## Principal’s Message

Happy New Year! 2017 is going to be another great year.

Christmas Craft Fair Wrap-up: The Christmas Craft Sale at PMPS was another smashing success. With more than 50 vendors selling a variety of crafts, there was a lot of selection for Christmas shoppers looking for a special gift. Thanks to Nicole Chafe for organizing all the vendors this year.

Thanks to Billie-Jo Reid and her team for setting up the silent auction this year. The team put together a wonderful selection of gift cards, donated items from the community and the vendors, as well as donated items from each classroom. The baskets looked beautiful and the auction ran smoothly. Thanks to all families and community businesses that contributed to our silent auction.

The intermediate teachers, Mrs. Mikulik and Mrs. Heimbecker (and their family members), along with the PMPS staff and students, put together a wonderful bake sale to raise money for student council and ran the café. Again, we are grateful to our community for donating the baked goods, pop, juice and water to our café. Thanks to Mrs. H for organizing all the student and former student helpers so the whole event ran smoothly.

Thanks to Ryan Grist and Mrs. Heimbecker for organizing the music. There was a lot of different musicians and a great variety of music played that enhanced the atmosphere of the café and spread the joy of the season.

A Big thanks to Cheryl Bognar, our CCF chairperson, for keeping us all organized and focused during our meetings as well as lending a hand wherever needed. Thanks to all our CCF committee for your dedication to our school and council. Everyone working together as a team made this event a success.

We are looking forward to cross country skiing, badminton, basketball, and lots of time to play with friends at school. With the return of the cold weather, it was great to see everyone dressed warmly wearing hats, warm mitts and scarves.

## Developing Character

School is not just about learning about the 3 Rs, it is also about helping our students build their character so they can become positive, productive citizens of our community and neighbourhood. During the next two months, our school will be focusing on positive Character traits that assist our students in becoming leaders by giving them chances to explore and develop their own character.

Our positive character trait for January and February is Compassion. In the next month, we will be talking about what it means to be Compassionate in school. You, as a parent, can help by talking about how you and your family are compassionate. Speak to your children about being compassionate using examples from your own family.

Ask your child how they were compassionate/kind/understanding of others during their school day. It might take a little bit of time to get into the habit of being compassionate in a competitive world, but taking it slowly one step at a time, together we can make the world a kinder more caring place. Together, we can take small steps to make our community even better. Thanks for your support!

## School Council Update

The next School Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 23rd 2017 at 7pm. Babysitting provided upon request.

## Outside Play in the Snow

We have been working on teaching students the proper way to play outside during the winter months. Our policy still remains, “hands off” each other. Also, we have reinforced the “no snowball throwing” with students. If they choose to throw snow there are serious consequences. Each child has the choice how they conduct him/herself out on the yards. Please go over the safe rules of play with your child at home to help us here at school.

The purpose of recess is for our students to socialize and enjoy some activities together while getting some fresh air and having fun.

## Attendance

Please remember to call the school (519) 941-3731 (ext. \*222) if your child is going to be late or absent. We do have a “Safe Arrival Policy.” When students are absent and we have not been informed as to the reason, we attempt to contact parents / guardians to determine the reason for the absence. Please make sure your contact information is current.

During the first term, staff noticed a big improvement in the number of students being on time for class in the morning. Thanks to all parents for getting your children to school on time and ready to learn.

## ODSS Parent Information Night

Grade 8 students at Princess Margaret Public School will soon be receiving their Grade 9 course selection sheets in order to choose their courses for secondary school. Orangeville District Secondary School plans to have an orientation and information evening at O.D.S.S. on Thursday, January 12th from 7:00 until 9:00 p.m. Parents are asked to please accompany their Grade 8 child to this presentation.

## Inclement Weather

Princess Margaret Public School is a “walking school.” All students at the school are able to walk from their residences, so we are open on a no bus day.

Occasionally, the Upper Grand District School Board is forced to cancel buses due to inclement weather. The cancellation of buses does not have any impact on P.M.P.S. ***Our school remains open and classes continue.*** ***All field trips are cancelled on days when bus transportation has been cancelled in our area.***

On very rare occasions inclement weather results in ***schools being closed***. When this happens, announcements are made on local television and radio stations, a “school closure” message is placed on the school’s voice messaging system (Ext 750) and signs are placed in the entranceways to the school indicating that the school is closed. Parents may also check the Upper Grand District School Board’s website (ugdsb.on.ca) for up to date school closure information.

## Conflict vs Bullying

People may sometimes confuse conflict with bullying, but they are different. Conflict occurs between two or more people who have a disagreement, a difference of opinion or different views. Conflict between students does not always mean it’s bullying. Children learn at a young age to understand that others can have a different perspective than their own, but developing the ability to gain perspective takes time and the process continues into early adulthood. In conflict, each person feels comfortable expressing his or her views, and there is no power imbalance. Each person feels able to state his or her view point. How people deal with conflict can make it positive or negative. Conflict becomes negative when an individual behaves aggressively by saying or doing hurtful things. Then the conflict is an aggressive interaction. Conflict only becomes bullying when it is repeated over and over again and there is a power imbalance. Over time, a pattern of behaviour may emerge where the person who behaves aggressively in the conflict may continue or even make it worse. The person who is the recipient of the aggressive conflict may feel less and less able to express his or her point of view and feel more and more powerless. That is when negative conflict may turn into bullying. A school will respond to bullying and conflict differently. For example, in the case of a conflict, a school staff member may try to have the students come together to tell their side of the story and help them resolve the situation together. In the case of bullying, a principal will consider progressive discipline, which may include suspension or expulsion.

## For more information visit the Ministry website at: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/multi/english/BullyingEN.pdf>

## Help STOP the spread of germs!

**Cover Your Cough and Sneeze** Teach children to cover their cough and sneezes to stop the spread of different illnesses such as colds and flu. Use a tissue or arm to cover the mouth and nose.

**Notify Your School When Your Child is Ill or Sick** Your school may be reporting absences due to illness to Public Health to help track ill-ness in the community. When reporting your child’s absence to the school please let them know if your child is ill.

**Sick? Stay At Home!** When many people are close together such as in schools and classrooms it is easy for illnesses to spread. Children should not be in school with a fever, undiagnosed rashes, vomiting or diarrhea. Children should recover completely before returning to school. When children have nausea and diarrhea they should stay home 48 hours following the end of symptoms.

## Get ready! Kindergarten Registration is from January 9-26

Kindergarten Registration is from January 9 to 26, 2017, at all elementary schools in the UGDSB.

Parents and guardians may register their child at their local school from Monday to Friday during regular school hours (stat holidays excluded).

If you are unable to attend registration during the day, evening sessions will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the following locations:

**January 11, Parkinson Centennial PS (Orangeville)**

Please bring the following documents to registration:

1. Birth certificate or Immigration papers
2. Immunization Record card
3. Proof of address (e.g. driver’s license)

## Anyone wishing to enrol their child in French Immersion (FI) should be aware that the Junior Kindergarten FI registration and selection process has changed. For more information, please visit [www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkfi/). For more information on Kindergarten Registration in general, please go to [www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkregistration](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/jkregistration).

## Avoid school suspension by keeping immunization records up-to-date!

Student’s immunization records must be provided to Public Health in order to attend school. In the next few weeks, Public Health will be sending notices to students with incomplete immunization records. Anyone who gets a notice should contact their family doctor so they can update their vaccines, and then report their new vaccines to Public Health.

Report every vaccine to Public Health using one of the following methods:

* Online: Fill in the form at www.immunizewdg.ca
* Email: Send a photo of the immunization record to vaccine.records@wdgpublichealth.ca
* Call: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396

If a student is not getting vaccinated for medical reasons, reasons of conscience or religious beliefs, an exemption form must be submitted to Public Health. The forms are available at www.wdgpublichealth.ca.

Public Health is committed to helping students update their vaccination records so they can avoid suspension from school.

## JUNIOR & SENIOR KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION SEPTEMBER 2017

Students must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2017 in order to be eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten in September of 2017. Students must be five years of age on or before December 31st, 2017, to register for Senior Kindergarten. Please complete the form below and return it to the school by Wednesday, January 18, 2017, to pre-register. Upon receipt of this form, a registration package will be forwarded to you for completion and parents will receive a formal invitation to attend the main registration.

The main registration will take place on Wednesday, January 25th, 2017, in the school library, from 1:00—2:30 p.m. At this time Ms. English will review the registration forms. Parents are asked to please provide proof of birth date for their child, as well as your child’s immunization records and proof of address.

If you are not able to make these dates, please see information on the previous page to register early or online.

If you know of a neighbour or friend who presently does not have children attending Princess Margaret Public School but lives within our school boundary, please give them this information or ask them to contact Ms. English at the school at 519-941-3731 Ext. 0.

***Please complete this form and return it to the school by Monday, January 18, 2017 or earlier***

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**Princess Margaret Public School**

**Junior and Senior Kindergarten Survey For September 2017**

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(First/Middle/Last)

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M or F

YY/MM/DD

Father’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mother’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Town: Orangeville, Ontario Postal Code: L9W-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number: Mom/Dad?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Siblings Attending P.M.P.S. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_