

# Priory Park Public School Newsletter

275 Scottsdale Drive, Guelph, On N1G 3A1

Phone (519) 836-7710

Principal: Kim Kowch

Office Coordinator: Dianne Bott



## JANUARY 2018

### Principal's Message

Happy New Year! We're looking forward to an awesome 2018 together, having returned to school refreshed, renewed and ready to resume school life at Priory Park P.S. The first four months of the first term were filled with rich learning experiences both in and outside the classroom, and it was especially wonderful to spend the last week of school before the holidays with a festive holiday assembly and tree-house group activities -- a big thank you goes to staff for their organization of these special activities.

A huge thanks to those of you who so generously donated toys for some of our own Priory Park families as well as an out-pouring of socks and blankets donated to the Guelph Drop-In Centre. Some very grateful seniors' centres were the recipients of some hand-made ornaments by our students during their time with Ms. Brown-Rogers in the Library/Learning Commons. It is so heart-warming to be a part of such a caring community!

Best wishes for the New Year!

K. Kowch

### JK Kindergarten Registration

New this year, on-line registration for all JK students coming to school in September 2018, will begin Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> until Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. The website application can be accessed by our own school's website ([www.ugdsb.ca/priorypark](http://www.ugdsb.ca/priorypark)) or the Board's website ([www.ugdsb.ca](http://www.ugdsb.ca)). Children born in 2014 are eligible to register for Junior Kindergarten and children born in 2013 are eligible to register for Senior Kindergarten if they are not already enrolled. Students who are presently with us in JK do not need to register for SK. Please spread the word to neighbours and friends!

Registration documentation required: proof of date of birth (Birth Certificate/ Canadian Citizenship, Permanent Resident Card); immunization record; proof of address and any court orders if appropriate. Proof of birth date must be provided before a child can legally attend school.

The following website allows parents to complete their Birth Certificate Application on line or print off a blank application - [www.cbs.gov.on.ca/mcbs/english/4U4V5Z.htm](http://www.cbs.gov.on.ca/mcbs/english/4U4V5Z.htm)

## **P.A. Day**

There will be no school for students on Friday, January 26<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will be involved in School Improvement Planning and report card writing on that day.

## **Visiting Parents**

Thank you for continuing to wait outside to meet your children, even in colder weather. This makes a huge difference for the safety of all our children. Our halls stay drier and are not as slippery, our bus students are able to get to their buses with less congestion, last minute messages are able to get to students, and as well, we are building independence in our students!

If you need to speak with your child's teacher, please plan to wait until the children have left the school and the teacher can give you his/her full attention without concern for student supervision. Thank you for your cooperation!

## **Safe Schools Protocols**

All of our doors are locked during the school day, except our front doors. All visitors are asked to please use the front doors to enter the building and report immediately to the office. If you are picking up your child outside of normal dismissal times, please sign your child out in the book at the office. Your compliance will help ensure the safety of our students and avoid violation of the Ontario Trespass Act and Access to School Premises regulations.

## **School Council Needs You!**

The sayings "The more, the merrier" and "many hands make light work" must have been referring to School Council! Our next meeting is on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the library. We would love to have you join this team of adults dedicated to working together for our students. Babysitting is provided!

## **Traffic Safety and Parking Lot Reminders**

Please review safe practices for crossing the street when coming to and from school with your children and encourage them to follow the instructions of safety patrollers on duty. Patrollers are on duty by the driveway and the crosswalk at Scottsdale Drive in front of the school fifteen (15) minutes before and after school.

Our parking lot is always a busy place with buses and taxis. If you find that you have to drive your children to school, there is no stopping in front of the school and the parking lot is not accessible from 8:30-9:00 and 3:15 - 3:30. Please consider dropping your child off on Wilsonview or further along Scottsdale and have them walk on the sidewalk, crossing only at the crosswalk if on the east side of Scottsdale.

## **Playground Safety**

With the arrival of winter weather, we look forward to students enjoying their time outside in the snow. We encourage cooperative play on the yard at all times, and this includes not throwing snow, unless it is targeted at the fence surrounding the tennis courts and not digging tunnels that can be dangerous if they collapse. We also ask that no toboggans or crazy carpets be brought to school for sledding at recess. If a class sledding activity is planned, teachers will send a letter home first. Thanks your help in reminding students of the rules of safe play in the snow.

## **Yard Supervision**

Our schoolyard is supervised when children are outside, from 8:30 in the morning until 3:30 after school. Since there is no supervision outside of these times, students are asked to arrive at school between 8:35-8:45 and to go directly home right after school.

## **"No Bus" Days**

When the weather is uncertain, remember to check the U.G.D.S.B. website ([www.ugdsb.ca](http://www.ugdsb.ca)) and click on the yellow school bus at the top of the page to check the status of the buses and school closures. We are the YELLOW district.

On days when the buses are cancelled but the school is open, it is the expectation that all students who can walk safely or be driven safely to school attend. If buses aren't running in the morning, they will not run after school and it is your responsibility to pick up your child at 3:15 p.m. if you drove them in the morning.

## **Fighting Illness**

If your child is well enough to come to school they are well enough to go outside. Please do not ask to have your child stay in at recess /lunch due to illness. If they are in fact ill, we would appreciate it if the germs are kept at home to avoid spreading infection.

## **Information from Public Health**

In Ontario, the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* requires that all students attending school be fully immunized or have a valid exemption on file. Public Health mailed notices to elementary students with incomplete records at the end of November. If you received a notice that your child's record is incomplete, the deadline to update your child's record with Public Health is January 26<sup>th</sup> at 4PM in order to avoid suspension on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

If your child requires a vaccine, Public Health will have drop in clinics during the weeks of January 15-19 and January 22-26. For locations and times, please visit:

[www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/news/drop-immunization-clinics-students](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/news/drop-immunization-clinics-students).

To report vaccines received from your health care provider, please choose one of the following ways:

- Online: [www.immunizewdg.ca](http://www.immunizewdg.ca)
- Email: [vaccine.records@wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca](mailto:vaccine.records@wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca)
- Phone: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4396

- Fax: 519-836-2986

Have questions? Speak with a public health nurse at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4746

## Food & Friends

What a great time to get involved with the Food & Friends student nutrition program. We are grateful to those who have assisted in providing the program at **Priory Park P.S.** and would be happy to welcome new volunteers to the program. Contact **Heather McDonald** ([hi\\_mcdonald@sympatico.ca](mailto:hi_mcdonald@sympatico.ca)) to see how you can help to bring healthy food to hungry minds.



Monthly environmental activities to help celebrate our planet  
JANUARY is the time to carry out your resolutions!

"There will be more waste plastic in the sea than fish by 2050" Dame Ellen MacArthur

It's a brand new year and the perfect time for positive change. For example, let's end plastic pollution.

Based on the daily news, it's never been more critical to increase your environmental efforts. This year the *Earth Day Network* is calling to end plastic pollution. Imagine a future free from harmful plastic garbage! Single-use plastics are especially wasteful and many plastics are also not properly recycled and take up precious landfill space or pollute our oceans, killing marine life and washing up on pristine beaches. Plastic garbage 'islands' are appearing in seas and oceans all over the world. One of these - the Great Pacific garbage patch, is estimated to be the size of Alberta.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/>



### Tips on how to reduce single-use plastics:

- Extend your use of cloth shopping bags beyond the grocery store. Use them at all other retail stores too. (You can carry purse-sized, reusable folded bags.)
- Avoid buying over-packaged food. The choice is yours. Do you need to buy the carrots that are shrink wrapped on a Styrofoam tray, or can you buy a bundle that is tied together with a simple twist tie?
- Let the restaurants you frequent know that you would them to join the growing movement to ban the use of straws. Restaurants, organizations, institutions and schools worldwide have gotten rid of plastic straws or implemented a 'serve-straws-upon-request' policy.

- Tap water is best. Bottled water can deplete our precious groundwater resources and produce unnecessary green house gas emissions through the production and transport of plastic bottles. Carry a reusable water bottle instead.
- Lug a travel mug to your local coffee shop. (The plastic lining makes coffee cups unrecyclable, and they all end up in the garbage and in our overflowing landfills.)
- Write letters to the government asking them to fix a problem that you are concerned about such as: mandating the reduction of plastic packaging, banning Styrofoam, or promoting research for recyclable coffee cups, etc.

### **Talking to Children**

How many times have you asked your child what they did in school today and they said "nothing"? Do you feel that most of the conversations you have with your children are just about telling them what to do? Many parents feel this way; life is busy.

Giving children opportunities to have conversations is really important for their growth and learning. What to do? Children often ask a lot of questions, especially young children. Parents answer those questions and the conversation often just ends. How do you keep the conversation going? Instead of answering the question what if next time you ask a question instead? Consider these questions: What do you think it is? What do you think about that? What interests you about that? What do you notice? How do you think that works? If you get a one word answer you might make a comment such as, "tell me more", "I'd like to hear more about that" or ask another question.

Listening carefully is also important when talking to your child. Children respond positively if they know they have been heard and that you are interested in what they have to say. Use comments to encourage your child to keep talking: "Tell me more about that", "that must have been difficult/interesting", "it sounds like you had fun", "you must have felt disappointed/frustrated/angry". Talk while having dinner together, preparing dinner, going out for a walk, at bedtime, on the way to school or while standing in the grocery line. Think of yourself as a partner in the conversation.

### **Continuing Education**

Children & Youth Winter & Spring Programs 2018-

For information on programs, please see the following page...



**CHILDREN & YOUTH WINTER & SPRING PROGRAMS 2018**  
 WELLINGTON CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION 1428 Gordon Street Guelph

Programs	Age	Dates & Times	Description	Fee
Arboretum Junior Naturalist	6-12	Thu Mar 22, 4:30-5:45 pm, 6 Wks Location: University Arboretum	Outdoor education program.	\$35
ART	Art & Beyond	11 + Thu Jan 18, 7-8:15 pm, 8 Wks Thu Apr 26, 8-9:15 pm, 7 Wks	For the mature artist.	\$87 \$77
	Art Attack	5-8 Thu Jan 18, 5-5:50 pm, 8 Wks Thu Apr 26, 5-5:50 pm, 7 Wks	For the young artist.	\$65 \$60
	Art Medley	7-12 Thu Apr 26, 6-6:50 pm, 7 Wks	Variety of art medium.	\$60
	Draw&Pastels	8-14 Thu Jan 18, 6-7 pm, 8 Wks	Pencil and dry pastels.	\$65
	Sketching	8-14 Thu Apr 26, 7-8 pm, 7 Wks	Cartoon Drawing & Sculpting.	\$60
Babysitting 11 + 9-4:30 pm	Fri Jan 5, 1 Day Fri Jan 26, 1 Day Sat Feb 24, 1 Day Fri Mar 16, 1 Day	Fri Apr 27, 1 Day Fri Jun 8, 1 Day Fri Jul 6, 1 Day	Red Cross, certificate course. Learn basic skills to care for infants & children.	\$60
Badminton	7-10	Tue Jan 16, 5-6 pm, 8wks Tue Apr 10, 5-6 pm, 8wks	For the younger player. Learn skills and be prepared to rally.	\$55
Badminton Ages 9-14	Tue Jan 16,6-6:50 pm, 8wks Thu Jan 18,5-6 pm, 8wks Thu Jan 18,6-6:50 pm, 8wks	Tue Apr 10, 6-6:50 pm, 8wks Thu Apr 12, 5-6 pm, 8wks Thu Apr 12, 6-6:50 pm, 8wks	Learn skills and be prepared to rally.	\$55
Crochet	8+	Mon Apr 9, 5:30-6:30 pm, 7 Wks	Learn the basic to making projects. + Supply \$10.	\$65
Cupcake Decorating Fondant	9-14	Mon May 7, 6-7:30 pm, 2 Wks	All supplies included in this hands-on class. Location: Centennial CVI	\$65
Drama	7-12	Mon Mar 5, 5:30-7:30 pm, 9 Wks	Production with a performance.	\$127
Dynamic Dance	4-7	Tue Jan 16, 5-5:45 pm, 8 Wks Tue Apr 10, 5-5:45 pm, 8 Wks	Movement to music. No dance experience required.	\$65
Fun with Food	6-12	Tue Feb 6, 6-7 pm, 3 Wks Tue Apr 10, 6-7 pm, 3 Wks	Get your taste buds ready. Supplies included. Location: Centennial CVI	\$40
Hand Crafting	6-12	Mon Jan 29, 6:30-7:30 pm, 7 Wks Mon Apr 9, 6:30-7:30 pm, 7 Wks	Love crafting? You'll love this! + Supply \$10	\$65
Knitting	8+	Mon Jan 29, 5:30-6:30 pm, 7 Wks	Learn to knit. + Supply \$10.	\$65
Nature's Trail Music	4-7	Tue Jan 16, 5:45-6:30 pm, 8 Wks Tue Apr 10, 5:45-6:30 pm, 8 Wks	Songs, games and artwork.	\$65
Photography	11+	Tue Mar 27, 4:30-6 pm, 4 Wks	Bring a manual digital camera. Location: Sir Isaac Brock P.S. & off site	\$75
Yoga	Baby	Fri Apr 6, 9:45-10:45 am, 6 Wks	Newborn—almost crawling with adult.	\$50
Yoga	Tots	Fri Apr 6, 10:45-11:30 am, 6 Wks	Crawling—24 months.	\$50
Yoga - Adult & Youth	4-7	Mon Jan 22, 4-4:45 pm, 6 Wks Mon Apr 9, 4-4:45 pm, 6 Wks	An age appropriate yoga class with an adult.	\$50
Yoga - Adult & Youth	7+	Mon Jan 22, 5-5:45 pm, 6 Wks Mon Apr 9, 5-5:45 pm, 6 Wks	An age appropriate yoga class with an adult.	\$50
Summer Art Camp	6-9 10-14	Mon-Fri, Jul 9-13, 9-11:45 am, 1 Wk Mon-Fri, Jul 9-13, 12:30-3:15 pm, 1 Wk	Led by a talented experienced art teacher Blanca.	\$95
Summer Drama Camp	7-12	Tue-Fri, Jul 3-Jul 6, 9-12 pm, 4 classes	Production from start to finish with a performance.	\$127

To Register Call: 519-836-7280 or Online at [www.learningforyou.ca](http://www.learningforyou.ca)

View Course Guide online at: [www.ugdsb.on.ca/ConEd](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ConEd) or [www.ugdsb.on.ca/kids](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/kids)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="text-align: center;">January 2018</h1>						
	1 <b>Happy New Year!</b>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 <b>Day 1</b> *Back to school	9 <b>Day 2</b>	10 <b>Day 3</b> *Walking Wednesday	11 <b>Day 4</b> 9:15-Gr. 2/3s-Safe Side 11:15-Gr. 4/5s-Internet Safety (Guelph Police)	12 <b>Day 5</b>	13
14	15 <b>Day 1</b>	16 <b>Day 2</b>	17 <b>Day 3</b> *9:30-Gr.3&4s @ River Run Centre	18 <b>Day 4</b> *9:20-Guelph Hydro Presentation	19 <b>Day 5</b> *12:50-Patrol Pizza Lunch	20
21	22 <b>Day 1</b>	23 <b>Day 2</b> *V.I.P.-Gr.6	24 <b>Day 3</b>	25 <b>Day 4</b> GREEN & BLACK DAY 9:00-Panda Pride assembly 11:15-Tree-house groups	26 *P.A. DAY-no school for students	27
28	29 <b>Day 5</b>	30 <b>Day 1</b>	31 <b>Day 2</b>	Feb. 1 <b>Day 3</b> *WORLD READ ALOUD DAY *Wear your PJs!		