



# Taylor Evans Public School

271 Stephanie Dr., Guelph, Ont. N1K 1T1 • Tel. (519) 766-4544 Fax (519) 766-4553

## SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

#### Hi Everyone!

Staff have been very busy getting ready for the return of our students. It is amazing to see the extra time and effort our teaching staff has put in to make learning spaces welcoming for our children. We are also grateful to Mrs. and Mr. Bota and their staff for the hard work and long hours they have put in to ensure a safe and clean environment.

**Eating time has changed** - nutrition breaks remain at the same time this year. However, students will be going out for recess first - from 10:15 - 10:35 and again from 12:35 - 12:55. They will then come in to eat from 10:35 - 10:55 and 12:55 - 1:15, and

We would like to welcome you in to the school and encourage you to get involved! One of our ongoing goals (both the school's and School Council's) is to support parents in being a part of the school life; you can join school council, talk to your child's teacher (or Mr. Gouk or Mr. Keesmaat) about volunteering or sharing a special talent (singing, playing an instrument, reading, teaching a language or sharing stories of your background, etc.), or signing your child's agenda and saying "Tell me about your day?".

All of this is reflected in our new motto: **Together: Empathy, Effort, Excellence**

Ways to get information:

Follow us on Twitter: @taylorevansps - to see what we are doing and how we are learning, as well as parent resources

Visit the website: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/tevas/> to sign up for email, view the calendar of events and access the newsletter.

Look for my Principal's Blog at <https://www.ugdsb.ca/tevas/category/principal-blog/> for topics

relevant to parents, student work and resources. To help the environment, please note that our next newsletter will be sent electronically only. The newsletter is always posted to our website. A hard copy can be obtained by request from the classroom teacher.

Ken Keesmaat and Alan Gouk  
Principal and Vice Principal



### SCHOOL COUNCIL

The first School Council meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 19th: 7-8 p.m.** The night will consist of a Meet and Greet followed by elections.

We welcome anyone who would like to come and see what council is about.

Every year your child's life is enriched with support that your School Council brings to Taylor Evans. For those individuals that make up School Council, their lives are enriched too, knowing that with a little support and effort they are contributing to the success of the Taylor Evans Public School community.

### TEA and TEARS for new JK and SK Parents and Guardians

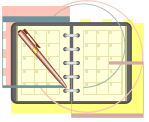
After a summer of planning and anticipation, the big day is finally here – on September 12<sup>th</sup>, your child will be in full time school. But where does that leave you as a parent after saying goodbye? School Council invites you to join us for a coffee, tea, tears and laughter in the intermediate lunchroom after you drop off your child in the foyer. Please come and meet each other, school council and the Principal and Vice-Principal!

## OPEN HOUSE/MEET THE TEACHER



Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ 6:00 p.m. *More information to follow.*

## AGENDAS



Your child will be receiving an agenda the first day of school. Please support the use of agendas by sending \$7.00 with your child as soon as possible. We value this as an important communication tool!

## FORMS



Later this week your child will be bringing home a variety of forms that will require your attention. These include:

- **White Verification form:** Please ensure it is accurate and complete. **Make changes as necessary, sign it, date it and return it to your child's home room teacher as soon as possible.**
- **Yellow Lunch permission form:** Please indicate your choice for your child (whether they will be remaining at school or leaving the property during 2<sup>nd</sup> nutrition break.) Please **sign** this form and return it to your child's home room teacher promptly.
- **Green Consent to Share Personal Information:** Please carefully read the forms. If you **do consent** to the conditions on the form, specifically the school using school/classroom websites and social media to share videos, pictures and student work with your family online, please check the appropriate box marked "YES". If you **do not consent** to the conditions, please check the box marked "NO". This form must be signed and returned to your child's home room teacher promptly. Please refer to the back of the consent form for further clarification.

## STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Once again, a Student Accident Insurance program is being offered to parents. The Board does not provide student accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen.

Under the Education Act, the Board is empowered to make available an Accident and Life Insurance Program for students. Participation in such a program is voluntary and the costs are paid by the parent/guardian. For your convenience, the Board has arranged a Student Accident

Insurance Policy through Old Republic Insurance Company.

Please review the package and instructions carefully when it is sent home in the next week. Please send a copy of the Student Accident Insurance Acknowledgment form back to your child's teacher to indicate whether your child will be participating in this program. Student Accident Insurance is especially valuable for today's active children.

## ALLERGY ALERT

We have several students in the school who have allergies to peanuts and/or nut products, eggs, shellfish. For some of these students contact with peanuts/nuts, specifically, can be **life threatening**. We request that parents avoid sending peanut/nut products to school, out of consideration for these children with allergies.

In addition, there may be other allergies that affect certain students in the school. We will endeavour to let families know of these circumstances on a class by class basis.

## ASTHMA/LIFE THREATENING PLANS

Each year we compile a list of students who have asthma or a potentially life-threatening medical condition. If your child is considered to be one of these students please contact Mr. Gouk (519-766-4544 ext 224) so that a plan can be developed in case of emergency. Existing plans (Plan of Care) will be sent home for renewal soon.

## SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY

For the safety of all, skateboards, roller blades, scooters and wheel shoes are not allowed on school property or buses. Please keep these items at home.

## BICYCLES

Students are encouraged to ride their bikes to school. A bike rack is provided at the front of the school. Students **MUST** wear helmets and are strongly encouraged to lock their bikes to the rack. Please walk your bike while on school property.



## CARPOOLERS



Walking to school has demonstrated benefits for learning and health! It is our goal to have as many students walk as possible, just for the health of it! If you choose to become a Taylor Evans Car pooler please note the following:

\*you agree to drop-off 3 (three) or more Taylor Evans Public School students.

- \*drop-off only in the am - NO pick up at dismissal time.
- \*use only the drive through lane and not the bus lane.
- \*kiss and ride - do not leave your vehicle.

Car pool passes may be picked up in the office.

## SCHOOL VOICE MAIL

Each staff member has a voice mailbox and the school has a general voice mailbox which directs calls to the office staff. Please follow the instructions of the automated voice attendant to gain access to a particular voice mailbox.

The expectation is that staff check their voice messages regularly, as they do not have immediate access to phones. **DO NOT** leave attendance, emergency or time sensitive information in voice mailboxes.

## IS YOUR CHILD GOING TO BE ABSENT OR LATE?

Taylor Evans Public School operates a **SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM** for all students. Please contact the school prior to 8:15am if your child is going to be absent or late for school. If you know of an absence ahead of time you are welcome to inform the office at your earliest convenience. We have a voice mail system - please leave your attendance messages in the general voice mailbox, ext 100. **Please do not leave attendance messages in staff voice mail boxes.**



Our Contact Number is: **519-766-4544, ext 100 or Press "0"**

## PARKING



Please note that we continue with our well established parking/access control procedures.

- \*Orange pylons will be placed at the entrance to school property during the day. School Board staff, buses, taxis, carpoolers and special pass vehicles have access to the property at these times.
- \*Obey all traffic signs and use only authorized street parking areas - waiting in a no stopping zone puts children at risk.
- \*When parking or stopping on school property, please respect reserved and handicapped parking spots, no stopping zones, fire routes and bus lanes.
- \*Do not leave vehicles unattended except in authorized parking spots.
- \*Use designated crosswalks only - set the example for your child and others.

## PIZZA

(Pepperoni and Plain Cheese)



We will have Pizza days on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All sales will be cash sales on the pizza day; only \$1.50/slice. All money raised will be used to support student needs at the school such as trips, supplies, special equipment and events.

**First Pizza Day: Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

## BYOD



Parents/students please make a cooperative decision about their child bringing technology to school. Laptops, tablets and hand-held devices are allowed within classrooms, for educational use only. These electronic devices are not allowed in areas that are not directly supervised, such as the hallway, school yard, washrooms and the lunchroom. Please review the school Code of Conduct, Use of Technology section for more information.



## TERRY FOX SCHOOL WALK

Taylor Evans Public School will be participating in the annual Terry Fox Walk for cancer research on **Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. Parents/Guardians are more than welcome to join their child at this event. More information to come.

## ENTRY AND DISMISSAL

During these times our hallways are very busy places. Lockers, coats hooks, book bags, winter boots, snow suits, projects etc. fill our hallways. We ask that parents drop-off/pickup their child(ren) **outside** the school building. Staff are in the hallways in order to assist and welcome/send off students. Thank you for your cooperation.



Our board has a wonderful resource for all of our students that can be accessed 24/7 from school or from home. It's called UG2GO and includes Learn360 (educational video streaming), Student Link (a site children use at school that gives them access to web sites that are kid friendly and relate directly to their current units of study), Tumblebooks (a site that has hundreds of books children can click on and have read to them), Overdrive (eBooks and audiobooks), and much more.

When students are at home they can go to this URL:

<https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go>

They will be prompted to enter the same Windows username and password that they use at school to get onto the school network. Once they enter their Windows username/password they will enter the site and they can then click on any of the resources and be taken directly to the individual resource without the need for any additional passwords.

Please take a few minutes to explore the site with your child. It is an important tool that will aid them in their education, and may make your life easier when it comes to homework and projects. We are excited that students will be able to access information from anywhere and at anytime in this information age!

## **SCHOOL DAY**

8:35 am - 10:15 am: Instructional Time

10:15 am - 10:55 am: 1<sup>st</sup> Nutrition Break

10:55 am - 12:35 pm: Instructional Time

12:35 pm - 1:15 pm: 2<sup>nd</sup> Nutritional Break

1:15 pm - 2:55 pm: Instructional Time

2:55 pm: Dismissal

## **Public Health**

It is important to keep your child's immunization records up-to-date with Public Health. Students who do not have up-to-date immunization records, may be suspended from school. Please report your child's immunizations to Public Health by calling 1-800-265-7293 ext.4396.

### **Asthma Friendly Schools Policy**

Asthma is a very common chronic lung disease that can make it hard to breathe. The Upper Grand District School Board adopted a new policy to provide support for students with Asthma. If your child has asthma, the policy requires a Plan of Care to be completed by parents, a child's doctor and the principal of the school. A copy of this plan is available on the Board's website under Policy 518. Parents are requested to complete the Plan of Care and return it to the school office as soon as possible at the beginning of the school year.

### **Smoke and Vape-Free Environment**

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke-free environment for its students, staff and others while on school Board property, in accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. This policy refers to all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed, including e-cigarettes.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of the indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents will be informed using the school's usual forms of communication when smudging is going to occur in our school. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.

## **Re: School Organizations**

Schools have built class lists based on their tentative organizations. Changes may be necessary at your child(ren)'s school in order that our Board remain compliant with Ministry parameters (see below). Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board. If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed by the school.

### **Ministry of Education Parameters**

**Full Day Kindergarten Class Size Average for the Board is 26**

**90% of FDK Classes with 29 or fewer students**

**10% of FDK classes up to a maximum of 32 students under certain circumstances**

**90% of Board primary classes with 20 or fewer students**

**10% of Board primary classes up to a maximum of 23 students**

**Grade ¾ classes have a cap of 23 students**

**Junior/Intermediate Class Size Average for the Board is 24.5 students to 1 teacher**

## **Reminder for parents: Accidents happen - be prepared with**

### **Student Accident Insurance**

Parents or guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial Health Care or employer group insurance plans.

The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under *The Education Act* to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students.

Information has been sent home with respect to Student Accident Insurance offered by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada. You should receive the Director's letter, an Acknowledgment to be signed by parents (and returned to school) and a Student Accident Insurance application form (to be mailed directly to Old Republic). Old Republic offers a variety of options, including family rates and multi-year plans, at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by parents or guardians.

Subscription is directly through Old Republic by mail or on line. Questions should be directed to Old Republic at 1-800-463-5437 or [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com).

For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable.

### **Talking About Mental Health Sept 2018 – Heading Back to School**

**Hope that you had a wonderful summer! Transitioning back into school as summer ends can be exciting but also can be stressful for some children and families. As the children and youth head back to school, here are a few suggestions on how to make this a mentally healthy school year for all.**

#### **1. Take care of your body**

Mental and physical health are linked. Make sure to get enough sleep, drink water, and eat well.

**2. Talk to your child/ren**

**What did they like and enjoy about last year? What are they looking forward to this year? Have children name one thing they are looking forward to and one thing they are not looking forward to as much.**

**3. Identify strengths and challenges**

**Have them name 2 things they are good at in school and two things that they think might be more difficult. Strategize some ways to deal with challenges. At the end of the day reflect any strategies used and encourage them to try new strategies to build their coping tool kit.**

**4. Problem solve with your child/ren**

**Provide your child opportunities to make their own decisions and to come up with solutions for their concerns. Remember to keep your expectations realistic and age appropriate.**

**5. Remain calm, and show your child trust, support and love when they are feeling stressed, anxious and worried.**

**Have a wonderful and mentally healthy school year!**

*Jenny Marino, UGDSB Mental Health and Addictions Lead*