

Salem Public School

"A Rich Learning Environment"

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PRINCIPAL'S NOVEMBER MESSAGE

As I am writing this newsletter the snow is coming down. With all kinds of weather our students continue to enjoy spending lots of quality time outdoors throughout the day learning and exploring. Our spacious yard allows students to have a variety of opportunities whether they are working as a whole class, in small groups or exploring on their own. We continue to have many exciting events and activities here at Salem. I personally want to thank all of our students, staff and parents who have been working hard to plan and prepare for them. We are very fortunate to have such an active school community.

Progress reports for our Grade 1-6 students will be coming home on November 16th. This will give you an opportunity to read the report and go over it with your child(ren) in order to look at strengths and next steps. Parents can now book interviews online. The online system will be open on November 3rd and close on November 22nd to book interviews. Interview days are Thursday, November 23 from 3:45-7:15 and Friday November 24 from 9-2. Some teachers may choose to interview on alternate dates. We hope you will be able to find a time that suits you and your family. This system will hopefully help coordinate interviews if you have more than one child. To book a time (s) go to:

<https://webapps.ugdsb.on.ca/InterviewSchedule/Account/Login>

You will need your child's OEN# and date of birth to log in. OENs can be found on previous report cards. For our JK families, you can contact the office for your child's OEN#.

The School Council hosted their annual Halloween Social on Oct 26th. Thank you to all the parents as well as our Grade 6 students and Ms Jeppesen who provided such a fun experience for the school community by decorating the school, making cookies, organizing games and activities and providing refreshments.

As we move towards winter and colder weather please remember that students are outside twice every day for thirty minutes- even if it is cold. They need to be dressed appropriately. Please feel free to send extra labelled clothing, socks and mittens to be kept at school in case clothing gets wet.

As always, please feel free to call the school if you have any questions or concerns .

Kathy Gossling-Spears,

Principal



REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

Salem School students will be participating in the Ceremony at 11:30 am on November 10th here at the school. Children who are members of the Girl Guides or Scout organizations are encouraged to wear their uniforms that day. We will be having a whole school ceremony in the gym for our Grade 1-6 classes and a separate, smaller get together for our Kindergarten students in the school library. Parents are welcome to attend either of these ceremonies and can touch base with the classroom teacher for more information.

FIRE SAFETY AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS

During the next months we will be practicing our fire safety and lock down procedures. We have completed 2 fire drills and will complete 1-2 more before December. During these drills everyone in the school building is responsible for following the same procedures as the students and staff.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

Announcements will be made on the following radio stations in the event of bus cancellation:

1460 AM CJOY - Guelph106.1 FM Magic FM – Guelph

Oldies 1090 AM

105.3 Kool FM

96.7 CHYM

Parents can also check the UGDSB Website posted below for bus cancellations by clicking on the link in the yellow box on the home page. Information will be posted daily on the website by 6:30 a.m.

Board website: www.ugdsb.on.ca

**Please remember if buses are cancelled in the morning they will not run after school.

PHOTO RETAKES



Picture re-take day will be on November 29th. For more information see the photographer's website at <http://lifetouch.com/>

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Community Involvement

School Council has decided to focus the 2017-18 school year on increasing our student awareness of the community that we live in and the opportunities for students and families to be involved in the community. As you have probably noticed, we have requested a voluntary donation with our monthly Snack Program lunches towards charities. We will continue requesting donations at our lunches in the upcoming months with a focus on organizations that have been identified as important to our school and local community.

This month, we will be hosting a Community Involvement Information night on Thurs, Nov 23, 2017 between 6:30 – 8pm. We have invited charitable/not-for-profit organizations from our community to be present. They will have tables for you to visit and learn more about their organization and how we as families can be involved; either directly with their charity or by participating in events that they host. During this night we will also have tables set up where students and families can make Christmas/Happy Holiday cards. Leave them with us at the event and we will send them to the residents of senior homes in our community. We would love to see everyone at the school that night!

DATES OF INTEREST

Thurs Nov 2nd – Little Caesars Pizza Kit fundraiser orders due

Tues Nov 7th - School Council meeting at 6:30pm

Tues. Nov 15th – Smoothie bar for all students (send cup)

Mon Nov 20th – Little Caesars Pizza Kit fundraiser order pick-up 5-6pm

Thur. Nov 23rd – Community Involvement Information Night 6:30 -8:00pm



Proceeds from our November Smoothie Bar will be donated to the Ontario Federation for Cerebral Palsy. Students can bring in a cash donation or we will be accepting donations online at School Cash Online.

SLEDGE HOCKEY

Our Grade 4-6 students have been chosen to participate in Sledge hockey at the Elora Arena on December 12th. The session times are 9am - 11am, 11am - 1pm, 1pm - 3pm. School Council has generously agreed to pay for our ice time. We will need many parent volunteers to help us on the 12th so please stay tuned for more information coming out later in the month. We are looking forward to having 2 Salem student athletes who have experience with sledges join us for this exciting event.



Information from Public Health

Public Health is inviting community members from Guelph, Orangeville, Elora, Salem and Fergus who are 14 or older to share their opinions on our local neighbourhoods. Fill out Public Health's Neighbourhood Design Survey and you could win \$250 in groceries! Survey closes Nov 30.
www.wdgpublichealth.ca/nds

**Tell us what you think
and you could win
\$250
in groceries!***

Complete our Neighbourhood Design Survey at
wdgpublichealth.ca/NDS

Survey is open to all Guelph, Elora, Fergus,
Salem and Orangeville residents
until November 30, 2017

*President's Choice stores. For full contest details, visit
wdgpublichealth.ca/NDSContestDetails



   

For more information visit www.wdgpublichealth.ca

Feedback Welcome on Draft Policies

The Upper Grand District School Board is welcoming public input on draft policies. Currently under review is **Policy 310 - Display of Flags**. You are invited to review the draft documents and submit online feedback at www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy. **The deadline for public input is November 30, 2017** at 4 p.m. EST. Persons without internet access may call 519-822-4420 (or toll-free 1-800-321-4025) ext. 723 to request a printed copy of the draft documents.



Talking About Mental Health November 2017 – Talking to Your Child/Youth about Tragic Events

When a tragic event occurs, children and youth will hear about these events through media, peers or other sources. These are difficult topics to talk about and your response will shape your child/young person's core beliefs.

Tips for talking to children/youth about tragedies

You know your child/youth best, and you'll have a good idea of how much information your child/youth is ready to hear. Consider these tips as a guideline:

Don't allow young children to watch the news. Watching news footage can be very disturbing to young children so it's important to keep it off when they're around.

Keep your message simple. Say something like, "That person decided to hurt other people." For young children, this may be all the information they need. Older children are likely to ask more questions. Stick to the simple facts. It's OK to say you don't know all the answers.

Focus on the steps that are being taken to keep people safe. Talk about how police officers, government officials, and other first responders are helping. Spend more time talking about the good work people are doing, rather than the horrific event. This can help reduce your child/youth's anxiety about safety.

Empower your kids to become helpers. Discuss how they can take positive action in the wake of a tragic event. Volunteering in the community and donating allowance money can go a long way toward helping children/youth see that they can always take steps to make the world a little better. Children/youth who feel like they have a little bit of control are less likely to feel helpless in the wake of a tragic event.

Send a healthy message to your child

No matter how many conversations you hold or how much you decide to share, keep the message the same, bad things happen but there are good people out there helping and we're strong enough to get through it.

Sharing with your child/youth messages that fosters resilience and teaches your children/youth they're able to cope with whatever bad things come their way in life and there are caring adults in their lives to talk to and who will support them.

(This information is taken from Psychology Today: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/what-mentally-strong-people-don-t-do/201710/how-talk-kids-about-the-las-vegas-shooting>)

Have a mentally healthy day!

*Dr. Lynn Woodford is the Mental Health Lead for Upper Grand District School Board
Follow me on twitter: @drlynnwoodford*

Monthly environmental activities to help celebrate our planet

November 24th is BUY NOTHING Day!

Don't buy, give. "No one has ever become poor by giving", Anne Frank

Celebrate Buy Nothing Day on November 24th!

Buy Nothing Day is an awareness day highlighting society's habit of buying too many things. It is a day for society to examine the issue of over-consumption and is held on 'Black Friday', which is one of the busiest shopping days in the United States. <https://en.wikipedia.org>

"We are also consuming and trashing clothing at a far higher rate than our planet can handle.

Today's trends are tomorrow's trash. The only solution is to reduce our levels of consumption."

Dr Kirsten Brodde of Greenpeace Germany- <https://www.telegraph.co.uk>

Repair, reduce, re-use, recycle – 4 R's are best!

It's time for a new kind of materialism, based on an economy of better, not more... that makes things which last and can be repaired many times before being recycled, from furniture to tools, cars, fridges, clothes and food. 'Repair, reduce, re-use, recycle' could be the new model.
<https://www.theguardian.com>

Some great ideas for your family on Buy Nothing Day!

- Instead of shopping, enjoy a day in the great outdoors by walking trails or going to the park.
- Recycle school supplies such as binders, workbooks, pens and pencils instead of buying new.
- Donate clothes, books, toys and games your family does not need any more.
- Think of things you can make or do for people as gifts without spending any money.

Either way, there's no doubt that going without buying anything for an entire day is quite a challenge in the modern world, and will serve to make you think about what your life is really about!

<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/buy-nothing-day>

