

Priory Park Public School Newsletter

275 Scottsdale Drive, Guelph, On N1G 3A1

Phone (519) 836-7710

Principal: Kim Kowch

Office Coordinator: Dianne Bott



FEBRUARY 2018

From the Principal's Desk

I'm sure none of us are sad to see the bizarre month of January's weather come to an end - it sure is a good thing we had lots of great, engaging learning opportunities in our classrooms and a lot of flexible and resilient students and staff to be able to accommodate our play outdoors. Having sunshine and snow on the ground again will certainly be a welcome addition for the upcoming month!

And we have lots more planned for the month of February, too - please see the calendar for all the updates. Just a reminder that the Term 1 report cards will be sent home on **Thursday, February 15th**. Staff, students, and parents have worked hard to help students set appropriate goals and to support them in attaining these goals in moving into Term 2. Please take time to complete page 3 of the report and return it to the school with your child. February 19th has been designated as Family Day this year -- we hope that you are looking forward to enjoying a long weekend with your family!

K. Kowch
Principal

Safe Arrival Program

Thank you for remembering to call the school at 836-7710, ext. 100, when your child is going to be late or absent from school. The answering machine is on seven days a week, 24 hours a day, so you can leave a message at any time. We really appreciate everyone who takes the time to inform us of their child's absence for the safe arrival program. Remember that if your child takes a bus or taxi, you do not have to call and report them absent on bus/taxi cancellation days. On cancellation days, we will assume that they are absent, and if they do arrive, it is because you brought them here safely and will arrange for their transportation home.

Volunteers

Priory Park has been very fortunate to have Sifton employees, University of Guelph students, student mentors and parents volunteering their time with our students. In order to keep track of volunteers and maintain safety within our school, we are asking all volunteers, visitors, and family members to check in at the office when arriving at the school. We have a sign-in binder for all volunteers.

Student Safety Is #1!

A reminder to parents and students that our school yard is not supervised before 8:30 in the morning and after 3:30 in the afternoon. Please ensure that your child(ren) are only on school property during the time between 8:30 and 3:30. Our school safety patrollers are also on duty daily at 8:30 - 8:45 a.m. & 3:15 - 3:30 p.m. at the following locations:

- School light/crossing
- Priory Park driveway

Please continue to encourage your children to observe traffic safety rules and to obey directions provided by our valued student patrollers. **A reminder that parents should not be entering the school parking lot at the beginning or end of the day. This area is reserved for buses and taxis and staff parking only. Please also refrain from using St. Rene Goupil parking lot at any time of the day, as a courtesy to our neighbouring school.** Your consideration in this matter is appreciated.

Bad Weather Days

On bad weather days, please help us by checking the Board website at <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/> and clicking on the yellow school bus or listening to the radio (CJOY 1460 AM or MAGIC 106.1 FM) to find out if buses or schools are cancelled. Please refer to the "City of Guelph" area. It is the parents' responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for their child to leave for school in severe weather. When buses or taxis do not run in the morning, they will not run at night. If a parent elects to drive their child to school, they are responsible for their child's pick up at dismissal time.

While we have an excellent transportation system, buses may be delayed in the morning due to traffic, poor road conditions, etc. To ensure children who ride the bus are not stranded at their pick up point, please make sure that they know what to do and where to go if their bus is more than 15 minutes late. Safety of your children is our concern!



Please appreciate that our phone lines and office staff are busy trying to track Safe Arrival and we do not have time to answer calls about weather or closures. Throughout the day, we monitor the temperature and wind chill closely in order to make good decisions about outdoor recess times. It is always our intention to be outside for the two 25-minute recess breaks, so please ensure that your child(ren) is/are dressed warmly for the outdoors. Extra socks and mittens/gloves are always a good idea at this time of year!

Life-Threatening Allergies

Many children have allergies; however, a few are life-threatening. At Priory Park P.S., we do have students who are allergic to nut and nut products, and even a tiny bit could be fatal within minutes.

It is very important that you talk to your children about not sharing their treats, lunch or any item of food they bring to school. There could be small traces of allergic foods in their snacks or lunch that could be dangerous to a child with an allergy. We appreciate your support.

Healthy Eating

Good nutrition helps students to focus and learn. Some healthy suggestions are listed below and more are available on a website at www.dietitians.ca

Here are some nut-free alternatives for lunches and snacks:

- ✓ yogurt
- ✓ fresh fruit and vegetables - apples, oranges, carrots, celery, etc.
- ✓ cheese and crackers , bread sticks and cream cheese
- ✓ unsweetened cereal
- ✓ raw vegetables and yogurt dip
- ✓ half bagel, pita bread or bread sticks with cream cheese
- ✓ plain popcorn
- ✓ canned fruit cups (look for unsweetened)
- ✓ muffins, raisins, cereal bars that are nut free
- ✓ juice, milk, water
- ✓ sandwich with sliced meat, canned tuna or salmon, egg, cream cheese & jam, humus, cheese, leftover turkey, chicken, etc.
- ✓ hard-cooked egg



School Council Updates

Our PPPS School Council is always looking for more members to join our group. It's a great way to be involved in your child's school and to have your ideas heard. We meet once monthly to discuss upcoming events and plans, as well as to hear suggestions on future directions for our school. Child care is available during each meeting, and there are always home-baked goodies too! Please join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30 pm** in the library. We will be finalizing the plans for our chocolate bar fundraiser in March-April, looking at options for our outdoor play spaces, and fundraising ideas in conjunction with our Family Math Night - mark your calendars for Thurs., May 10th. Thanks so much for supporting Priory Park P.S. - stay tuned for further updates!

Safety Drills

Each year, every school in Upper Grand D.S.B. practices emergency drills regularly - 3 fire drills in each of the spring and fall, 2 lockdown drills and 1 severe weather (tornado) drills. Please assist us by talking to your children about the importance of following directions during these drills to ensure safety, and by wearing shoes in the school at all times. Although we do try not to conduct outdoor drills in the winter months, wearing long sleeves ensures they are adequately prepared if an emergency drill is required. Thanks to our neighbours at St. Renee Goupil, we have reciprocal arrangements to use each other's buildings should an evacuation be required.

Your Help Please!

People can spread diseases when they cough or sneeze. To prevent the spreading of germs, know how to cover up to stop others from getting sick.

Use a tissue!

1. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough, sneeze, or blow your nose.
2. Put your used tissue in the garbage.
3. Clean your hands after with soap and water or a hand sanitizer (minimum 60% to 90% alcohol)

No tissue? Cough or sneeze into your sleeve.



Here's why: If you cover your mouth or nose with your hands, you put germs on your hands. When you touch things, such as a keyboard or phone, you leave behind your germs. People who touch these surfaces pick up your germs.

Live Free

Please participate in our Help Kids Live Free from Hunger Campaign that supports our Food & Friends student nutrition program by making a donation online

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/LiveFreeDonation2018> or sending a donation with your child the week of Mon., Feb. 26th - Fri., Mar. 2, 2018. Every dollar raised at our school comes back to support our Priory Park P.S. snack program.

Engaging Your Child in Science at Home!

As parents we have the wonderful opportunity and responsibility for nurturing our children's growth.

Parents play a key role in the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of their child. As parents we can usually find time to read a story to our children, thereby instilling a love of literature, but we are often at a loss as to how to instill a love and appreciation for Science. Science encourages problem solving skills, curiosity and questioning, creative and critical thinking, observational skills and reinforces both literacy and math skills....and it's FUN! Here are some ideas for fostering scientific skills in your children.

6 Tips to foster Scientific Thinking at Home

1-See Science everywhere. Parents can take opportunities to ask "What would happen if ...?" questions or present brainteasers to encourage children to be curious and seek out answers. Children need to know that science isn't just a subject, but it is a way of understanding the world around us.

2-Lead family discussions on science-related topics. Dinnertime might be an ideal time for your family to have discussions about news stories that are science based, like space shuttle missions, severe weather conditions, or new medical breakthroughs. Over time, children will develop a better understanding of science and how it affects many facets of our lives. Movies and TV shows with science-related storylines are also great topics for discussion.

3-Encourage girls and boys equally. Many girls are left out of challenging activities simply because of their gender. Be aware that both girls and boys need to be encouraged and exposed to a variety of subjects at a very early age.

4-Do science together. Children, especially elementary-age children, learn better by investigating and experimenting. Simple investigations done together in the home can bolster what your child is learning in the classroom. Check with your child's teacher on what your child is currently learning in class and what activities you can explore at home.

5-Connect science with a family vacation. Family vacations are a great way to explore science. It could be a hiking trip where you explore nature or a discussion on tides during a beach vacation.

6-Show excitement for Science!

Reference:

"NSTA Science Matters: Tips for Busy Parents - National Science"

<http://www.nsta.org/sciencematters/tips.aspx>

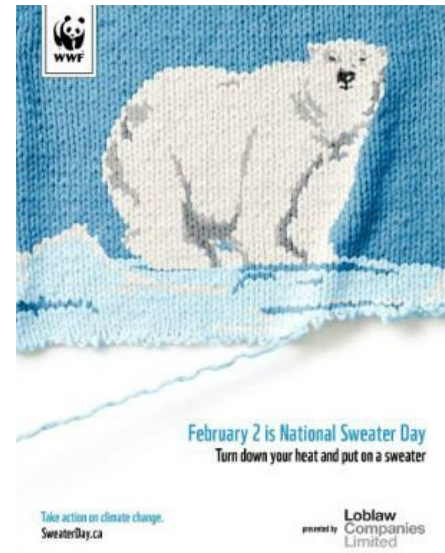
Celebrate International Sweater Day on February 2nd!



National Sweater Day is a fun way to learn about the importance of saving energy and to inspire you to use less heat all winter. Heating accounts for 80% of residential energy use in Canada. If all Canadians lowered their thermostats by just 2 degrees Celsius this winter, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 4 megatons - that's equivalent to taking nearly 700,000 cars off the road! http://www.wwf.ca/events/sweater_day/

National Sweater Day is about thinking differently about how we use energy, where our energy comes from and how we can play an important role in fighting climate change by using energy wisely. It is designed to help raise awareness about renewable energy and change behaviours around energy consumption in Canada.

assets.wwf.ca/downloads/nsd_2017_en_school_toolkit.pdf



Ideas for your family to celebrate Sweater Day!

- Turn down your thermostat and wear a sweater!
- Ask your children to brainstorm with you about ways to save energy at home. Make a pledge to implement as many as you can.
- Research the differences between climate and weather. Ask your child to characterize some different climate types (polar, tropical, coastal, etc.).
- Read a children's book on conservation such as: *Why Should I Save Energy?* by Jen Green. Encourage lots of discussion and questions.
- Valentine's Day is just around the corner - use recycled materials to create your cards this year!

For more ideas and fun things to do on International Sweater Day, please take a look at this pdf supplied by WWF assets.wwf.ca/downloads/nsd_2017_en_school_toolkit.pdf

Make the Earth better by wearing a sweater!

Keeping Our Kids Safe-presented by Immigrant Services of Guelph Wellington

Saturday, February 3, 2018 @9:00am - 12:00pm

Presenters include: Guelph Police Service, Wellington County OPP, Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington Human trafficking, child exploitation and cyber safety are not easy topics to talk about. But it's harder to be a victim. Immigrant Services Guelph-Wellington (ISGW) is hosting this half day workshop to generate awareness. Our objective is to educate youth and the adults around them about the signs of these horrific crimes. Many people think that these crimes do not happen here. But they do. ISGW wants to help the community become more aware of the statistics and develop strategies to KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE!

Refreshments will be provided. Childminding also provided.

Join us!



Keeping Our Kids Safe

104 Dawson Road, Unit 102, Guelph, ON N1H 1A6

T: 519-836-2222 F: 519-837-2884 www.is-gw.ca

Space is limited, please register BY JANUARY 30.

Contact Dayami, 519-836-2222 ext. 225 or email: dramirez@is-gw.ca

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
  <h1 style="font-size: 2em; color: blue;">February 2018</h1>						
				1 Day 3 PJ Day & World Read Aloud Day *Pizza	2 Day 4 Sweater Day	3
4	5 Day 5 3:15 - 4:15 – Primary Reading Circle, Library	6 Day 1 *Lunch Lady	7 Day 2 *JSKA-Scientists in the School *6:30 pm - School Council, Library	8 Day 3 *Pizza	9 Day 4	10
11	12 Day 5 3:15 - 4:15 – Primary Reading Circle, Library	13 Day 1 *Bookmobile *Lunch Lady *Gr. 6s -Tim Horton's Camp	14 Day 2 *Walking Wednesday *Gr.6s -Tim Horton's Camp	15 Day 3 *Pizza *Gr. 6s -Tim Horton's Camp *Report Cards go home	16 Day 4 *Gr.6s -Tim Horton's Camp *Gr.4s & 5s Snowshoeing @Guelph Lake	17
18	19 Family Day -no school	20 Day 5 *Lunch Lady *Jr.Basketball Tournament @ Willow Rd.PS.	21 Day 1	22 Day 2 *Pizza	23 Day 3 Plaid Day 1:00 - 3:00 Carnaval de L'Hiver	24
25	26 Day 4 3:15 - 4:15 – Primary Reading Circle, Library	27 Day 5 *Bookmobile *Lunch Lady	28 Day 1			

Please remember to check the school's website for the latest and greatest Priory newsletter at: www.ugdsb.ca/priorypark

If you require a hard copy of the newsletter, please send your request in writing to Ms. Bott at the office. Thank you for being GREEN!