



DRAYTON HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

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February 2010

NO SCHOOL!

FAMILY DAY - February 15th

Just a reminder that our Board is recognizing Family Day as a Holiday. Enjoy the time off with your family.

P.A. Day February 22

March Break from March 12 - 19.

Dates to Note

- Feb. 5 - Olympic Education Day
- Feb. 8 - Parent Council Mtg. 7:30
- Feb. 9 - North Wellington Jr. Floor Hockey
- Feb. 10 - Olympic Sports Day
- Feb.11 - Red & Pink Spirit Day
- Feb. 12 - Grade 7 & 8 Ski Trip
- Feb. 15 - Family Day - Holiday (no school)
- Feb 19 - End of Term 2
- Feb. 22 - PA Day (No Classes)
- Feb. 25 - MacMillan pick-up 12:30 - 3:30
- Feb. 25& 26 - Humane Society Visits
- Mar. 9 -Term 2 Report Cards Home
- Mar. 12 - 19 MARCH BREAK



Professional Development Day

On February 22, the teachers will be involved in a day of Professional Development. During the morning, teachers will be involved in a school wide analysis of the teaching and learning processes that are currently in place in all classrooms. The goal is to identify areas that we can improve on, so that we can become better educators and our students can become more proficient learners.

During the afternoon, teachers will spend time in assessment and evaluation and some will be involved in the preparation of second term report cards. Our report cards are an important communication piece and much effort goes into producing them.

Check us out!

Visit our school website. You can access our school website at :

<http://website.ugdsb.on.ca/contribute/drayton>

Copies of our school Newsletters (*go to School News*), September to the present and information about Drayton Heights P.S. are easily accessed through this site.

WALKING SAFETY



Parents are requested to discuss the following expectations with their child(ren):

- *time to be home
- *route to be taken
- *what is acceptable on the way home (stopping to play, going to a friend's house, etc.)
- *ice safety & staying off of snow banks by the road
- *general traffic safety (look both ways, walk facing traffic, use of sidewalks, etc.)
- *respecting private property
- *dealing with others ("street smarts")
- *looking out for others (being a good citizen)
- *the same rules regarding bullying and rough play apply on the way home as on the schoolyard



SEVERE WEATHER

Please be sure students are dressed appropriately for outdoor play during winter weather. Unless weather conditions are extreme, the children do go out for fresh air and exercise during recess breaks. Board policy is that decisions on indoor or outdoor recesses are made by individual principals in accordance with local conditions. Outdoor recess breaks are sometimes shortened during severe weather, and students are supervised for play periods inside the school.

On days when buses are cancelled but the school is open, students who can safely walk to school are expected to be at school for a regular program. Closing of schools is a joint procedure of the Upper Grand and Wellington Catholic School Boards. Schools will be closed when the Environment Canada Wind Chill index is -35 Celsius. Media outlets will be notified using the school bus cancellation procedure.

When temperatures reach -25 Celsius (actual temperature, not wind chill), bus operators will check to see if buses will start, and media outlets will be notified as necessary. Information is also posted on the Board website.

SCHOOL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Mac

Millan's Fundraising - Order Pick Up

MacMillan's Fundraising products will be here for pick up on **Thursday, February 25.** This is frozen, perishable food. Please make arrangements to pick up your order at the school between **12:30 and 3:30.**

QSP Magazines

Thank-you to everyone who purchased magazines through our fall QSP magazine fundraiser. You should have begun to receive your subscriptions by now, if you have not please call the toll-free help number 1-800-667-2536. You can continue to support the school all year long by ordering on-line at www.qsp.ca and entering our school account number 16488.

Next meeting Monday, Feb 8 at 7:30 p.m in the

staff room.

VACATION ABSENCES

Special family trips are sometimes planned which will involve an absence from school, and while an extended absence is never desirable for keeping the flow of school learning, there are "teachable moments" and learning opportunities for children during family trips. Some parents ask for homework, but it is usually difficult to find the time to ensure that work is completed. Keeping a journal or scrapbook is a good activity, as is letter and postcard writing. Your child can collect and read brochures and pamphlets from the places you visit, read maps and trace the route, and even figure out mileage and track trip expenses. Researching the destination beforehand and reporting back to the class after the trip are excellent ways to enhance travel experiences, and the best advice is to never leave home without some good books to read every day. After you return, your child should check with the teacher(s) to find out what work has been missed, and take the time to catch up on assignments if necessary. Teachers are always willing to help out to ensure key learnings are understood and practised.

Teach Your Child to Use the Internet Honestly and Wisely . . .

On the Internet, information from around the world is now at your child's fingertips. And since most students enjoy using the Internet, that in turn makes doing research for school more fun.

Like any tool, the Internet should be used carefully. Talk to your child about what they are learning from the Internet. Do they understand the material? Make sure they know that it is illegal to use someone else's words, even if those words are on a computer screen.

Your child should also be careful about where they find information. Anyone can put up a Web site. They should stick to sites from government agencies, educational institutions and non-profit agencies.

Finally, be nearby when your child is on the Internet. Their search could turn up Web sites that are anything but innocent.

Source: Lauren Picker. "The Web as Homework Helper," Kids online, 2000, Newsweek, Inc. New York..

DAILY SCHOOL ENTRY PROCEDURES

Beginning February 16, we are making a change to our daily School entry procedures. The traditional "Primary" doors, will be used by our students in grades 4 - 6. The doors at the front of the school, by the bus loop, will be the entrance for Grades 1-3. Parents picking up their children may meet the younger students there.

STUDENT TELEPHONE USE

Our school office is usually very busy. Should students feel they need to contact home, they must request permission from their teacher or coach and use the classroom phone under the teacher's supervision. In the event of an emergency, calls will be made from the office phone under supervision. **The use of a cell phone is not permitted at school at any time.**

Safety At School

Once again we would like to stress the importance of student safety at school.

- ☞ Remember to not walk directly through the parking lot during school hours.
- ☞ Cars are not permitted on the walkway in front of the school for dropping off or picking up students.
- ☞ Students are discouraged from entering the front doors of the school during non-supervised hours
- ☞ Snowballs are not permitted

School Climate Survey

The Upper Grand District School Board will be asking our students in Grade 4 to Grade 8, staff, and parents to complete a School Climate Survey sometime between January and February, 2010. Our Grade 4 to 8 students will complete this survey in our computer lab with their teacher. Staff will be completing the survey on our next Professional Development day, on February 22nd and parents may either go on-line to complete the survey by going to:

[https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/SelectSurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?\(SurveyID=91LJ4p2\)](https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/SelectSurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?(SurveyID=91LJ4p2)). Parents may wish to come into the school to pick up a hard copy, complete it, and return it to the school by the end of February. The results will go to the Upper Grand District School Board and we will receive a report of our Schools' Climate. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the school.

Head Lice is Not Nice

Please remember to check you child's hair regularly for these pesky critters. No one is immune to lice and if we all do our part to keep on top of it, they won't have a chance to get out of hand.

Thanks for your continued support!

Used Book Sale



Febr

uary 8 - 11th and 16 - 18th

Previously loved library books will be offered for sale at bargain prices! There is a wide variety of fiction books that still have some wear and tear left in them for home use. All books are priced at just 25 cents each!

Students will be able to shop at lunch recess. Proceeds from the book sales will be used to purchase new library materials.



Ontario Legislation-

On February 1st, 2010,
Bill 157-Keeping Our
Kids Safe at School,
came into effect. I
have included a brief
overview for your
information.



Overview- Keeping Our Kids Safe at School-Bill 157

- Bill 157:
 - Requires all board employees to report to the principal if they become aware that a student may have engaged in an activity for which the student must be considered for suspension or expulsion.
 - Requires principals to contact the parents of victims of such incidents unless:
 - The victim is 18 years old or over,
 - The victim is 16 or 17 years old and has withdrawn from parental control; or
 - in the opinion of the principal, doing so would put the victim at risk of harm from the parent;
 - Requires board employees who work directly with students to respond to incidents that may have a negative impact on the school climate.
 - This behaviour includes but is not limited to racist or sexist comments that are unacceptable in our schools.
 - Permits a principal of a school to delegate his or her powers under Part XIII of the Education Act (Behaviour, Discipline and Safety) to a vice-principal of the school or a teacher employed in the school, per ministry policy.



North Wellington
Centre
For Continuing
Education

Watch for our **Spring 2010**
Course Guide, coming to your
home during the **week of March**
8th! The guide can also be
accessed at www.ugdsb.on.ca by
clicking on the **Continuing**
Education link and following
it to **N. Wellington Programs**,

Health

What a good feeling!

February 2010

The Driven to Quit Challenge is here.

Quit smoking or using tobacco in March 2010 and you could
qualify to win a Ford Escape Hybrid or a 5,000 vacation getaway!

- set a good example for your children
- be healthier in 2010
- get free support at Smoker's Helpline 1-877-513-5333 or
www.smokershelpline.ca

Put the brakes on smoking. Visit Driventoquit.ca for more details.



Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health 1.800.265.7793 www.wdghu.org
Info@wdghu.org

Forest of Reading

Again this year we will be participating in this wonderful province wide reading program. There has been a number of great Canadian authors chosen for our students to enjoy.



The Blue Spruce Award™ reading program presents a selection of 10 recently published Canadian children's picture books to Ontario children ages 4 to 7 or in Kindergarten through to grade two.

The teacher-librarian or classroom teacher reads the books to the children. After all the nominated titles have been read, the program rewards the children for reading by making them the judges in a province-wide voting event where they vote for the book on the list they liked the most.

A selection of students will be participating in the following programs. These programs are also available at local libraries.



The Silver Birch Award® reading program brings an excellent selection of recent Canadian children's fiction and non-fiction books to the attention of Ontario children ages 7 to 11 or in grades three to six. It also rewards them for reading by making them the judges in a province-wide event. Through the participation of the children, the Silver Birch Award® encourages Canadian writing, Canadian authors, and the improvement of reading skills.



The Red Maple Award® reading program brings yet another wonderful selection of recent Canadian children's novels to students in grades seven and eight. These students are given the same opportunity to take part in a province wide vote and selection of the best new novel for young adults.

The Silver Birch Award® and Red Maple Award® program provides teacher-librarians, teachers, parents and writers with insight into young people's reading preferences. It further affords an opportunity to honour and encourage imaginative authors who create works with high appeal to Ontario children.

Happy Reading,

Teacher-Librarian

Ms Horton



MS Read-A-Thon

Drayton Heights is participating in the MS Read-a-Thon this year. We are hoping to inspire character development and an interest in reading in our students. The Read-A-Thon will **run from January 19 –February 19th**. Students are encouraged to ask friends and family to support them in this program. Sponsors can donate a flat rate or on a per minute basis. You can help by...

Motivating your child

1. Set aside time each night to read with them or to them.
2. Spend an afternoon on the weekend at the public library choosing books for the MS Read-A-Thon.
3. Set a great example – show your enthusiasm for books and make reading time fun.
4. Set a reading goal with your child and continue encouraging them to reach it.
5. Once your child has read a book, talk to them about why they liked/disliked it.
6. Sponsor your child. Even a small pledge will boost their confidence and encourage them to work towards their reading goal.

Students will be asked to return pledge form and money the Week on February 22-26th.

**Teacher-Librarian
Ms. Horton**