



Victory Newsletter for March 2018

March, 2018

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From the Principal's Desk ...

Last month was all about embracing winter here at Victory. Looking ahead to March we are hoping that spring will be just around the corner!

Friday, February 23rd was our first afternoon of Enrichment Clusters and once again I was amazed at the talent in the community and the number of folks who have been so giving of their time. Children were participating in everything from African dancing, creating hot rods, designing video games, baking, teddy bear first aid to Lego robotics. The enrichment opportunity this allows our students is so appreciated. This couldn't have happened without the time and work that Ms. Cadieux and Mlle Vaughan put into organizing this initiative and the fantastic parents and community members who have stepped up and become involved. Thank-you all!

Our grade 1 and 1/2 split classes have been working on a Water Friendship project with artist Christine Bretherick. Their work will be displayed as part of an exhibit at the Bookshelf (green room) on the evening of March 22nd at 7:00 p.m..

Everybody Dance Now..... at the end of this month we welcome back **DancEd!** They are coming to work with all of our classes. Each class will have a dance lesson a day for eight days. On Friday, April 6th we ask all students and families to come out for the grand performance at E.L. Fox Auditorium (at John F. Ross High School). Families are asked to arrive by 5:45 for a 6:00 pm show. There will be lots of room so don't hesitate to bring the whole family including grandparents and uncles and aunts. We are fortunate to offer this program to all students partly based on funds from School Council and partly from a generous donation from a former Victory student.

Thank-you to the many parents who were able to come out and read with their child during our Family Literacy event. We appreciate Mme Valente-Hebecker organizing this special time.

I hope you are able to enjoy some family time during March Break (the week of March 12th).

Mrs. Young
julie.young@ugdsb.on.ca

Girls Basketball

The rain didn't get us down. A big congratulations to the Jr. Girls Basketball team. The team dedicated many recesses and committed many long hours to basketball practice. They went into this tournament with excitement and comradery. During the tournament, we made some big baskets, learned new skills and played on a full court! It's safe to say Victory Public School was well represented and girls basketball has a bright future ahead of them. Congratulations again!!!



Boys Basketball

Congratulations to the Boys basketball team who competed in our tournament on February 20th at Willow PS. The boys played with a very small team and were constantly trying their best and learning a lot along the way. In the end the boys won two games and lost two. I am very proud of the sportsman like behaviour the boys exhibited, their participation in all practices and on a great season.

Valentine Dance

Our School Council ran a very successful and fun-filled Valentine Dance on February 9th that was open to all students. Thank you to Susan Boyle and Andrea Dubé-Gross who organized and ran the event.

School Council

If you need to get in touch with School Council, please note that the School Council email address is: info@vpsfamily.ca

Gay Straight Alliance : The Rainbow Club

Victory PS will be hosting a GSA, a Gay Straight Alliance club, called the Rainbow Club. All students are invited to join. The goal of our club is to create an opportunity for students to come together to discuss the role of safe spaces, inclusive language, to develop strategies to counter bias and homophobia and to explore gender identity. Most of our activities will be arts-based. If you would like to volunteer with the Rainbow Club please email Monique Cadieux at mcadieux@ugcloud.ca

Vehicle Traffic Around Victory

Vehicle traffic continues to be a concern on the streets adjacent to our school. If you are dropping off or picking up your child by car, please respect the No Parking and No Stopping signs on streets adjacent to Victory, and be sure that your car is not blocking driveway access to the street. There is to be no stopping or parking in the bus zone or across from the bus zone. Some roads allow parking on one side only, and some have restrictions for stopping during school hours. Parking is allowed on some side streets and on the laneway along Exhibition Park. Although this means a few extra minutes of walking time, we request that drivers make the safer choice by parking or stopping in these locations.

Allergies

The issue of students with allergies and anaphylaxis (severe reactions to allergies) has been a concern in schools for many years. Some allergic reactions can be mild, while others can be life-threatening if appropriate measures are not taken promptly. Our Victory community has been very supportive in helping all students have a safe and inclusive learning environment. We appreciate your continued support in this area.

Safety Patrol

Our safety patrol members continue to act responsibly on behalf of all the students at Victory Public School.

Please remember that street patrollers are on duty at the following times only:

- **Morning: 8:30 - 8:45 a.m.**
- **Afternoon: 3:15 - 3:25 p.m.**
- **On extremely cold days they arrive at their posts by 8:40 a.m. and leave at 3:20 p.m..**

Thank you to the City of Guelph Police and CAA for continuing to support our patrollers with training and appreciation events such as an upcoming movie day.

Batteries!!

As a school we have been doing an amazing job and have recycled approximately 350 kg of batteries so far! Our goal is to get to recycle 412 kg - that's 1.36 kg per student and staff



member.

If possible please INDIVIDUALLY tape button celled batteries as well as the top of the 9V batteries. This would greatly help out the Green Team during our weekly collections.

Thank you for all of your support and congratulations to some students for becoming Battery Bosses! There is still another draw on April 5th for \$50 gift cards - so keep doing those challenges!

Check out the following link for more information about the challenge and how your child can become a Battery Boss! <https://www.rawmaterials.com/ontario-school-recycling-challenge/>

Thank you again,

E. Ferris and the Green Team

Markers!

Victory is still also collecting markers that no longer work. Any brand, bring them in and The Green Team is sending them off to Crayola to be turned into fuel! Let's go green everyone!

School Council

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 7th, 2016 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend, and you don't have to be an active member. If you need to contact the school council or have any questions please feel free to email us at: info@vpsfamily.ca
The agenda will be posted next week on our school website.

Safe Schools Drill

Since 2001, all schools in Ontario have been required to hold two lockdown drills a year. In March we will be holding our second drill. We will be careful to reassure students that this is a drill or practice, and, just like in a fire drill, the purpose is to learn what to do in case we need to lock our doors. We will stress that during a drill everyone in our building is safe. If you have any questions or concerns about these procedures, please contact Mrs. Young at 519 822-6931.

Visitors in our School

For our children's safety, please sign the guest book in the office, and wear a visitor's badge when visiting our school. If you are picking up your son or daughter early, please check in at the office and we will call them there to meet you. Please do not go to your child's classroom. Thank you!

Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child who will be four or five in 2018, please phone the school with this information if you have not already done so. Our registration times have come and gone but Mrs. Hambly is still accepting names and registering children for September classes. Please share this information with any friends and neighbours in our school area who have children who are eligible for kindergarten. Thank you for your help!

Vision Health

If you suspect that your child is struggling with vision issues, there are several things that you can do. First, book an eye exam with an optometrist. Basic OHIP coverage for eye exams, is available free of charge, for children from birth to age 19. Speak with your child's teacher regarding your concerns and encourage your child to clearly express to the teacher the difficulties they are having (Are they having trouble seeing things on the board? Are they having trouble copying information? Are they having trouble seeing the information in novels/textbooks/notebooks etc.?) There are a number of accommodations that can be made to quickly address potential problems, including seating closer to the board or larger print on computers or photocopies. You can also discuss with the classroom teacher or SERT the possibility of making a referral to one of the Vision Itinerant Teachers who provide support to your school.

Enrichment Clusters

A very heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the parent volunteers who designed an Enrichment Cluster for our students or who volunteered to help out with one. It is an important and meaningful experience for our students and staff and we are so grateful.

Snuggle Up and Read

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the following events: Snuggle Up and Read, and Book Tasting. It was a huge success! Also, an additional gratitude for the parents that were able to take part in reading in the classrooms.

The staff and Mrs. C. Valente-Hebecker

Help Your Child to be More Resilient

Life can be stressful for both children and their parents. When children learn how to handle challenging situations in positive ways and to bounce back after a negative experience they become more resilient. Resilient people are happier, healthier and more successful in life. Children learn resiliency skills from the adults in their lives. Here are some ideas to help you to build resilience in your child:

1. **Build a caring and trusting relationship:** Listen to your child and talk about their day, share cuddles or hugs, play or do activities together.
2. **Think positive:** Each evening ask your child to share a positive thing that happened during their day. You could share something positive that happened in your day too!
3. **Gently challenge your child's negative thinking:** If your child has had a stressful experience, acknowledge their feelings and help your child see that experience as only one of many things that happened that day: "It sounds as if Max really hurt your feelings by not inviting you to play hockey. Did you play with him at another time? Did you play with some of your other friends?"
4. **Build confidence:** Allow your child to do things independently as often as possible; such as getting dressed, helping to make dinner, wrapping a birthday gift, helping with a chore. Only give guidance if absolutely necessary.
5. **Allow your child to feel that he or she has control over his or her life:** Allow your child to make age-appropriate decisions, such as what to wear, a choice of what to have in their lunch ("would you like a banana or yogurt?"), what book to read before bedtime, what movie to watch on the weekend.
6. **Model and practice calming:** When you are dealing with a difficult situation show your child how you calm yourself down. Practice calming with your child (deep breathing, counting to 10, going to a quiet place).
7. **Model coping:** When you have a problem, talk to your child about how you solved the problem calmly. What did you think about as you were solving your problem?
8. **Build your child's coping strategies:** Help your child think through a challenge. Help your child to know that the issue is just temporary and that he or she can solve the problem. Support your child in coming up with a solution.

In supporting your child in building resiliency skills you are developing a positive outlook that will last a lifetime. For more information on resiliency please go to the website below.

Source: Reaching In, Reaching out Website: <http://www.reachinginreachingout.com/resources-parents.htm>

Water Project at Victory:

When Paul Baines of *The Great Lakes Commons* offered to present a workshop to a group of Guelph people interested in water protection and preservation, Karen Rathwell an advocate of the Wellington Water Watchers was delighted to be the host. At a meeting at her home, Paul shared a delightful book, 'The Water Walker, beautifully written and illustrated by Joanne Robertson. Christine Bretherick, a local art educator, saw the book as a wonderful springboard to help young students understand the concept of caring for water and to help them develop a 'friendship with water' inspired by Grandmother Josephine.

With a copper pail of water and a staff, Grandmother Josephine, or Josephine Mandamin, an Anishabaabewe grandmother had travelled on foot around each of the Great Lakes. She'd travelled 10,900 miles to deliver her message about the importance of water and soon became known as 'The Water Walker.'

With funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation available for some art workshops it was time to establish a friendship with water project and share the story!

Christine soon had the support of the principal and teachers at Victory Public School, Guelph and the Water Friendship Project was underway. As soon as she mentioned the project, Monique Cadieux, the Grade One teacher suggested a book that she thought was inspiring. Of course it was 'The Water Walker' and there was Grandmother Josephine! Of course, it was meant to be!

Soon the Grade one and two students were using watercolours to paint watery landscapes and learning about the importance of saving and protecting their water. They were able to locate the two rivers in Guelph, and learn about how the rivers connected with the Great Lakes and finally the Atlantic Ocean. They were on their way to being stewards of their own environment and beginning to develop their own personal friendships with water.

March 22nd marks World Water Day. This day is about focusing attention on the importance of water. The theme for World Water Day 2018 is '[Nature for Water](#)' – exploring nature-based solutions to the water challenges we face in the 21st century. The young students are looking forward to having their art on display at The Bookshelf, a vibrant bookstore in downtown Guelph. A reception is planned for the evening to celebrate their new friendships with water and hopefully Joanne Robertson will be present.

As they reflect and learn to appreciate how fortunate they are to have access to clean water, they also gain valuable insights as to how water is disrespected and wasted. They are able to glimpse the wisdom of Grandmother Josephine as she sings her gratitude for 'Nibi.' The question at the end of the book begs an answer..."What are you going to do about it?"

If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.
Rachel Carson 1907-1964

March 24th is Earth Hour!

*This Earth Hour, help shine a light on climate change
Switch off your light and switch on your social power!*

Join the global Movement! Celebrate Earth Hour on March 24th at 8:30pm.



Earth Hour's mission is uniting people to protect the planet by raising awareness of about climate change and encouraging positive action.

Earth Hour is more than an event. It is a movement that has achieved massive environmental impact, including legislation changes by harnessing the power of the crowd.

Ideas for your family to do for Earth Hour!

A simple event can be just turning off all non-essential lights on March 24th from 8:30-9:30 pm. For one hour, focus on your commitment to our planet. To celebrate, you can:

- prepare a candle lit dinner
- talk to your neighbours, or invite people over
- stargaze, or go camping in your backyard
- play board games, or charades
- host a concert, or a sing-a-long
- create or join your own community event
- have an Earth Hour every month!

The possibilities are endless!

(Select information taken from: www.earthhour.org)

Celebrate

World Water Day 2018!

Join Grade One and Two Students of
Victory Public School, Creativity Matters and
Wellington Water Watchers ...

Thursday, March 22, 2018

6:30 - 8:30 PM

Formal program at 7:00 pm

@ The Bookshelf eBar

41 Quebec Street, Guelph

Student art inspired by
the story of Grandmother
Josephine Mandamin, "*The
Water Walker*", written
and illustrated by Joanne
Robertson.

Creativity

m a t t e r s