



# Victoria Terrace P.S. News

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## June 2018



### From the Principal's Desk

The end of the school year is fast approaching. We have just completed a very action-packed month of May, with many more activities to come in June - the Grade 6 trip to Camp Brebeuf, our V.T. and County Track & Field Days, Play Day, Talent Show, junior swimming, class trips and Grade 6 Celebration, to name a few. Please check the June calendar on a daily basis to keep track of year-end events.

We would like to express a big thank you to our volunteers -- parents, community members, family and friends who have shared their time, talent and expertise with us this year. We truly appreciate all of your contributions to our wonderful Victoria Terrace school community.

For those of you looking to next year, we would love to have you join us on School Council. We typically meet on the first Monday of each month (only 10 meetings - or less!), and it's wonderful to have new ideas and insights into future directions for our school community. Please consider joining us for the first meeting of the year on **Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** in the library.

We look forward to a positive and fun end to this school year, and invite you to get involved as you are able, with the events that are scheduled.

Mrs. W. Shannon

### Staffing and Class Placements

In the next couple of weeks, staff will be meeting to discuss class placements for next year. In considering these placements, wherever possible, we look at student learning styles as well as academic abilities, work habits, social skills and friendships. Please note that the Ministry of Education's expectations for class size must be met at the Board level, with restrictions of no more than a 10% variance from the designated numbers across Upper Grand D.S.B. For this reason, class placements will be tentative until the end of the second week in September when all numbers are finalized. General registration for students new to our Board takes place on **Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**. If you know of any families with school-aged children moving into the area, please advise them of this date. Thanks for your help! Please be reminded that due to Freedom of Information and Privacy Regulations, class lists will not be posted prior to school opening. Teachers and classes will be available on the first day of school, **Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 8:30 am**.



### Sun Safety

Pease remember that all children should be wearing sunscreen and hats on high UV days. Check the morning weather reports if you're not sure.

## **Student Banquet**

The School Council and Chef Jess are planning the delicious lunch for students and staff on June 5<sup>th</sup>. This is a fund raiser for School Council and your donation of \$5.00 for your child's hot lunch will be appreciated and put towards our Play Ground fund.

## **Teacher Appreciation**

As we begin to prepare for the end of the school year, we know that finding a way to say "thank you" to our staff is often something that parents and students think about. Although our staff members truly appreciate a heartfelt note, if you are thinking about an additional expression of thanks in recognition of a successful year, please consider contributing to our school through a donation to the Learning Foundation in the school's name. You may donate on line by visiting: [www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com](http://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com) or calling the school to request a form.

## **Special Olympics**

The Special Olympics athlete oath: ***"Let me win – but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."***

On Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, staff and students from across the school district came together for a day to celebrate diversity and perseverance. Special Olympic athletes from the Upper Grand and Wellington Catholic District School Boards were at St. James Catholic High School in Guelph for the annual Special Olympics Track and Field Day.

Now in its 17th year, the track meet has grown to one of its largest and most successful in the area. Students and their peer coaches spent the day in the sun, enjoying companionship and friendly competition in athletic events, including the standing long jump, running long jump, softball throw, seated softball throw and the 25, 50 and 100 m dash.

The annual track and field day is made possible by the hard work of the organizing committee, Special Olympics Ontario, the City of Guelph, Community Living Guelph/Wellington, the Guelph Police Service and many volunteers.

All VTPS participants trained with their peer coaches, and at the meet they were fabulous representatives of our school. Congratulations go to Victor, Ryan, Hanna, Caleb, Lukas, Jade, Ryder, Isaac and Kollin. A very special thank you goes to their peer coaches: Meadow, Lilly, Ava, Willow, Brody, Sarah, Soraya, Gray and Austin. We had many happy participants who were proud of their ribbons and participation in this event.

## **Thank you from Habitat for Humanity**

Wellington, Dufferin, Guelph affiliate would like to say a special thank you to Victoria Terrace Public School for their participation in our Genworth Meaning of Home Contest in the fall of 2017. For each submission the local Habitat received \$10 per student entry. We are thrilled to announce that Victoria Terrace raised \$470 for our local Habitat. Across Wellington and Dufferin counties, participating schools raised a total of \$5240.

Each student participating received a Certificate of Appreciation from Habitat at a small presentation held in their classroom on May 15<sup>th</sup>. A special thanks to Mrs. Shannon and Teachers, Mr. Pellar and Mrs. Pogany for supporting this project.

## Reading over the Summer

As a parent, you are your child's first – and most important – teacher. Here are eight ways you can help your child become a better reader:

1. Read yourself. Your actions really do speak louder than your words. When your kids see you reading the newspaper or curling up with a book or magazine, they will want to follow your example.
2. Make sure your children read every day. Reading, like shooting baskets and playing the piano, is a skill. Like other skills, it gets better with practice. Researchers have found that children who spend at least 30 minutes a day reading for fun – whether they read books, newspapers, or magazines – develop the skills to be better readers at school.
3. Get in the library habit. Make sure everyone in your family has a library card. Schedule regular trips to the library. While you are there, check out a book yourself!
4. Read aloud to your children. Research shows that this is the most important thing parents can do to help their children become better readers. Here are some tips:
  - Start reading to your children when they are young. It is never too early to begin reading to your children.
  - Don't stop reading to your children as they grow older. You will both enjoy the chance to do something together.
  - Set aside some time each day for reading aloud. Even 10 minutes a day can have a big impact. Bedtime is a natural reading aloud time. Other busy families read aloud at breakfast or just after dinner.
  - Read books you enjoy. Your kids will know if you are faking it.
5. Here is a way to use your newspaper to encourage reading: a scavenger hunt. Give your child a list of things to find in today's newspaper. Here are some ideas:
  - A map of Canada.
  - A picture of your child's favourite athlete.
  - The temperature in the city where a family member lives.
  - Three words that begin with "v".
  - A movie that is playing at a nearby theatre.
6. Give books as gifts. Find a special place for your children to keep their own library.
7. Make reading a privilege. Say, "You can stay up 15 minutes later tonight if you read in bed." Or you might say, "Because you helped with the dishes, I have time to read you an extra story."
8. If you are not a good reader, you can still encourage your children. As your children learn to read, ask them to read to you. Talk about the books your children have read. Ask a friend or relative to read aloud to your children.

## Other Summer Reading Ideas

Summer is quickly approaching and while our school library will not be open during summer break, your student can access our digital collection 24/7! Help your child keep their reading skills strong this summer with eBooks and audiobooks from Overdrive accessible through UG2GO.

Students can login to Overdrive using their Windows network login. Digital books can be enjoyed on a computer, tablet, smartphone or eReader device. Read right in the internet browser or download using the

free OverDrive app. At the end of the lending period, titles automatically expire so there are never any late fees. Our digital collection can be accessed anywhere in the world, as long as there is an internet connection.

Visit our digital collection at <https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go> and make sure your student starts summer vacation off right! Look for the Overdrive button under the Read section of UG2GO.

## Transition Plans for Students with Special Needs

Spring has sprung and it's a great time to be reviewing your child's transition plans. Students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) must have a transition plan, whether or not they have been identified as an exceptional student. A transition plan includes goals for ensuring successful transitions, and the actions for meeting those goals. It is required if a student may need support making any transition, which may include entering, during, or leaving school. A plan to support the student must be developed as part of the student's IEP.

Some transition goals may help with changes throughout the day, such as moving from recess to the classroom, while other goals may assist with larger transitions, such as moving from one school to another or changing grades/teachers within the same school setting.

For many students, the supports provided to the whole class are all they need to have a successful transition, which means they may not need an individualized transition plan on their IEP at this time.

When planning for any transition, the student's strengths and needs are considered, as well as their physical, emotional, and learning needs.

Please communicate with your child's teacher if you feel additional transition supports are required on his/her IEP.

## Creating Independent (Math) Problem Solvers

I was working in two different classrooms in two very different schools and noticed that the children approached solving problems in math differently. When children were given a problem in one classroom, their hands would immediately go up in the air with cries of, "I don't get it," or "I need help," or "What do I do first?". In the other classroom, when children were given a math problem, instead of asking for help right away, they would give it a try.

I was curious about the different student approaches to solving a math problem and I wanted to know how these students solved other problems. So I asked each group of children, "When you want to play with a friend, what do you do?" Here's what they said:

School A	School B
"My mom calls her mom."	"I go knock on his door and ask if he can play."
"My mom calls and sets up a play date."	"I call her on the phone and then walk over to her house."
"My dad texts her mom to see if we can play."	"Lots of kids meet at the park after school. I go there and play with my friends."

<p>“I ask my mom if she can drive me to his house.”</p>	<p>“I ride my bike to her house. If she’s not home, I go see if someone else can play.”</p>
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Which school had children who asked for help with the math problem right away? Which children tried the math problem on their own first?

To be successful in math, children need to be able to solve problems. When children are provided with opportunities to solve their own problems in life, they are more willing to tackle math problems on their own. Think about some of the “problems” children may experience every day:

- Deciding what to wear
- Taking what they need to school for the day (e.g., lunch, homework, shoes)
- Finding friends at recess
- Choosing what do after school
- Being hungry and needing a snack

If parents and teachers solve these problems for children, we take away the chance for children to develop problem solving skills and the belief that they can do things on their own. We cannot expect a child who has everything done for them in life to be an independent problem solver in math.

By stepping back and providing children with the opportunity to solve their own little problems, like what to wear or how to get together with a friend, we prepare them for tackling bigger problems later on, like the ones they get in math class! Megan Haessler, Curriculum Leader

### Talking About Mental Health June 2018– **Successfully Shifting from School to Summer**

The weather is getting warmer, days are getting longer and summer is just around the corner. It is an exciting time of the year but it can also be a struggle. There is often an increasing restlessness, distractability and anticipation as the end of the school year approaches. School is wrapping up and it is time to think about how to have a good transition from school routines to summer vacation.

The shift from school year to summer break is easy for some, but more challenging for others, particularly those children and youth who experience anxiety or have difficulty with transitions.

A good transition to summer is important and can lead to a more positive, fun summer experience.

#### **Here are some practical tips to make a smooth transition from school to summer:**

Post the summer schedule. Have your child or youth contribute to a family calendar. Be sure to note blocks of unscheduled time as well.

Make a list of places and people to visit when time permits and the mood strikes. Summer is a good time to stop by the library, bike trail, or concert-in-the-park that you can’t seem to get to during the school year.

Prepare your child for their scheduled activities. If possible, visit the locations where they will be during day camp or day care in advance. Have your child talk to counselors, caregivers, as well as other kids who have enjoyed those same situations and settings.

Get outside and enjoy the summer. Try to limit the amount of time online, watching TV, or playing video games. Be active and get plenty of sleep and exercise. Being outside, such as going for a walk or playing in the park elevates our mood and makes us feel less anxious.

**Looking for Activities To Do:**

<http://www.orangeville.ca/parks-and-recreation>

<http://guelph.ca/living/recreation/recreation-programs/>

<https://www.centrewellington.ca/beactive/Pages/Recreation,%20Parks%20and%20Facilities/Community-Guide.aspx>

<http://wellington-north.com/government/departments/recreation>

Hope you have a wonderful, relaxing, fun summer. However, if you find mental health challenges to be increasing or causing more difficulties over the summer, seek out mental health or addiction supports for your child/youth, you and your family.

**Summer resources for Mental Health and Addiction supports:**

Your family physician and family health teams in Guelph, Wellington, and Dufferin are excellent resources.

**Canadian Mental Health Association WWD (CMHAWWD):**

Tuesday Walk In - 1:30-7:00, 485 Silvercreek Parkway, Guelph.

To access services for Children, Youth and Adults in Guelph/Wellington: : 1 844 HERE 247  
(1 844 437 3247)

<http://here247.ca/>

**Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS):**

Tuesday Talk In – 1:00-7:00 pm, 655 Riddell Road, Orangeville.

To access services for Children and Youth in Dufferin: 519 941 1530.

<http://dcafs.on.ca/>

**Family Counselling and Support Services:**

Walk-in, Wednesday, 1-7, sliding scale, based on ability to pay, but will not turn anyone away. 109 Surrey St E, 519 824-2431.

<http://familyserviceguelph.on.ca/>

**KidsHelpPhone** 1 800 668 6868. <http://www.kidshelpphone.ca/>

## Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet



### June 5<sup>th</sup> is World Environment Day!

*It is vital to teach our children to respect and take care of the environment.*

## Celebrate World Environment Day on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2018!

**A Platform for Action-** *World Environment Day is the Nations' most important day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment widely celebrated in over 100 countries.*



*United*

*and is*

<http://worldenvironmentday.global/en>

### **This year's theme - *Take action to #BeatPlasticPollution***

On 5 June, spread the message: ***"If you can't reuse it, refuse it!"*** Download the informative poster: ["9 Tips for Living with Less Plastic"](#) Make sure you are up-to-date on what can be recycled your local community's blue bin. Better yet, don't use single-use plastics!

## Ideas for your family to celebrate World Environment Day!

- **Create an event for family, friends and neighbours** - *There is no end of ideas that you could take forward for World Environment Day. Surprise yourself! Think about ideas that we can do to help the planet like fixing a problem in your community.*
- **Get out into nature** - *World Environment Day is all about appreciating the beautiful planet we inhabit. Why not spend a day in a park, hiking a trail or appreciating a forest on the weekend before World Environment Day.*
- **Inspire others** – *A great idea will naturally attract others who can take a small idea and make it extraordinary. So, with your powers of persuasion, bring on board the people you think can make your idea awesome. Or ask everyone to make their own personal pledge to change one wasteful or harmful habit for the better. Share what you're doing using the hashtag: #WorldEnvironmentDay*
- **Have fun:** *Make your event for World Environment Day fun, inspiring and interesting. For example, Google events happening locally that you can attend, or check out Pinterest for fun, recycled crafts ideas.*

<http://worldenvironmentday.global/en/toolkits#event-kits>

# Math on the Go!

## Card Games to Develop Math Skills For All Ages

Are you looking to help your child to develop his or her math skills at home in a meaningful and engaging way, while spending quality family time together? Why not try some card games! Playing a card game can take as little as 5-10 minutes. Next time you find yourself trying to entertain your child while waiting at the dentist office or at a sports practice, why not bring along a deck of cards and play a couple of card games with your child. This is a great way to connect socially with your child, while practicing math skills. As author Marilyn Burns says in her book, *Win-Win Math Games*: "Games help to lift math off the textbook pages, and they support students' learning about numbers and operations."

(Retrieved on May 1, 2018 "Acing Math One Deck At A Time, The Positive Engagement Project"  
[http://www.pepnonprofit.org/uploads/2/7/7/2/2772238/acing\\_math.pdf](http://www.pepnonprofit.org/uploads/2/7/7/2/2772238/acing_math.pdf) )

### Card Sort (Grades K - 3)

**Players:** Individual or groups of two

**Materials:** Deck of cards

**Skill:** Number recognition and group, sort, or categorize by attribute

**How to Play:** As a group, or individually, have students use the full deck of cards to sort and create groups by attribute. Some sorting possibilities are by color, suit, or number.



Students can sort by color.



Students can sort by suit.

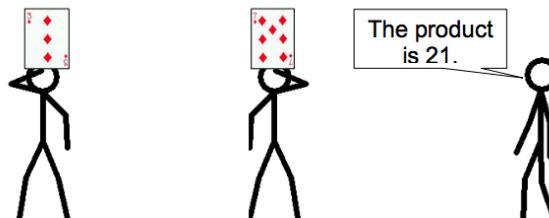


Students can sort by number.

### Reading Multiplication Minds

(Grades 3 - 6)

**Players:** Groups of three (groups of four or



five for more advanced)

**Materials:** Deck of cards

**Skill:** Multiplication, product

**How to Play:** In this game for three players, one student is the leader and the other two are the “mind readers”.

The two players each draw a card and, without looking at it, hold it up to their foreheads so that everyone else can see it, but themselves. The leader announces the products of the two cards. Each “mind reader” must figure out which card is on his or her own forehead and say it aloud. When both “mind readers” have figured out their cards, a new leader is chosen and the game continues. With Reading Multiplication Minds, all players get practice with products and factors in every round.

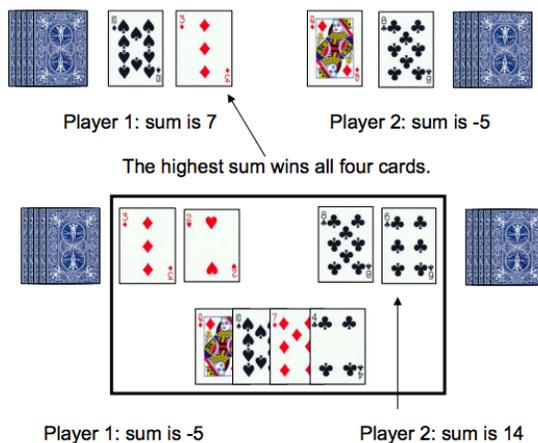
### Integer Addition Number Battle (Grades 5 - 8)

**Players:** Groups of two

**Materials:** Deck of cards, Ace worth 11, Jack worth 12, Queen worth 13, King worth 14, scratch paper

**Skill:** Number recognition, positive integers, negative integers, and addition

**How to Play:** Black cards are positive numbers; red cards are negative numbers. Players split a deck of cards and simultaneously flip over their top two cards. Remember -2 is greater than -7.



If the cards sums have the same value, the cards are placed in a center pile. The next hand is played normally and the winner of the next addition number battle takes the center pile as well.

## Information from Public Health

On Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, the Balanced Technology Management committee of Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph will be hosting a *Power Off and Play* event for families of children aged 0-12. Come out to Centennial CVI from 10 am - 2 pm to learn about different ways that you can Power Off and Play as a family! Less screen time means that you and your family can have more time to be active, read, and be creative! This is a FREE event and there will be lots of giveaways and fun activities run by various organizations for children ages 0-12.



### POWER OFF AND PLAY!

Come out to learn how your family can **Power Off and Play** this summer! Join us for:

- Tips on balancing screen time
- Activities you can do as a family this summer

Lots of fun activities and giveaways for children ages 0-12

#### Event Details:

 Saturday, June 16th, 2018  10am - 2pm  
 **Centennial CVI Cafeteria**  
289 College Ave W,  
Guelph  **FREE!**

#### Who will be at the event?

- Grand River Conservation Authority
- Guelph Quidditch
- Play With Clay
- Let's Talk Science
- Wild Ontario
- ... and more! For a full list visit:  
[energize.guelph.ca](http://energize.guelph.ca)

**Power Off & Play** planned by:  
Balanced Technology Management Committee

Special thanks to:  


For a full list of organizations that will be at the event, please visit: [energize.guelph.ca](http://energize.guelph.ca).