

ARTHUR PUBLIC SCHOOL



PARENT AND STUDENT HANDBOOK 2011 - 2012

Arthur Public School
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INTRODUCTION

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Arthur Public School! We look forward to working with you and your family whether you are returning to our school or joining us for the first time. Please remember that you must begin each visit to our school at the office. We need to know that you are in the building for safety reasons.

We hope you will find this booklet a useful resource which provides helpful information regarding our school. We encourage you to keep this reference handy throughout the year.

This handbook is one way in which we can keep the lines of communication working between home and school. Communication is the key to ensuring positive learning experiences for your children. Our door is always open and we encourage you to contact the school with questions or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,

Brent Ellery
Principal

Kathy Soule
Vice Principal

ARTHUR PUBLIC SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Arthur Public School, a friendly rural JK - 8 School, is to challenge our students to pursue excellence and attain a love of learning through a quality learning environment.

As learning partners, the Arthur Public School staff, students and parents believe in the following values which support our school learning environment:

Attitude - Demonstrate a positive attitude every day.

Respect - Show respect for individuals and school property.

Trust - Do what you say you'll do. Be reliable.

Helpfulness - Do your best to help others.

U(You) - Be the best you can be.

Responsibility - Be responsible for your actions.

Pride - Take pride in your efforts and in your school.

Success - Strive for success. Aim for excellence.

UPPER GRAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD VISION STATEMENT

Students will attain individual excellence through dynamic programming provided by an effective staff and supported by a committed community. We will meet our students' diverse needs through the provision of equitable and accessible resources. Our learning environment will be characterized by empowered administrators, effective communication and mutual compassionate respect.

ARTHUR PUBLIC SCHOOL 2011 - 2012 STAFF LIST

Kindergarten A	Sherry Fleming
Kindergarten B	Maureen Battaglia
Kindergarten C	Lorna McLean
Grade 1A	Steve Wild
Grade 1B	Kelly Werth
Grade 2A	Cheryl McCabe
Grade 2B	Anna Mark
Grade3B	Stefanie Koch (Beth Anne Kidnie on leave)
Grade 3/ 4A	Angela Hustler
Grade 4B	Patti Emery
Grade 5A	Ashleigh Cass
Grade 6B	Eugene Sidlar
Grade 6/7A (Core /Int. Science)	Natasha Backer
Grade 7B (Core)	Jennifer Derma
Planning and Health/ Phys. Ed	John McCabe
Grade 8B (Core/Int.Geo, Art)	John Duncan
Grade 8A (Core/Int. Music, History)	Wayne Peeters
Special Education (SE) Resource	Michele Neary, Nancy Mundle
Jr/Int. SE Classroom	Nancy Beesley
Planning Time Teachers	John McCabe
	Nancy Mundle
	Joan Craig
	Nancy Beesley
Library	Joan Craig
Junior French	Rosemary Chaulk
Junior/Intermediate French	Angela Novikow
Early Childhood Educators (ECE)	Kathy Hirst
	Debbie McManus
	Laurie Walser
Educational Assistants	Jane Brown
	Tracey Geddes (leave until April)
	Leanne Hill
	Christie Foster
	Mandy Forsyth
	Jennifer Stewart
Child Youth Counselor (CYC)	Dana Forsey
Office Coordinator	Davina Campbell
Caretaker	Dave Fowlie
Vice-Principal	Nancy Mundle
Principal	Brent Ellery

DAILY SCHEDULE - Balanced School Day

8:10 a.m.	Buses begin to arrive
8:58 a.m.	Warning bell
9:00 a.m.	Entry
9:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.	Instructional Block #1
10:40 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.	Nutrition Break #1
11:25 a.m. - 1:05 p.m.	Instructional Block #2
1:05 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.	Nutrition Break #2
1:50 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Instructional Break #3
3:30 p.m.	Dismissal for walkers and bus students

Nutrition Breaks: Students have a 20 minute snack(Nutrition #1) and a 20 minute lunch(Nutrition #2) period in their own classrooms supervised by a teacher or paid supervisor followed by an outdoor 25 minute recess time. Older students volunteer in primary classrooms to lend a helping hand.

Five Day Cycle:

We will operate on a five day (Day One to Day Five) cycle. On this cycle, students do not miss gym classes or library/computer time due to holidays. The five day cycle is marked on school calendars.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Arthur Public School provides English programming for Kindergarten to Grade 8. Core French is provided for students in grades 4 - 8.

Academic Subjects

English - Reading, Writing, Oral Communication, Media Literacy

Mathematics - Number Sense, Patterning and Algebra, Measurement, Geometry, Data Management

Science and Technology - Life Systems, Matter and Materials, Energy and Control, Structures and Mechanisms, Earth and Space Systems

Social Studies/Grade 7 and 8 History and Geography

The Arts - Music, Visual Arts, Drama and Dance

French - Grades 4 - 8

Copies of curriculum expectations may be obtained from the Ministry of Education and Training at www.edu.gov.on.ca

Character Education

The Upper Grand District School Board has identified five character traits - **Compassion, Honesty, Fairness, Respect and Responsibility** -as a focus for school character education programs.

At Arthur Public School we are working to ensure that these character traits are represented in our school

values and are reflected in our “Arthur Actions and Attitudes” Character Education Program through daily reminders, announcements and celebrated during monthly assemblies.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION AND REPORT CARDS

Evaluation of student progress is an ongoing process that is an integral part of all learning activities. Its purpose is to find your child’s areas of strength and weakness in order that appropriate programs may be provided.

Classroom participation, daily classroom work, projects, notebooks, homework, informal and formal testing and standardized tests are used to help evaluate a student’s progress. Standardized Ministry of Education Report Cards are used to accomplish the above. These report cards reflect the Ontario Curriculum. This year, report cards will be send home twice- the middle of February and in June. A progress report will be sent home in November. Students in Kindergarten receive two written report cards annually.

Teachers, students and parents meet to discuss strengths, needs and the next steps. Parent - teacher interviews take place after the progress report and report cards go home or at the request of teachers or parents.

SCHOOL LOGO

Our school logo is “The Arthur Patriots”. Students will have the opportunity to purchase clothing and other items with the school logo.

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are an invaluable resource whose interactions with students make a positive difference in their school experience. Please contact your child’s teacher if you are able to assist in any way. Volunteers must comply with the Board’s Policy 205 relating to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act which states, “. . . it is understood that the volunteer will work under the direction of an appropriate staff member and be privy only to that information that is necessary for working effectively with a student(s) and/or for the purpose of performing the task assigned . . . “

In order to ensure student safety, Upper Grand District School Board policy requires that “all volunteers who work with children on a regular basis” complete an information form available in the office. All non-parent volunteers are required to obtain a police check before volunteering in the school.

APS SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Council is an advisory body which provides advice on a variety of matters to the Principal, and where appropriate, to the Board. The prime objective of the School Council is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. The Council places the overall interests of the school and students first. We are fortunate at Arthur Public School to have an active School Council which has been involved in many projects including: playground enhancements and landscaping, the school budget process, coordinating school volunteers, the snack program and fundraising for a variety of initiatives including musical instruments, author/musician/scientist visits, technological equipment, and others. The Arthur Public School Council meets several times a year. Stay tuned for dates to mark on your calendar. All parents are encouraged to attend meetings and to participate on committees. Details regarding the first School Council meeting of the year will be included in the September Newsletter. Please join us - new members

are always welcome!

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOLS

With prior approval from the Principal and Custodian, the facilities at Arthur Public School are available for community use. A permit/application may be obtained from the school. Please call the school for further information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The following is a partial list of the traditional activities/events that may take place during the School Year. Please note that these activities/events are subject to change. Specific events and dates will be published in monthly newsletters.

- **September** - Terry Fox Run, Soccer (Junior), Meet the Teacher Night, P.A. Day
- **October** - Intermediate Soccer, Lifetouch Picture Day, Cross Country, P.A. Day, Halloween Parade and Grade 6, 7, 8 Dance
- **November** - Operation Christmas Child, Book Fair, Remembrance Day, Progress Report Card
- **December** - Food Drive, Carol Singing, Skating, Grade 6, 7, 8 Christmas Dance
- **January** - Floor Hockey, Volleyball
- **February** - Grade 6, 7, 8 Valentine's Day Dance, 100's Day, Kindergarten Registration, Kindergarten Report Cards, P.A. Day, First Term Report Card.
- **March** - Skating, March Break
- **April** - Easter Break, Earth Day
- **May** - Spring Concert, EQAO Testing, Kindergarten Orientation
- **June** - Grade 8 Quebec Trip, Term 3 Report Cards and Recognition Assembly, P.A. Days, Grade 6 Brebeuf Camp trip, Grade 6 Kenilworth-Alma Orientation, Grade 8 Graduation, Jr./Int. 3 - Pitch, Kindergarten Graduation, Track and Field, Primary Play Day

I. SCHOOL PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE/SAFE ARRIVAL/PUNCTUALITY

Attending school on a regular basis is very important. Students should be in attendance each day unless they are sick, have an appointment or a family emergency. Please phone the school prior to the beginning of classes, if your child is going to be absent or late. For your convenience, we have an answering machine to take your calls at night or early in the morning. If you are leaving a message, please leave your child's name, grade and teacher's name.

Attendance will be taken at 9:00 a.m. and 1:50 p.m. If a student's absence is not accounted for, we will do our best to contact you using your home, work or your emergency contact numbers that we have been given. Your co-operation in calling the school in the event of your child's absence will ensure that the Safe Arrival Program works effectively.

Students are expected to contribute to a positive learning environment in the classroom by arriving on time and ready to learn. All students who are late must report to the office upon arrival so that she or he may be "signed in".

CHANGES IN ROUTINE

If there is a change in your child's regular school routine (e.g., early departure or late arrival for appointment, etc.), *please contact the school with a note or telephone call.*

If your child must leave school at any time during the day, an adult must report this to the office by phone or with a note. Should a child return within the same day, she or he must report to the office.

Parents calling to leave messages regarding a student pick - up at the end of the day are asked to call no later than 2:00 p.m.

If your child is not riding the bus at the end of the day, please write a note to both the driver and the office to let us know. Please note that students are only permitted to ride the bus(es) to which they are assigned.

If during the year you change your address, telephone number, emergency contact or work number, please contact the school so that our records are up to date. It is important that we can reach you in the case of an emergency.

WELLINGTON-DUFFERIN LEARNING FOUNDATION

Parents who wish to support the school have an alternative to supporting school-wide fund-raising events. The Wellington-Dufferin Learning Foundation is a registered charity enabling parents and communities to donate money to the school of their choice through this organization. A tax deductible receipt will be issued for all donations more than \$10.00.

COMMUNICATION

- ✓ **School Website** - Visit our school website at www.ugdsb.on.ca/ArthurPS/index.htm for newsletters and school calendars as well as a copy of our Parent and Student Handbook.
- ✓ **School Newsletter** - On or about the first of every month, an Arthur Public School Newsletter will be sent home with the designated mail carrier (the youngest or only child) of a family or sent via email to those families who had provided an email address.
- ✓ **School Sign** - Watch the sign on the front yard of our school for quick reminders about upcoming dates of school events.
- ✓ **Notes** - Please continue to share with us any special concerns in relation to your child or the school program. We will keep you aware of your child's progress or any concerns through comments sent home on student work or with a brief note.
- ✓ **Ongoing Communication** - Telephone calls between parents and teachers continue to serve as a useful tool in solving problems or seeking assistance or information.
- ✓ **Agendas** - All students (Grades 1 - 8) are using agendas for communication and organizational purposes. There is an opportunity for you to write notes to the teacher or notes to your child in the form of a reminder or encouraging message. Agendas are an important tool for keeping track of homework, tests, assignments, etc.
- ✓ **Assemblies** - Assemblies are held monthly throughout the year to celebrate successes, and recognize achievements. We advertize these in the school newsletters and parents are welcome.
- ✓ **Personal Meetings** - Interviews or meetings take place on an ongoing basis as requested by parents and/or teachers. Please feel free to call your child's teacher to set up a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

WALKING EXCURSIONS/BUS TRIPS/EXTENDED TRIPS

Field trips are scheduled during the school year as part of the regular program of study. These short trips include activities or events which are an integral part of the school program and are regulated by our Board's Educational Field Trips Policy 508.

Parents are notified of the trip in advance and are asked to sign a parental permission slip. There will usually be a charge for the field trip. No student will be excluded from a field trip for monetary reasons.

Two types of excursions may be made available to your child:

- Day or half-day trips frequently arise throughout the year as teachers learn of opportunities to enhance their programs
- Extended trips (or sleep-over trips) are reserved for our Junior/Intermediate students.

WALKING EXCURSIONS

From time to time, various classrooms will be going on short walking trips around town as part of their regular programme. The trips could take the form of going to the store, going to the county library, going to a neighbouring field, etc. You will be informed as these trips come up; however, a permission form will not be sent home for each walking excursion.

A form will be sent home during the first week of school for consent on a one-time basis to cover short walking trips.

BUS TRIPS

Throughout the year, teachers plan field trips for students requiring bus transportation. Blue trip forms must be signed by parents to give permission for students to attend.

EXTENDED TRIPS

There are longer trips that involve overnight stays. Examples of these trips are Camp Brebeuf (Grade 6) and Quebec City (Grade 8).

Parents are encouraged to go on field trips with their child's class as parent volunteers are required for both local and distant destinations.

HEALTH SERVICES

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

In cases of communicable diseases, students have to remain at home for the entire period of isolation as outlined by the Medical Officer of Health. If you want your son/daughter to return earlier, you must have a certificate from a physician.

STUDENT ILLNESS

Parents are asked to make alternate arrangements for students who are too ill to participate in a full day at school. Should your child become ill at school, the office will contact you or your emergency contact. Please ensure that your child has a place to go if she or he becomes ill. Special consideration will be made for students with crutches, etc.

SPECIAL HEALTH CONCERNS

Students who are unable to go out for recess due to health reasons are asked to bring a note or have a parent call the school. Otherwise, students are expected to go outside for recesses. Please advise your child's teacher and the school office if your child has a special health concern (e.g., allergies, asthma, diabetes or ANY condition requiring medication).

Parents of students with life threatening allergies or conditions must complete a **Life Threatening Management Plan** that is completed by a physician indicating medication required and course of action to be taken. Staff is made aware of all students in the school who are at risk.

While Arthur is **NOT** a peanut free school, classes in which students have food allergies are prohibited from having that food in the classroom.

We appreciate your co-operation in providing a safe environment for all students.

MEDICATION

ALL student medication **MUST** be kept at the office (e.g., pills, inhalers, etc.) For the administration of prescription medication by school personnel, parents must provide the school with a signed Consent of Administration of Oral Medication form. For the administration of non-prescription medication, signed consent is also necessary.

MEDICALERT'S NO CHILD WITHOUT PROGRAM

The **No Child Without** program offers a free MedicAlert membership to students who attend our school and are between the ages of 4 up to their 14th birthday. If your child has a medical condition, allergy or is required to take medication on a regular basis then you should consider a MedicAlert membership through this program.

Your child's voice in an emergency, MedicAlert membership;

- Gives emergency first responders immediate access to your child's medical information on their MedicAlert bracelet or necklet.
- Enables first responders to quickly obtain up to date medical information by means of the child's Electronic Health Record through the **24 Hour Emergency Hotline**.
- Communicates with the parent or emergency contact upon activation of the **Hotline**.
- Allows free updates of the child's medical record as needed.

MedicAlert identification can alert school staff, friends, coaches and others about your child's medical condition should an emergency occur.

For further information come to the office for a brochure or visit www.nochildwithout.ca. To register your child you will need a **No Child Without** brochure from the office.

If your child is already part of the **No Child Without** program and there have been changes to their medical condition, medications or emergency contact information, call MedicAlert at 1- 866-679-3220 Ext 1 to update your child's file.

INJURY AT SCHOOL

When an injury appears to be serious, the Principal or designate may take the child to a hospital or call an ambulance. In all cases, we will do our best to contact you or the emergency contact person you have indicated so someone can meet the student at the hospital. Please ensure that your emergency and work numbers are current.

PEDICULOSIS/HEAD LICE/NITS

Head lice is considered a 'health nuisance' and poses no threat to your child's health. Children with head lice cannot be admitted to school. Traditionally in September, trained parent volunteers conduct a school-wide head lice check. A 50% vinegar and 50% mineral oil solution is a proven nonchemical means of ridding your child of head lice. Nits need to be removed manually. Periodic checks are held throughout the school year particularly during peak head lice seasons.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Upper Grand and Wellington Catholic District School Board operate a joint transportation system. Inclement weather cancellations will affect students attending both Boards' schools.

A decision to cancel transportation is made by 6:30 a.m. in order to give all parents and drivers sufficient notice. The decision is based on a number of factors, including the actual weather and road conditions, as checked first hand by designated bus operators in each area, weather predictions made by Environment Canada, and information on road conditions from the local Road Superintendent.

During inclement weather, please note the following:

Your child rides a "**North Wellington**" school bus or taxi to school. When you hear the radio announcement "All school taxis and buses in North Wellington will not be operating today" - your child's bus or taxi is cancelled.

During times of inclement weather, please listen to: 1460 AM CJOY, 106.1 Magic FM, 1090 AM The Team, 105.3 Kool FM, News Talk 570 AM, 96.7CHYM FM, 920 AM & 107.7 FM CKNX for school transportation cancellations.

All bus cancellations will be posted on the Board's website . . . <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca> .

LEAVING SCHOOL PROPERTY

In order for school staff to properly supervise students, all students are expected to stay on school property for the duration of the school day. Names of students who go home for Nutrition Break #2 and stay for Nutrition Break #2 are on record in the office. **ANY CHANGE TO THIS ROUTINE MUST BE REPORTED TO THE TEACHER AND OFFICE WITH A PARENTAL NOTE OR PHONE CALL.** In order to ensure student safety, we discourage Grade 7/8 students from going 'off property' during Nutrition #2.

LOST AND FOUND

Since many children's items of clothing are virtually identical, please ensure that your child's running shoes, boots, gym clothes, jackets, lunch boxes, books or projects are clearly labeled with their name in some permanent fashion. If items are lost, this will help us return them to their rightful owners.

Unclaimed items may be found in the lost and found box. These items will be displayed periodically so students and parents may claim forgotten items. Unclaimed items at the end of each term will go to a program that supports our community.

ONTARIO SCHOOL RECORD (OSR)

When a child registers in Kindergarten, the school initiates an Ontario Student Record Folder (OSR). This folder stays with your child until the end of his/her secondary school education. The OSR is a record of a student's educational progress through school in Ontario. The contents of the OSR are for the information and use of supervisory officers, the principal and the teachers of the school.

Material contained in the OSR is to be used for the improvement of instruction of the student. Each student and the parent(s) (barring any court orders denying access) or guardian(s) of a student who is not an adult shall have access to the student's OSR. Please contact the office if you have any questions about this information.

PARKING

Parking is available in the lot at the side of the school and along Walton Street. *Please note that there is no parking available in our school parking lot along the front yard as No Parking/Fire Route signs have been posted. As well, there is no parking available in front of the school as **No Parking/Fire Route** signs have been posted along Conestoga Street. Please respect our No Parking signs.*

DISMISSAL

Parents waiting to meet students to walk them home are asked to wait outside at the front of the school or just inside the front foyer of the building until the dismissal bell sounds at 3:30 p.m. This will avoid the disruption of classes prior to dismissal. *Thanks for your support!*

SAFETY DRILLS

Fire and tornado drill practices are conducted during the school year. Each teacher reviews the procedures with their students so that they are well-prepared for the safety drills and for a variety of emergency situations.

STUDENT INFORMATION AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE

In early September, we will send home a student information sheet for you to update. It is very important that we have the most up to date information to assist your child in the case of an emergency. Please tell us about any special health, medical or other information about your child, that you feel we should know.

School Insurance Packages are sent home in September. Completed forms and payments are to be mailed directly to the company if you wish to take advantage of this insurance opportunity.

RECESS

Weather permitting, all children are expected to participate in outdoor recesses. Please have your child dress appropriately for prevailing weather conditions. *Well enough to attend school - well enough for recess.*

VISITORS IN THE SCHOOL

For your child's safety, it is very important that staff is aware of any visitors in the school. All visitors/volunteers are requested to report to the school office upon arrival. All visitors are asked to wait for students at the main office or in the foyer. For the safety of our students, please DO NOT proceed to classrooms to pick up a child.

CUSTODY/ACCESS ORDERS

Your child's emotional and physical well-being is always of the utmost concern to Arthur Public School. Please send any copies of any Custody or Access orders, affecting your child, to the office.

II. STUDENT INFORMATION

DIGITAL DEVICES

Digital devices (I-Pods, Smart Phones, MP3 players etc) have become a part of everyday life and it is our goal to teach students to use these devices responsibly and appropriately.

All devices need to be turned off during the school day unless being used in the classroom under teacher direction and supervision. Students who use their devices inappropriately will have the following consequences:

1st infraction- Teacher warning

2nd infraction - Warning by Principal/Vice Principal and parent contacted

3rd infraction - Student will turn device in to office for a period of one week

4th infraction - Plan as discussed with parent

Please note that we will not accept responsibility for the damage, loss or theft of devices which are brought to school. Please discuss this issue with your child to help them comply with the expectations.

MILK PROGRAM

We are pleased to be offering milk to the students at Arthur Public School again this year. Details will

follow in regard to the start up date and cost.

PIZZA Days

Please stay tuned for details regarding the start up date and pricing of pizza..

FOR SAFETY REASONS

Aerosol cans (Axe, etc.) are not permitted on school grounds. Stick deodorant is a recommended option.

White out fluid is not permitted.

Bicycles, scooters, roller blades, 'wheelies' and skateboards must not be ridden on school property. Bicycles should be locked in designated areas during the school day.

PLAYGROUND

There are three designated play areas in our schoolyard. JK and SK students have the opportunity to play in the enclosed play areas located outside of the two Kindergarten classrooms. Additionally there are hard top and grassy areas for primary students and junior - intermediate students.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 have the play area at the northern end of the building while students in Grades 6, 7 and 8 have the area at the southern end of the building.

COMPUTER LAB

Our school computer lab is used regularly at Arthur Public School. Computers with internet access are available to students and staff.

Bringing computer disks from home is **PROHIBITED** due to the potential for computer viruses.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Our instrumental Music program is currently offered to Grades 6/7-8 students. Instruments for use in the program may be signed out for practice purposes.

NUTRITIOUS SNACK PROGRAM

A healthy snack is provided for all students, during first nutrition break, each day. Snacks consist of a fruit or vegetable and a milk or whole grain product. For example: orange slices and yogurt, sliced cucumbers with dip and cheese or apples and whole grain crackers. As well as ensuring that all children have enough healthy food to be able to focus at school, we are teaching students about proper nutrition. We rely on parents to help to prepare and clean up snacks. Please consider volunteering some time to help with this important program. Donations (financial or food - ie fresh fruit) are always appreciated.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student leadership is key to the success of any school. Each September, a Student Council is established with Intermediate students holding executive positions. Class representatives are chosen from Junior and Intermediate classes to help make decisions regarding spirit activities for the school. Some of these include dances (Hallowe'en, Christmas, Valentines, Spring, Spirit Days (Backwards Day, Hats Day, P.J.

Day, Patriotic Day), sale of Candy grams, etc.).

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Arthur Public School is a busy place! Students are encouraged to become involved in a variety of activities. Both extracurricular and intramural activities are available to students. Check the monthly newsletter for details.

Service work within the school is also encouraged: bus patrollers, office helpers, library helpers, etc.

III. SCHOOL AND BOARD POLICIES

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION POLICY AND PROGRAMS

As required by Board Policy, we will be teaching age-appropriate lessons to help our students identify abuse and protect themselves from abusive situations. The goal is to provide children with the tools they need to keep themselves safe. The lessons cover a broad range of safety issues including bullying, stranger danger and abuse by a known and trusted adult.

In grades 1, 3, and 5, lessons will be taught in the classroom by classroom teachers and parents will be informed ahead of time when the lessons are occurring. There is no formal program taught in grades 2, 4, 6, and 8, although the personal safety concepts are reviewed by classroom teachers informally. All students in grade 7 will participate in a program entitled "It's Not Your Fault." This presentation will occur in homeroom classes.

The Bill of Body Rights

Regardless of your age you have the right to:

- Trust your feelings
- Decide when a touch is good or bad
- Say NO to a bad touch
- Get away
- Tell a grown-up you trust about a bad touch
- Keep telling grown-ups about a bad touch

Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

The Upper Grand District School Board places a high priority on safety of our students. The Child Abuse Prevention Policy is evidence of our commitment to this priority. The following is a quote from the policy: "Every citizen in the community shares a responsibility for our children. School officials and teachers share this collective community responsibility for creating safe and nurturing environments for children. Under the Child and Family Services Act, this responsibility includes the legal requirement to report to the local Children's Aid Society any suspected child abuse or other situations where a child may be in need of protection. Teachers and other Board employees have a special opportunity to know and understand children during their most influential years of development. They are in a unique position to be able to see early signs of maltreatment and to know or hear about the abuse and neglect that is often suffered by children." All school staff are required by law to report any situations of suspected abuse. It is not the role of any school personnel to determine the validity of a disclosure or suspicion. Should a referral be made to Family and Children's Services, school staff is prohibited from notifying parents/guardians until authorized to do so. We are also required to follow the directions of the social worker in an emergency situation.

To contact Family and Children's Services call 519-824-2410.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY (including Smoking)

The Upper Grand District School Board recognizes that the consumption of alcohol and drugs can impair the health and welfare of its students, and can interfere with their ability to learn and function in society. In addition, the Board acknowledges that students who have used alcohol or drugs, either on the Board property or off site, before or during its school-sponsored events, interfere with the legitimate academic and co-instructional interests of other students and staff. Included in this policy is the use and possession of tobacco.

Smoking is not permitted in Board buildings or at Board-sponsored events. In addition, the possession of tobacco or tobacco products by elementary students is prohibited. The policy also mandates a preventative educational curriculum to reduce the incidence of alcohol and drug problems.

In all cases of alcohol and drug infractions, the following disciplinary action will occur:

- students are informed that their behaviour is an infraction of Board policy
- the infraction is recorded for future reference
- parents are notified
- suspension from school may occur
- police intervention will occur

ARTHUR PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the policy of the Upper Grand District School Board to maintain a safe and inclusive learning and teaching environment through the adoption of a Code of Conduct which promotes responsibility, respect, civility and academic excellence, and sets clear standards of behaviour for all members of the school community. The goal is to create a positive school climate where all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable and accepted.

The staff at Arthur Public School believes that all students, parents, teachers and staff have the right to be safe and feel safe in their school community. The APS Code of Conduct is a way for students, staff, parents or guardians and visitors to understand the rights and responsibilities associated with our school and school related activities.

The Arthur Code of Conduct is based upon the Education Act, the Ontario Code of Conduct (Revised policy # 213), the Education Amendment Act (Progressive Discipline and School Safety Bill #212), the Ministry of Education Policy and Program Memorandums (Policy #214 - Bullying Prevention and Intervention and Policy # 503 - Student Discipline (Progressive Discipline, Suspension and Expulsion)), and the Upper Grand District School Board Code of Conduct (Policy #213) which applies to students, parents or guardians, volunteers, teachers and other staff members - whether they are on school property, on buses or at school-authorized events or activities. This policy also applies when engaging in an activity that may have a negative impact on the school's climate. This is based on the goal of creating a school climate where everyone can feel safe, comfortable and accepted.

The Arthur Public School Code of Conduct describes student, parent and staff rights and identifies those

behaviours that are expected of students, parents and staff in order for students to excel academically, socially and emotionally in a safe learning environment.

Student Rights:

- > to be treated with dignity and respect
- > to be provided with activities that are success oriented and build on individual strengths
- > to receive a quality education

Parent Rights:

- > to be treated with dignity and respect
- > to be heard and to have concerns addressed
- > to communicate with the school

Staff Rights:

- > to be treated with dignity and respect
- > to have a safe working environment
- > to expect parents and students to be involved in creating a positive school environment

STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

A) Respect, Civility and Responsible Citizenship

All members of the school community must:

- > respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws;
- > demonstrate honesty and integrity;
- > respect differences in people, their ideas and opinions;
- > treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially where there is disagreement;
- > respect and treat others fairly, regardless of their race ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability;
- > respect the rights of others;
- > show proper care and regard for school property and the property of others;
- > take appropriate measures to help those in need;
- > respect all members of the school community, especially persons who are in a position of authority;
- > respect the needs of others to work in an environment that is conducive to learning and teaching
- > not swear at a teacher or at another person in authority, and
- > seek school staff assistance, if necessary, to resolve conflict peacefully.

B) Safety

All members of the school community must not engage in unacceptable behaviours which includes behaviour or behaviours that contravene the above Rights and/or the Responsibilities outlined below.

Members of the school community must not:

- engage in bullying behaviours
- commit sexual assault;
- traffic in weapons or illegal drugs;
- be in possession of any weapon including, but not limited to, firearms;
- use any object to threaten or intimidate another person;
- cause injury to any person with an object;
- be in possession of, under the influence of, or provide others with alcohol or illegal drugs;
- inflict or encourage others to inflict bodily harm on another person;
- engage in hate propaganda and other forms of behaviour motivated by hate or violence;
- commit an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property or property located on the premises of a school, or

- engage in any form of communication, including electronic, directed to an individual or group of people that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear, distress, and/or harm to other persons; feelings, self esteem, or reputation, or that has a negative impact on the school climate.

Definition of bullying:

Bullying can be defined as repeated and systematic harassment and attacks on others. Bullying can be perpetrated by individuals or groups. Bullying takes many forms, including electronic communication or social networking, and can include many behaviours such as:

- Physical violence and attacks
- Verbal taunts, name calling and put-downs
- Threats and intimidation
- Extortion or stealing of money or possessions
- Exclusion from the peer group

Bystanders contribute to bullying by doing nothing to prevent it or by becoming actively involved in supporting it.

Arthur Code of Conduct

	STUDENT	PARENT/GUARDIAN	SCHOOL
ACADEMIC FOCUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • come to school promptly, prepared with materials and willing to learn • fulfill expected academic obligations such as respecting learning environment, attending to task, not distracting others and completing homework • be honest in their academic work by refraining from plagiarism and cheating • use free time responsibly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • show an active interest in child's work and progress • talk to child regularly about school • attend goal setting and interview times • assist students with regular routines and organization of materials • provide appropriate work space and support for homework • communicate regularly with the school by returning forms promptly, signing homework books or agendas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide an environment conducive to learning allowing the effective and instruction of all students • help students work to their full potential, develop self-worth and prepare to be productive citizens • communicate regularly and meaningfully to parents i.e., reporting, interviews, phone contacts and newsletters (positive and constructive feedback) • demonstrate care and commitment to academic excellence • assign and assist with homework
	STUDENT	PARENT/GUARDIAN	SCHOOL

INSIDE THE SCHOOL AND DURING EXCURSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • treat people with courtesy and respect • be respectful of the rights of others • use language that is appropriate and be honest and polite • follow instructions that are given by staff members/supervisors • follow lunch time and washroom routines appropriately • use of all electronic devices, including IPODS, MP3 players, cell phones and cameras during instructional time is prohibited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • model respectful behaviour • encourage child to behave in a safe and respectful manner • report to the office upon entering the school • respect instructional times when communicating with teachers • respond to school communication • provide the school with up-to-date family data 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • model respectful behaviour • inform students of the expectations and consequences • provide students with a safe & secure learning environment
ATTENDANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attend school except when ill • respond to school bells promptly • enter classrooms promptly • report to the office if late 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure regular attendance and punctuality • inform school when absent or late • keep child at home or at alternate care placement when ill • inform school of care arrangements should the child become ill at school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform students of expectations and consequences • determine reasons and trends for absence • follow up absenteeism: phone calls, school letter, attendance counselor • keep accurate records • report attendance to parents • provide appropriate role models: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - arrival/departure times - work ethic
	STUDENT	PARENT/GUARDIAN	SCHOOL

<p>TRAVELING TO AND FROM SCHOOL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obey bus driver and follow directions of persons of authority on the bus • follow rules of safety and consideration • respect and comply with all federal, provincial & municipal laws • travel safely on sidewalks - cross at designated areas • obey crossing guard directions • do not leave school without permission • transport sports equipment in a safe manner to avoid injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • respect parking lot entry and exit procedures i.e. do not block other drivers, busses and taxis • respect bus loading zones • inform students of safety issues and laws of the community • make appropriate and accurate information available to school if the student is to leave early or when regular transportation arrangements must change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform students of expectations • develop understanding of rules • provide consequences consistently • notify parents of changes to regular transportation
<p>YARD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • follow rules of safety and consideration • take responsibility for actions • exhibit respect for themselves and others • no body contact, rough play, or play fighting • snowballs, hard balls, Indian rubber balls, golf balls, skateboards, scooters, hockey or lacrosse sticks are prohibited on school property • remain within designated areas • use appropriate equipment in the designated play areas • no food or drink is allowed outside • use appropriate language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support school directives • check in with office before entering yard • observe non-smoking policy • pets are prohibited on school property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide adequate and visible supervision • develop an understanding of rules by reviewing expectations and consequences (using common language) on the first day of school and throughout the year • provide safe and secure playing environment • respond to student concerns

<p>DRESS</p>	<p><i>Appropriate Dress shall include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clothing that is free from profanity , racial, sexually suggestive language or statements, images or language promoting drugs, alcohol, tobacco, gang affiliation, death, violence, hate and/or abuse. • Muscle Shirts, spaghetti straps and low scooped necklines are unacceptable. Bare midriffs and backs are unacceptable; shirts must be ‘tuckable’ and not excessively tight. Shorts and skirts must be a reasonable length. Undergarments should not be visible • shoes must be worn at all times • hats may only be worn when entering or exiting the building • appropriate physical education clothing must be worn, as directed by individual teachers • clothing must be modest and of appropriate fit and length (no spaghetti or halter tops, or low scooped necklines, midriff must be covered, no underwear should be showing) and, • for safety and security, free from drawstrings, high heels and overly baggy clothing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide and monitor appropriate clothing and footwear for children • provide changes of clothing as necessary to support Code of Conduct (i.e., mud, Phys. Ed. appropriate fit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communicate with students the expectations, rationale and consequences around the dress code • inform students and parents about clothing requirements for Physical Education programs • model appropriate dress • provide consequences for students who violate dress code
	<p>STUDENT</p>	<p>PARENT/GUARDIAN</p>	<p>SCHOOL</p>

COMPUTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aware of the Acceptable Use Policy • do not use C.D.'s's/flash drives from home without Staff approval • report inappropriate messages on the e-mail system • respect the privacy of others • accept responsibility for the security of their username and password • use the Internet responsibly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aware of the Acceptable Use Policy, sign it and return it to the school • model best/safe practices for computer use • be aware of negative effects of computers and the Internet • supervise Internet and computer use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the Internet to research, communicate and teach the curriculum • provide instruction on proper use of Information Technology Communication • supervise Internet use
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Note:

The use of cell phones, pagers, roller blades, heeie shoes, skateboards, and scooters by students on school property is not allowed.

POLICE SERVICES

The Board believes that the Police are partners with schools and school boards in maintaining safe schools and communities. Through the guidelines established in the Police/School Boards Protocol Agreement, Police support schools by encouraging, enabling and maintaining positive relationships with school administrators, staff, students, parents and members of the school community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Board believes that community agencies and members of the school community are resources that can help boards deliver prevention and intervention programs. Current and new partnerships, protocols and outreach are encouraged and supported by the Board to formalize and enhance relationships to maintain safe and communities.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

Schools focus on prevention and early intervention as the key to maintaining a positive school environment in which pupils can learn. The Board supports the use of positive practices and progressive discipline as a whole school approach to foster the building of healthy relationships and encourage appropriate behaviours, as well as the application of consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE

Progressive Discipline is a range of early and later interventions, supports, and consequences that are developmentally appropriate, and include opportunities for students to learn from mistakes and that focus on improving behaviour. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Student Success and Character Development strategies and programs;
- providing students with the opportunity to learn life skills such as conflict resolution, anger management and communication skills;
- utilizing models based on the concepts of peer mediation and/or peer counseling;
- documenting incidents requiring disciplinary measures, and applying the mitigating factors;
- being sensitive to unique circumstances which may affect student behaviour;
- ensuring that contact with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of students, under the age of eighteen, is made early in the disciplinary process;
- maintaining contact with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and involving them in a plan to improve the behaviour until the behaviour is acceptable.

As incidents arise, it is recognized that each situation is unique. Incidents are managed in a consistent manner to ensure that fairness is integral to the process, and that this fairness is perceived by all participants. Within this process, consideration for consequences will be given for:

- student age;
- frequency of incidents;
- nature and severity of incidents;
- student exceptionalities;
- extenuating circumstances;
- impact on the school climate.

RANGE OF CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT MISCONDUCT

The school will use a range of interventions, supports and consequences that include learning opportunities for reinforcing positive behaviour while helping students to make good choices. The application of consequences, supports and interventions are determined by the incident and the individual students involved.

Examples of Consequences:

- verbal reminder
- warning
- review of expectations/rules
- written or verbal apology
- incident sheet
- yard: 5 minutes on the wall
- yard: walk with the teacher
- letter written to parent
- phone call home
- student contract sheet
- restitution
- in-school community service
- recess detentions
- class time detentions
- loss of in-school privileges
- loss of field trip privileges
- suspension from the bus
- suspension\expulsion

Examples of Supports/Interventions:

- discussion with P/VP
- reflective paragraph/essay
- problem solving
- conflict mediation
- social stories
- discussion with parent (next steps, solutions)
- conference with others involved
- restorative justice
- Child and Youth Counselor support
- positive reward system
- Attendance Counselor support
- student/teacher/parent meeting
- case conference with school staff and/or Board consultants
- referral to outside agencies
- Suspension/Expulsion Program

Suspension and Expulsion

It is understood that discipline serves not only to correct inappropriate behaviour, but also as a deterrent. To maintain a safe and effective learning environment, suspensions and expulsions may be imposed not only to deter inappropriate behaviour, but also to remove individuals who pose a threat to the safety and well being of others. The Provincial Code of Conduct specifies that for student actions that do not comply with the Provincial Standards of Behaviour, suspension and expulsion may be considered. The Board's Student Discipline Policy (Policy #503) sets out the process for Suspension and Expulsion. This policy specifies the student actions that may result in the Principal imposing a suspension, as well as the student actions that will result in the Principal imposing a suspension and considering an expulsion pending an investigation of the incident.

Mitigating Factors

The Principal will consider the following mitigating factors when considering a suspension:

- the pupil does not have the ability to control his or her behaviour;
- the pupil does not have the ability to understand the foreseeable consequences of his or her behaviour;
- the pupil's continuing presence in the school does not create an unacceptable risk to the safety of any other person.

The Principal will also consider the following factors if they mitigate (moderate) the seriousness of the incident or the behaviour of the student involved:

- the pupil's history and age, whether progressive discipline has been used, if a behaviour has been motivated by harassment or discrimination, the impact on the ongoing education of the student, the student's Individual Education Plan.

Note: *In some cases, even though the offence calls for a mandatory suspension pending an investigation, the consideration of the mitigating circumstances may cause a principal not to suspend.*

Activities That May Lead to a Suspension

Police may be involved, as required, and a suspension may be imposed for one of the following infractions which has occurred on school property, during a school related activity or event, and/or in circumstances where the infraction has an impact on the school climate:

- uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person;
- possessing alcohol or illegal drugs;
- being under the influence of alcohol;
- swearing at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority;
- committing an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property at the pupil's school or to property located on the premises of the pupil's school;
- bullying, including cyberbullying
- any act considered by the Principal to be injurious to the moral tone of the school;
- any act considered by the Principal to be injurious to the physical or mental well-being of members of the school community;
- persistent opposition to authority;
- habitual neglect of duty, or a serious breach of the Board of school's Code of Conduct

Activities That Will Result in a Suspension, an Investigation and a Possible Recommendation for Expulsion

Police may be involved, as required, and a student will be immediately suspended, an investigation will occur and may lead to a recommendation of expulsion to the Board's Discipline Committee for one of the following infractions which has occurred on school property, during a school related activity or event, and/or in circumstances where the infraction has an impact on the school climate:

- possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm;
- using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person;
- committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner;
- committing sexual assault;
- trafficking in weapons or illegal drugs;
- committing robbery;
- giving alcohol to a minor;
- an act or activities considered by the Principal to be significantly injurious to the moral tone of the school and/or to the physical or mental well-being of others;
- activities engaged in by the pupil on or off school property that have caused extensive damage to the property of the Board or to goods that are/were on Board property, or
- the pupil has demonstrated through a pattern of behaviour that s/he has not prospered by the instruction available to him or her and that s/he is persistently resistant to making changes in behaviour which would enable him or her to prosper.

As incidents arise, it is recognized that each situation is unique. Incidents are managed in a consistent manner to ensure that fairness is integral to the process. And that this fairness is perceived by all participants. Within this process, consideration for the consequences will be given to the age of the student, the severity of the incidents, student exceptionalities and extenuating circumstances. Consequences remain at the discretion of the Principal or Vice-Principal. In the case of severe misbehaviour, our format of progressive discipline consequences may be superceded.

BOARD TRANSPORTATION POLICY

For questions regarding transportation, please contact the Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation Consortium at 519-824-4119. The Board considers the safety of students to be of paramount importance and will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that all aspects of the transportation system comply with the appropriate Acts, Regulations and Safety Standards. The Board will cooperate with provincial and local police in all matters related to school bus safety.

Who is Eligible for Busing?

Students who live beyond a certain distance from their school may receive bus transportation to and from school. The distance is set for each grade as follows:

Junior Kindergarten to Grade One - 1.6 km

Grade two to six - 2.4 km

Grade 7 to 12 - 4.8 km

Assigned Bus Route

Students must travel to and from school on their designated bus. Arrangements cannot be made for students to take a bus for social reasons (i.e., to go home with a friend, birthday parties, etc.).

Equipment on the Bus

- The following regulations guide the transportation of equipment:
- No firearms or anything of a dangerous nature.
- Skate blades must be covered by guards, tied together, carried in a bag, and placed on the floor of the bus at the student's feet
- Skis and poles may not be transported on the bus.
- Musical instruments must be placed on the student's lap.
- The decision to transport other objects shall be determined in advance by the principal, bus driver, and the Transportation Department.

Student Responsibilities

In accordance with our school's Code of Conduct, the Ontario Code of Conduct and the Board's Transportation Policy, students who ride buses shall:

- follow the driver's direction
- be courteous and respectful at all times
- keep off the traveled portion of the road on the way to and from the pick-up point
- arrive at the pick-up point not earlier than ten minutes and no later than five minutes before scheduled pick-up times
- ride only on the bus assigned
- be picked up and discharged only at designated stops
- keep books, lunch bags, and bulky items on his/her lap
- leave windows closed, unless authorized by the driver to open them
- keep arms and head inside the bus at all times
- not carry potentially dangerous or objectionable objects and/or materials
- not eat or drink or chew gum on a school bus
- remain seated while the bus is in motion
- whenever possible, leave the last row of seats vacant
- use only personal radios or other electronic devices with earphones while on the bus
- be held responsible for damage done to the bus due to vandalism or other improper behaviour
- A student must be aware that serious or repeat misconduct may result in the loss of the provision of transportation.

Parent Responsibilities

In accordance with the Board policy, Parents/Guardians have the following responsibilities:

- Parents/Guardians are responsible for the safety and conduct of their children at bus pick-up points.

- Parents/Guardians should be familiar with the Code of Conduct for bus students
- Parents/Guardians are advised that serious or repeated misconducts will be recorded and may result in the loss of bus transportation for their child.
- It is the responsibility of the Parents/Guardians to determine whether or not it is safe for their child(ren) to leave for school in inclement or severe weather.

Important Reminders:

No student may change buses and no walker may go on a bus unless the situation is an emergency. In these cases, there must be pre-approval by the Principal.

Students who are to get off their own bus at a stop other than the usual place must bring a note, dated and signed by the Parent/Guardian. This note must be pre-approved and signed by the Principal.

Students who arrive at school on the bus are expected to return home on the bus. Written permission by the parent is required for exceptions.

<p>Computer Network and Internet Use Policy</p>
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The internet is a dynamic, educational resource which dramatically expands the classroom by delivering current information, data and images from around the world. The Internet offers unique opportunities to educate, inform and communicate. While teachers will monitor the use of computers by students, ultimately, it is the responsibility of the student to guard against unacceptable information.

Copies of the complete [Upper Grand District School Board Acceptable Use Policy for Computer Network and Internet Use](#), which includes the information summarized below, are available at the school office.

Failure to observe the following guidelines will result in loss of computer privileges and/or other consequences consistent with Board and school policies and procedures.

Student access to the Internet will be limited to such sites as a teacher deems acceptable and makes available. Visiting other sites will be in violation of the school computer use policy.

USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Each user will comply with the following conditions:

- use Internet in support of education and research consistent with the educational beliefs and objectives of the school and Board
- accept full responsibility of his/her own exploration of the Internet
- respect the privacy of others
- adhere to school standards of courtesy and behaviour
- promptly report to staff any inappropriate Internet data

UNACCEPTABLE PRACTICES

These include but are not limited to:

- accessing or distributing inappropriate material
- using the network for unauthorized, illegal, inappropriate or obscene purposes
- plagiarizing or violating copyright
- accessing, vandalizing, damaging or disabling the property of another user
- engaging in any form of harassment on the network
- posting personal contact information
- allowing others access to personal passwords

NOTE: Students are not allowed to access email or use MSN, YouTube, Facebook, My Space or other entertainment and/or communication sites at school.

How Best to Support Your Child

1. **Sleep** - Try to establish regular routines so that your son or daughter are rested and prepared for the next day. Solid sleep consolidates learned knowledge - recommendations: 9 to 10 hours for Intermediate, 10 + hours for Pri./Jr.
2. **Healthy Diet** - A well balanced diet helps students regulate energy. "Junk food" creates lethargic children Please send in healthy snacks for your children to eat during our two nutrition breaks.
3. **Manage/Monitor Computer Time** - social networking has been a relatively new innovation that has its advantages, however with young children, "chat" sites and social networking site such as - MSN and FACEBOOK can become an obsession. Many issues that arise at school can be traced back to activity on the internet from the night before. Please help your child stay safe and balance their after school activities with academic, active, family, and social activities.
4. **Talk** - ask about their day, friendships, feelings, etc. We know this can be a big frustration for some families because they get very little feedback from their children, but it is an important activity to stay connected with your child and the relationships they are building at school. It is also a great way to link what is being taught at school with everyday events that are occurring in your day.
5. **READ** - TV and Video Games are a favourite after school activity for some students while others love to get into a good book. Books encourage imagination and visualization and can be very entertaining. It is very important to set aside some time each day for reading. If your child says that they have no homework then they should take 20 to 30 minutes to read. Look for a subject they enjoy and expose them to that subject through reading. Magazines, websites, graphic novels, novels, and newspapers are all great ways to get children into reading.
6. **Communicate to Teachers** - at times children will come home upset, excited, or confused about a situation that happened at school. As parents you will get your child's perspective of the event and that may or may not contain all of the information needed to deal with the emotions that are being expressed. It is always better to communicate with the teacher or support staff involved to get the full picture.
7. **Keep Them Active** -there is a lot of research to support healthy active living and brain activity. Students who are active are often more alert and engaged in the activities they are exposed to. Look for opportunities in and out of school for your children to be physically active.
8. **Help to identify bullying behaviours** - It is very important that students come to school and feel safe and valued. Children often keep incidents of bullying to themselves because they do not want to make the situation worse than it is. Look for changes in your child's behaviour (lethargic, anger outbursts, sad, not wanting to come to school, etc.). If you have a concern please contact your child's teacher.
9. **Get Involved** -Students who get involved in different clubs and programs at school get exposed to other children they might not normally hang out with. New friendships are born and a sense of community builds, making the school experience much more enjoyable overall. Parent are encouraged to support School Council and become involved in and around the school.
10. **Stay Positive** - The school year is long and the students, parents, and teachers will be working as a team to support learning in an environment that is fast paced and demanding. It is really important to know that we all have the same goal... we want **our** children to enjoy school, feel safe and valued, and most importantly, learn. If we approach the year as a team with that goal in mind then we will accomplish a great deal and the children will benefit from our efforts.

