

## From the Principal's Desk

January has been a busy month from many perspectives here at Edward Johnson with the boundary review, our curriculum focus and winter activities.

January is has been a mild weather month and this has helped our DASH program get started outside! DASH happens one recess per day for the K, Grades 1 and 2 students. Thanks to all of our Grades 4,5 and 6 student DASH leaders for your time and talents. Thanks also to the YMCA staff for training some of our Junior students!

As a teaching staff we have been refining our approach to teaching Mathematics through problem solving. We are also trying to make the learning goals more evident for our students. The purpose is to have our students think more about what they have learned and be able to describe why and how they are learning. Teachers and students are working together to display the criteria necessary for success in units of work. When you are in the school, please look for the success criteria posted in the classrooms and inquire about how they are being used.

This year, our Kindergarten teachers have chosen to focus on improving their students' oral language. The students are encouraged to use French as much as possible and to speak using a complete idea or question, as well as to incorporate new vocabulary. Our SK students are great role models for the their JK buddies.

Thanks to all of our teachers for your efforts in these areas. Our curriculum leader, Mike Anderson, has provided professional development for our staff in Mathematics. In February, our school's literacy coach Heather Galoska will also be working with some

of our teachers on Guided Reading strategies, student oral language and writing

Term 1 reports will be sent home on Wednesday, February 8 for Grades 1-6 students. The Senior Kindergarten students will also receive their Term 1 reports during the week of February 6 to 10. As always, please feel welcome to discuss the report with your child's teacher. Please also feel welcome to call, write or drop in to the school.

We will be going through a significant transition this Spring as some of our students prepare to transfer to other schools as a result of the EJ Boundary Review. This may be a stressful time for our students and staff. I will be working with our School Council and the principals of the receiving schools to help make the transitions as smooth as possible. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns. All the best as we work through the transition process together.

Yours truly,  
Anne Lehoux

## Edward Johnson Boundary Decision

A letter detailing the boundary review decisions will be posted as soon as possible.

## School Council News

Thanks to all families who participated in the Gift Basket draws in December. School Council made a profit of approximately \$1,026.66. Our January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next School Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. All parents are welcome to attend. We are planning our annual Carnival for the month of February and another Movie Night is coming soon!

More information will be sent home shortly. Any parents interested in volunteering should contact school council at [SC.EdwardJohnson@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:SC.EdwardJohnson@ugdsb.on.ca).

### Family Day - Monday, February 20, 2012

This is a provincial holiday. There will be no school for students and teachers on this day. Enjoy the time with your families!

### Indoor Shoes and Extra Clothes

Please ensure that your child has indoor shoes (or running shoes). With the weather outside, it is inevitable that the floors will be wet. Not only is it unhealthy and dangerous for students to walk around the floors of the school in socks, students will not have a chance to change into shoes if there is a fire alarm or a drill.

It is also a good idea to send some extra clothes with your child; an extra pair of dry socks and mittens are always good things to have tucked in the backpack!

### Playground Safety

Students are reminded that the creative play equipment is closed during the winter months. The pea gravel underneath is frozen and this equipment can be slippery.

### Life-Threatening Illnesses! Please NO Nuts!

We currently have 18 students with life-threatening illnesses at Edward Johnson. The majority of these students have allergies to peanuts, peanut products and/or tree nuts. Some students have allergies to milk products, eggs or fish. This is a reminder to please not send peanut or tree nut products to school with your child. We have also sent reminder letters to parents in classes where there are food allergies. Any student with a life-threatening illness or allergy must have a Life Threatening Management Plan in place at the school. Medications are stored at the office.

Please contact the office if your child requires medication. You must complete the "Administration of Medication" form in order to have medication for your child at the school.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation in this important matter.

### New JK/SK Registration for the 2012-2013 School Year

The week of February 6 to 10 is Registration Week for new JK and SK students. We will be registering new students for both Edward Johnson and King George (French Immersion) students. Please register between 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

At the registration you **MUST BRING**:

- your child's Birth Certificate, Birth Registration or Baptismal Certificate
- your child's immunization record
- proof of your address.



### Bake Sale for We Day Charity

The Edward Johnson OUI (WE) Day group will be holding a bake sale in early March! The Grades 5 and 6 students will volunteer to provide baked goods to be sold. All funds raised will be donated to the local chapter of The Children's Wish Foundation. Please listen to the announcements and read the posters around the school in February!



### **Inclement Weather Procedures**

It is a parent's responsibility to determine whether or not it is safe for their children to leave for school in the event of inclement weather. A parent must be aware of the following:



- ▶ when a bus does not travel a route in the morning due to fog, ice or snow conditions, it will not travel that route in the afternoon. While we have an excellent transportation system, buses may be delayed in the morning due to traffic, poor road conditions, mechanical breakdowns, etc. To ensure your child is not stranded at his/her pick-up point, please make sure they know what to do and where to go if their bus is more than 15 minutes late.
- ▶ if a parent elects to drive their children to school, they are responsible for their pick-up at dismissal time

Please listen to your local radio station in the event of inclement weather conditions.

- ▶ the following stations will broadcast school closures: CJOY 1460 AM, CIMJ 106.1 FM, CKKW 109.0 FM, CFCA 105.3 FM, CHYM 570 AM
- ▶ the Board's website can also be checked at [www.stwdsts.ca](http://www.stwdsts.ca) or the Magic website at [www.magic106.com](http://www.magic106.com) for weather cancellations.

### **Parking and Stopping**

Thanks to all parents for not parking or stopping in front of the school on Stevenson Street. The front of the school is a bus loading zone. Patrollers, staff members and bus drivers cannot see past cars parked in this area, making it difficult for them to safely do their jobs. We appreciate your efforts to keep our students safe by parking on adjacent streets!

### **Sports at Edward Johnson**

Congratulations to our Junior Volleyball teams! Both our boys' and girls' teams placed second at the tournament for Division B schools at F.A. Hamilton P.S. on January 22. Many thanks to M. Anderson, Mme Pelchat, Mme Owen and Mme Kehrer who coached the teams and to all the parents who supported them.

### **Ongoing Activities**

Our recess clubs and activities continue: Mdlle Jakob with the Recorder club, Mme Clews with the choirs and Mme Gratton has initiated a Spanish club! Announcements are made daily about these activities.

### **Values and Character Education**

During the months of January and February, we are continuing to celebrate the value of respect, with special emphasis on anti-racism, compassion and equity. Mme Gratton's class has created a display outside the library and her students are reading their poems during the announcements on a daily basis. These values are also being discussed during class meetings and social skills lessons. On February 17 we will have special presentations for all of our students from Cheryl Thornton, a values educator who delivers her message through stories and drama.

### **Danstravaganza!**

Félicitations to the Junior classes for your great hip-hop performances during the Danstravaganza on January 23. The primary classes were wowed by the impressive dancing and interpretive skills of our Junior students. Bravo, M. Majstorovic!



**Grade 6 Camp Paradise**

Our graduating trip will once again see the Grade 6 students going to YMCA Camp Paradise, June 13-15, 2012. The students' and parents' response was very favourable in past years. As usual, a YMCA staff member will come to the school in April with a detailed presentation about the camp and will address parent questions. More details about this presentation and the year end trip will be available later in the year.

**Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO Testing Schedule**

The Grade 3 and the Grade 6 Ministry of Education Assessment will take place from May 23 to June 6. It is important to avoid scheduling any appointments or family trips that would involve your child missing school during this period. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. More information will be included in future newsletters.

**February is Reading Month at Edward Johnson**

Silver Birch is up and running ! Students are very excited about the selection of books and conferences are generating great discussions. It's not too late to join in ! Please encourage your child to take part if they are in Grades 3 to 6.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 2 will begin the 20 Minute Reading Challenge next week! Spend 20 minutes a day reading with your child for 6 out of 7 days in a week. The program runs from 1 February to 26 February. "Reading" means you read to your child, your child reads to you or your child reads independently. Children who successfully complete 6 out of 7 readings days will have their name entered in a draw for the week. Names will be drawn on Tuesdays.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions about these Reading Programs. Madame Armelle Mizutani, Teacher-Librarian 763-7374 ext 426

**Reading and Reading Comprehension**

Please continue to support your child's reading at home in English. Reading at home in English will help to strengthen your child's reading skills in French. The public library, Scholastic book orders and the school library are great sources for books in English as well as French.

Some readers don't necessarily like to write book reports or mind maps about what they're reading. But they can explain their understanding orally. Here are some questions you can ask your child at home to check their understanding of a story and encourage them to attend to details:

1. Who is(are) the main characters in your story?
2. Are any of the main characters like you or like somebody you know? What makes you think so?
3. Describe your favorite character in the story and tell me why the character is your favorite.
4. When do you think the story takes place? Where do you think the story takes place? Why do you think so? (look for evidence.)
5. What is the funniest/scariest/best part of the story?
6. Is there a problem in this story? If so, how does the problem get solved? How would you have solved the problem?
7. Would any of your friends/family enjoy this book? Why or why not?
8. Could you come up with another good title for this book? What would it be?
9. What if you could change the ending of this book, what would it be?
10. Do you think this book would make a good movie? Why or why not?

Keep a folder with these questions and record what your child says about the book title they've just read. Monitor their progress with answers !!

The key to success in reading for a struggling reader is to maintain the joy for reading -- foster a love of reading by sharing with your child your enthusiasm about what their book is all about and by answering questions together.

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\_\_\_\_\_ **Thinking of going away this March break?**

Bed bugs don't make good souvenirs, so don't bring them home when traveling. Check beds for live bugs, and for blood spots on sheets, mattresses and walls. Keep personal items off the floor and away from the bed, and examine your belongings before heading home.

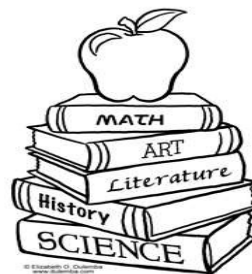
Have a question? Need to report a problem with bed bugs? Call Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4617 or email [info@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:info@wdgpublichealth.ca)

\_\_\_\_\_ **The Driven to Quit Challenge is here**

Quit smoking or using tobacco this New Year and you could qualify to win incredible prizes like a hybrid car!

- Set a good example for your children
- Be healthier in 2012
- Get free support at Smokers' Helpline 1-877-513-5333 or [www.smokershelpline.ca](http://www.smokershelpline.ca)

Gear up to quit this New Year. Visit [www.driventoquit.ca](http://www.driventoquit.ca) for more details.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

# February 2012

		1:15 p.m. Gr. 5 River Run Green Thumb Theatre	1	2	3 PIZZA	4
5 Kindergarten Registration Week	6 Kindergarten Registration Week	7 Kindergarten Registration Week	8 Kindergarten Registration Week	9 Kindergarten Registration Week  Stranger Awareness Gr. 1,2,3 Guelph	10 PIZZA Kindergarten Registration Week	11
12	13	14  Valentine's Day	15	16	17 PIZZA Cheryl Thornton presentations : Compassion and Fairness	18
19	20 Family Day	21	22	23  1:15 p.m. Gr. 6 River Run, Jason and the	24 PIZZA	25
26	27	28	29  Leap Day	Mar.1 11:10 Safety Patrol Review and Recruitment	Mar.2 PIZZA Live Free Campaign	