



October Newsletter

Dear Families,

I would like to start off by saying how proud I am of the students by quickly settling into the new routines and protocols. Thank you to the staff for helping to teach and guide our students and to parents for using the self-assessment tool each morning and sending your students masked and prepared for learning.

Public Health has also informed us of a new change about students requiring masks in hallways when heading outside for recess/phys-ed and returning inside. This means that students will now need to take their masks outside with them. To help support this process, we have purchased breakaway lanyards for students to attach masks to each day. Lanyards will stay here at school nightly. If one comes home, please make sure your child wears it the next day. We have been using the lanyards for the last couple of days and seem to be working great!

We would also like to invite families to our Virtual Open House tonight at 6:30! The staff have worked hard to put together a slideshow for families to view from the comforts of home. To access the Virtual Open House, please have your child sign into their Google Classroom after 6:30 to view the slideshow!

We would also like to say good-bye to Mrs. Stortz who is an Educational Assistant. Mrs. Stortz has been re-assigned to Arthur PS. We are hoping to hire an EA for the afternoons, very shortly! Also, we are hoping to have a Part-Time Resource Teacher hired in the near future. Although there are many changes to our school, much has remained the same. Students are learning in their classrooms, sharing lived experiences and having fun at recess. We know that the cooler weather will be here soon and we are working on a plan for students to hang up coats in our hallway. Please stay tuned for more information.

Please know that if you have any questions or concerns, please call me at the school.

Mrs. L. Cozzarin

COVID-19 Screening Tool

Please remember to screen your child(ren) each day before school. If they are unwell, please keep them at home. The government has created a new easy online tool for you to use.

Please go to <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

School Cash Online

Just a reminder that we will be moving to School Cash Online for all things required to purchase at school. This will be the only way to accept payment. Please take some time to register. To register, please go to the School Cash Online home page

ugdsb.schoolcashionline.com and select "Get Started Today". Complete each of the three Registration Steps *For Security Reasons, your password requires 8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.

UGConnect

Kenilworth's Public School's main mode of communication with families will be the UGDSB School Messenger App which is a communication tool for your smartphone.

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 (called UG Connect) is available at either the Google Play Store or at iTunes. Use the search term "Upper Grand" to find the app. Once you have the Upper Grand app on your device, go into "Settings" within the app and select Kenilworth Public School. Information from our website can be seen in the News section of the app and our calendar details will show up there too!

Allergies at School

We want to remind families that we do have food allergies at our school. If this affects your child's class, the teacher would have sent a message to families.

Also we want families to be aware that a product called **WOW butter** (looks and tastes like peanut butter, is a soy-based product) is not a product allowed in classrooms. This is not because of a health danger, but because it is confusing for students in the class and for staff monitoring the room. We cannot find ourselves in a situation where we have to decide whether something is peanut butter or not. A simple note from parents is not sufficient.

We appreciate that it is difficult at times to find a variety of items for student lunches; however, we ask for your understanding and support in this situation.

Emergency Drills

Throughout the month of October we will be participating in 3 Fire Drills and a Lock Down Drill. These are mandatory drills that all schools must do each fall and spring. We will be completing these drills with safety protocols in place.

PATS Meeting

The School Council will be meeting virtually on Thursday, October 8th from 6:30-7:30. Please see the school website to get Google Meet Code. We are also required to let families know about School Council Financials. Please see below for last year's financial report.

PATS 2019-2020 Summary

Opening Balance \$1,988.91

Event	Income	Expense	Net
Little Caesars Pizza	\$4,432.00	\$3,411.00	\$1,021.00
Harvest Moon	\$1,852.15	\$299.52	\$1,552.63
Craft Sale	\$1,453.60	\$311.12	\$1,142.48
Lamontagne (chocolate bars)	\$1,995.00	\$1,847.55	\$147.45
Cross Country food booth	\$523.25	\$286.85	\$236.40
Family Events (Kids shopping, pancake day)	\$693.90	\$991.29	-\$297.39
Donations and Community Work	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Greening Project	\$635.00	\$3,052.90	-\$2,417.90
Teacher Expenses, programs		\$777.20	-\$777.20
Scientist in the Classroom		\$205.00	-\$205.00
School trips, sports		\$444.88	-\$444.88
birthday books		\$49.15	-\$49.15
office supply - cheques		\$75.24	-\$75.24
	\$12,584.90	\$11,751.70	\$833.20

Closing Balance \$2,822.11

MENTALLY HEALTHY RETURN TO SCHOOL-From Mental Health Lead Jenny Marino

Welcome back! Whether remote learning or in-building learning, we are all facing a very different return to school. At UGDSB we have committed to ensuring a welcoming, safe and mentally healthy return to school. Although we don't know exactly what the next months will look like we DO know that the best way to prepare for the unknown is to attend to the quality of our relationships (Wheatley, 2004, Disturb Me, Please). We need to all commit to continued learning and, especially, to reflecting deeply on the inequities that have been amplified through the pandemic (School Mental Health Ontario, 2020). We need to SEE students and give them space to tell their stories, to feel like they belong, to build relationships and to feel safe and welcomed. And we need to continue to prioritize mental health and well-being at our schools.

We are excited to share with our parent/family community the launch of the UGDSB Umbrella Project! Through a teacher-led curriculum and school-based activities this program helps us all to explore ways to manage the everyday stressors of life. Every month a new theme will be the focus across the board from staff, to students and beyond. We hope that you will join us in this important work because as caregivers you have a powerful impact on childhood well-being.

WHY AN UMBRELLA? The umbrella represents the ways in which our skill sets can protect us from and help us work through some of the everyday stressors we are faced with. Just like the weather there will be calm days and stormy days. We can't control the weather, but we can keep ensuring that we have a strong umbrella.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE? Every month my Talking About Mental Health article will focus on the theme of the month., This month is the introduction of this important work. So, what can you do at home?

- Talk about what things help you face difficult days?
- Make a list of words that represent "wellness" to you
- Keep a wellness jar with words, pictures or phrases that can be taken out by other family members when they need a little boost
- Put something on your fridge (maybe a big umbrella cutout!) that represents the skills you will be building through the year
- Talk about how to find support if you aren't feeling mentally healthy

Keep your eyes open for next month's theme! Join our wellness community and follow along with the Upper Grand's Umbrella Project each month. You can also follow on social media #UGUmbrella.

Jenny Marino, Mental Health Lead

#ugdsb_mental_health. #UGUmbrella

