

# Paisley Road Public School

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## Newsletter for May 2023

### From the Principal's Desk

Mental Health and Education Week is here, running from May 1<sup>st</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>. **“STRIVE Together! - Mental Health and Education Week 2023!”** **“STRIVE ensemble!: Semaine de la santé mentale et de l'éducation 2023!”**

Parents are reminded of the UGDSB Child, Youth and Family website <https://sites.google.com/ugcloud.ca/mhugparents>

This website contains information on student well-being, parent well-being, community resources and websites and an events page consisting of upcoming webinars and parent focused events. Parents are encouraged to access this website as it is a great repository of information!

K. Runciman  
Principal

### Paisley Public School Spirit Wear

Paisley Panthers can show their pride in our school by purchasing spirit wear clothing. Sizing is available for students, and parents. Check out all the available options on School Cash Online or on the ***order form at the end of this newsletter***. Order forms are also available in the school office. This spirit wear order runs until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Late orders will not be accepted.

### School Council's Family Fun Night

School Council's Family Fun Night returns to Paisley Road Public School after a three-year absence. Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. It will certainly be a fun night, celebrating a great school year. The event will include food, music, games and activities. More information will follow shortly regarding Family Fun Night. We look forward to seeing everyone at the school on June 8<sup>th</sup>!!

### FREE Trees for Your Property – From the West Willow Village

You must live in Guelph and these trees are for your property. This is a community-wide initiative to increase tree planting on private property to help the city improve our tree canopy and invest in the greenery that will hopefully help ameliorate climate change impacts.

Tree order **pick up will be on May 8th** next week at the West Village, in the Westwood Public School parking lot, 495 Willow Rd, between 6-8pm. ***More information, including how to order tree(s), is included at the end of this newsletter.***

### EMPowerment Day

For the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic, Upper Grand District School Board students will be celebrating together at the Sleeman Centre for Empowerment Day. Thousands of students in grades 5 to 8 from the UGDSB will gather on May 4, 2023, for a powerful day of inspiration and empowerment.

Empowerment Day was originally initiated and developed by two students from Drayton Heights Public School in 2015. Elora Public School has decided to continue this annual event by hosting world-renowned motivational speakers, presenters, and performers.

This year's theme is "Why not now? Going outside your comfort zone." Students who experience Empowerment Day this year will be invited to make positive changes both locally and globally while learning to move outside their comfort zone.

Special guests this year include:

- **Spencer West** – Double amputee and motivational speaker, West infuses his talks with humour and humility. West is the author of the bestselling book *Standing Tall: My Journey* and is the star of the 2012 documentary film *Redefine Possible: The story of Spencer West*.
- **Michel Chikwanine** – Overcoming unimaginable pain and struggle, Chikwanine is a former child soldier turned inspirational speaker. Born in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Chikwanine grew up amid the terror of the Great War of Africa. Since becoming an inspirational speaker, Chikwanine has spoken to over 800,000 people across North America.
- **Clara Hughes** – Hughes is a six-time Olympic medalist and mental health advocate. Hughes is the only athlete in Olympic history to have medals in both summer and winter games, representing Canada in both speed skating and cycling. Hughes is the founding spokesperson for the Bell Let's Talk campaign, designed to end the stigma attached to mental illness.
- **Choir! Choir! Choir!** – International singing phenomenon, Choir! Choir! Choir! has shared the stage with musical acts such as Tegan and Sara, Debbie Harry and The Flaming Lips. Started by Daveed Goldman and Nobu Adilman (AKA 'DaBu'), Choir! Choir! Choir! is a drop-in singing group where everyone is welcome.

## Parenting Tip of the Month

When children identify role models they look up to, they are often action heroes, including cartoon heroes, who have powers that are superhuman. Children need assistance to recognize true role models living amongst them; individuals a child can and should emulate as they mature. Good role models have clear values, willingly look to assist others with any need, are passionate about what they do and accept each person for who they are. Help your children identify role models in their lives and to discover the positive qualities these people possess and watch them thrive as they become inspired to develop similar qualities.

## Sunny Days!

Now that the spring is in full swing and summer is just around the corner, students are reminded of the importance of wearing a hat, sunscreen and stay hydrated when outside for lengthy periods of time. The school yard does not have any shaded areas during peak sun time, so it's extremely important that students dress accordingly.

## Balls to Donate?

With the spring cleaning season now upon us, do you have sports balls in your garage, basement or shed that you would like to donate to the school? We are looking for basketballs, soccer balls, footballs or other bouncy balls that can be used safely on the school yard during recess. Our outdoor ball inventory, initiated in the fall, needs to be replenished.

## 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?

*"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.

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

## **Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet**



**May 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

#### **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!***

## Paisley Road PS Spirit Wear

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Paisley T-Shirt (Blue) - \$15 each**

Youth Sizes

X Small

Small

Medium

Large

Adult Sizes

Small

Medium

Large

X Large

### **“Choose Kindness” Paisley T-Shirt (Pink) - \$18 each**

Youth Sizes

X Small

Small

Medium

Large

Adult Sizes

Small

Medium

Large

X Large

### **3/4 Sleeve Baseball T-shirt (Grey with Black sleeves) - \$22 each**

Youth Sizes

X Small

Small

Medium

Large

Adult Sizes

Small

Medium

Large

X Large

### **Cotton Pullover Hoodie (Blue) - \$28 each**

Youth Sizes

Small

Medium

Large

Adult Sizes

Small

Medium

Large

X Large

### **Jogging Pants (black)- \$22 each**

Youth Sizes

Small

Medium

Large

Adult Sizes

Small

Medium

Large

X Large

Total # of items in order: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost: \_\_\_\_\_



Register to get a free, native tree for your yard  
and help grow Guelph's urban canopy!

1

Go to [treestakeroot.ca/Guelph](https://treestakeroot.ca/Guelph) and use the resources to find the right tree, for the right place.

2

To register, please complete the form found by scanning the QR code or by going to [form.jotform.com/forestontario/takeroot](https://form.jotform.com/forestontario/takeroot)



3

Pick up your tree from your community organization, and plant it this spring!

Thank you for participating in Take Root!

# Planting Guide



Trees are integral to our natural environment. They improve air quality, provide food and shelter, and help fight climate change. Tree planting is a way to re-establish forested areas, although it isn't as simple as putting a tree in the ground anywhere.

**It's important to plant the right tree, in the right location, for the right reason.**

## LOCATION

The planting location is very important, particularly in urban areas where concrete and asphalt are the major ground cover types. Root and canopy space, environmental obstructions (i.e. overhead wires, septic tank, foundation, underground utilities), and potential benefits (i.e. shade, windbreak) should be considered before the location is selected.

Always confirm whether you have underground utilities – please contact Ontario One Call to find out more. Contacting One Call is the law before digging, and helps to keep you safe and prevent damages. It also helps you determine which locations to avoid when planting your new tree.

