

Salem Public School

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We will be starting our staffing process next week so it is extremely helpful to have an idea of new students who will be registering at Salem for the fall. If you haven't registered your JK student or know of a family moving into our area please contact the school.

In January we held a Taco bar with proceeds going to Big Brothers Big Sisters. We raised over \$300. We were fortunate to have had Emily, a Co-op student from CWDHS, with us for her first semester through BBBS In-School Mentoring program. We also continue to have an adult mentor who works with us weekly.

Our next "bar" will be held on Valentine's Day. It will be a travelling soup bar with proceeds going towards **LIVE FREE**. From January to March each year, student nutrition programs funded through Children's Foundation Food & Friends take part in the Help Kids Live Free From Hunger Campaign, raising funds to provide nutritious food for the children that need it in Dufferin, Wellington and Guelph. Every dollar raised at Salem comes directly back to our school's nutrition program. Donations may be made using School Cash Online or at the school.

Our Grade 1-4 students have really enjoyed the Scientists in the Classroom program provided by funding from our School Council. Please have a look at the article in this newsletter on how you can bring science into your home.

Term One Provincial Report Cards will arrive home on February 15th. The purpose of the provincial report is to communicate to students and parents the student's progress toward meeting the learning expectations outlined by the Ministry of Education. It is important to us that we help children to recognize their strengths and learning styles and to understand the areas in which they need to improve so that they can set reasonable goals for themselves.

When the report comes home, the following suggestions may be helpful:

- a) Take time to sit with your child and look over the report together.
- b) Focus on the learning skills and work habits.
- c) Focus on the comments for each subject area and talk about your child's strengths and areas for improvement, and suggestions for next steps.

I am looking forward to an exciting and engaging Term 2 for all of our students and staff.

Kathy Gossling-Spears
Principal

NEWS FROM OUR LEARNING COMMONS



Again this year, our Parent Council and school community has generously supported literacy at Salem Public school by purchasing books for the Forest of Reading program. This is an exciting reading program that gives students the opportunity to read and review newly published books written by Canadian authors.

Students in grades 3 to 6 will have the opportunity to participate in the **Silver Birch Express** program and Grades 5 and 6 can participate in the **Silver Birch** program. These books have been selected for the content and reading level appropriate for these age groups. Students will have to read at least 5 of the 10 selected books for the chance to vote for their favourite book later on in April.

Our K-Grade 3 students will participate in the **Blue Spruce** program which comprises 10 wonderful picture books.

Stay tuned to find out which three are chosen as Salem students' favourite Forest of Reading books.

For more information about the Forest of Reading Program and nominated books, you can check out <http://www.accessola.org> or go to [UG2GO](#).



READ-A-THON IS COMING!

This month will mark the start of our Read-A-Thon! The Read-A-Thon is a great opportunity for students to get excited about reading and for the school to raise money for new resources and technology. We hope that students can either commit to reading for a certain time every night or to read a set number of books within the two week period. We encourage students to get sponsors for their reading (i.e. \$1.00 for every book they read and/or \$10 for each week they read every night). It's completely up to you how the sponsorship works. Special reading events will be held throughout our Read-A-Thon weeks (February 19th - March 2nd). Stay tuned for more information and pledge sheets that will be sent home early February!

Wednesday February 7th is Winter Walk Day!

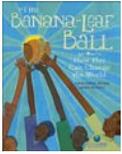
Keep active this winter and join schools across Canada to celebrate Winter Walk Day. Dressing warmly for a brisk winter walk can be exhilarating and fun – give it a try on February 7, here are some ideas:

- If you can walk safely to school, wrap up warm, leave the car at home and travel to school on foot with your friends.
- If you live too far to walk the whole way, try getting dropped off at a friend's house or a few blocks away from the school so you can walk the last leg
- If you take the school bus, have a winter walk in the school yard at break time so you can get active too!

Thanks, Green Team

AWARENESS, INCLUSION, EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

This month we have 5 more books to share with you. These books have been selected in hopes that our students continue to develop awareness around inclusion and diversity within our own school community and the world around us. Please consider reading them with your family and discussing the messages and meaning within. Reviews are from [Goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com)



The Banana-Leaf Ball - Katie Smith Milway : Based on a true story, Katie Smith Milway's inspiring tale shows how a desperate situation can be improved by finding common ground through play. It provides a perfect starting point for discussing the social justice issues surrounding the growing number of refugees worldwide. Furthermore, the book examines the value of using sports to build pro-social behavior, particularly as it relates to bullying. By depicting characters who change and evolve over the course of the story, kids of all backgrounds and experiences will find something positive to relate to.

Goodreads.com



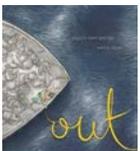
Shu-Li and Tamara - Paul Yee

This contemporary story of the true friendship between two girls is set in Vancouver's Commercial Drive neighborhood. Shu-Li's parents run a local Chinese deli and much of the story revolves around food. There is a helpful compendium of recipes at the end of the book for kids to try out. Beautifully illustrated throughout with line drawings.



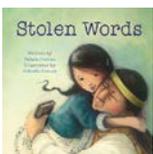
Amina's Voice - Hena Khan

Amina has never been comfortable in the spotlight. She is happy just hanging out with her best friend, Soojin. Except now that she's in middle school everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too? Or hiding who she is to fit in? While Amina grapples with these questions, she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized.



Out - Angela May George

A little girl flees her homeland, making a long and treacherous boat journey with her mother to seek asylum in Australia. Starting a new life is challenging, but they work hard to create a new home. Told from the little girl's point of view, the story is both heartbreaking and triumphant, allowing timely and sensitive discussion of what drives people to become refugees and the challenges they face.



Stolen Words - Melanie Florence

The story of the beautiful relationship between a little girl and her grandfather. When she asks her grandfather how to say something in his language, Cree, he admits that his language was stolen from him when he was a boy. The little girl then sets out to help her grandfather find his language again. This sensitive, beautifully illustrated picture book explores the intergenerational impact of Canada's residential school system, which separated young Indigenous children from their families.



GRADE 6 AWARENESS PROJECT *by Hannah B*

Our Grade 6 class did a project on being aware of differences in people and their special circumstances. I feel that everyone is important and we need to be respectful of each other, respecting their different perspective as we are all unique. My project was about being aware of Autism. It is really important to know that you can see people with autism as a friend instead of focussing on their differences. Just because they have autism doesn't mean they should not be included. They were created that way so be thankful for who they were made to be. All autistic people share certain difficulties but being autistic will affect them in different ways. I want people to know that autistic people can't control their anger and it's not their fault so people shouldn't talk about them negatively. Everyone is equal and has a right to be respected.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

ARTWORK FOR COVERS OF THE 2017-18 YEARBOOK

With the great response to the cover contest last year, the yearbook committee has decided continue with the theme of using student artwork on the covers again this year. Two pieces of artwork will be selected for the front and back covers of the 2017-18 yearbook. The student artists with the winning submissions will receive a free copy of the book with their artwork. If your student is interested in creating artwork for this contest, please ensure that their creation is submitted to the school office on 8 ½ x 11 paper in portrait layout no later than Mar 29, 2018.

UPDATED STUDENT INFORMATION

As we enter a new term, it is a good time to think about informing the school of any changes in student information, such as new medications your child may be taking, changes to daycare arrangements and parental contact information revisions. Please send a note with your child indicating any changes or call Mrs. Shantz in the office. Thanks for keeping us up to date!

INCLEMENT WEATHER



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

Our School is part of **Centre Wellington, Blue Card**

1460 AM CJOY – Guelph

106.1 Magic FM - Guelph

Oldies 1090 AM

99.1 FM CBC

105.3 Kool FM

Newstalk 570 AM

96.7 CHYM

Broadcast on CKCO TV

Wellington Dufferin Student Transportation Services www.stwdsts.ca

Parents can also check the UGDSB Website www.ugdsb.on.ca posted for bus cancellations by clicking on the link in the yellow bus at the top of home page Information will be posted daily on the website by 6:30 a.m. **Please remember if buses are cancelled in the morning they will not run after school.



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>.