

Primrose Elementary School

February 2024 Newsletter

We have really been experiencing a mix of weather this winter! From spring-like rains to extremely cold days with mountains of snow. The winter months may continue to provide inconsistent weather conditions. Please help us to ensure students are prepared for the outdoors by having them come to school with appropriate gear for outside. We will always monitor the weather and ensure that decisions about sending students outside are made with their safety in mind. Additionally, inclement weather may result in bus delays or cancellations. Please be prepared for delayed routes both in the morning and after school. As a school, we have no control over this, as the buses are run by the transportation consortium. We encourage you to regularly check their website ([stwdsts](#)) and to sign up for their notification service to help you in planning for these events. You can also check the Board's website as well as www.findmyschool.ca for any bus delays or cancellations. Please be advised that if the buses do not run in the morning they will not run in the afternoon. If you drive your child(ren) into school, you will need to make arrangements to pick them up at 3:20 PM.

Literacy Week at Primrose was a huge success! Approximately 1000 books were turned into the "Book Buffet" and redistributed to be enjoyed by other children! Many students enjoyed dressing as their favourite book character and the winner of the Book Bingo was Ms. Zanardo's grade seven class! A wonderful time was had by all. It was lovely to witness the shared reading between younger and older students on Thursday.

REPORT CARDS

On Thursday February 15th you will be able to view your child's report card at:
<https://connect.edsembli.com/on/ugdsb/primr/portal/viewer/login/login.aspx?logintype=P>

These reports represent learning from September until the beginning of February. This report, unlike the progress report, will provide you with more detail on how your child is progressing at school. Please review the report with your child and acknowledge the suggestions that are made for improvement. Although formal interviews occurred in November, please feel free to connect with staff if you have concerns or questions about your child's progress.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The next School Council meeting is **Wednesday, April 10th, 2024 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.

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 gift!

COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTER - UGDSB

The UGDSB Communications team has a monthly newsletter to give students, staff and parents/guardians a glance at the month ahead. Keep an eye out the last week of each month for your latest edition of UGDSB Together. Here is the link to the website with all the newsletters from September to February. In this month's issue the board has information about:

- Black Heritage, Black Brilliance and Black Futures Month
- Tips for parents/guardians - encouraging student attendance at school
- UGDSB Pathways website info
- And more!

You can use this link moving forward to review each month.

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/community/communications/communications-newsletter/>

DUFFERIN PARENT SUPPORT NETWORK

Dufferin Parent Support is a network of parents and community agencies who provide education, resources and support for parents of school-aged children. On February 8th Dufferin Parent Support Network will be doing a free workshop on Parenting in the Digital Age. Please see below how to register.

Alyssa Kamphuis - Coordinator

DPSN - Dufferin Parent Support Network

519-940-8678 • www.dpsn.ca • info@dpsn.ca

Parenting in the Digital Age

February 8, 2024, 7:00-8:00pm + 1/2 hour Q&A

Parenting in an era of rapid technological advancements has taken on a whole new dimension! Screens have become an integral part of our lives, serving as lifelines for learning, communication, and connection. Finding the delicate balance between embracing the benefits of technology and fostering real-world experiences can feel daunting. In this workshop, you will gain some practical tips and strategies for fostering a balanced approach to screen time, ensuring that technology enhances, rather than hinders, your child's overall well-being.

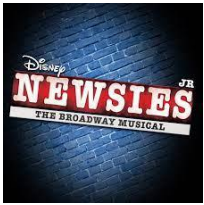
Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/3NALUDM>

Human Trafficking Webinar:

Our school community is invited to join this opportunity for a webinar learning about Human Trafficking and how to support our children/youth and how to connect with supports. This will include a panel discussion with police, children's mental health and child protection services.

■ AHST Poster Winter 2024 (2).pdf

SCHOOL SHOW UPDATE



Rehearsals for our upcoming Primrose school show, **Newsies Jr.** are underway, with a fabulous cast of over 100 students from grades 4-8. Cast members have access to the Newsies Jr. Google Classroom for rehearsal schedules, songs and lyrics, and are working hard to prepare their singing, dancing and acting skills. **T-shirts by Town Tees** are now available for purchase through our school website spiritwear link or by clicking [HERE](#) and looking under **Musical Gear**. Over the next couple of months, other students and family members will have the opportunity to help create and collect props, costumes and sets for the production, which takes place in May. (See the LCC message below.) As they say in the show, "The things we do today will be tomorrow's news!"

LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS (LLC) NEWS

Thank you again to our School Council for supporting the **Forest of Reading** program. The books we have been reading in our groups have been excellent so far. Students in grades 4-8 meet with Ms. Anderson once a week to discuss the stories, authors, and research done around the content in the books, to broaden our knowledge and understanding. This year's selections are some of the best ever!

Our **Skills Ontario** groups have been practicing two times each week during recess and lunch in the Library Learning Commons with Ms. Anderson, and in the Tech. Room with Mr. Benotto. We have teams in **Lego and Vex robotics, video and TV production, workplace safety, construction, design technology and green energy**. The local competition takes place in Guelph early April, and the Ontario competition takes place in early May in Toronto. We were fortunate to have two teams qualify for the Toronto competition last year. It is truly worth a visit to explore if you have children interested in the trades. High schools and college level students are competing in various skilled competitions, and industries have information booths with experienced people from the field to answer questions.

We will be starting construction of various **set pieces and props** for the Newsies Jr. show in the Library Learning Commons. If you have **full size newspapers** you can send in, that would help. It's not as common as it once was to get papers delivered . . . but Ms. Anderson's 92-year-old father-in-law loves his daily paper and has been saving them for us! We still are collecting **boxboard (cereal boxes)** to help with construction projects. If you happen to have some **off white, canvas-type fabric** there will be places in the show we need that as well.

WINTER FUN DAY

On February 22nd, our Colour House Teams will be participating in an **Outdoor Winter Fun Day!** Students will have the opportunity to work together in a variety of activities including snowshoeing, "ski jumping", curling, hockey and many more. Teams will work together to try to earn points for their Colour Houses. It will be a fun-filled day of outdoor adventures!

ECO UPDATE

We continue to work hard on reaching our goal of continuing to be a Platinum Eco School. On Feb 1, students wore sweaters and we turned the heat down in support of the World Wildlife Foundation. February 7th is **Winter Walk Day**. All of our classes will spend some time outside appreciating the beautiful nature around us.

We have also had our Eco leaders meeting to plan for an upcoming **Litterless Lunch Campaign**, creating a Mental Health Sit Spot outside for students, and many other great initiatives that will continue through the year. Stay tuned for more information soon!

LIVE FREE CAMPAIGN - School Breakfast Program

Every day, many children and youth in our community live without basic necessities that many of us take for granted. Often, they arrive at school without the proper nutrition they need to help them focus in class. Put simply, they are too hungry to learn.



Our “Help Kids Live Free From Hunger” campaign aims to raise funds to support our Food & Friends student nutrition programs, offering thousands of local children and youth access to nutritious food while at school. The Children’s Foundation of Guelph and Wellington invites you to be an advocate for children and youth in our community through our “Help Kids Live Free From Hunger” campaign in support of the [**Food & Friends Program**](#).

In a time of increasing grocery costs, high inflation, and stressed family budgets, we are seeing a growing need for families to access Food & Friends programs. We have hundreds of students at our school who access this program on a daily basis. A healthy Food & Friends meal can cost an average of \$2.50. Many children and youth in our community live without the basic necessities that many of us take for granted. **For some students, the food from our Food & Friends supported programs will be their only meal of the day.**

By helping us to raise funds through the Live Free campaign, you can have a remarkable impact on the lives of children and youth in our school by helping provide a healthy start to the day for kids in our community who need it. **100% of the funds raised will help our students Live Free From Hunger.**

You can donate to the Live Free Program on school cash online until end of day March 1, 2024 with \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$50 options.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

TRANSITIONS:

February is always an exciting time for us and a time of transition. We have over 40 little Pumas registered for JK in September. Eligible students for the **Junior Kindergarten** program must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2024. Parents/Guardians can complete the online registration at www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten and then call the school between the hours of 10:00 am – 3:00 pm so we can complete the registration. Please pass this information on to families in our area.

On the other end of the spectrum, our grade eight students are involved in **selecting their courses for high school** and having visits from the high school guidance counselors. Grade eight teachers have reviewed the various initial post-secondary pathways, to help students understand the connection to course selection before they make their choices. The courses students choose for high school have an impact on their pathway from grades 9-12 and beyond. This is for a few reasons, namely:

- In order to take some courses in later grades, students need to have successfully taken a 'prerequisite course'.
- While destreaming in grade nine provides an important opportunity for students to continue to develop skills and knowledge in all the core subject areas, by grade 10 they:
 - Have choices of courses that might influence their options of initial postsecondary pathway (workplace, college, university, apprenticeship, or community)
 - Might have fewer 'compulsory' courses and more options to consider how they will fill their timetable
 - Will need to consider the new mandatory tech credit

As they move through high school, their choices should reflect a developing sense of self and potential postsecondary path or career. Students have been provided time in class to complete their course selection in MyBlueprint. Upon submission, students were required to send their parent/guardian an email message requesting that they review and approve the course selections. Families should have signed off on their child's courses. Centre Dufferin District High School (CDDHS) guidance staff visited Primrose and will visit once more in the spring, to review and confirm course selection with the students.

We appreciate that there are big emotions for parents at the beginning and the end of elementary school.

IMPORTANT DATES TO BE AWARE OF:

National Anti-Bullying Pink Shirt Day on **Wednesday, February 28th** is the Day of Pink, where we stand up against bullying and discrimination. It's a day to stand up for kindness, where we work together and treat others with dignity and respect. Working together we can make sure that Primrose is a safe learning and working space for everyone. Support Bullying Awareness, Prevention and Diversity by wearing **PINK** on Wednesday, February 28th!

In the month of **February**, we will focus attention on **Black Heritage, Black Brilliance, Black Futures Month**. The G.E.T. Outreach Works team is once again excited to be working alongside our Northern schools and remote school to recognize Black Heritage, Black Brilliance, and Black Futures month. We will be doing a series of virtual presentations to pay tribute to the generations who have struggled before. Each year the schools in Shelburne will take on a theme (Sports, Military, Food, Music, Dance and Careers). This year, Primrose will be looking at celebrating Black members in STEM careers. Students will have an opportunity to learn about how the water that we drink is treated by chemical engineers. This is just a starting point for staff and students to expand this learning, not only in February but throughout the year.

Family Day is on **February 19th**. Family Day is not a national statutory holiday. Family Day was originally created to give people time to spend with their families. Here are some ideas to do with your family: [Family Day 2024 - Things To Do With The Kids – Active Parents](#). We hope that everyone enjoys this time with your family.

WELLNESS FOCUS

Self-Compassion is:

- Treating yourself kindly and with patience during times of perceived failure
- Understanding that imperfections and struggle are a natural part of being human
- Offering oneself acceptance, understanding, and care

Self-Compassion aligns with classroom goals and student success as it supports students in successful:

- Goal setting
- Monitoring and documenting of growth
- Collaboration
- Perseverance
- Initiative and risk taking
- Communication
- Conflict resolution

February 19th , 2024 is Family Day and there is no school for students.

March Break is March 11th – 15th, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 1 - School Council @ 6:00 pm

February 1 - Cross Country Skiing (Parsons & Zanardo am, Rigby & Hawkins pm)

February 1 - Wear a Sweater for National Sweater Day

February 1 - Smoothie Day

February 2 - Primrose School Colours Day & Pizza Day

February 2 - Groundhog Day!

February 5 - Pita Day

February 6 - Boston Pizza Pasta Day

February 7 - Winter Walk Day

February 8 - Black History Month Presentation

February 8 - Smoothie Day

February 8 - Intermediate Badminton Team Tournament

February 9 - Pizza Day & Lunar New Year (Wear Red/Yellow/Gold)

February 12 - Pita Day

February 12- International Epilepsy Awareness Day- Wear Purple

February 12 - 16 Random Acts of Kindness Week

February 13 - Boston Pizza Pasta Day

February 13 - Bannon, Long, & Mr. Stiles online safety presentation by OPP

February 14 - Red/White/Pink Day (Valentine/Random Acts of Kindness Day) Please do not send in treats unless you have checked with your child's teacher about allergies.

February 15 - Rigby, Parsons & Benotto online safety presentation by OPP

February 15 - Smoothie Day

February 15 - Report Cards Available Online

February 16 - Pizza Day & Hat Day

February 19 - Family Day (no school)

February 20 - Boston Pizza Pasta Day

February 20 - Cross Country Skiing (Funston, Long & Bannon Grade 4s am, Benotto, Symons & Bannon Grade 4s pm)

February 22 - Smoothie Day

February 22 - Winter Game Day (House Colour Challenge)

February 23 - Mismatch Day & Pizza Day

February 26 - Pita Day

February 27 - Salad Bar Day

February 28 - Day of Pink (Anti-Bullying Day)

March 1 - Favourite Sports/Hobby Day & Pizza Day

March 4 - Pita Day

March 5 - Junior Sideline Basketball Team Tournament

March 7 - Cross Country Skiing (Zanardo & Williamson am, Benotto & Stiles pm)

March 7 - Smoothie Day

March 7 - Mesesnel, Little & Symons online safety presentation by OPP

March 8 - Williamson, Zanardo & Mr. Hawkins online safety presentation by OPP

March 8 - Beach Day & Pizza Day

March 11- 15 March Break

March 18 - Pita Day

March 21 - Smoothie Day

March 22 - Rock Your Socks (World Down Syndrome Day) & Pizza Day

March 22 - Grade 8 & SK Graduation Pictures

March 25 - Wear Multi-colours for Holi

March 25 - Earth Hour

March 26 - Salad Day

March 29 - Good Friday (no school)

We are hoping that February can bring some more snow and sunshine to allow students the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors!

Have a wonderful month of February!

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