



Taylor Evans Public School

GUELPH | ONTARIO | CANADA

Phone: 519-766-4544

Fax: 519-766-4553

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/tevens/>

Twitter: @taylorevansps

February 2019

Principal's Message

Hi Everyone!

As February rolls in we certainly know that winter is here! It is amazing to see how the playground transforms into a building zone when we have snow. Play is such an important part of development for a child. It helps teach them problem-solving skills as well as pro-social skills - ways to interact appropriately with their peers! Encourage your children to #getoutside with you or friends and enjoy the winter weather!

Many times we get questions about homework. If you are looking for ideas to help support your child (in any grade) with activities that will help them develop the skills necessary for academic and life success, take time to play a game before bed, read with them, or play some math games. For more ideas for math, check out this website for ideas on "Math before bed": <https://mathbeforebed.com/>

Ken Keesmaat
Principal

Alan Gouk
Vice Principal

Chinese New Year Parade

Please come and see the primary classes celebrate in a parade for Chinese New Year on Tuesday, February 5th. They will be in the lower hall from 1:15 - 1:45!



Winter Walk Day



Another great Walk to School Day is upon us! Ask your family, friends, and neighbours to walk together to school on **Wednesday, Feb. 6th** for Winter Walk Day! Why? Walking to school not only decreases the amount of emissions from our cars, which means less air pollution but also creates healthier students and safer school zones. So, on February 6th, bundle up and walk to school!

National Sweater Day

Since 2010, over a million Canadians have participated in National Sweater Day at their schools, workplaces and homes. It is a day to help raise awareness about climate change and modify behaviours around energy consumption. Taylor Evans will be participating this year. On **Thursday, Feb. 7th** our thermostat at school will be lowered by 2 degrees Celsius. So Taylor Evans Eagles, get out your warmest sweater and start talking about improving our Earth!

See ideas you can do as a family below!



Booster Juice Straws



In order to help decrease plastic waste in our **environment**, we will not be providing plastic straws or plastic spoons for Booster Juice. Plastic straws contribute to the almost **nine million tonnes of plastic** ending up in our oceans every year. If you have ordered Booster Juice for your child, *please send along a metal straw or metal spoon* if one is required. Otherwise, students are able to drink the juice like any other juice, straight from the cup! Thanks for your support in making our Earth a healthier place to live.

Booster Juice is on Wednesdays. New orders start Jan. 30th for 6 weeks. Popcorn Fridays continue every Friday!

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>.



Ideas for your family to celebrate Sweater Day

- Turn down your thermostat and wear a sweater on **Feb 7th** - and every day this winter!
- Ask your children to brainstorm with you about ways to save energy at home. Make a pledge to implement as many as you can. For extra ideas go to <https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-use-less-electricity-home>
- Read a children's book on conservation such as: *Why Should I Save Energy?* by Jen Green. Encourage lots of questions and find the answers together.
- Learn about Green Energy sources. What types of renewable energy are available in Ontario - Wind? Solar? Geothermal?
- Valentine's Day is just around the corner - use recycled materials to create your cards this year! To learn more about how recycling saves energy go to Alliant Energy Kids:
www.alliantenergykids.com/UsingEnergyWisely/SavingEnergyAtHome