

# Paisley Road Public School

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Kirk Runciman, Principal  
Michelle McCann, Vice Principal

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## Newsletter for September 2023

### From the Principal's Desk

As the new school year begins, I would like to welcome everyone back to Paisley Road Public School, including students, staff, and parents. I hope everyone enjoyed a safe, happy, and healthy summer vacation. This year we are excited to also welcome several new staff members. New staff members joining the Paisley Road staff include Ms. Stirling, Mr. Bradey, Ms. Duncan, Ms. Pezzano, Ms. Rader, Ms. White, Ms. Grant, Ms. Barnes and Mrs. McCann. Welcome to Paisley Road Public School!

It is an exciting time of year for all of us! In many ways it is a “new” beginning; NEW teachers, NEW books, NEW shoes, NEW supplies, NEW clothes, NEW friends, NEW challenges. To have a great school it takes an outstanding staff, keen to renew their knowledge. With the COVID-19 restrictions behind us, feel free to join us at school events, volunteer (PLEASE SEE NOTE BELOW), and most importantly; listen to and support your child at home. Be sure to plan so you experience these events at the school with us! We are looking forward to a great year at Paisley Road PS!

Thank you for helping to make this transition back to school as safe and seamless as possible.

K. Runciman  
Principal

### Bell Times

Start of day bell: 8:45 a.m.

Period

1 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

2 9:45 a.m. – 10:25 a.m.

Recess & 10:25 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

Nutrition Break 10:55 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

Period

3 11:10 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

4 12:10 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.

Recess 12:50 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Lunch 1:20 p.m. – 1:35 p.m.

Period

5 1:35 p.m. – 2:35 p.m.

6 2:35 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

End of the day bell 3:15 p.m.

## Yard Duty Times

The following are the times when our playground is supervised by school staff. ***PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD(REN) DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 8:30 A.M. AS THERE IS NO SUPERVISION PRIOR TO THIS TIME.***

8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

10:25 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.

12:50 p.m. - 1:35 p.m.

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## School Organization

Please note the current school organization for Paisley Road, outlined below. Please be aware that this school organization is still ***“tentative”***. Should the number of students registered at the school change significantly, a re-organization of classes may be required.

Principal	K. Runciman
Vice-Principal	M. McCann
Office Co-ordinator	G. Erskine
Administrative Office Assistant	S. Sambells
Kindergarten	N. Johnston / J. Wosik A. Sennitt / N. Clark S. Di Leonardo / S. McKenzie K. Thompson / M. Botter
Grade 1A	A. Gennings
Grade 1/2B	M. Nielsen
Grade F1/2C	S. Murphy
Grade F1/2D	A. Stirling
Grade 2/3A	M. Rader
Grade F2/3E	D. Christensen
Grade 3/4 B	N. Roberts
Grade 4/5A	D. Martin
Grade F4/5D	K. Kautz
Grade 5/6B	J. White
Grade 5/6C	J. Richer
Grade F6A	B. Higgins
Planning	C. Bradey J. Gareau E. Woolfrey T. Barker TBA
Resource	N. Foote M. McCann D. Christensen
Library	E. Woolfrey
Core French	E. Woolfrey
ECE	J. Wosik N. Clark M. Botter S. Mackenzie
Educational Assistant	L. Ackerman J. Hayston S. Pezzano L. Drohan S. Duncan N. Young M. Gibbons S. Daly

	S. Barnes TBD
Child Youth Counsellor	TBD
ELL	M. Grant
Custodians	E. Lowry S. Slipp C. Beluso
Lunch Hour Supervisors	R. O’Leary I. Elhaydari K. Swackhammer L. Spears B. Inglis

**Re: School Organization**

The Paisley Road staff has built class lists based on their tentative organizations. Changes *may* be necessary in order for our Board to remain compliant with Ministry parameters (see below). Any changes would be implemented by Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. **Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization** that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed by the school.

**Ministry of Education Staffing Parameters**

- \*Full Day Kindergarten class size average for the Board is 26 students
- \*90% of Full Day Kindergarten classes with 29 or fewer students<sup>[1]</sup>
- \*10% of Full Day Kindergarten classes up to a maximum of 32 students under certain circumstances
- \*90% of the Board’s Primary classes with 20 or fewer students
- \*10% of the Board’s Primary classes up to a maximum of 23 students
- \*Grade 3/4 classes have a cap of 23 students
- \*Junior/Intermediate class size average for the Board is 24.85 students to 1 teacher

**Notifying the School of a Student Absence - Safe Arrival**

The rules of the Safe Arrival Program state that the school must know why a student is not present on any particular day. This means that school office staff will continue to try to contact parents until one is reached; we sometimes make four or five calls for one child. This takes an inordinate amount of time and often stretches the office staffs’ ability to carry out other duties. **Please assist us in speeding this process up and calling the school when you know if your child(ren) is/are going to be late or absent.**

**School Council**

Our first School Council Meeting for the 2023/2024 school year will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>** in the school library. An option to join this meeting virtually will be provided by School Council closer to the meeting date. Council is a great avenue for parents to support the students and staff at Paisley Road PS. It also provides an opportunity to meet new parents from the school. We look forward to meeting you at School Council meetings this year!

**Vulnerable Sector Checks Required for School Volunteers**

A Vulnerable Sector Check is a type of police check restricted to applicants seeking employment and/or volunteering in a position of authority or trust relative to vulnerable persons in Canada only. A vulnerable sector check is valid for five (5) years and must be accessed within six (6) months of the date it is provided to the school. You can apply for a Vulnerable Sector Check with the Guelph Police Service by clicking [here](#). **The school will reimburse the cost of the Vulnerable Sector Check**, after a receipt is submitted along with the check. The UGDSB’s Volunteer Agreement form, noting the responsibilities associated with being a volunteer at the school must also be signed prior to volunteering. Volunteers are a tremendous support for the school. Thank you for considering being a volunteer at Paisley Road Public School!

## Student Verification Forms

Forms went home on the second day of school, Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup>. Please make any necessary changes to the information provided. **Please sign and return the verification form to the school by Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## Peanut Butter and Imitation Peanut Butter

Please note that peanut butter and imitation peanut butter lunch spreads are not permitted at school. Included in the list of imitation peanut butter is WOW butter, sun butter and cookie butter. Each of these lunch spreads look, smell and taste similar to real peanut butter and as a result, make it difficult to tell the difference between each of them and real peanut butter. As we do have a number of students in the school with life threatening allergies, including but not limited to peanuts, we are asking parents to refrain from sending imitation spreads to school, instead opting for a healthy alternative. Thank you for your understanding as we work together to keep our students safe.

## Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions

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.

## Guelph Police Reminder

Guelph Police Reminder Parents/guardians are reminded that the Guelph Police Service will be patrolling all school zones in the City of Guelph on a consistent basis and will levy fines to motorists not obeying traffic rules. Please choose safety over convenience!

## Taking Students from School To Ensure Student Safety

If you are taking your child from school during the school day (appointments, etc.) **please call the school in-advance to ensure we have him/her/they ready for your arrival.** If you arrive and have not called in advance, please wait outside the front doors of the school where your child will meet you. Students may not sign themselves out of school. After being dismissed from class, either at lunch or at the end of the day, students are requested to go directly home or to a caregiver before proceeding to other activities. Please reinforce this message with your child.

## Student Accident Insurance

Parents and guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial health care or employer group insurance plans. The Upper Grand District School board is empowered under *The Education Act* to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students.

A letter from the Upper Grand District School Board was sent home with students on the first day, containing information with respect to two Programs available for the purchase of Student Accident Insurance. The Insuremykids Program is offered through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada and the Studyinsured Program is underwritten by Certain Lloyds's Underwriters through AON Insurance.

Each program offers a variety of options, including family rates at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by the parent or guardian. Paper copies of the application are no longer available. Purchase is done directly online or by contacting the Provider:

[www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com) or call toll free **1-800-463-5437**

[www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com](http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com) or call toll free 1-833-560-0527.

For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable.

## Talking About Mental Health – Heading Back to School

Hope that you had a wonderful summer! Transitioning back into school as summer ends can be exciting but also can be stressful for some children and families. As the children and youth head back to school, here are a few suggestions on how to make this a mentally healthy school year for all.

1. Take care of your body. Mental and physical health are linked. Make sure to get enough sleep, drink water, and eat well.
2. Talk to your child/ren. What did they like and enjoy about last year? What are they looking forward to this year? Have children name one thing they are looking forward to and one thing they are not looking forward to as much.
3. Identify strengths and challenges. Have them name 2 things they are good at in school and two things that they think might be more difficult. Strategize some ways to deal with challenges. At the end of the day reflect any strategies used and encourage them to try new strategies to build their coping tool kit.
4. Problem solve with your child/ren. Provide your child opportunities to make their own decisions and to come up with solutions for their concerns. Remember to keep your expectations realistic and age appropriate.
5. Remain calm, and show your child trust, support and love when they are feeling stressed, anxious and worried. Have a wonderful and mentally healthy school year!

## 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.”

- 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*



**Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet  
SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> IS NATIONAL TREE DAY!**

*“Let nature be your teacher.” William Wordsworth*

**Celebrate National Tree Day on September 20, 2023!**

*“National Tree Day will serve as a celebration for all Canadians to appreciate the great benefits that trees provide us - clean air, wildlife habitat, reducing energy demand and connecting with nature.”*

<http://www.nationaltreeday.ca/>

*“Children today spend less time outdoors than any generation in human history.”*

<http://getbackoutside.ca/>



*“For children, studies show that time outdoors, especially unstructured time in more natural settings, can increase curiosity, creativity and problem solving ability. It also improves their physical fitness and coordination and reduces symptoms associated with attention deficit disorder. It can even reduce the likelihood of needing glasses for near-sightedness.”*

<https://davidsuzuki.org/take-action/act-locally/one-nature-challenge/>

**Some great activities for your family to do on Tree Day, or any day!**

- Read a book on trees: *The Lorax*, by Dr. Seuss; *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein; *What Good Is a Tree* by Larry Dane Brimner; *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry
- Learn the names of the trees in your backyard or neighbourhood
- Do tree art – e.g., a leaf collage, or leaf/bark pencil rubbing art, or tree photography
- Create a tree book: "adopt" a favourite tree, name it and throughout the year record and examine its characteristics and the changes that it goes through.
- Organize a Tree Walk game - Look for trees that are: the tallest, oldest, has the widest trunk, has the largest leaf, is the most prickly, etc.
- Download a bird app and start to help your child learn to identify the colours and songs of birds in your neighbourhood
- Research all the great forest hiking trails in your area and pick one to try out.
- Hold a Tree Day birthday party with your family, friends, neighbours or community! Serve tree-shaped foods! (*Find lots of ideas on Pinterest.*)

# UGDSB TOGETHER

Monthly communications updates from the Upper Grand DSB

## Welcome to the 2023-24 school year!

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year UG! We are excited to welcome all students, families and staff back and welcome all those who are new to the school board. As you prepare to enter the halls of your school and gear up for the 2023-2024 school year, there are some helpful things to know! Please check the [UGDSB website](http://WWW.UGDSB.CA) for information on School Operations, School Directory information, Registration details, and so much more!

## School & Board Information

### 9 Days of Reflection for a Healthy Back to School

For the first 9 days of school, the Upper Grand Mental Health Team will be sharing information with students and staff at their school and on social media. Topics will focus around things such as awareness, a sense of community, respect, collaboration and more. For all the tips and prompts, follow [UGDSB on social media](#) and share your thoughts using the hashtag #MHUG.

### UGDSB Pathways Website

This year, we have launched a brand new website for UGDSB Pathways. The UGDSB is committed to all students, K-12+, having equitable opportunities to explore and experience diverse pathway options. Through these opportunities, we aim to support student optimism for a rich and vibrant future, regardless of which initial pathway they choose, and how their plans might shift and change throughout their lives. This website has great information for students in grades 7 and 8 who are thinking about planning for high school, resources for high school students and information on making the transition out of school. There is also a lot of great information about different career pathways and experiential learning opportunities. [Check it out](#) and stay tuned for more information this fall.

### Professional Activity Day - September 18, 2023

Throughout the school year, the UGDSB will be posting information regarding upcoming Professional Activity Days. To view the description of the September 18th PA Day, please visit the [UGDSB website](#) or your child's school website.

