

Ottawa Crescent Public School

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October 2015 Newsletter

The 2015-2016 school year is well underway with many exciting things happening at Ottawa Crescent Public School. We welcome all our new families to the school and hope that you feel part of our wonderful community. October means school routines are established and our students are diving right into the curriculum. Be sure to ask your child about what they are learning each school day!

Our Character Education initiatives are well on their way! Our schoolwide theme of "I Can" is prevalent in our classrooms and hallways. Ask your child to tell you all about "Shreddy"! As well, all of our students participated in a fun-filled colour tribe afternoon. After our kick-off assembly, the tribes had a great time participating in a variety of fun team building challenges.

On behalf of our staff, I would like to thank you for your support of our Terry Fox Run. Our students were eager and enthusiastic participants. Through your donations, we were able to raise almost \$400 for cancer research. Well done Ottawa Crescent.

Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving weekend.

Allison Stoffman
Principal



Changes to the Nutrition Program at Ottawa Crescent!

Great news, Ottawa Crescent will soon have a Breakfast Program! Beginning Tuesday, October 13, our students will have the opportunity to eat a healthy breakfast at school. The breakfast program doors will open at 8:25 a.m, for those students who would like to come in for a healthy meal to start their day. Mrs. MacLean and Mrs. Stoffman will be running the program in room 15. Breakfast will include nutritious foods from a variety of food groups. The program is open to all students!

Please note, this means that our current nutrition bin system will be phased out, although fruit baskets will continue to be available in each classroom on a daily basis. If you have any questions or would like to help out with the Breakfast Program, please contact Mrs. MacLean at the school.

Thanksgiving Lunch

On Friday, October 9, the students and staff at Ottawa Crescent will enjoy a special turkey lunch for Thanksgiving. During this week, classes will spend time considering all the things they are thankful for and what a privilege it is to live in this great country! We are particularly thankful for the donations that have been given for the lunch. A special thanks to the Guelph Police Service Drug and Intelligence Unit who donated all of the juice boxes, corn, cranberries and potatoes. If you still wish to make a monetary donation, please send it to the school. Please note that Pizza Day, originally scheduled for this day, has been moved to Thursday, October 8. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

O.C. Library Learning Commons

Ottawa Crescent has been adopted by Chapters Bookstore in Guelph. Chapters staff has planned 3 weeks of fun for children and parents. On Saturday, October 3 there will be a Star Wars themed event. Also, O.C. parents will be selling popcorn on Saturday to raise money for our school Library Learning Commons. Please come out to support our school by wearing your Ottawa Crescent T-shirts or dressed in Star Wars costumes. The money raised over the three week period at Chapters will go towards buying books for the library. Please take the time to go online and vote for Ottawa Crescent P.S. at Chapters Adopt a School or follow the events at facebook.com/chaptersguelph.

Recently we received a generous donation from Mr. Clark McDaniel to go toward the school and Learning Commons. A huge thank you to Clark for this tremendous support.

Cross Country Running Team

We have a great cross country running team this year. The students have been busy training and will compete in a city-wide meet on Tuesday, October 20 at the Aberfoyle Community Centre. In case of rain the meet will be later that week.

Lifetouch Student Photos

Student and class photos, originally scheduled for October 7, have been postponed. More information about a new date will be sent home soon.

Spirit Day

On Thursday, October 29 we will be participating in a Colour Tribe Activity Rotation for part of the day. Students are encouraged to wear orange and black. No costumes, please!



Change of Plans

If you have a change in your child's regular plan for going home at the end of the day, please let the office know before noon of that day. It is very difficult to get a message to your child(ren) at the end of the day, when classes are preparing for dismissal. Thanks for your help in this regard.

Helping Our Children to Better Understand Math

Everyday children go about their daily lives exploring and discovering things around them, and by doing so they're exposed to the world of mathematics. And since mathematics has become increasingly important in this technological age, it is even more important for our children to learn math at home as well as in school.

Attitude is Important

How do you as a parent feel about math? Your feelings will have an impact on how your children think about math and themselves as mathematicians. Take a few minutes to reflect on these questions:

Do you think everyone can learn math?

Do you think of math as useful in everyday life?

Do you believe that most jobs today require math skills?

If you answer "yes" to most of these questions, then you are probably encouraging your child to think mathematically. Positive attitudes about math are important for your child's success.

Mathematics as Problem Solving, Communication, and Reasoning

Helping your child learn to solve problems, to communicate mathematically, and to demonstrate reasoning abilities are fundamental to learning mathematics. These attributes will improve your child's understanding and interest in math concepts and thinking.

A problem solver is someone who questions, investigates, and explores solutions to problems. They stick with a problem to find a solution and understand that there may be different ways to arrive at an answer and attempt different ways to

get there. You can encourage your child to be a good problem solver by involving him or her in family decision making using math.

To communicate mathematically means to use words, numbers, or mathematical symbols to explain situations: to talk about how you arrived at an answer; to listen to others' ways of thinking and perhaps alter their thinking; to use pictures to explain something; and to write about math, not just give an answer. You can help your child learn to communicate mathematically by asking your child to explain a math problem or answer. Ask your child to write about the process she or he used, or to draw a picture of how he or she arrived at an answer to a problem.

Reasoning ability means thinking logically, being able to see similarities and differences about math concepts in different domains and make choices based on those differences or similarities. You can encourage your child to explain his or her reasoning behind answers and encourage them to ask themselves, "Does this make sense?" As you listen, you will hear your child sharing his or her reasoning.

P.A. Day

Friday, October 30 is a Ministry Mandated Professional Activity Day. There is no school for students.

QSP Magazine Fundraiser

Please be sure to visit www.qsp.ca to order/renew your favourite magazines. Order on-line at www.qsp.ca – group #3713286. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Before and After School Supervision

Please be advised that outside supervision at Ottawa Crescent does not begin until 8:40 in the morning. We request that children do not arrive at school before that time, as there are no teachers/staff watching them, and colder weather is coming. Also, outside supervision after school ends at 3:25. Please remind your child(ren) to go directly home (or to their caregiver) after school. We want to ensure students are safely on their way.

Walk to School Day

Wednesday, October 7 is **I Walk to School Day**. This is a day where children and their parents are encouraged to walk to school instead of driving. By having your child walk to school they will get exercise, a time to socialize with their friends and congestion at the front of the school will be minimized. Why not form a group in your neighborhood and walk to school. Not only will you and your child benefit but the environment will appreciate it too.

Dogs on School Property

There are children who have allergies to animal hair, and who have a fear of dogs. There is also a possibility of a child being scratched or nipped by a dog (perhaps excited by all the children). We have also had dog droppings found on our school property. In order to prevent a potential concern for our students, please do not bring your dog onto school property. Thank you.

Guelph Food Bank

2015 Thanksgiving Food Drive

Once again the Ottawa Crescent P.S. community is supporting the Guelph Food Bank's Thanksgiving Food Drive. Donations of non-perishable items such as rice, pasta, canned meats, toiletries and baby foods are greatly needed! Donation barrels will be in the front entrance of the school Friday, October 9. Let's help the Food Bank reach its goal of 80,000 pounds of canned and dry packaged goods.

"Toonies for Terry"

Thank you to everyone who brought in "Toonies for Terry". Ottawa Crescent students raised \$383.00 for cancer research. Way to go, Wildcats!

On-Line Bullying Reporting Tool

Just a reminder that Upper Grand D.S.B. has launched an on-line tool to report bullying. To learn more about how you can stop bullying go to: www.ugdsb.on.ca/stop-a-bully.

October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Pizza Day	3 Fundraiser at Chapters Bookstore – Stone Rd Mall
4	5	6	7	8 Pizza Day	9 Schoolwide Thanksgiving Lunch	10
	12 Thanksgiving	13 8:25 - Breakfast Program Begins	14	15	16 Pizza Day	17
18	19	20 Cross Country Meet – Aberfoyle Comm. Centre	21 Pizza/Milk Order Forms Due – Late Orders Not Accepted	22	24 Pizza Day	24
25	26	27	28	29 Pizza Day	30 P.A. Day No School for Students	31 Halloween



Daylight Savings is Sunday, November 1 – Turn your clocks back one hour.

Blue Jay Fever

Have you caught Blue Jay Fever yet, or are you already thinking about the NHL pre-season? Maybe you're not a sports enthusiast, and instead are busy taking your children to dance, swimming or music lessons. Whatever the case, why not incorporate math into these afterschool activities? Here are some quick and easy connections to share with your children on those early mornings, after school or late night drives that connect math to our everyday lives.

1. **Batting average**

This number tells fans how many times a player gets a hit compared to the amount of times he gets up to bat. Simple division is used to figure out a batting average. For each game divide the number of hits the player gets by the number of times he is at bat. The answer should result in a decimal answer. (For example: Bautista gets up to bat 8 times, but he only hits 5 times. The equation would be 5 divided by 8 giving a batting average of 0.625.)

2. **Staying out of the penalty box**

Which fraction is largest: $5/4$, $4/3$, $3/2$ or $2/1$? If the Leafs have a 5 on 4 advantage, and Phaneuf has to decide whether to draw an opponent away from the play, it's important for him to know that $4/3$ is a larger fraction than $5/4$. Math tells us that 4 skaters have a better advantage over 3 than 5 skaters have over 4.

3. **Patterns in Music**

Musical pieces often have repeating choruses or bars, similar to patterns. In mathematics, we look for patterns to explain and predict the unknown. Music uses similar strategies. When looking at a musical piece, musicians look for notes they recognize to find notes that are less familiar. In this way, notes relate to each other. Relationships are fundamental to mathematics and create an interesting link between music and math. Listen carefully to the music next time. You'll definitely hear the patterns!

4. **Swimmingly Mathematical**

Speed of swim (measurement of distance and time), surface area of palm (area measurement of odd shape), kicking angle of the legs (trigonometry, angle), rhythm of the stroke (sequence, counting, pattern sector), and breathing (volume of air required, space measurement) are all about the math!

5. **The Science of Dance**

There's the symmetry (between arms and legs, but also between bodies and within a single body), counting, rhythm, momentum, mass, connection, sequence, and shape. Every area of math can be expressed with the human body.

Source: <https://www.google.ca>

Go Math Go! Go Math Go!

Chromebooks in your public library!



Upper Grand students can now get a Chromebook to do assignments after school, evenings and Saturdays



Monthly Environmental Newsletter Inserts



October's Environmental Theme: PROTECT OUR EARTH

This year we will challenge ourselves to LIVE green every day, because one small change one day at a time adds up to a world of difference. The environmental theme for September is sustainability. 'Sustainability' means protecting our Earth and using Earth's natural resources carefully, like forests, water, minerals, and fossil fuels.

Part of living in a sustainable way is using, buying and eating only what you really need. This saves resources and cuts down on waste too. For example, do you really need a new pencil case or pencil crayons or a brand new eraser every year, or do your old ones still work? Do you throw your leftover lunch items in the garbage at school, or do you take them home and eat them for a snack after school? Do you buy vintage clothing or wear hand-me downs? Do you eat meat every day, or do you eat vegetarian at least once a week, like those who have accepted the 'Meatless Monday Canada' challenge.

To find out how carefully you use the Earth's resources, Google the following words: "zero footprint calculator" and take the footprint calculator quiz. It will tell you how many Earths we would need to survive if everyone lived like you!

Slogan of the month: Sustainability – choosing to live better with less!

Talking About Mental Health!

Welcome to the new school year! My name is Dr. Lynn Woodford and I am the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for the school board. Every month I write a column for school newsletters about mental health and provide strategies and resources for families.

Hope that the transition back to school has been a positive one for you and your family. If your child or youth is experiencing any challenges with the transition back to school, please talk to your child or youth's teacher or administrator.

The UGDSB has many resources available on its website: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/> for parents and students to access. To access these resources: click on the Parent tab then click on the Mental Health Tab. There is also a Student tab with a Mental Health tab, which you can share with your children and youth.

Once you are on site, you will find information about local mental health and addiction resources:

- Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington Dufferin Branch (CMHA WWD)
 - To access Addictions, Mental Health (including eating disorders and first episode psychosis) and Crisis Services (Guelph/Wellington for Children/Youth and Guelph/Wellington/Dufferin for Adults) contact:
 - HERE247 at 1 844 437 3247 (1 844 HERE247)
 - www.here247.ca
 - Walk in Services on Tuesdays for Children/Youth 1:30- 7:00
 - 485 Silvercreek Pkwy, Guelph
 - wwd.cmha.ca
- Dufferin Child and Family Services (Services for Children/Youth in Dufferin County)
 - To access Addictions, Mental Health and Crisis Services
 - 519-941-1530
 - Talk in Services on Tuesdays 1:00- 7:00
 - 655 Riddell Road, Orangeville
 - <http://dcafs.on.ca/>

There is an Access to Mental Health Resources document that provides more details about counselling and supports in Guelph Wellington Dufferin.

There are also links to useful websites with information for parents about mental health and addictions such as:

- Kids Help Phone (1 800 668 6868) www.KidsHelpPhone.ca provides phone and web counselling for youth under the age of 20. Support is free, 24/7, anonymous and confidential.
- The ABCs of Mental Health <http://www.hincksdellcrest.org/ABC/Welcome> provides information related to different mental health concerns, according to developmental ages.

Hope these resources are helpful for you and your families. Hope you have a wonderful fall!

Dr. Lynn Woodford is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)



The Upper Grand District School Board has established a Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) in accordance with the Education Act. SEAC is made up of local parent representatives of Provincial Associations, two school trustees and interested local community representatives.

SEAC members receive orientation and training to become informed on important topics in Special Education:

- Sections of the Education Act relating to Special Education
- Regulations and Ministry memoranda
- Board policies regarding Special Education
- The Board Special Education Report
- Roles and responsibilities of SEAC
- The funding of Special Education

What does SEAC do?

- Makes recommendations for the establishment, development and delivery of Special Education programs and services for exceptional pupils in our Board.
- Participates in the Board's annual review of its Special Education Report.
- Participates in the Board's annual budget process and financial statement review as they relate to Special Education.
- Provides information to parents, as requested.
- Supports the Special Olympics Annual Track and Field day.

Procedures for Selecting Members

- nominations from local associations
- approaching local chapters of provincial associations for suggestions
- writing a presentation that can be shared with parent councils, families of schools, etc. to get the information about SEAC into the community

Meeting Times and Dates

The SEAC meets on a regular basis. Meetings occur on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Upper Grand District School Board office at 500 Victoria Road North, in the Board room. Meetings are open to the public. Members of the public should contact Program Services (Krystyna Gazo at 519-941-6191 ext. 254) to confirm the time, date and location of the meetings.

Further information regarding SEAC, as well as Special Education in Upper Grand District School Board can be found on the [UGDSB Special Education Plan.](#), as well as the [Board website](#)

