

Primrose Elementary School

December Newsletter 2023

Dear Families,

A winter wonderland awaits! Lots of snow people and giant snowballs were all over the field when I left the school on Thursday evening! We can expect many more snowy days as winter approaches. This means extra mittens and socks are also needed in your child(ren)'s backpack, please! Outdoor learning and recess will continue at Primrose unless the temperature is extreme. Students must dress for the cold conditions.

We will inevitably have some nasty weather in the coming months. **School Bus Cancellations:** Families and school communities are encouraged to follow STWDSTS and subscribe for digital notifications to determine if buses are canceled. There will be one message from the Guelph Board Office or individual schools.

Website: www.stwdsts.ca

Twitter: @stwdsts

Inclement Weather

Bus Delays/Cancellations:

In the event of bus cancellations, all schools will remain open for students and staff who can get there safely.

If parents/guardians do not feel it is safe to bring their child(ren) to school, the decision to keep their child(ren) home is theirs to make. Just be sure to let the school know that they will not be attending that day.

Bus cancellation days have the potential to significantly impact student learning for students who are unable to attend in-person. Students affected by bus cancellations will be supported in their learning through activities provided by their teacher in their Google Classroom.

Please note that school bus delays and cancellations are NOT posted to Upper Grand District School Board websites or social media. This information is shared by Service de transport de Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation Services (STWDSTS).

The [STWDSTS website](#) will always contain the most up-to-date information on school bus delays and cancellations.

Parents/guardians can sign up for cancellation/delay alerts through the STWDSTS website by clicking [HERE](#)

School Closures:

On the rare occasions when schools and board sites are closed to staff and students (e.g. power outages, weather closures), students are to shift to remote learning, where possible. Staff should not report to work in-person and should shift to remote working where possible.

Remote activities for the day may include teachers posting activities to Google Classrooms, which can be accessed by students. Teachers will plan for the possibility of emergency school closures and will be prepared to pivot to remote learning.

Consideration will also be given to providing or assigning work and/or devices ahead of time that supports students who do not have internet access from home, where possible.

If the decision is made to close schools, an alert will be posted on the board and school websites, information will be posted on the [UGDSB Twitter page](#) and [UGDSB Facebook page](#), [Instagram \(stories only\)](#), and local media will be alerted.

Make sure you check in the early morning for closure information.

[It's that time of year again – everything you need to know about UG Inclement Weather Procedures](#)

Thank you!

It is so wonderful to see that many families participated in **parent-teacher interviews**. Thank you for making time to discuss your child's progress. We want the lines of

communication open between home and school as we work as a team to help support all students. Remember that you can reach out to your child's teacher any time you have a question or concern.

We wanted to extend a huge thank you to all the families that could help out with our **Holiday Helpers Program (formerly Christmas Angels)**. We are overwhelmed by the generosity our Primrose community has displayed.

Thank you to some of our local farmers (**BCM Farm, Fiddlefoot Farm, Lennox Farm, Maxwell Orchards and Rutledge Farm**) for helping raise money by selling Dufferin County Food Boxes. Together, we raised **\$1264.50 for school technology**.

Thank you to **Maple Grove Farm** for selling pumpkins in the Fall, raising **\$700 for our Breakfast Program**.

Thank you for supporting our school fundraisers that will go towards funding outdoor equipment for the classrooms. **Bradford Poinsettia and Mochaberry Coffee** orders will be available for pick up on **Thursday, December 7th from 4 to 6pm** at the school (Primrose Elementary).

Kindergarten Registration

Is my child eligible to go to school?

2024-2025 School Year:

- Children who were born in 2020 may attend Junior Kindergarten (JK).
- Children who were born in 2019 may attend Senior Kindergarten (SK).
- If your child attended JK in the Upper Grand District School Board, you do not have to re-register for SK.

Online pre-registration for the 2024-2025 school year begins on **January 9, 2024-January 26, 2024**. Our online tool allows parents to pre-register online when it's convenient for them! **Online pre-registration is required for all NEW JK and SK students** in the Upper Grand District School Board. For more information and to pre-register online please visit: www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten .

Fluoride Varnish for JK/SK

Please see the attached poster for the fluoride varnish initiative at Primrose on **Friday, December 15th**. Please note you must **opt in** by following the instructions on the attached poster.

[FLUORIDE POSTER 2023-2024.pdf](#)

Monologue Contest Update

Congratulations to all of our Streams Community Hub “Word of Mouth” Monologue Contest participants! Primrose was recognized and celebrated for **entering 18 out of the 26 monologue submissions**, and 7 out of the 10 finalists at the competition were from our school - current or past. There were former and current Primrose students filming, taking photos, recording, and organizing... It was awesome. Every one of our kids did an amazing job and we are so proud of them. A big thanks to **Max McLaughlin, our local professional actor**, for volunteering his time to help coach our speakers. In the end, **Maya A (grade 4) won second place and \$500, and Abigail A (grade 8) won first place and \$1000**. Way to go, Pumas!

Primrose Singers Update

Congratulations to our two choirs on their busy month! On November 10th, both the grade 1-3 choir and our grade 4-8 choir performed at our **Remembrance Day** student assemblies, sharing their voices and helping to recognize the special day. Our grade 4-8 choir members also participated in the Ceremony at the **Mansfield Cenotaph** on November 11th, singing and reading the names of local veterans. We are proud of their involvement in a community event and appreciate the families who got them there on a chilly Saturday morning! Just last week, our two choirs submitted videos to the **CBC Music Classroom Challenge**, a contest that showcases the songs of Canadian musical artists, performed by youth music groups from across the country. We entered two vocal categories and had a lot of fun preparing the pieces and creating the videos. You can check them out on the CBC website [HERE](#).

From your Library Learning Commons

Book Fair Update

Thank you everyone for another successful Scholastic Book Fair. We expect to receive **about \$3000 in “product”** for our school after sales are finalized. We plan to purchase books, consumable supplies (pencils, markers, paper, etc.), and STEM items for our maker space with the “product points” earned.

Library Books Due

Before the two-week winter break, we will collect the majority of library books. We make exceptions when older students know that the holiday is a time they enjoy reading, and will send books home with them when requested.

There will be **24/7 access to “SORA” through your child’s UGCloud account**. This is a **free e-book library** that offers picture books, novels, graphic novels, and audio books to students. Please let Ms. Anderson know if you have any questions about using SORA. sanderson@ugcloud.ca

Food Drive

Our "JEDI" club members are collecting **food donations for the Shepherd's Cupboard** Food Bank in Shelburne. All donations are welcome! Some items they are asking for are . . .

Canned tuna /salmon

Flour

Cooking Oil

Cookies

Pasta Sauce

Canned Fruit

Laundry or Dish Detergent

Cereal (hot or cold)

Condiments (mayonnaise or ketchup)

Canned Pasta

We will be dropping items off as they come in to make the delivery more manageable. Students can deliver their donations to the front foyer.

CCAT (Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test) GRADE 3

This fall, grade three students wrote the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test. The results of this test will be distributed early next week.

Periodic Head Lice Checks

Winter seems to be a bad time for head lice. Please check your children weekly under bright lights, parting and lifting strands of hair. This weekly check will save you a great deal of time and work in the long run. While head lice are a nuisance, they are not a health hazard. Head lice cannot fly or jump. They are spread from direct head-to-head contact or indirectly on hats, combs, headphones, etc. Please remind your child not to share these items with other children. Please contact the school if your child has lice, and treat your child and remove all nits. Thank you for your help.

School Council

Our next School Council Meeting will be held virtually and in person on **Thursday, December 7th, at 6:00 pm**. A meeting link will be sent out and made available on the school website that day. If you would like to look at past agendas and minutes, they are posted on the school website under the School Council tab.

Pizza Days

We would like to thank our families for your patience during the interruption with School Cash Online. It has come to our attention that Pizza orders for December may have been affected. All children received pizza on December 1st if they needed it. Please go onto School Cash Online directly to check your order history for **ALL** children in your family. In some instances, only one of your student's orders was placed. Pizza will be open until

midnight on Monday December 4th for you to place orders for the other December pizza days.

Pita Pit Fundraiser Update

Thank you to everyone who has ordered smoothies and pitas, to support the grade eight graduation. They seem to be quite popular and our intermediate students have been a great help, making deliveries to each classroom when they arrive. **Smoothie and pita sales will continue during the month of December.**

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. We will be adding pink shirts for anti-bullying and orange shirts in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. You can also purchase Primrose Singers shirts. Primrose spirit wear makes a great holiday gift!

Colour House December Challenge

During the week of December 4th - 8th, students will be participating in our **Colour House Week**. Each day through that week, one of our house colours will meet with their team in the Library Learning Commons for a period in the afternoon and will work together to make winter holiday cards that will be distributed at our local senior centres. Our schedule will be as follows:

Monday, December 4th - Yellow Team

Tuesday, December 5th - Blue Team

Wednesday, December 6th - Green Team

Thursday, December 7th - Red Team

Friday, December 8th - Purple Team

Everyone is encouraged to **wear their House Colour** on the assigned date. Points will be earned for participation and positivity. Happy Holidays, Primrose!

Door Decorating Contest

Holiday excitement is building!!! For the month of December, classes have selected a holiday to learn about and will be showcasing what they have learned by decorating their classroom door, based on this tradition/celebration, for all to see. We have a wide range of celebrations and traditions being recognized including: Christmas, Kwanzaa, Diwali, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Yom Kippur and others. During the week of December 18th, classes will take a tour of the school to learn about different celebrations and holidays and enjoy the work of their peers. Happy Holiday!

Eco Update

It has been a busy November! Our **Colour House Challenge** this month was an Eco Challenge. We collected Pop Tabs to donate to charity. These tabs will be donated to **The Robert Hampson Tabs for Kids Fund**. The tabs will be taken to a metal recycling depot that pays for the aluminum by the pound. The money will then be deposited into the Robert Hampson Tabs for Kids Fund at Easter Seals Ontario. Easter Seals Ontario administers the funds and will purchase wheelchairs and other adaptive equipment for children. Congratulations to the **Blue and Yellow Houses for filling an entire 18.5 L bottle** with pop tabs. Honourable mention to the Red, Green and Purple teams for each filling a half bottle. Well done Primrose!

This month we also had a presentation for our Kindergarten students on **proper waste sorting from Dufferin Waste**. These presentations will continue through the month of December for some of our Primary students.

We continue to do our daily blue box recycling, green bin composting and working towards our Platinum Eco Status. Keep your eye out for more Eco Initiatives in the New Year!

Lost and Found



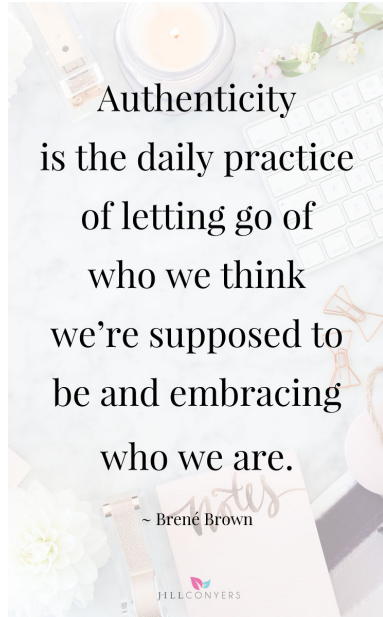
Families... Please be sure to check the lost and found if you are picking up your child. We have several unclaimed items on tables at the front door by the office! We will be donating the leftover clothing to Goodwill during the holiday.

Student Support Services

Please note that the **Compass 2SLGBTQ Distress Line** is no longer offering a text option. **The phone number remains active.**

Wellness

The wellness trait for the month of December is **authenticity**. Authenticity is speaking and behaving as our true selves. When we are authentic, we reveal our true beliefs and core selves to others with confidence and conviction, without fear of recourse or shame.



Upcoming Celebrations:

With the festive season upon us, there will be much excitement in the air! Although our focus will be to work hard towards accomplishing our personal goals and next steps. As a school community, we will take time to learn about international festivals and holidays.

During the week leading up to Winter Break, we are highlighting a few celebrations. Wear the colours of the day on spirit days to honor Winter Holidays around the world that our students celebrate!

Friday, December 15th

Blue and White Day Celebrating Hanukkah

Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, takes place from December 18th - December 26th this year. On each night of the celebration, a new candle is lit in the menorah. Hanukkah is traditionally celebrated with blue and white colors.

Tuesday, December 19th

Red, Green, White, and Gold Day - Christmas/Winter Solstice

During Christmas, Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on the 25th of December. In many cultures around the world, the Winter Solstice, also known as Yule, is celebrated on Wednesday, December 21st. We celebrate the return of light (our sun) and the beginning of longer daylight hours on this day.

Wednesday, December 20th

Red, Black, and Green Day Honouring Kwanzaa

December 26th through January 1st marks Kwanzaa, an ancient harvest festival. There are seven principles to live by during Kwanzaa, and each day focuses on one of these

principles. Kwanzaa's principles include Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith).

Upcoming Events:

Dec 1 - Pizza Day

Dec 4 - Pita Day

Dec 4 - Intermediate Volleyball Finals

Dec 4 - Yellow Colour House Day

Dec 5 - Blue Colour House Day

Dec 6 - Green Colour House Day

Dec 6 - School Council Meeting @ 6 - 7:30 pm

Dec 6 - Grade 3 Math Screener

Dec 7 - Red Colour House Day

Dec 7 - Smoothie Day

Dec 7 - Poinsettia & Coffee Pick Up 4-6 pm

Dec 8 - Pizza Day

Dec 8 - Purple Colour House Day

Dec 11 - Pita Day

Dec 14 - Smoothie Day

Dec 14 - CDDHS Guidance staff coming to aide with grade 9 course selection 12- 1 pm

Dec 15 - Pizza Day

Dec 15 - Fluoride Varnish JK/SK

Dec 15 - Blue/Silver/White (Hanukkah) Spirit Day

Dec 18 - Pita Day

Dec 18 - Hat Day

Dec 18 - Virtual French Metis Presentation (Zanardo 10 am, Williamson 12:20, Hawkins 2 pm)

Dec 19 - Red/White/Green (Christmas) Spirit Day

Dec 19 - Virtual French Metis Presentation (9:20 am Benotto)

Dec 19 - Salad Bar Day

Dec 20 - Red/Black/Green (Kwanzaa) Spirit Day

Dec 20 - Virtual French Metis Presentation (Parsons 12:20 pm)

Dec 21 - Smoothie Day

Dec 21 - Primrose School Colours Spirit Day

Dec 21 - Virtual French Metis Presentation (Funston 10 am)

Dec 22 - Pizza Day

Dec 22 - Comfy Clothes Day

Dec 25th - January 5th- Winter Break

Jan 12 - Backwards Day

Jan 12 - Pizza Day

Jan 19 - Pizza Day
Jan 19 - Hat Day
Jan 22 - 25 Literacy Week
Jan 25 - Comfy Clothes Day
Jan 26 - PA Day (no school)

During the busyness of the coming month, try to remember that time is one of the best gifts we are given. Enjoy family time over the winter break. Take time to snuggle up and read together, play board games, drink hot chocolate, get outside, and enjoy being together!

From all of the staff at Primrose, we would like to wish everyone a safe winter break and much peace and happiness in 2024!

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