



Primrose Elementary School

March 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are into the start of our second term at Primrose! As you are aware the first report cards were made available to families digitally on February 16th. As always, report cards cannot capture everything students have learned or everything that teachers have taught, however, I would encourage you to read the comments over with your child. Celebrate the growth in learning and discuss strategies and goal setting to help your child achieve their next steps at school. We value the importance of a home-school connection and appreciate the support that you provide at home to ensure your child is meeting with success in all subject areas. The second Report Card will go home at the end of June to reflect achievement from February through to June. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher to discuss questions you may have around their progress and achievement in Term 1.

With March upon us, we are looking forward to the spring and realize that Daylight Savings Time is approaching! Please remember to spring forward your clocks by 1 hour on March 13th which will bring longer daylight to look forward to! We also have March Break approaching the week of March 13th- 17th. We wish our families and students a wonderful March Break week to rest & recharge for the remainder of the school year.

MARCH BREAK & EASTER

This is a reminder that March Break holiday begins on - Monday, March 13, 2023 and goes to Friday, March 17, 2023.

Good Friday is on April 7th and Easter Monday is on April 10th. There will be no school for students on either day.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thank you for supporting our pizza days, we are excited to be back in the school and raising funds for our school community. Every Friday is Pizza Day! Payment will be accepted for the weekly pizza through School Cash Online, up until the Wednesday of that week. This year you are able to sign up for pizza days weekly or order for multiple weeks at the same time. There is also now a plant-based pizza option. Please double check to see if you have already ordered before placing a new order as we have had many instances of families placing a double order.

We are excited to offer salad days this spring. The next salad days will be March 28, April 25, and May 30. Thank you for supporting parent council initiatives, all proceeds go directly back into the school to support our school community.

Volunteers Needed

Some of our ongoing programs need your help to run effectively. Below are the ongoing programs in need of immediate assistance. Please contact the person listed beside each initiative if interested in helping. Please see full details on each program on the school website.

- **Pizza Fridays** Email Karen Kennedy
kpeters7@hotmail.com
- **Salad Bar** Email Amy Ouchterlony
amy.ouchterlony@gmail.com
- **Milk Days** (previous program we would like to bring back)
- **Daily Breakfast / Snack Program** Email Ashley Hopkins
ashley.hopkins@ugdsb.on.ca
- **Pollinator and Vegetable Gardens** Email Annalea Kidd
annaleakidd@gmail.com
- **Fundraising and School Events** – BBQ, Movie Night, Spring Fling/Carnival Email Karen Kennedy kpeters7@hotmail.com

Please note that you must have a current vulnerable sector check on record with the office in order to volunteer. You do this by requesting a letter from the school and filling out an application here: www.opp.ca/index.php?id=147&lng=en. Email Ashley Hopkins at ashley.hopkins@ugdsb.on.ca

JUNIOR & SENIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for September 2023

If you have not already registered your child for full day every day Junior Kindergarten in September 2023, please complete the registration online (www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten) and call into the office so a meeting can be scheduled to complete the registration. Eligible students for the JK program must be four years of age on or before December 31st, 2023.

EQAO WEBINAR for Caregivers of Elementary Students

There is a FREE live webinar to learn about EQAO assessment results and Ontario's large-scale assessment program at the elementary-school level.

· March 28th @ 6:30pm

· April 4th @ 12:00pm.

EQAO will review highlights from the 2021–2022 assessment results. The session will also highlight how the Primary division (Grade 3) and Junior division (Grade 6) assessments have been modernized. The presentation will be approximately 45 minutes and will be followed by a live Q & A session with EQAO staff. Registration: www.eventbrite.ca/e/451955981507

SCHOOL SPIRIT WEAR

Looking to add some purple and gold to your child's wardrobe? Primrose school spirit wear is available for purchase through a link on our school website, under the School Council tab, or click [HERE](#) to reach the site. Shirts can even be personalized on the sleeve. Makes a great holiday gift!

NEWS FROM THE LLC (LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS)

- We will welcome two local authors to the Learning Commons in March. First will be Amaya James who we rebooked after missing her on a "no bus" day. She is the author of *Afro, No!* and is just 9 years old! Our students are really looking forward to meeting her. We expect she will inspire many young storytellers to work toward publishing a book.

- Steve Anderson will speak to our Intermediate division students about his book Driven to Succeed on Thursday March 9. We hope to inspire our young adults to recognize their goals and find pathways to reach them.
- The choir is practicing regularly in the Learning Commons. They sound beautiful! Many thanks to Ms. Hawkins and Ms. Robertson for their commitment to this group. Our Skills Canada Competition is coming up in April. We have 7 teams selected. They will be hard at work in the Learning Commons and in Mr. Benotto's classroom all through the month of March to prepare.
- Our primary classes have been enjoying our Blue Spruce Books and the follow up maker activities. We hope you are enjoying the interesting creations that are showing up at home.
- On Tuesday February 21 twenty students from grades 6-8 traveled to the high school in Shelburne to hear the inspirational Adonis Rosalle. His message focused on leadership and how to make change using the acronym "H.E.L.P". H stands for "have a voice", E stands for "educate yourself", L stands for "love aggressively", and P stands for "persist". All of these lessons were tied to the story of Adonis' grandmother who put all of these skills into action while tending to her garden. Thank you Centre Dufferin District High School for including us in this opportunity. It was marvelous!

Sherie Anderson - Teacher - Librarian

KISS & RIDE

A reminder to all parents that are picking up students at the end of the day that there is NO PARKING in our Kiss and Ride loop. Our Kiss and Ride is well used by parents of our older students and having parents parked in this area poses a safety risk to our older students and causes congestion. Please respect the signage and the routine of the school and use parking spots if you need to park. If you need to pick up a primary (K-4) child from the gym and an older student from the Kiss and Ride you must park in a designated parking space. **Younger students will not be permitted to go with older students to the Kiss and Ride. This is a safety concern with cars coming and going and the office not handing off our younger students to their guardians.** Thanks for your attention in this matter.

Student Pick Up at the End of the Day

We ask that if you are picking up your child at the end of the day that you call in **by 2:30 pm**. Since we are a fully bused school the office is very busy at the end of the day and your call may not be answered and returned right away. Thank you for your support in helping make for a smooth end of the day.

EARTH HOUR

Started by WWF and partners as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour is now one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment, engaging millions of people in more than 180 countries and territories. Earth Hour is held every year on the last Saturday of March. Join the millions of people around the world and switch off your lights in support of nature and our planet on Saturday, March 25th, 2023 at 8:30 pm. - <https://www.earthhour.org/> Spend 60 minutes doing something positive for our planet.

Ideas for your family to do for Earth Hour!

Earth Hour belongs to you. Celebrate your commitment to the planet with your friends, family, community or at work - in your own way. A simple event can be just turning off all non-essential lights on March 25th from 8:30-9:30 pm. For one hour, focus on your commitment to our planet.

To celebrate, you can:

- prepare a candle lit dinner,
- talk to your neighbours, or invite people over
- stargaze, or go camping in your backyard
- play board games, or charades
- host a concert, or a sing-a-long
- create or join your own community event
- have an Earth Hour every month

The possibilities are endless! Please see ideas for your family to do for Earth Hour! [50 Earth Day Activities and Ideas](#)

HELP KIDS LIVE FREE FROM HUNGER DAY - March 6th

Primrose Elementary and The Children's Foundation are working hard to meet the growing needs in our community, and that includes fighting food insecurity through our Help Kids Live Free From Hunger Campaign. 100% of the funds raised between now and March 6th will go towards providing healthy meals to students through our Primrose Food and Friends Program. With your help, we can continue to provide meals for our community.

This year, the need is greater than ever. 1 in 5 children may experience food insecurity, and with rising food prices a healthy Food and Friends meal can cost an average of \$3.40 compared to \$1.85 a year ago.

The Children's Foundation is challenging community supporters - businesses, organizations, and individuals - to make an impact on the lives of local children and youth by helping us meet our regional goal of 30,000 meals. We hope you'll join us in this challenge and help support those in need within our Primrose Community.

Campaigns like [Live Free](#) help us continue to meet the growing need within our community and ensure those most in need feel supported. Please Click [here](#) to donate to Live Free. If you choose Primrose from the drop-down list your donation will be directed to the student nutrition program at Primrose Elementary. You can also choose to donate via [School Cash Online](#). Thank you for helping us continue to support our community in times of need.

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GREAT BIG CRUNCH - The Coalition for Healthy School Food

Primrose will be participating in the Great Big Crunch on March 9th, 2023. The Great Big Crunch is a Canada-wide movement and annual moment in which students, teachers, parents and others passionate about food join the food movement and crunch into apples (or other crunchy fruit or vegetable) to make noise for healthy school food! On March 9th at 1:00 pm, all of the students and staff will be eating a healthy apple supplied from our Healthy Schools Team. All at once, we will 'crunch' together to remind us of the value of good health and farm fresh food!

WELLNESS WORKS! UGDSB March Theme is Kindness

This month we collectively focus on reminding ourselves to be kind.

Kindness can be defined as:

- The quality or state of being kind (loving, affectionate, gentle)
(Merriam-Webster)

Acts of kindness help students engage in more compassionate ways with each other and appreciate the value of helping others. Through acts of kindness, students can build more positive relationships with their classmates.

Being a Good Friend

Peer acceptance and friendship can help students to feel good about their school experience and perform better in the classroom. Students can learn to appreciate what makes them a good friend and what attributes they value in others.

Being Respectful

Learning to recognize and celebrate how people are both the same and different helps students appreciate diversity and to respect and care for each other.

Conflict resolution skills are best modeled and practiced in a safe and supportive environment. Students benefit from learning how to solve conflicts appropriately, using words.

Empathy skills help with conflict resolution and maintaining positive relationships. When students learn to put themselves in another's shoes, they can develop new and more compassionate perspectives.

Active listening enhances empathy and acceptance of differences. Students who listen well are more attuned to the needs and perspectives of others, which can help with social relationships.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS PROTECTIVE STRATEGIES UPDATES

As reported cases of respiratory illness continue to stabilize and we start to head out of winter, we would like to provide some reminders on continuing to stress key protective strategies in schools while also supporting individual choices about masking in schools. We would like to take this opportunity to also underscore the importance of the following key messages to keep staff and students safe and healthy:

- Recommended daily screening before coming to school / work
- If you are feeling unwell or have symptoms, please stay home
- Continue frequent hand washing/sanitizing and respiratory etiquette
- Distance from others where possible, especially indoors
- A reminder that rapid antigen tests are available to staff and students at all schools and work locations
- Non-fit N95 masks, medical grade masks, and eye protection are available for staff
- Cloth masks available for students
- Every class, learning space and staff eating area in the UGDSB has a standalone HEPA filter unit, with more than 2,500 units across the board. Standalone HEPA units must be running in all occupied spaces where they are located
- Open windows where possible and maximize the use of outdoor learning spaces

Following these measures will continue to help with pressures in schools, including student and staff absences and staff shortages. In addition to these measures, the

UGDSB will continue to make approved masks available at each location and will support students, staff and visitors to our schools and respect their individual choices about masking.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2 - School Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
March 3 - PD Day (no school for students)
March 7 - Jr Sideline Basketball 4-7 pm Laurelwoods
March 8 - Wear Multi-colours for Holi
March 9 - Jr Sideline Basketball rain day
March 9 - The Big Crunch
March 10 - Beach Day
March 10 - Intermediate Skating
March 13 - 17 March Break
March 21 - Rock Your Socks (World Down Syndrome Day)
March 21, 22 - Junior French Program
March 25 - Earth Hour 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm
March 28 - Salad Bar Day
March 30 - Family Movie Night
March 31 - Favourite Sports/Hobby Day
April 3 - Rainbow Colours Day
April 3 - Grade 8 Grad Photos
April 4 - Skills Competition
April 7 - Good Friday (no school)
April 10 - Easter Monday (no school)
April 12 - International Day of Pink
April 17 - Wear Spring Colour
April 20 - Grade 7 Vaccination
April 21 - Ramadan - Wear Purple and Gold
April 25 - Salad Bar Day

April 28 - Grade 8 Grad Photo Retakes

Wishing you an enjoyable break & month ahead!

Please remember to check the UGDSB website, follow us on Twitter, visit our school website, go into your child's Google classroom to see announcements and all the wonderful work they are doing, and read the emails for important information from our school.

*If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call or email us at
Marianne Millsap Principal 519-925-3939 ext 223 marianne.millsap@ugdsb.on.ca
Ashley Hopkins Vice Principal 519-925-3939 ext 224 ashley.hopkins@ugdsb.on.ca*

Marianne Millsap
Principal