be filled in and submitted if you wish to self-identify. Data will be protected and governed by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



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. The school pays for the agendas, but we do ask families to consider making a donation to offset the cost. The recommended amount is \$7, but we will gratefully accept any amount you feel you can manage at this point. You can make the payment online using School Cash Online by September 30th or you can bring cash to the office. Thank you very much. Please be sure to check your child's agenda for deadlines, assignments, and upcoming events.

School Code of Conduct

Our School Code of Conduct has been uploaded to our school website for your perusal. 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

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.



Anti- Bullying Plan

A detailed Anti-bullying Plan will be updated and posted to our website by the end of September. This plan is created by our Safe Schools Committee which consists of school staff, a community member, and parents. The committee uses data from the Climate Survey that all students and some families took in the spring. I will let you know when it has been prepared for the year and you will be invited to access it from our website so you will know how we plan to continue to reduce the amount of bullying at school. If you are interested in participating in this committee, then please contact the school.

Talking About Mental Health Sept 2018 – Heading Back to School



Hope that you had a wonderful summer! Transitioning back into school as summer ends can be exciting but also can be stressful for some children and families. As the children and youth head back to school, here are a few suggestions on how to make this a mentally healthy school year for all.

1. **Take care of your body.** Mental and physical health are linked. Make sure to get enough sleep, drink water, and eat well.
2. **Talk to your child/ren.** What did they like and enjoy about last year? What are they looking forward to this year? Have children name one thing they are looking forward to and one thing they are not looking forward to as much.
3. **Identify strengths and challenges.** Have them name 2 things they are good at in school and two things that they think might be more difficult. Strategize some ways to deal with challenges. At the end of the day reflect any strategies used and encourage them to try new strategies to build their coping tool kit.
4. **Problem solve with your child/ren.** Provide your child opportunities to make their own decisions and to come up with solutions for their concerns.

Remember to keep your expectations realistic and age appropriate. 1. Remain calm, and show your child trust, support and love when they are feeling stressed, anxious and worried. Have a wonderful and mentally healthy school year!

Jenny Marino, UGDSB Mental Health and Addictions Lead

Combined Grade (Split Grade) Classrooms



Combined classes group children from two or more consecutive grades into one classroom. Schools combine classes for a variety of reasons to meet the learning needs of students and to balance class sizes. All classrooms are created with students who have a range of skills and

abilities. As in same-grade classrooms, teachers, in combined grades, use a variety of strategies to ensure that the grade appropriate curriculum expectations are covered.

Combined classrooms are very common in schools today and they are neither better nor worse than single-grade classes. Studies have proven that students in combined grades do just as well academically as students in single-grade classrooms. The academic research on combined classrooms has outlined the benefits that students gain while in combined classes. These benefits include learning to work individually and as part of a team, development of leadership skills, development of decision-making skills, self-motivation, and responsibility. Student placement is carefully considered by school staff every year. Individual student needs, as well as class dynamics, are balanced to create school classrooms. When placing students in classrooms, the principal and all teachers take into consideration many different factors which include: the number of students, the number of boys and girls, student learning styles, academic strengths and needs, learning skills, work habits, and social and emotional strengths and needs. Whether the students are in an older or younger grade in a combined classroom, they will be challenged at their own academic level.

For further information about combined classrooms, please consult the following information that has been developed by the Ministry of Education: An Introduction to Combined Grades

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/combinedClassrooms/combinedClassrooms.pdf> Combine Grades

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/combined.pdf>



September 26th is National Tree Day!

“Let nature be your teacher.” William Wordsworth Celebrate National Tree Day on September 26th 2018! “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.”

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 and reduces symptoms associated with attention deficit disorder. It can even reduce the likelihood of needing glasses for near-sightedness.

<https://davidsuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/one-nature-challenge/>

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 Nature Challenge. If you want to feel healthier, happier and more focused - add a daily dose of nature to your routine! Spend 30 minutes a day in nature for 30 days to kick-start a nature habit that lasts all year-round. Find out more at

<https://davidsuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/one-nature-challenge/>

