

Mitchell Woods Public School Newsletter

Principal: Mair Ann Gault

Vice Principal: David Taylor

MAY/JUNE 2022



What a wonderfully exciting, very busy time of year! We finally have events taking place at our school again as we close up the school year, events that help the provincial curriculum come alive for our students. We are thrilled!! :)

Events include:

- School Spirit Days
- School Council Meeting
- Eco Club
- EQAO
- Outdoor Education
- Graduation trip
- Scientist in the Classroom
- Transition Planning for students
- Track and Field
- Youth Empowerment Events
- Patrol training
- Kindergarten Orientation
- Graduation
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Read-a-thon

It's a great time of year to celebrate learning and community. It's a great time of year to demonstrate thankfulness. It's a great time of year to enjoy the outdoors and make new friends. I am beyond grateful that we have the opportunity once again to celebrate together.

On another note, as announced, Mr. Mike Anderson will be given the honour of being the next principal of MWPS upon my retirement this June. He will be a wonderful leader for this school. Details will follow.

Sincerely,
Mair Ann Gault - Principal

ANNUAL SURVEY RESULTS AND FOLLOW UP

Every fall we conduct an annual survey of our school families and we celebrate the achievements indicated on the survey and address the next steps where appropriate. For details, please see link below. It's an interesting read!

[Annual MWPS Family Survey and Follow-up Actions](#)

"WHEELS" AT SCHOOL

Several students have begun riding their bicycles, scooters or skateboards to school. Please make sure that your children have the appropriate helmets, bike locks and that they remember they have to walk all wheels once on school property. We now have a Scooter Rack that allows students to lock their scooters on school property. What a wonderful chance to get some exercise!

LOST AND FOUND

Please encourage your children to check for lost items in the Lost and Found Box and to take them home. Parents are also welcome to come and take a look after signing in with the office and getting a visitors tag. Masks are highly recommended. The bins will be emptied on June 24th and the items donated the last week of school in June.



SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATES

Read-a-Thon

A big thank you to everyone who participated in our first ever read-a-thon. We raised just over \$2,400 for our music program and outdoor education equipment. Congratulations to one of our grade two students in Ms. Townsend's class who won our \$100 book fair shopping spree and Ms. Herne, Ms. Townsend, Mr. Thompson/Mr. Shirk and Mr. Murray's classes who all won ice cream parties. Collectively the school read almost 600 books. Way to go Mitchell Woods!

If you're interested in being added to our school council mailing list, where we send information on upcoming events/fundraisers and how you can help out, send us an email to:

scmitchellwoods@gmail.com

We hope that everyone has a safe and happy summer and we look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall.

MW School Council

RECORDING SCHOOL EVENTS AND PRIVACY

As we come to the end of the school year, there will be a couple of opportunities to record school events. Please know that personally recording school events and then posting them on social networks such as Facebook or YouTube is not respectful of the privacy rights of all those parents, staff and particularly students whose images are being shared without their knowledge and permission. Please join us for these special events, record them for your memories and respect the privacy rights of all students, parents and staff. Thanks!

MOVING SCHOOLS

If you are moving houses or schools this year, we would appreciate a call, so that we can staff our school and assign students to classrooms for next year with as much accuracy as possible.

PETS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

While we have many dog lovers in our school, please understand that during school hours, due to safety reasons, **no pets of any kind are allowed at school without permission.** Teachers may give permission for pets to be brought to school as part of a special display or project, but must be consulted first. Some children are highly allergic to certain animals, while others are sometimes fearful of them due to prior experiences. While walking your dog or playing in the playground with your children outside of school hours, please encourage all who use our school and city walks and grounds to be sure and scoop whatever is left behind! We appreciate your understanding in this matter.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



If you have not yet had an opportunity to register your child, please do so by visiting the school board website at www.ugdsb.on.ca

FIRE, TORNADO and BOMB DRILLS

As a reminder, each year our school must conduct drills to ensure staff and students are prepared in the event of a real emergency. The following number of drills are required each school year:

- Three (3) fire drills in the fall and three (3) fire drills in the spring
- Two (2) lockdown drills

- One (1) tornado drill
- One (1) bomb threat drill

All drills are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of our students. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

During our Fire Drills students do not have time to put on shoes. Please make sure they have a pair to wear inside and a pair for outside. During these drills anyone in the school is asked to evacuate the building and follow the same procedures as the students and staff. We have completed our drills for the 2021-22 school year. Staff have reviewed these procedures with their students so that they feel comfortable and confident in what is expected of them during these procedures.

APPROPRIATE DRESS

We ask students to dress appropriately at all times. Please go to the link below for details from our updated Dress Code. The information pertaining to appropriate dress is about half way down the page.

[School Code of Conduct](#)

PRIDE FLAG

In keeping with our Equity work at Mitchell Woods Public School, the Equity committee has decided to fly a Pride Flag for the month of June. Pride week was celebrated to help inform the students of the meaning behind the flag. See link to more information on the Upper Grand District School Board Website:

[Pride Flag](#)

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY & PROGRAMS

The Upper Grand District School Board places a high priority on the safety of our students. The Child Abuse Prevention Policy is evidence of our commitment to this priority. The following is a quote from the policy:

Every citizen in the community shares a responsibility for our children. School officials and teachers share this collective community responsibility for creating safe and nurturing environments for children. Under the Child and Family Services Act, this responsibility includes the legal requirement to report to the local Children's Aid Society any suspected child abuse or other situations where a child may be in need of protection. Teachers and other Board employees have a special opportunity to know and understand children during their most influential years of development. They are in a unique position to be able to see early signs of maltreatment, and to know or hear about the abuse and neglect that is often suffered by children.

As required in the Policy, we will be teaching age-appropriate lessons to help our students identify abuse and protect themselves from abusive situations. The goal is to provide children with the tools they need to keep themselves safe. The lessons cover a broad range of safety issues including bullying, stranger danger and abuse by a known and trusted adult.

These lessons were taught during the month of June, for grades one, three and five. The lessons are taught by your child's classroom teacher with support from the school Child and Youth Counselor. There is no formal program in grades two, four and six, although the safety concepts are reviewed by classroom teachers informally.

For more information regarding the Child Abuse Prevention Policy and/or Programs please contact Mrs. Gault, Principal or Amy Fonte, our Child and Youth Counselor

MORE CHILDREN CAN GET FREE DENTAL CARE

More children have qualified for free dental care as of April 1, 2014 due to changes to the **Healthy Smiles Ontario Program**. The income thresholds have changed and now include the number of children in the family. This affects

children and youth up to the age of 18 who are residents of Ontario and have no access to any form of dental coverage.

If you think a child may qualify for [Healthy Smiles Ontario](#), contact Public Health at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 2661. We will help you with the application process and answer any questions.



REMINDER

If you or your child wants to attend an event at the school, for which there is a cost, and you or your child requires a support person (one who assists a person with a disability) please know the support person will not be charged to attend with the disabled person. Please know there are also Accessibility Feedback Forms available for anyone who requires them. Come into the office for your copy. Thank you.