



# École King George Public School

72 Lemon Street, Guelph, Ontario N1E 2H5



Phone: 519-822-1911 Fax: 519-837-0034 [www.ugdsb.on.ca/kg](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/kg)

**Principal: Randy Dewey**

**Vice-Principal: Kelley Jones**

**Office Coordinator: Laurie Carrow**

## Septembre 2019/September 2019

### Message from the Principal

Welcome back to École King George Public School! We hope you have had a great summer break and have had a chance to enjoy family, friends and events. Our teachers and staff have been very busy organizing classrooms and preparing their plans. We are all very excited to see returning students and those who are new to our school. The building itself is sparkling clean, thanks to the hard work of Mr. Noble, Mrs. Haayen and Mrs. Geensen.

Our student population has increased to over 510! We have added an Intermediate class to accommodate our numbers. As in any school, reorganization of classes and teachers, once actual student numbers are known, is always a possibility during the first couple of weeks of school. We always do our best to keep movement of students and teachers at a minimum, but it is important to remember that class changes may occur.

Please keep in mind that our first School Council meeting is scheduled for September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in our library. This is a great way to become more involved with your child's school. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

For communication purposes, we try to send this monthly newsletter out by the first Friday of each month. We also encourage parents to sign up for email messages. You can do this by going onto our website and at the bottom of the page click onto the area under "Let us email you". Another method that we will be using this year is through the app, "School Messenger". We also encourage you to sign up for our School Cash Online system, in order to help us eliminate cash and cheques that come into the school.

We hope you have a great start to the new school year. Please feel welcome to stop by and meet us at the office or simply say hello again, if you are passing by. We are excited for the start of our new year.

R. Dewey and K. Jones

## First Day of School

On Tuesday morning (September 3), the following will happen:

1. Grade 1-8 students will congregate on the tarmac of the schoolyard where teachers will be waiting. Large signs will be posted with grades (1-8) and at least one teacher will be standing next to each sign.
2. Students will find their grade and stand close to the sign.
3. Students will identify themselves to the teachers nearby.
4. Teachers will direct the students to their appropriate classes.
5. When the bell rings, teachers will take their students into the school.

Senior kindergarten students will go to the kindergarten yard. Teachers will meet them and take them to the correct class. If your child arrives on the bus, we will make sure they are guided to the kindergarten yard.

**If it is raining... Intermediate students will be directed upstairs to classes. Primary students will be directed to the ground-floor classrooms and Junior students will be directed to the gym where classes will be posted and teachers will be available to direct students.**

At the end of the day, we would ask that if you are meeting your child, you have arranged a specified meeting place outside. Otherwise, they will be dismissed to walk home or take the bus.

## King George Day Schedule

Here is the breakdown of our daily schedule. Please help to ensure that your child/children arrive at the school on time to ensure a good start to their day.

Supervision on yard starts:	8:05
Entry Bell for Intermediates:	8:15
Entry Bell for all others:	8:20
Period 1:	8:20-9:10
Period 2:	9:10-10:00
First Nutritional Break:	10:00-10:20
First Recreational Break:	10:20-10:45
Period 3:	10:45-11:35
Period 4:	11:35-12:25
Second Nutritional Break:	12:25-12:45
Second Recreational Break:	12:45-1:10
Period 5:	1:10-2:00
Period 6:	2:00-2:50
End of school day:	2:50

## Staff Changes

With a larger school population along with staff transfers and leaves of absences, we have several new names added to our roster here at King George. We welcome all our new staff to our school and we know that they will be a great addition to our 'KG family'! Kelley Jones is our new Vice-Principal. She was Vice-Principal at Minto-Clifford so will enjoy the shorter drive to work! Lauren Ackerman is an EA, new to our school; new to our teaching staff include Aida Chaarani, Dawn Smith, and Kyla Calzonetti.

## Lunch time supervisors needed

If you enjoy supervising children and like to work in a school, this could be the job for you! We are currently looking for caring and friendly individuals who would be available as back-up supervisors on an as-needed basis to supervise our students during nutrition and recess breaks Monday through Friday from 10:00 am-11: 00 am and/or 12:25-1:25 pm. These are paid positions within the Upper Grand District School Board. If you are interested, please contact Kelley Jones at (519) 822-1911, ext 224.

## Student Forms to be Returned

Your child(ren) will bring home information and forms to be completed, signed and returned to their homeroom teacher. Please check over the white verification forms and mark any changes to information directly on the form, sign the bottom and return to the homeroom teacher. The blue permission form for walking trips within the neighbourhood is to be signed, if permission is granted, and the pink consent to share personal information, completed, signed and returned. Please return the signed student accident insurance acknowledgement to the teacher, but the application forms and cheques are to be mailed directly to the insurance company and NOT sent to the school. These forms are to be returned to your child(ren)'s homeroom teacher **by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**. Thank you for your prompt attention to submitting these forms.

## Pay Online

If you would like to pay for school items such as class trip fees, milk, pizza, spirit wear, please visit: [ugdsb.SchoolCashOnline.com](http://ugdsb.SchoolCashOnline.com) and click "Get Started Today"! It is safe, fast, and convenient.

## **Snack Program Coordinator needed**

Over the past several years our students have enjoyed the benefits of having healthy snacks in their classrooms. This has happened because we have had several parent volunteers buying nutritious snacks and delivering them directly to each classroom twice a week. It also has happened because one of those parents, Sarah Westmacott, coordinated the program for our school. Sarah is unable to continue this task this year but would be happy to help get a new coordinator started. If you are interested please contact either Mr. Dewey or Mme Jones. We really want to continue this valuable program.

## **Email Blasts**

Make sure you stay well-informed by registering your email address with us so that you get up-to-date information on important news and events. Look for details on how to register at the bottom of our website homepage under "Stay Connected".

## **Medications**

Please remember that all student medication must be stored and administered from the office. In order to give any medication we must have the appropriate form completed and signed by a parent or guardian. If your child will require medication at school, please contact Mrs. Carrow, in the school office, so that she can make sure that you have the appropriate form to fill out. We require updated and signed forms each year.

## **LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL PLANS**

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](http://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.

## **Life Threatening Allergies**

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies (called anaphylaxis) to various foods and other materials. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. Some of these include: peanuts and hazelnuts. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you are aware that we aim to create an allergy-safe

environment at our school. If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, or your child has anaphylaxis, you will be informed by the classroom teacher. 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.

If your child has a life-threatening illness of any kind, please inform the office so that a "Life Threatening Management and Prevention Plan" is completed promptly. This plan is essential so that the school can take appropriate action in the event of any emergency (i.e., use of EpiPen). Children requiring medication such as EPI-PENS for life-threatening medical conditions are required to carry this medication with them at all times. We suggest a fanny pack. Additional EPI-PENS may be kept in the school office.

## **SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM**

It is very important that you notify the school office if your child is going to be late or absent for any reason. There is an answering machine on 24 hours a day so please use this system to keep us informed. Please call the office if your child is going to be late or absent from school. You may leave a message on ext. 100. Please help us ensure that all students arrive at school safely. We also require a note or phone call from parents if you will be picking up your child(ren) during or after school. Be sure to SIGN IN at the office when dropping off or picking up your children during the school day.

## **LATE ARRIVALS**

School begins at 8:20 a.m. If a student arrives after this time, they must sign in at the office and pick up a late slip. Students who are late will not be admitted to their classroom without a late slip. Please encourage your child to be on the school yard no later than 8:15 so that they can enter the school with their class.

## **STUDENT PICK-UP**

If you are picking up your child at school during the day, PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE, and your child will be called to meet you there. For our students' safety, please sign your child out at the office before taking him/her out of the school at any time during the day. Also, if the school has not received a note or call (in emergency cases) from the parent/guardian, students will be sent home in the usual way. \*If students are going to be picked up by someone other than the parent/guardian, a note is needed from the parent/guardian in order to ensure the safety of the children. Classes end at 2:50. Please inform the classroom teacher if you are picking up your child. It would be beneficial if students knew in the morning what the end of day plan is. It gets very busy in the office and it is often difficult to call into classrooms to make students aware of plans. Students are not allowed to leave the school during the day without a

parent or guardian picking them up. Please inform the office and homeroom teacher if you know that you will be picking up your child during the day.

## **VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS**

For everyone's safety, we require ALL visitors to report to the office each time they enter the school. Anyone visiting or volunteering in the school (including parents) MUST SIGN IN AT THE OFFICE and wear an identification badge when in the school or on school grounds. Our students recognize those who are wearing the school badge as members of our school community. Please do not be offended if a staff member stops you to ask why you are in the school. Even if you have been in the school before, not all teachers may recognize you. Again, we request this for the safety of your child(ren).

## **Agendas & Locks**

Students in grades 1-6 will be receiving agendas. Agendas will also be available for students in Grades 7 & 8 if requested. Agendas are an excellent means of communication between home and school. We appreciate your contribution of \$6.50 for each agenda to help cover the cost. Intermediates can also purchase combination locks for their lockers at the office for \$5.00. Agenda contributions can be made on our school cashless online system or cheques can be made payable to King George P.S.

## **Pizza**

Pizza is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays on a cash and token basis, where students can buy tokens for \$1.75 to exchange for a slice of pizza or buy slices directly for \$2.00. Pizza is served during the second nutrition break. Students will also be able to pre-order pizza slices for Friday lunches. The Friday program is run by the School Council and forms will be sent home in September.

## **Terry Fox Run**

This year, the Terry Fox Assembly and Run/Walk will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2018. Students will be asked to bring a toonie for Terry! If you would like to help as a volunteer that day, please contact Mme Sales.

## Junior Cross-Country

The Junior Cross-Country Running Club will begin Tuesday, September 10, 2019 with practices being held before school from 8:00 am to 8:20 am. A meeting will be held on Friday September 6, 2019.

## Fresh from the Farm - Fundraiser

This campaign is a way that our Intermediate students can use to help offset the cost of their year-end-trips. It is also used by some teachers as a way to help offset the cost of bussing on selected class trips (Not all classes participate.). The way the campaign works is that students sell a bundle of vegetables (A bundle is 5 pounds of white potatoes, 3 pounds of sweet potatoes, 3 pounds of yellow onions, and 3 pounds of carrots) or an 8 pound box of Empire apples. Intermediate students get 40% of their individual sales credited back to them to help pay for their trip.

## This 'n That at King George

### Dates to Remember:

September 3 – First day of school  
18 – School Council Meeting - 6:30 PM  
25 - Open House 6:00-7:30  
27 – PA Day

## Volunteers Needed

### Parent and Community Volunteers needed Saturday September 14 from 12:30-3:30:

We need lots of helping hands on Saturday September 14 from 12:30-3:30, when college & university students with Project Serve will be at King George to help us tame our wild weedy gardens. We'll need people to guide the students to weed right down to the roots, provide some refreshments, bring tools and wheelbarrows. The more hands the more likely we'll get it done in one go! If you have extra hostas or sturdy ground cover, or anything tall or bushy that attracts butterflies, you could bring it and we'll plant it in some of the weedy beds, in the hope of squeezing out the weeds. If you can help, please e-mail Greening Grounds Committee Ecole King George <[greencmte@hotmail.com](mailto:greencmte@hotmail.com)>.

## **Save our Trees!**

**I am the Lorax, I speak for the Trees! Please help protect our schoolyard trees!**

The protective fencing was taken down from around our beautiful trees perhaps a little too soon, as they are still quite vulnerable. Eco-Club will be undertaking many education initiatives this year to teach students about the trees and their importance as well as how to care for them. You could start by explaining to your children why they should not climb the trees, or pull on branches or leaves. These trees are in such a high traffic area that they cannot manage ANY extra handling. There are already several branches broken from people climbing them. Furthermore, please explain to them not to scratch the bark. The bark of the tree is like our skin, and it protects the tree from insects and getting infections. Unfortunately there are already several examples of initials scratched into the trees.

Please talk to your children about how to care for our trees!

## **News from School Council**

**The next school council meeting is Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 in the library. We would love to see you out.**

## **Smoke and Vape-free School Environment**

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke and vape-free environment for its students, staff and others while on school Board property and at school events. Under our policy, all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed is included. Additionally, all forms of e-cigarettes are also covered under this policy.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.



# School Traffic

Welcome back to school!

September 3, 2019

City of Guelph Bylaw Officers continue to see challenges around some schools. We would like to remind all new and returning parents on the rules about parking to make the back-to-school experience safe and easy for everyone.

If you need to drive, one way to ensure that your children make it to school safely is to park a distance away from all the traffic and walk your students to the school.

Together, parents, School Councils and the City put time and consideration into parking areas and enforcement around schools. We use no parking and no stopping zones to relieve traffic and encourage parking and drop offs in areas that are safe to do so.

## No parking

A "No Parking" sign means just that – no parking. Parents are encouraged to find an area near the school where they can park if they need to leave their vehicles to drop off students. You may use these areas to pull over and let a student out safely, however, you should not exit your vehicle at any time. Be mindful that you can still receive a ticket if you're near your car or in your car waiting; blocking other parents from using a quick drop off space still means you're parked.

## No stopping

"No Stopping" signs means you may not use that space to stop and drop off a student, no matter how quick you are. When you stop in a "No Stopping" zone, you impact the safety of others. Instead, find a place where you can park safely, or use designated Kiss and Ride zones for quick drop offs.

## Be a good neighbour

Please be mindful of other neighbours in the area. Be courteous and don't block driveways. The convenience to park closely for you, no matter how quick you are, is not worth the inconvenience of someone else not being able to leave their home.

If you have to drive a student to school and park, ask around to see if other parents would allow you to park in a driveway nearby to walk.

### **David Wiedrick, Manager**

Bylaw Compliance, Security and Licensing, Operations

City of Guelph

519-822-1260 extension 3475

[david.wiedrick@guelph.ca](mailto:david.wiedrick@guelph.ca)

## Saturday and After-School Programs

### Got kids? We've got programs to keep them busy!

Registration is open for Saturday programs that begin Sept. 21st and run for 12 weeks (minus Thanksgiving weekend). Check out the link at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/10dPxhOgzGwD\\_LFt7GOzC7LjdclKBnEsa/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/10dPxhOgzGwD_LFt7GOzC7LjdclKBnEsa/view?usp=sharing)

On Sept. 23rd, the after-school programs will begin. NEW is a series at Ottawa Crescent Public School. Here is the link

[:https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iJf5uTad6w3VjkLuSaJhKoQIT0MOWIPx/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iJf5uTad6w3VjkLuSaJhKoQIT0MOWIPx/view?usp=sharing)

We will add additional programs as they come online (if they come online). We actively seek volunteers and program partners. Can YOU help to lead a sport / activity / hobby?

For fans of **Drama, Musical Theatre and Hip Hop** from previous Saturdays, hang on until January. Courtney Riddell is trying to figure out what is possible with two boys doing hockey.

For fans of **Ukulele** with Brianne Perna, also hang in there. Brianne is about to begin a new job with a commute and has to see what this new reality will be like. She hopes to return in January.

Also returning in January is **Math Club** with Sean Arnold. Goodness knows what they will get up to this time? Another 'Amazing Race'? Escape Room? Magic card tricks?

Friday **Yoga** fans of Amy Gonyou, she is too pregnant to teach currently but hopes to return for a short spring session.

Alisa McDonald has big gallery shows on her agenda so **Craft Club** is on hiatus.

Meredith Blackmore can't return to **Fine Art** with us but can still be found at Studio Here in Fergus.

Fortunately, Business programming is back with **Money Math Minions** with Sheri Copplestone.

We also have a new program, **Sewing** with Bear & Lion Crafts led by Julia Cathro-Oliver.

Welcome!

## Featured Articles

### From Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

WDG Public Health is pleased to provide elementary and secondary schools with up-to-date information on health topics for their monthly newsletters and announcements to parents. Please find below an insert you can include in your school newsletter and/or announcements if you wish. Images can be included or excluded as they meet your needs. If you have any questions please contact us at

1-800-265-7293 ext. 4111 or email [schoolhealth@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:schoolhealth@wdgpublichealth.ca)

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#### Information from Public Health

Children that eat well, learn well. A variety of food provides the energy and nutrients needed to pay attention, learn, grow and be active! Try to include at least one food item from each of these 4 categories in your child's lunch every day.

**Vegetables**

**Fruit**

**Protein-rich Foods** (beans, lentils, chickpeas, cheese, eggs, meat, fish, plain yogurt, plain milk)

**Whole Grains & Starchy Vegetables** (whole grain pasta or bread, potatoes, corn)

#### Additional tips:

- Send a re-usable water bottle with water every day.
- Involve your kids in planning and preparing – it takes two to tango! Kids are more likely to eat food that they were involved in making.
- Be a positive role model. Kids are smart and always watching, so if you're eating the veggies, they'll likely eat them too!
- Check out [UnlockFood.ca](http://UnlockFood.ca) for school lunch tips and recipes.

Watch our new YouTube [video](#) for recipe inspiration and tips (Visit: <http://bit.ly/2it19CG>).

For more information visit [www.wdgpublichealth.ca](http://www.wdgpublichealth.ca)

## Litterless Lunches

In an effort to engage students in small environmental initiatives that can have a big impact, we are encouraging students to pack Litterless Lunches whenever possible.

School lunches are a major source of waste in Ontario – the average student's lunch generates a total of 66 pounds of waste per school year, or an average of over 18,000 pounds of waste per school per year.

Please help your child pack waste-free lunches for our initiative. Our goal is to:

- Reduce the amount of waste we create from school lunches.
- Reduce the cost of waste disposal so the school’s resources can be put to better use.
- Encourage healthy and nutritious lunches (many pre-packaged lunch items contain significant amounts of sodium, preservatives and fat).
- Create awareness around recycling and encourage and promote recycling of containers such as juice boxes, milk cartons, bottles and cans at school.
- Help parents reduce the cost of lunches (a waste-free lunch can cost as little as \$2.50 per day, whereas a regular lunch containing pre-packaged items can cost \$4.50 or more per day).

**WASTE-FREE LUNCH TIPS**

- Get children to help pack their lunches with healthy foods.
- Only pack as much food as your child will eat.
- Use a reusable lunch bad/box for carrying a lunch.
- Use a refillable bottle for drinks – it’s cheaper and children can save drinks for later.
- If you choose to use a single-serving container, please make sure it is recyclable in your child’s school.
- Put sandwiches, muffins, etc. in ‘Tupperware’ style container, instead of plastic bags.
- Avoid pre-packaged, single-serving portions of snacks.
- Prepare extra food at dinnertime and use the leftovers for lunches. Minimize the morning rush by packing lunches the night before and refrigerating overnight.

Yes Please	Please Avoid
REUSABLE lunch container	AVOID paper or plastic bags
REUSABLE container (Tupperware, etc.)	AVOID plastic wrap, foil, or wax
REUSABLE dring bottle or thermos	AVOID single-use containers
CLOTH Napkin to wash and re-use	AVOID paper napkins
CUTLERY to wash and re-use	AVOID plastic forks/spoons
HEALTHY snacks!	AVOID over-packaged snacks

## So, what do we do with our waste at King George PS?

There are 5 different containers for waste in the classroom, and each has a corresponding sign.

1. **Garbage:** Hopefully this has the least amount of stuff in it! This contains: soiled plastic bags (ziplocs, etc.), saran and food wrappers (i.e. granola bars), styrofoam, Tim Horton's cups, juice box straws, used Kleenex, bits of plasticine, broken toys, and whatever else does not go in any other bin.
2. **Paper and cardboard recycling:** This bin is for all paper- construction, magazine, newspaper, etc. and all cardboard. Contents of this bin should be 'clean' and dry because we hope to re-use the garbage bag liners week to week to further reduce waste. Wet paper or cardboard, or food soiled paper or cardboard can go with paper towels in orange compost pail (described below). New this year: everything in this bin must be completely dry and free of any food waste.
3. **Container recycling:** This bin is for milk cartons, yogurt containers, juice boxes, cans, jars, plastic containers, etc. We need this bin to stay 'clean', so students **MUST** empty and/or rinse all containers before putting them in. **Please teach your children to rinse before they recycle and it will make everyone's jobs so much easier!**
4. **Orange compost pail:** This pail is primarily for wet/used paper towel, and occasional wet or food soiled paper and cardboard.
5. **Silver compost pail for food waste:** The silver pail is for all food waste - including fruit cores and rinds, peels, egg shells, meat, bones, fat, tea bags, coffee grounds, and plant leaves, flowers, etc. This pail has a compostable liner bag, which gets dumped into the collection containers and students then put in a new compostable liner bag and secure it at the top with an elastic.

Please help us to teach the students to choose the right bin for their waste. If the waste is properly sorted, we are able to re-use as many of the resources as possible and divert the maximum amount from the landfill! This will help us with our Eco-School Certification, and more importantly, it will help our planet!

## Transitions to School in the Fall

Returning to school is both an exciting time as well as one that can be challenging for some of our students. As our students get ready for new September routines, here are some tips to support parents on things to consider when the new school year is beginning again:

- If you are new to the school community, make an appointment to meet your child's school team so that you can develop a relationship with the school and learn the school-based routines alongside your child.
- Connect your child with neighbourhood friends that are in their class to help them get to and from school with a peer to make the transitions more fun.
- Consider adapting your child's bedtime routine by returning to an earlier 'school day' schedule before school starts, aiming for 10 hours of sleep a night.
- Sit and plan what your child would enjoy eating as part of a healthy lunch while at school. Including kids in these routines helps them build their independence in packing a well-balanced lunch and snacks.
- Sometimes when kids are older and have more things to remember like locker combinations and schedules for classes, they can get worried about remembering it all. Talk through their concerns and make some plans for how they can remember these items during a busy day.
- Walk with your child to school to remind them of the safety rules and routines. The summer is a long time and this needs to be refreshed from time to time.
- Spend time each night checking in on how the first few weeks of school have gone. If your child is facing some concerns that do not seem to be ironing out, connect with the school to see if together something can be done to support them to be happy in their new school year.

Adapted from KidsHealth.org

## **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>

## 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