

Victory Newsletter for February 2018

From the Principal's Desk

There are four big ideas that come to mind when I think of February: Black History month, Celebrating our great Canadian winter, Friendship / Valentine's Day, and of course....term one report cards!

February is Black History Month in Canada, which provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of black Canadians and reflect on the stories, experiences and accomplishments of Canada's black community. Black history is taught all year long, but this month it is highlighted.

We will be celebrating our wonderful Canadian winter by coming together as a school community to participate in our evening Soiree on Feb. 7th (see details below) and our Carnaval (see details below). We will also be participating in international Sweater Day on Feb. 2nd and Winter Walk to School Day on Feb. 7th. Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

School Council will be hosting a Valentine Day dance between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. on February 9th. Parents are asked to accompany their child/ren to this event and stay to supervise them. We want student voice in selecting the songs for this event, so there will be a Valentine's box in the office this week for students to pop in names of songs they would like to hear played.

Teachers have been busy assessing and evaluating and determining next steps for students. Report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, February 14th. Please return the report card envelopes and the signature page (for grades 1 – 6) by Friday, February 16th. If you would like to have an interview with your child's teacher please either indicate it on the signature page or contact the teacher directly.

We have a busy month ahead. I hope to see you at one or all of the family events we have planned this month.

Vive l'hiver! Vive le Carnaval!

On Friday Feb. 9th, we will have our Winter Carnaval for grades one to six. This is a full day event, with many outdoor activities. Please dress your child appropriately on this day. The plan is to be outside most of the day. The Kindergarten students will have their Carnaval on Thursday, Feb. 8th, it will just be for the morning block.

If you can help volunteer it would be most appreciated! If you can spare an hour or two, let the office know, or contact M. Elrick at pierre.elrick@ugdsb.on.ca.

Also, each family at Victory is asked to bring a block of ice to make sculptures. Imagine filling a bucket half way with water, adding some blue KoolAid, and leaving it outside overnight! Now that's a neat block of ice! Any size or shape or colour is welcome. Please bring the block of ice and leave it by the creative play structure at the beginning of the day on Feb.8th.

Thank you!

Victory Soirée

On Wednesday Feb. 7th, Parent Council along with M Elrick are pleased to announce our third annual Victory Soirée! Please bring a lantern, and your own mug. We are hoping there will be live music, hot chocolate, and outdoor activities for family fun. The fun begins at 5:00 p.m. and runs until 6:30 p.m.

Bring your children, bring a sled with a rope, and with luck we can have human dog sled races in the park! M. Elrick will also set up relay races, etc. in the schoolyard. Please participate with your child(ren)! Please also note: **parents or guardians must supervise their own children, teachers will not be available to supervise this event.**

Can't wait to see those lanterns gathering together on the way to school! Together we will brighten those February blahs!

School Council

Due to our Soiree being on Council evening we will not be meeting this month, so our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 7th at 6:30. If you'd like to contact the School Council please feel free to email them at: info@vpsfamily.ca

Term 1 Report Cards

Report cards will be going home with children in JK to 6 on Wednesday, February 14th. They contain information on your child's progress from the beginning of the year to the end of January. The Kindergarten 'Communication of Learning' is very different than the Grade 1 – 6 report card.

Here are some suggestions to help you read, understand and celebrate your child's Grade 1 – 6 report card.

- Read the Learning Skills and Work Habits comments on page 1 first. These skills hugely affect your child's success at school! Acknowledge and celebrate your child's efforts and improvements, and who they are as a person.
- Talk about the report card together and seek your child's opinion about his or her accomplishments. Look at the grades your child is getting in specific areas; this could suggest some new areas of interest and talents of your child. Pay special attention to the number of times your child has been late or absent, remembering that five days equals a whole week of school.
- Set goals with your child in areas that you both agree would benefit from improvement. Make a plan on how to meet these goals, and share in the responsibility of helping to support your child achieve these next steps.
- Contact your child's teacher if you need clarification, want more information or need ideas to support your child's learning.
- Please complete and return the 'cut-off' section to the school by Friday, February 16.

Remember that the Term 1 report card is a check-point – half-way through the year. There are five more months of work ahead and a lot can change during that time. Hard work and persistence do pay off!

Valentine Dance

School Council is hosting a Valentine Dance for students on Feb. 9th between 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Students attending the dance must be accompanied by a parent as teachers will not be here to supervise. Wear red, white and pink to school on Friday and to the dance to celebrate this day of love and friendship!

Linamar For the Performing Arts

Thanks to Linamar's sponsorship, grade 1 to 6 students in Guelph schools are able to attend two performances at the River Run Centre during the school year. We are usually able to walk to the performance. If the weather conditions are poor, however, we will bring in a bus or two to help make the children's excursion more enjoyable.

Enrichment Clusters

We are still looking forward to Enrichment Clusters. We need more cluster leaders for February 23, March 2 and March 23! For more information, please email ovaughan@ugcloud.ca or mcadieux@ugcloud.ca! We will be hosting a meeting for leaders on February 7th and all are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

We Club Thank You

On behalf of the We Club, we would like to thank LouLou West Photography and all of those who participated in the Buddy Booth to raise money for KidsAbility! Stay tuned to next month's newsletter to find out how much we raised.

Basketball Tryouts

The junior boys and girls basketball teams are practicing their skills.

Our tournament will be taking place at Willow PS on February 20th.

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.

Vehicle Traffic Around Victory

We have noticed an increase in traffic congestion around the school in recent weeks. Wherever possible, we encourage families to enjoy the fresh air and exercise that comes with walking to and from 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. Some 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.

Please do not park in the bus parking zone or on the street directly across from this zone.

There has been a report of drivers not obeying the traffic lights at the corner of Powell St. and Woolwich St.. If your child crosses please have them take extra precautions and not enter the intersection until cars come to a complete stop.

If you are picking up a child during the school day, we remind you to check in at the office. Please remember that the only doors open during instructional hours are the ones facing Exhibition Street. Thank you!

Safe Arrival Program

If your child is going to be away, please phone the school at 519-822-6931 and let us know, stating the reason for absence. Please remember that if a student is too ill to participate in the outdoor recess sessions, he/she should not be attending school that day.

Fun and Safety in the Snow

We have been delighted to see students playing outside in the winter – getting fresh air, exercise, and having so much fun! We monitor the weather conditions including the wind chill factor when deciding if we will be going outdoors for recess. Please ensure your child is always prepared with clothing for outdoors play.

To adventurous and creative children, snow is the ultimate plaything, but it can also be dangerous. Every year children who live in northern climate zones are injured or killed while playing in snow. Here are some tips to stay safe:

- Do not tunnel into snow banks, or build roofed snow forts. Tunnels can collapse, trapping and suffocating children.
- Do not play around roadside snow banks. Snow plow operators and other drivers may not see youngsters playing near the road, or be able to control their vehicle in a sudden stop.
- Do not play under roof lines – falling snow and icicles can cause serious injury.
- Young children should always be supervised when playing outside.
- Older children who can play outside independently should always be with a friend who can call for help.
- Check with an adult before venturing onto rivers, lakes, streams or ponds.
- Wear a helmet when tobogganing, and avoid hills with hazards such as trees, fences and rocks.

Winter Clothing

Weather fluctuations in February can make it difficult to know what outdoor clothing to send to school. In addition to a warm coat, hat and mittens, we strongly recommend that all children have snow or splash pants, waterproof boots and layered clothing. An extra pair of dry socks and mitts in the backpack for students in all grades is useful when the snow is slushy.

Many of our children wear similar outdoor clothing to school. Please help us out by labeling your child's clothes, which will reduce the chance of mix-ups during the day. Thank you!

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found box is filling up again! If your child is missing any articles of clothing, please ask him/her to take a look in our Lost and Found box.

Lost items will be displayed in the lower level hallway during the first week of February. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

Inclement Weather Information

This winter has been one of unpredictable weather. To keep in touch with bus cancellations and the occasional school closure during or after severe weather, please visit the Upper Grand District School Board web-site at www.ugdsb.on.ca. For bus information, scroll to the bottom on the page and click on 'Bus Cancellations'. This is also announced on local radio stations: 1460 AM CJOY and 106.1 FM CIMJ. These stations provide regular updates, throughout the day, of local weather conditions and any school bus/taxi operating problems as well as school closures. By Board policy, it is the parent's responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for their children to leave for school in inclement or severe weather.

New to Canada

Immigration Services in Guelph Wellington offer many great programs for our Newcomer families. If you know of a family that may benefit from this please pass the link along.

<https://us1.campaign-archive.com/?u=dd052ee49d6fbf18d8a2cbc57&id=469a2dadda>

Environment, Dance, Choir and Craft Clubs

Some of the Clubs and teams running this month include:

Kindergarten Dance Club: All Kindergartens are welcome.

Choir continues to take place on Wednesday mornings for Kindergarten and Primary/Junior students.

Basketball intramurals have been running during January and will continue into February.

Environment Club, Me to We Club, Fun Club and Writing Club will also continue to run.

Please listen to announcements for all club meeting reminders!

Family Literacy Day

Parents are invited to come in and read with their child between 2:30 – 3:15 on Friday, February 16th.

Volunteers and the Protection of Privacy

Many parents and guardians help us daily by volunteering in classrooms, library and on field trips. Their role is one of partnership with the employees of the Upper Grand District School Board. In this helping capacity, it is understood that everyone in our school will follow the terms and conditions related to security and confidentiality of personal information, according to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. We welcome volunteer assistance whenever possible, and remind visitors that the confidentiality of any information heard or seen within the school must be respected.

Aizan Phone System

Many schools in our Board have been equipped with an automated phone system that can be used to send out messages to all families in a timely manner. When this occurs, each family will receive a call to your primary phone number with a recorded message. If you are not home the message will go to an answering machine.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Winter weather often brings along an increase in the number of reported cases of pediculosis (head lice) and this year is no different across the city. **Regularly checking your child for nits or lice is one of the best ways to avoid them spreading.** If you find lice in your child's hair, we highly encourage parents to treat it with an approved treatment, and bring them back to school when all signs of lice are gone.

More information about head lice is available at:

<http://www.caringforkids.cps.ca/handouts/headlice>

Victory P.S. Website Updates

If you are interested in being informed when there is an update to our website or when the newsletter is posted please check out the link to a mailing list on our school's website. Once you have registered you will be notified by email once newsletters have been posted or if there is a message on our website for you to see. Our school's website address is: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/victory>

On the top right corner of the home page, look for the link: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/casl>

Call for Yearbook Photos

Mme Duimstra is always collecting photos for the yearbook! Any students or parents who would like to share pictures taken at school-related events, including sport days, should feel free to bring them in any time and give them to Mme Duimstra. Merci beaucoup!

Concussion outside of school hours

A concussion is a type of brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. It can affect a student's performance in both school work and physical activities. Rest is very important after a concussion because it helps the brain heal. While a child has a suspected or diagnosed concussion, full participation in school academic and physical activities can worsen symptoms and make for a longer recovery period.

In the best interest of your child, parents and guardians are requested to contact the principal when a suspected or diagnosed concussion occurs outside of school hours (i.e. during outdoor play, sports, or a car accident). The principal will work with you to develop a plan for an individualized, gradual return to full participation in school activities. For more information, visit www.ugdsb.on.ca/concussions.

FEBRUARY 7TH IS WINTER WALK DAY!

Lots of UGDSB schools participated in Walk to School Day in October. Did you know that there is also a walk to school day in February? Let's keep the momentum going! February 7th is Winter Walk Day across Canada. It's the perfect opportunity for parents and kids to get outside together and stretch those legs! Walk to school or at school for daily physical activity, a healthier environment, safer streets, making friends and...having fun! Walking helps kids get those 60 minutes of daily physical activity they need. It's also a great cure for those winter blues and helps students concentrate better in class.

As a parent you can help your child learn about walking or riding to school safely:

- Be a good role model. Demonstrate road safety rules with your child (e.g. looking both ways when crossing the street).
- Plan a walking or riding route. Assess potential hazards with your child. Encourage your child to stick to the route.
- Remind your child about personal safety. Point out the houses of people you know where they can go for help if needed.
- Adopt a buddy system. Walk with a "walking buddy" – a sibling or a friend.
- Ask that electronics like iPods and cellphones be put in their bag while walking to school. Pedestrian safety is compromised by texting, earphones and cellphone conversation.
- Talk about the rules of the road and [pedestrian safety](#).

Visit www.saferoutestoschool.ca for more information and resources on active school travel.

Monthly environmental activities to help celebrate our planet

February 2nd is National Sweater Day!

Make the Earth better by wearing a sweater



Celebrate International Sweater Day on February 2nd!

National Sweater Day is a fun way to learn about the importance of saving energy and to inspire you to use less heat all winter. Heating accounts for 80% of residential energy use in Canada and is a significant source of emissions. If all Canadians lowered their thermostats by just 2 degrees Celsius this winter, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 4 megatons – that's equivalent to shutting down a 600 megawatt coal-fired power station or taking nearly 700,000 cars off the road! http://www.wwf.ca/events/sweater_day/

National Sweater Day is about valuing energy. It's a chance to think differently about how we use energy, where our energy

comes from and how we can play an important role in fighting climate change by using energy wisely, not wastefully. It is designed to help raise awareness about renewable energy and change behaviours around energy consumption in Canada.

assets.wwf.ca/downloads/nsd_2017_en_school_toolkit.pdf

Ideas for your family to celebrate Sweater Day!

- Turn down your thermostat and wear a sweater!
- Ask your children to brainstorm with you about ways to save energy at home. Make a pledge to implement as many as you can.
- Research the differences between climate and weather. Ask your child to characterize some different climate types (polar, tropical, coastal, etc.).
- Read a children's book on conservation such as: *Why Should I Save Energy?* by Jen Green. Encourage lots of discussion and questions.
- Valentine's Day is just around the corner - use recycled materials to create your cards this year! For more ideas and fun things to do on International Sweater Day, please take a look at this pdf supplied by WWF assets.wwf.ca/downloads/nsd_2017_en_school_toolkit.pdf



Free school webinar on Homework Help Tips & Tools with Access to Online French Resources (K to Gr. 3). Register today!

Your school can book a free webinar for parents on how to support their child in French Immersion, Extended, and Core French programs. Log in to our 30-minute webinar from the comfort of your home, office, or school. All you need is a computer connected to the internet and speakers for listening to the presentation.

Choose either 7 p.m. or 8 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 28** (30-minute webinar). [Click here](#) to register.

Offered on a first-come, first-served basis. This webinar is produced by CPF Ontario with the financial support of the Ministry of Education Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Regional/Provincial Grant.

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>.

Keeping Our Kids Safe

Saturday, February 3, 2018 - 9:00am - 12:00pm

Presenters include: Guelph Police Service, Wellington County OPP, Crime Stoppers Guelph Wellington
Human trafficking, child exploitation and cyber safety are not easy topics to talk about.

But it's harder to be a victim. Immigrant Services Guelph-Wellington (ISGW) is hosting this half day workshop to generate awareness. Our objective is to educate youth and the adults around them about the signs of these horrific crimes. Many people think that these crimes do not happen here. But they do. ISGW wants to help the community become more aware of the statistics and develop strategies to KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE!

Refreshments will be provided.

Childminding also provided.

Join us!

Keeping Our Kids Safe

104 Dawson Road, Unit 102, Guelph, ON N1H 1A6

T: 519-836-2222 F: 519-837-2884 www.is-gw.ca

Space is limited, please register BY JANUARY 30.

Contact **Dayami, 519-836-2222 ext. 225** or email: dramirez@is-gw.ca

