



Primrose Elementary School

October 2023 Newsletter

It is hard to believe that the month of September has come and gone! It was wonderful to see so many families at our Meet the Teacher Evening! We were also very thankful to have a number of parents come out to our first School Council meeting! School fundraisers have begun! A huge thank you to the staff and parents who organize and execute these events as the funds raised enhance opportunities for students within our school. Opportunities for students to participate in clubs and sports outside of the classroom have started! We would like to take this opportunity to express a great deal of gratitude to the teachers who are making these extracurricular events possible. We already have several school excursions booked for the coming year which will complement the curriculum! While all these opportunities enhance the student experience, we realize that some families may struggle to fund these experiences. If you are having trouble with payments, please approach Marianne Millsap, Ashley Hopkins or Tricia Boynton in the office, we will be happy to work with you. We have found Primrose to be an extremely generous and caring community. We have included a "pay it forward" button to cash online purchases. If you find yourself able you may click the donation button when you are paying for your child's items online. Donations

can be made online for denominations of \$5, \$10, \$15 or \$20.00. For families that are wishing to make larger donations please note charitable tax receipts are provided for donations of \$20 or more. Donations received through the Upper Grand Learning Foundation will be utilized to provide resources within the schools and to assist with the costs of school activities. Each school operated by the UGDSB has a fund set up in its name and donors may direct their contribution to a specific school. For more information on this fund please visit [Upper Grand Learning Foundation | Contribute](#). I have attached the Upper Grand Learning Foundation form for your convenience [Upper Grand Learning Foundation Form](#)

On Monday October 9th, many of our staff and students will be celebrating Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a day to celebrate family and reflect on our good fortunes. Many people celebrate by having a feast with family and friends. Whatever you choose to do on Monday, enjoy the long weekend and take time to reflect on all the positives in your life.

Special Education Resource Teachers and IEPs

This year our Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) will be supporting students in their classroom and/or in the resource room. The SERT, or your child's classroom teacher, will chat with you to let you know if your child would benefit from this opportunity to receive additional support.

This year, Mrs. Pasmore will be the SERT for the primary division, Ms. Rigby/Ms. Carle will be the SERT for the junior division and Mrs. Robertson will be the SERT for the intermediate division.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of students with an existing Individual Education Plan (IEP) will have received an email on September 19, 2023, containing a feedback form to help inform the revision of their child's IEP. Currently, the special education team is working on updating IEPs and a revised copy will be sent home on October 17, 2023. The special education team asks that you review your child's IEP and sign and return the consultation form that will be attached to the IEP.

Safety Week

This coming week Oct 10 - 13 will be "Safety Week" in our school. Each year we are required to have six fire drills (3 in the Fall), two lockdown drills, a tornado drill and a bomb threat drill. We will also be sounding the alarm bell so students know what it sounds like and to test our various pull stations in the school. We will be reassuring students that there are no concerns and that it is a drill. You may want to let your children know, particularly if your child gets anxious with drills.

Terry Fox Run 2023

Students from K-8 participated and joined in the Marathon of Hope by participating in a run to raise money for cancer. We raised \$710.00 in both cash and online donations. Thank you to all who donated and to Madame Di Felice for all her hard work organizing and making this a fun and worthy event.

Soccer Teams

Students from Junior (Grades 4 - 6) and Intermediates (Grades 7-8) participated in a soccer tournament at Centennial Hylands in September. The students had fun even though it was cold and rainy. Thank you to Mr. Long who coached the Intermediate team and Ms. Di Felice who coached the Junior team.

Cross Country Running

Students from Grade 1 - 8 participated in cross country this week in Orangeville. We had over 120 students run their hearts out at the Orangeville Fair Grounds. Thank you to Ms. Mesesnel for organizing such a great event. Also, thank you to Mr. Stiles and Mr. Benotto for coaching and getting everyone ready for this event. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to make this happen. Seeing all the exhausted, yet happy students returning to school made it all worth while.

Thanksgiving and P.A. Day

Primrose Elementary School will be closed to students on Monday, October 9th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. On Friday, October 27th teachers will be participating in Workplace Violence Prevention Training and Progress Reports. There will be no school for students. - P.A. Day

Photo Day & Retake Day

The photographer from Pegasus Photography will be at Primrose Tuesday, October 20th, 2023 to take photos of all our students. Pegasus Photography will be in touch to give us a second day for any students who were absent from school on photo day or for those wanting retakes.

School Council

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our first Parent Council Meeting of the year last Wednesday. It was wonderful to see so many new faces. Our next meeting will be Thursday November 2nd at 6:30 pm. It will be posted on our website with the link that evening and also tweeted out. We hope to see many community members there. Please visit School Council's facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/PrimroseElementarySchool> and feel free to email them directly at primroseschoolcouncil@gmail.com.

I would like to congratulate our new executive members:

- Chair - Amber Gallagher
- Co-chair - Susan Hall
- Vice chair - Kelly Dean
- Treasurer - Lourdes Mehlhorn
- Secretary - Amy **Ouchterlony**

This year we are introducing a subcommittee to the Parent Council to achieve even more for the school. Parents are able to be on the fundraising committee and are not required to attend School Council meetings to be on this committee. Dates for the fundraising meetings will be shared once they have been decided on.

Pizza Days

We are excited to have Pizza Days again! Thank you School Council for arranging this for us!.

The funds raised are going towards supporting a variety of initiatives that support students including the Forest of Reading Program, Family Transition Place seminars, class trips and bussing, Scientists in School programming, Kindergarten and Grade 8 Graduation costs and playground toys.

Our pizza is provided by New Orleans and costs \$2.50 or \$3.00 per slice and is paid through cash online (no cash is accepted). Pizza will be ordered monthly this year. Our first order is due **Monday, October 9th** to cover October and November pizza days. You will be able to order 2 weeks before the next month. It will be delivered to classrooms at first nutrition break. If your child is absent on Pizza Day, kindly consider your payment a donation to School Council for this year's fundraising goals. No refunds will be issued. Please note there will be NO same day sales of individual slices. In the event of a "snow day" falling on a Pizza Day, Pizza Day will be moved to the following Friday. Should this not be possible due to another snow day, cancelled classes etc. an alternate will be advised separately.

PIC (Parent Involvement Committee)

Register for this free parent/guardian event!

The UGDSB's Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is inviting UG parents/guardians to join them at the free PIC event on October 25, 2023. Whether you are currently part of a school council or are looking to become more involved in your child's school, this opportunity is a great way to learn, discuss and share with each other.

Topics will include leading an effective school council, fundraising, and communication. To learn more, click here. [Inspiring Engagement with Parents & School Councils – UGDSB PIC invites you to its fall event](#)

[October 2023 Communications Newsletter.pdf](#)

Food & Friends School Nutrition Program

Our student nutrition program provides free healthy food available to all students with bins in every classroom. Each morning, cooler bags containing a dairy option (typically yogurt or cheese), a fruit or vegetable option and a grain option (usually a bagel, muffin or biscuit) are delivered to each classroom and available to any student. These bags remain available in each classroom in the morning and then again at the second nutrition break for students. Students are encouraged to bring their own snacks that they can enjoy during these times as well. Please remember to send a water bottle with your child as we are an Eco School and will not be handing out cups. If your child needs a water bottle and/or would benefit from their own individual snack bag please do not hesitate to reach out to our Vice Principal, Mrs. Hopkins, for more information.

For more information on the Food & Friends program please visit <https://www.childrensfoundation.org/programs/food-friends> to learn about this important organization.

Primrose "Care Cupboard"

We wanted to let you all know we are continuing the "Care Cupboard." Our school CYC Katelyn Charbonneau is organizing this program again.

You might be wondering what the Care Cupboard is?

In short, it is a cupboard that is going to be placed in a safe and private space in our school, where students can "shop" for personal care items, for themselves or members of their families. Maybe it's a fresh toothbrush or body wash they can take home. Maybe it's an emergency stick of deodorant for someone in need; anything a child needs to feel comfortable and confident at school. The ultimate goal is to provide whatever a child needs to be able to focus on learning as opposed to worrying about personal hygiene. If you would like to donate or know of a business in our community that would like to contribute, please let us know. We are also happy to answer additional questions at any time.

Katelyn can be reached by email at: katelyn.charbonneau@ugdsb.on.ca.

Thank you in advance for your support with this wonderful program we are trying to get up and running.

Equity and Inclusion

The UGDSB is committed to ensuring policies and procedures that promotes a safe and inclusive school climate for all students and staff. As educators we have a greater responsibility to ensure equity, diversity, and inclusion in our classrooms and school. There are lots of resources available at the board's site to support our considerations of planning events, celebrations, assessment, and curriculum contents in connection with dates of importance for diverse students and families. The month of October is full of some important days of celebration, commemoration, and observance for students, staff, and families which includes Hispanic/Latin America heritage, Islamic heritage, Learning disability awareness, etc.

Kiss and 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. If you need to pick up a primary (K-4) child from the gym you must park in a designated parking space. Our Kiss and Ride is well used by parents of our older students and having parents 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. 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 understanding.

October 31, 2023

October 31st is celebrated as Halloween by some members of our school community while others do not recognize this day. On Tuesday October 31st students at Primrose that celebrate Halloween are welcome to wear costumes (no masks, weapons or blood/gore) to school in the morning or orange and black clothing. We would ask those students choosing to wear a costume, wear it over top of their clothes and arrive at school already dressed up. Students will be asked to change out of their costumes after our first learning block. We will have a Primary parade in the morning starting at 9:30 AM. Children are welcome to bring in pre-packaged treats for their classmates, however if you do not want your child to have any of these treats please speak to their teacher prior to Tuesday.

Halloween is a day that is not observed by all students or staff. It is considered a choice to participate as are all spirit days. Alternative and supportive accommodations and activities will be provided for students if they choose not to participate. As a school community, it is our responsibility to have a space that is welcome to all. Students must avoid wearing identities and cultures as costumes. This includes appropriative costumes/cultural stereotypes, body-shaming and objectifying costumes, and costumes that joke about situations that have caused harm. Such costumes perpetuate stereotypes and can cause harm that can further marginalize and oppress community members. We will be continuing with programming as usual at the school on the 31st and your child will be expected to participate in outdoor learning and therefore will need to dress for the weather conditions.

Supporting Student Attendance at School - Tips for Parents/Guardians

[Student Attendance at School: Tips and Strategies for Families](#)

Report a Bully – On-Line Reporting Tool

As part of our Safe Schools policy, the Upper Grand District School Board has launched an on-line tool that can be used to report incidents of bullying. Reports that are made through the web-site are forwarded to the Principal of the school for follow-up. The web address is: <https://webapps.ugdsb.on.ca/reportbullying/>

Please also take a moment to review our updated Bully Prevention Plan that is located on our school website.



New Staff

We would like to welcome our new staff members to Primrose for the 2023-2024 year. They have made a great addition to our school.

Jennifer Dickson - ECE in KD with Ms. Stevenson
Carla Van Alstine - ECE in KA with Ms. Jones
Michelle McFarlane - EA
Ashley Shevalier - EA
Allyssa Riehl - EA
Jordan Monahan - EA
Lauren Ingram - Grade 1/2
Kiera Zanardo - Grade 7
Brittany Funston - Grade 8
Samantha Croteau - Grade 8 and Planning
Samantha Rigby - Grade 1 and Special Education Teacher
Shelby Carle - Grade 1 and Special Education Teacher
Meet the [Primrose Staff 2023-2024](#)

Dates to Remember

October 11-13: Grade 3 CCAT Practice Tests

October 3: Cross Country Running

October 5: World Teacher Appreciation Day

October 5: Grade 7 Vaccinations

October 6: Fall Colour Day

October 9th – Thanksgiving Monday (no school)

October 10 - 13 Safety Week

October 13 - Pizza Day

October 17: IEPs Go Home

October 17: ECE Appreciation Day

October 17 - Pick up Farm Food Boxes

October 18-20: Grade 3 CCAT Tests Administered

October 20: Picture Day

October 20: Pizza Day

October 24, 25: Oral Health Care (JK, SK, 2, 4, 7

October 25: Dwarfism Awareness Day Wear Green

October 27th – P.A. Day (no school)

October 31st – Halloween

October 31st - Salad Bar Day

November 2 - School Council Meeting 6:30 - 8:00 pm

November 3 - Pizza Day

November 3 - Primrose Colours Day

November 6-10: Treaties Recognition Week

November 7 - Toonie Tuesday Free to Achieve

November 8 - Indigenous Veterans Day

November 9-14 - Wheelchair Basketball

November 10 - Remembrance Day (Wear Red & Black)

November 10 - Pizza Day

November 13 - World Kindness Day

November 13 - Bright Colours for Diwali

November 16: Progress Reports Go Home

November 17 - Hat Day

November 17 - Pizza Day

November 20-24: Bullying Awareness Week

November 22: UGDSB Pink Shirt Day

November 23 - Comfy Day

November 23 - Evening Interviews

November 24: PA Day (no school) Interviews

November 28 - Salad Bar Day

Have a fantastic month Primrose families. Please continue to check the UGDSB website, our school website, your child's classroom, Twitter, and email for important information from our school.

Marianne Millsap

Principal

Happy Thanksgiving

