

Priory Park Public School Newsletter

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Principal: Kim Kowch

Office Coordinator: Dianne Bott



MARCH 2018

Principal's Message

With the variety of weather we've had outside this past month, it's been good practice for us all in learning how to be resilient and grateful for all that we do have - even if Mother Nature isn't cooperating! A very successful Sweater Day and Winter Walk to support our Eco School initiatives, the Grade 5/6 community leadership outreach at Tim Horton's Camp Onondaga Farms, an elder visit for the Grade 5s, Scientists in School for KA, a snowshoeing and survival game experience at Guelph Lake for Grades 4 and 5, and a boys' and girls' basketball tournament in this last month made for some exciting learning opportunities! This week, we are raising funds for our "Live Free" campaign to support our snack program funding for the Children's Foundation of Guelph & Wellington... and in just three days, we've already raised more \$150 with two days to go! We have SO much to be proud of with such a giving community - thank you for all your support of these projects!

The Upper Grand District School Board cares about the climate of our schools and the mental health and well-being of our students. Each year, we provide the opportunity for students, parents, teachers and school staff to share their opinions and experiences about the climate (learning environment and relationships) in our school. In a positive school community, people feel safe, included and accepted.

Students in Grades 4-6 and staff have already completed the survey, and we would also like your input before **Friday, March 9th**. The following is the link, which is currently posted on our website as well - please use a laptop or personal computer, as the browser is not compatible with mobile devices. We also have a dedicated chromebook at the school if you would like to complete the survey here at Priory Park.

Parent survey direct link: https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9NxSF6jZm5I11Hv

Just a reminder to please be sure and check the lost and found for those missing mitts, hats and scarves before the March Break. Any unclaimed items will be bagged and sent off to a local charity.

Enjoy a wonderful March Break (Mar. 12th-16th)! Please check out our full newsletter online: www.ugdsb.ca/priorypark

K. Kowch

Principal

Junior Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child or know of anyone in the Priory Park area who has a child born in 2014, they are eligible for Junior Kindergarten. Please register as soon as possible. If your child is currently at Priory Park in JK you do not need to register for SK. Parents must provide the following documentation in order to register your child:

- Birth Certificate/Birth Registration
- Immunization card
- Any legal and/or custody papers, where applicable and if you are new to Canada then we need documentation of your status and date of entry to Canada
- Documentation with a current address (i.e. utility bill or driver's license)

Before and After School Supervision

Our yard is supervised for 15 minutes before and after school each day. Children should not be arriving before 8:30 a.m. in the morning. For the continued safety of your children, please remind them to go home directly after school. As daylight increases, children may be tempted to linger in the park and school yard after dismissal when they should go home. We remind and encourage children to go straight home and to walk with a buddy or two. The safety of your children is important to everyone and safety rules should be reinforced with them so they understand the procedures to follow.

Home/School Communication

It is very important to let the school know if your child is going to be late or away in order for the safe arrival program to work. Messages regarding your child's absence or late arrival should be left on extension 100. If you need to speak to the office or have an emergency please dial 0. If Ms. Bott cannot get to the phone, you can leave a message and we will return your call as soon as possible. Priory Park has voicemail for all staff. By pressing the # key, you can access our staff directory for voicemail. Remember you can call the school any time of day to leave a message on voicemail.

Indoor and Outdoor Footwear

With the wet and mild weather already here, it is important that all students have not only appropriate outdoor footwear, but also indoor shoes. This is a significant safety issue as proper footwear reduces the risk of slips and falls and stepping on items which may cause injury. It is vital, too, that students wear indoor shoes, not slippers, so that they are protected in the event of a fire drill or event resulting in a school evacuation.

Boomerang Lunches

As our ECO School tries to go for gold status, we continue to encourage boomerang lunches. Children should bring home any uneaten food and items that are not recyclable. This is part of our Waste Management initiatives as required by the Ministry of the Environment. It also allows you to monitor what your child is eating and what we can and cannot recycle at school. Please try to use reusable containers whenever possible and remember to clearly mark with family names so any lost items can make their way back to their owners!

Head Lice

Thank you for continuing to regularly check your child's hair for lice. We appreciate a call to the school so that we can let the parents of children in that class know to do a head check as well.

Use of Electronics at School

We ask that you please remind your children that electronic items need to be left at home unless a note from a teacher has indicated otherwise. Expensive items at school are easily misplaced, dropped or can be a distraction in the classroom. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Food and Friends

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped to make our Food & Friends student nutrition program such a success this school year. The donation of time that you have given and your ongoing support says so much about your capacity for compassion and generosity. Thank you for BRINGING HEALTHY FOOD TO HUNGRY MINDS!

Cheers!

Anita Macfarlane

Community Program Director, Food & Friends
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519-826-9551 Ext. 22
www.childrensfoundation.org



March 24th is Earth Hour!

This Earth Hour, help shine a light on climate change
Switch off your light and switch on your social power!



Join the global Movement! Celebrate Earth Hour on March 24th at 8:30pm.

Earth Hour's mission is uniting people to protect the planet by raising awareness of about climate change and encouraging positive action.

Earth Hour is more than an event. It is a movement that has achieved massive environmental impact, including legislation changes by harnessing the power of the crowd.

Ideas for your family to do for Earth Hour!

A simple event can be just turning off all non-essential lights on March 24th from 8:30-9:30 pm. For one hour, focus on your commitment to our planet. To celebrate, you can:

- prepare a candle lit dinner
- talk to your neighbours, or invite people over
- stargaze, or go camping in your backyard
- play board games, or charades
- host a concert, or a sing-a-long

- create or join your own community event
- have an Earth Hour every month!

The possibilities are endless!

(Select information taken from: www.earthhour.org)

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health March 2018 - Elementary Schools

WDG Public Health is pleased to provide elementary schools with up-to-date information on health topics for their monthly newsletters and announcements to parents. Please find below an insert you can include in your school newsletter and/or announcements if you wish. If you have any questions please contact us at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4111 or email schoolhealth@wdgpublichealth.ca

Information from Public Health

March is Nutrition Month! Starting from a young age, inspiring children to shop, cook and prepare food can set them up for a lifetime of healthy eating. A great way to teach kids about food is to let them shop and cook with you. Kids are also much more likely to eat what they make, so cooking at home is a great tip if you have picky eaters.

Here are four tips to get your kids involved in cooking:

1. **Pick a recipe together:** Children need to be part of the plan from the beginning, and it helps if they prepare something that they love to eat. Shop for groceries together too!
2. **Keep it fun!** Imaginative play helps kids get deeply involved. Make a theme night or turn your kitchen into a restaurant or reality cooking show.
3. **Be a role model:** If you're excited, they will be too. Try a new food, describe the flavour and be adventurous to inspire your eaters to do the same. Get other members of the family involved.
4. **Be cool about the mess:** Spills and accidental messes happen, and it's important to remain calm about little mishaps. Keep kitchen towels handy for cleaning up spills.

For more information and fun healthy recipes, visit www.nutritionmonth2018.ca.

Royal City Soccer Club

Royal City Soccer Club
Since 1993
presents
Soccer day Camps 2018

Register by June 1 for Early Bird discounts

1 location in Guelph
(see website for details)

July and August weeks
boys & girls aged 5 to 13
ball, tshirt & medal provided
full days, mornings or afternoons
FREE early drop off / pickup

1-800-427-0536
royalsoccer.com

