

Ken Danby Public School

525 Grange Road, Guelph, Ontario N1E 7C4
Tel. 519.836.4545 Fax 519.836.9612

Principal: S. Marquis; VP: T. Drohan
Office Coordinator: L. Smith

May 2018 Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-PRINCIPAL

We are looking forward to May bringing us some warmer weather and lots of sunshine. Students and staff are excited to start some learning in the outdoors.

We would like to thank all the RBC volunteers and parent volunteers who will help us on our Environmental yard clean-up day on May 2. The yard always looks wonderful after this event and will be ready for new growth.

As always, the last two months of school are very busy, both curricularly and extra-curricularly, as teachers finish up this year's expectations. Plans are underway for many special in school and out of school learning experiences for our students with their classes, divisions and the school as a whole.

We would like to thank Mrs. Sinkovits, Mrs. Filippakis and Mr. Jackson along with all the volunteers, staff and parents who helped with our Arts Night. What a wonderful event and experience for students and community!

On Friday June 15 from 8:00 – 8:45 am, we are hoping that all parents and community members who have volunteered at Ken Danby Public School will join us for our Sunrise Volunteer Tea. Come stop by and grab a coffee/tea and muffin/cookie to take with you as you start your busy day. Anyone who has volunteered this year is invited.

Enjoy the months of Spring ahead. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Saskia Marquis and Trisha Drohan

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We have several ways we are communicating information to Parents and School Community:

1. School Website: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/kendanby/>
2. Aizan Automated phone messages: Please note messages will be sent to the primary phone number that was provided to the office.
3. Twitter @KDDiamondbacks
4. Upper Grand and School Messenger Apps

Communication



SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

This is a very busy time of year for Ken Danby School Council. We are preparing for the RBC grant events and planning for the Summer Carnival and look forward to seeing you and your families at the events!

School Carnival May 31st 5-8pm

This year the University of Guelph Football team is coming back to Ken Danby! They will be organizing a football toss, obstacle course and giving away autographed posters. Back due to popular demand will be the raffle baskets, food will generously be provided by Maple Lodge Farms, face painting by Cleo the Clown and many other carnival themed games. Of course, our night wouldn't be complete without a pie-in-the face contest between 2 teachers!. More information will follow closer to the event, but for now save the date: Thursday May 31st.

Contact Information

If you can volunteer any of your time to these RBC events and/or the Carnival or if you have items you can contribute to the silent auction then please contact School Council at sc.kendanby@ugdsb.on.ca. All help and donations are welcomed and very much appreciated! You can also find us on twitter at **KenDanbySC**.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled School Council meeting will be **Thursday May 10th at 6:30pm** in the library and are always looking for new members. You can also stay informed by reading the [School Council meeting minutes](#) that are posted on the school website.

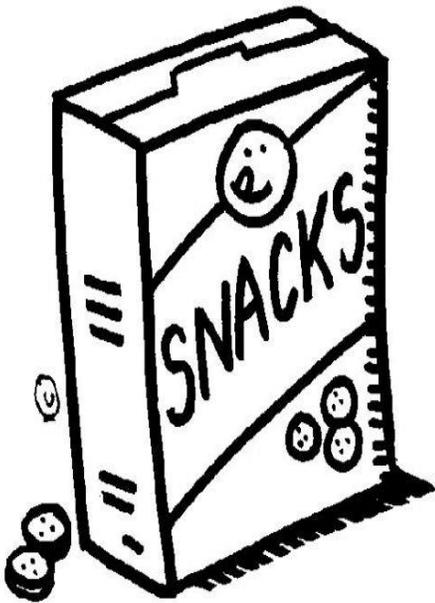
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION FOR NEW STUDENTS STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2018

Ken Danby PS welcomes our future Junior Kindergarten students and their families. Please join us at school on Friday, June 8^h, from 9 to 10 am. The kindergarten teachers look forward to playing with the children while parents gather in the gym to learn more about our school and community. We can't wait to see everyone there!

EQAO

At the end of this month our grade 3 and 6 students will complete their Ministry of Education EQAO testing, which takes place on the 23, 24 and 25 of May. A reminder for students in these grades is to avoid any scheduled absences on these three days if at all possible.

SNACK PROGRAM



We are thrilled to announce that our Live Free Campaign raised \$1 455.60 this year! All of this money will be used to purchase healthy food to feed hungry Ken Danby students. Thank you to all who contributed!

We would also like to thank the following sponsors of this year's program: Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, President's Choice Children's Charity, Food and Friends, Ken Danby School Council, and generous community members.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the Turner family for being amazing volunteers this year. Without your help, we would not be able to offer such enjoyable fresh snacks each week. Ken Danby appreciates you!

Mrs. Scott

YEAR BOOK ORDERS



Have you ordered your amazing 2017-2018 Ken Danby Yearbook yet? This beautiful 40 page colour book includes all children from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 8 (unless otherwise requested). Keep those treasured memories by purchasing this book for only \$15 at <http://www.schoolcashionline.com>. Only those books ordered by May 15 will be published so order now!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

600 students from the Upper Grand District School Board and Wellington Catholic District School Board will be joining together to celebrate sport at the Special Olympics, May 16, 2018. The event will be held at St. James sports fields, and includes track and field events as well as adaptive events. Athletes flock to the sports fields for the opening ceremonies at 10:00, and

compete in 3 events each throughout the day. Family and friends are welcome to join in the fun and cheer on the athletes. Parking is available at the Grange plaza.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE



Online Payment

School Cash Online is the school's preferred payment method. Many families send in cash for field trips as these trip costs are low and making online payments can result in bank charges through this system. Did you know you can use the "My Wallet" feature to deposit funds into and then use those funds as needed to pay for items online. This makes good sense as you only pay from your bank account or credit card when you transfer funds into the wallet. Funds transferred into "My Wallet" do not expire and remain available for purchases until funds are fully drawn down. Refund requests for unused funds can be made at any time by submitting a request to mywallet@kevgroup.com. Some families have found this option works well and they are able to save on bank fees by placing enough into the wallet to cover several trips, pizza and milk orders.

MAY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES TO HELP CELEBRATE OUR PLANET

May 22nd is International Biodiversity Day!



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

Celebrate Biological Diversity Day on May 22nd!

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

Biodiversity simply means: 'A wide range of life'" Some of the things we do are harmful, so we need to learn more about how to protect all the different types of life on our planet.



22 MAY 2017
INTERNATIONAL DAY
FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism
<https://www.cbd.int/>

Ideas for your family to celebrate Biodiversity Day!

- Visit farmers markets in your local area to try new types of produce. Whether you incorporate heirloom tomatoes into your cooking, or try one of the rainbow of colors of carrots, biodiversity can bring a great new experience to your table.
- View photos of endangered species on the Internet with your child and discuss the reasons why these animals are threatened and why they should be protected.
- Join a community group and help to remove invasive plants from your local environment.
- Get out into the world and enjoy all the different types of life your local area offers. Even your street or a local park can have an amazing variety of life you've never noticed, from insects, birds, chipmunks, to trees and flowers.
- Consider planting a pollinator garden in your yard (or in a flowerpot) to help save the bees and butterflies from declining.

Adapted from: <https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/international-day-for-biological-diversity/>

Celebrate the diversity of our natural world every day!

FEEDBACK WELCOME ON DRAFT POLICIES FOR UGDSB

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is the following draft policy:

501 – Out of Area and Out of District Attendance

It is important for students, staff, school councils and parents to understand when and how applications for out of area and out of district attendance are considered while the board continues to maintain viable programs in all 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 May 24, 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.

TALKING ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Talking about Mental Health - May 7-11 is Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-being Week!

Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-being Week is about promoting mental wellness, increasing awareness of child and youth mental health, decreasing stigma and understanding that support is available. Let's improve everyone's mental health and well-being!

The theme for Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-being at UGDSB is: Have a **SUPER** Week!

Social Connections

Understanding Emotions

Personal Health

Empathy

Resilience

Each day of the week will focus on a different aspect of Mental Health and Well Being. The schools will be provided with resources and activities related to each day's theme.

As a parent, you can increase the Mental Health and Well-being of your children, youth and family too! Here are some suggestions:

- **Monday May 7 -Social Connection** - ``Don't be shy. Just say hi!``
 - Say Hi to 3 people that you do not know. Perform a random act of kindness.
- **Tuesday May 8 – Understanding Emotions** – “Sad, glad, happy, mad – just be you”
 - Right now, stop and reflect on how you are feeling. Take a couple of moments as a family to do some deep breathing. <http://youth.anxietybc.com/how-do-it> Now, how are you feeling?
- **Wednesday May 9 – Personal Health** - “Healthy Self. Heal-thy self”.
 - **Wear green today to support Mental Health Awareness.**
 - Did you know that how our bodies feel affects how good we are feeling? Three of the best things you can do to improve your mood is to exercise, sleep well and eat well. Go for a walk or play a game, get outside, turn off the devices an hour before bed and eat fresh food! The more you do to help your body feel good, the better you will feel!

- **Thursday May 10 – Empathy** - “Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody”.
 - When in doubt – be kind. Try seeing something from another person`s perspective today.
- **Friday May 11 – Resilience** - “If Plan A doesn`t work, the alphabet has 25 more letters!”.
 - Mental Health and Well-being means coping with the ups and downs of day to day life. Building more resilient thoughts and skills can really help. Children and youth can also find support by seeking help from caring adults. Take time now to talk with child or youth about who those caring adults are in their lives.

For more information about Mental Health and Well-being and interactive activities with your children and youth:

Mind your Mind (online) www.mindyourmind.ca/Interactives

Fun, interactive options for de-stressing for youth.

Smiling Mind (Free App) smilingmind.com.au/

An app that guides you through simple, calming meditations.

GoNoodle (Free App) <https://www.gonoodle.com/>

Fun interactive body and mind breaks for kids.

At the end of the week, talk with your child/youth about the things that made them feel more connected, emotionally aware, healthy, empowered and resilient and continue to do those things every day!

Most of all... have a SUPER week!

Jenny Marino is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board

ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

"To listen well is as powerful a means of communication and influence as to talk well." — John Marshall

In education we strive to teach our students how to become effective communicators so that they are successful in their future endeavours whether in English, French or any other language. Oral communication skills in French including listening, speaking, and interacting, are not unlike oral communication skills in your first language, however, oral communication in French does require attention to a different sound system, new vocabulary and at times an understanding of contexts or cultures that may differ from those of your first language.

How do educators teach oral communication in a second language to a diverse group of students that are at different stages in their oral language development?

Teachers know that the acquisition of oral language typically follows a developmental sequence. They understand that students need to hear the language repeatedly before they will begin to speak it. When students enter immersion or core programs they typically do not have an oral foundation in French. This foundation is created through an emphasis on listening and speaking in authentic contexts to build vocabulary and learn various forms of the language so that students can understand and convey meaning. Hearing and using high frequency words and expressions, learning vocabulary in context, building phonemic awareness, creating environments rich in talk, as well as engaging students in listening activities are all strategies used by teachers to support students in becoming confident oral communicators.

Teachers also support students by modelling effective oral communication, guiding students through oral communication activities, and providing many opportunities for students to practice oral language. As students enter immersion and core French programs they are beginners in the language and diverse in the skills they bring to school. Teachers provide high structure and meet students at their developmental stage to best support and move students forward in their language learning.

How can parents support student oral communication at home when they don't speak French?

One way to do this is to speak with and listen to your child in their first language. In the Ontario Ministry of Education document “Supporting your Child’s Success in French Immersion and Extended French - A Parent Guide” it states “Helping your child develop a broad vocabulary in English, or the language you speak at home, has added benefits. It helps develop thinking skills, teaches your child to communicate with precision and provides more opportunities to make connections with French.”

Research also shows that oral communication skills are transferable across languages. For example, understanding how to vary volume, pace and vocabulary to suit a purpose and an audience is a skill that is transferable to French.

Another way to support and motivate your child is to help them see that French exists outside of the classroom. Watching French television, listening to French radio, borrowing French DVDs and materials from the library and travelling to French speaking regions are all ways to experience French outside of the educational context.

What happens when students are not moving forward in their oral language development or parents have concerns about student progress?

Discussing your concerns as soon as they arise by speaking with your child’s teacher and then examining appropriate courses of action and supports as a team are important first steps.

It is important to remember that a student who struggles to communicate orally in French can achieve a level of proficiency **and that supports should be explored before considering more drastic measures.** French as a second language programs are for all students. Promoting this belief helps to create a supportive environment where students feel more confident and can be successful.

Further Reading:

1. Capacity Building Series. “Teaching and learning in the Core French Classroom”. The Ontario Ministry of Education.

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/CBS_Core_French.pdf

2. Capacity Building Series. “Let’s Talk about Listening”. The Ontario Ministry of Education.

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/Talk_about_listening.pdf

3. What Works? Research into Practice. “Supporting Early Language and Literacy. Dr. Janette Pelletier OISE, University of Toronto. The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat.

http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/inspire/research/WW_Early_Language.pdf

LONG TERM ACCOMMODATION PLAN FINAL REPORT (DRAFT) –PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) Final Report (Draft) is going to be presented at 5 regional public meetings throughout the month of May.

The draft report includes a list of proposed short (1-5 yrs.) and long (6-10 yrs.) accommodation priorities. The report does not include any recommended changes to school programs or boundaries.



We invite you to attend any of the following meetings:

- Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 7-9 pm – Erin PS, gymnasium
- Thursday, May 3, 2018, 7-9 pm – Centennial CVI, cafeteria
- Thursday, May 10, 2018, 7-9 pm – Orangeville DSS, cafetorium
- Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 7-9 pm – Centre Wellington DHS, cafetorium
- Thursday, May 17, 2018, 7-9 pm – Norwell DSS, double gymnasium



Feedback collected in this second phase of engagement will inform staff's work to finalize the LTAP.

Please visit www.ugdsb.ca/ltap for more information and to provide feedback. The LTAP webpage includes all documents including the LTAP Final Report (Draft), an online comment form and an opportunity to sign up to receive updates.