

PRINCIPAL:

Mr. C. Zen

**OFFICE
COORDINATOR:**

Mrs. K. Gardhouse

**CONTACT
INFORMATION**

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Check us out on the Web:

[http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/
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Attachments

January Calendar

Please remember:

**NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL
MEETING:**
Monday, January 30th,
2012 – 7:00 p.m.

PD DAY
Monday, January 23rd,
2012
(no school for students)

MILK ORDERS DUE:
Tuesday, January 24th,
2012

JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back!

We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday. We want to thank all of our families for their continued support, and we wish each of you all the very best in 2012! January is a very busy month at GVDPS, so please check the updated calendar (enclosed) as well as this newsletter for important events, dates and times.



A few important reminders as we begin the new year. Student safety is our primary concern at GVDPS. Visitors are most welcome during the school day; however, we ask that all visitors report to the main office upon their arrival, and to sign in if necessary.

The end of the school day is quite hectic. We encourage our parents to receive their children outside when the bell rings.

Thank you for helping us ensure a safe environment for our students!

Professional Development at Grand Valley

January 23rd, 2012 will be a Professional Development Day for all elementary schools in the Upper Grand District School Board. Please note there is no school for students this day. Our staff will be working all day on student assessment and evaluations.

JK/SK Registration

It's that time of year again! If you have a child who was born in 2008 and would like to register him or her in JK, please note that registration will take place the week of **February 6th to 10th, 2012**. Students currently in JK will automatically be registered for Senior Kindergarten. Parents will need proof of residence, their child's birth certificate and immunization records for registration. We look forward to meeting you!

**Report Cards**

Parents are reminded that due to new reporting guidelines from the Ministry of Education, there are only two reporting periods now per school year. In November, you received a Progress Report Card that emphasized learning skills and work habits, along with an update on language arts, mathematics and various other subjects. On **Friday, February 9th**, the Term 1 report card will go home. The second report card will go home in June. More information on the report card will be sent home to parents in February.



Christmas Concert – Thanks!

We had a very successful Christmas Concert here at the school on Tuesday, December 13th. The students performed brilliantly! Thank you for being able to join us for this special day. A special thanks to all the teachers for their efforts preparing the children, and to Mrs. McPherson for her work behind the scenes as well!



School Council News

Please note the next school council meeting will be on Monday, January 30th at 7:00 p.m.

Skiing at Mansfield

Our intermediate students are planning on skiing at Mansfield again this winter. More information with dates etc. will follow. Thank you to Mlle. Setterfield for her efforts organizing this event.



Child Abuse Prevention Policy & Program

The Upper Grand District School Board places a high priority on the 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.”

As required in the 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.

These lessons will occur during the month of February and March in the classroom. Students in grades 7 and 8 will participate in a Red Cross program presented by the school’s Child & Youth Counsellor entitled “It’s Not Your Fault”. These two hour presentations will occur in homeroom classes.

We encourage you to discuss with your child at home, the concepts taught in the Child Abuse Prevention Curriculum.

For more information regarding the Child Abuse Prevention Policy and/or Programs please contact Mr. Zen, Principal or Mrs. Zappia, Child and Youth Counselor.

Morning Supervision

Parents are reminded that teachers are not on duty until 8:15 a.m. in the morning. We ask that students not arrive prior to this time as there is no one on the yard to supervise them. All students are reminded to enter the school through their assigned doors off the playground at bell time.

Winter Safety

Please remind your child(ren) to stay off the roads as they walk to and from school each day. The icy weather makes it difficult for cars and trucks to stop quickly. Bus students in particular are reminded to stay off the snow banks and the roads as they wait for their bus to arrive each morning.



Indoor Shoes

Please remember to send indoor shoes with your child. In the event of a fire, students are able to exit the building more quickly if they have indoor shoes on their feet.

QSP Magazine Fundraiser- Update

Prizes have been awarded to those students who sold subscriptions. Congratulations to the winners! Proceeds from this fundraiser are spent on various events and great items purchased for students in the school. This would not have happened without the support of a great school and community. THANK-YOU! Magazines should begin to arrive soon, according to each subscription details. If you have any questions – please contact the QSP Customer Service at: 1-800-667-2356.

Ms. Stewart's Class Curling Adventure

Ms. Stewart's class walked to the Grand Valley Arena. They had three awesome curling visits from the end of November to the end of December. They all thought it was a blast and can't wait to go again next year.



By: Lauren and Jacob

Parent Information Night @ CDDHS



Parents of students in Grade 8 should note that Parent Information Night will be held at Centre Dufferin District High School on **Thursday, February 2nd, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.** Please take advantage of this excellent opportunity to gain valuable information about Grade 9. In addition, on January 19th staff from CDDHS will be coming to the school to speak to the students. At this time, course selection sheets will be handed out and explained to students. The forms will be due back to the school in early February.

Grocery Tapes Needed

Please keep sending your Hinds Foods and Zehrs Market tapes to the school. This is an easy fundraiser for the school, to enable us to purchase many great items for everyone to enjoy. The deadline to bring them in is January 13, 2012. Volunteers will then tally them and we will notify you of the winning class. Any receipts brought in after January 13th will be kept until the end of May when the next deadline will be.

Note to Volunteers:

The tallied tapes are due back to the office by January 26th. Teachers have the instructions on how to tally the tapes. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Susan Stevenson at 519-928-9883. Thank you in advance for volunteering your time to tally these tapes.

Bus Cancellations

During times of inclement weather, there are various ways to obtain information regarding bus cancellations and/or school closures for both bus and town students:

1. RADIO STATIONS

1460 AM CJOY	106.1 Magic FM
98.1 FM CHFI	99.1 FM CBC
680 AM CFTR,	News Talk 570 AM
96.7 FM CHYM	CKCO-TV – A Channel



2. BOARD WEBSITE - www.ugdsb.on.ca and click on the yellow school bus on the right hand side.

3. SCHOOL WEBSITE: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/grandvalley>

4. CALL THE SCHOOL

519-928-2172 EX. 605 will report any cancellations.

Inclement Weather – JK/SK drop off before school

In cases of inclement weather (e.g., rain, extreme cold or weather conditions), students will be brought into the school immediately in the morning before the beginning of the school day. In these cases, all primary students (JK to Grade 3) will gather in the main foyer of the school where supervision will be provided until the first bell goes at 8:30 a.m. Parents/caregivers are asked to bring students in through the main doors of the school in these situations and drop them off in the foyer. Parents are asked to please let their caregivers (babysitters, older siblings or students) know of this procedure as well. If in doubt as to whether the students are to be outside before the first bell (in particular if there is no adult present in the case of inclement weather), please come to the main office or foyer and someone will assist you. For bus students, please note that bus patrollers will ensure that the JK and SK students are brought to the correct location each day.

Also, as a regular practice on all school days, older siblings or students are allowed into the JK enclosure if they are bringing younger children to school. In this case, we ask the older students to ensure the safe arrival of the younger students, make certain there is an adult supervisor on the yard, and then head out to the playground behind the school.

D.A.R.E.

On Thursday, December 1st the grade 6's from Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Servos's classes celebrated with a D.A.R.E. graduation. D.A.R.E. stands for Drug and Alcohol Abuse Resistance Education. A special thank you goes out to Silverdale Motors and Mr. And Mrs. Butler for sponsoring this valuable Grade 6 program. Congratulations to all the Grade Sixes.

Upcoming Information Meeting for French Immersion Kindergarten Program at P.E.P.S.

On January 24th, 2012, from 7:00—8:00 pm in the Library, Princess Elizabeth P.S. will be hosting an information meeting about the French Immersion Program, which starts in either Junior or Senior Kindergarten. All interested families who reside within the Dufferin French Immersion boundaries are welcome to attend. Babysitting will be provided.



Drama Club

Mrs. McPherson will be starting a Drama Club for students in grades 4 to 8. We look forward to performing at assemblies and possibly other events during the year. Please see Mrs. McPherson if you have time, talent or ideas to offer to the Drama Club.



Attendance and Punctuality

It is well known that regular attendance and punctuality are essential for students to succeed in school. When students are habitually absent, they miss valuable instruction, learning experiences and discussions that happen on a day-to-day basis that cannot be replicated. Being late for school can be just as detrimental as missing an entire day since core subjects such as language arts and math are often taught first thing in the morning each day. Please help us to ensure the best possible instruction for our students by making sure they are here and on time each day.

Volleyball

Both the girls and boys volleyball teams are up and running. Both teams are practicing hard. The Grand Valley Boys' Volleyball team is gearing up for their upcoming tournament on February 2nd, 2012. January will be a busy month as the team has a number of exhibition games scheduled against various squads within the Dufferin family of schools. Coaches Dowdall, Stratton and Butler are confident that both teams will have a lot of fun and experience much success.



Primary Skating

Parents are reminded of the importance of wearing a properly fitted CSA approved hockey helmet as opposed to other sport specific helmets such as bicycle helmets or snowboarding helmets. In the case of bicycle helmets, they do not offer the same protection as CSA approved hockey helmets for ice activities. They are not designed for multi-impact activities or sub-zero temperatures. Although some bicycle helmets are CSA approved, some bike helmets have a tapered point on the back of the helmet. If a child falls on his/her back and the helmet hits the ice surface, the point of the helmet could cause the helmet to twist to one side or the other, possibly causing spinal injury. **THEREFORE, THE SCHOOL IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDING THE WEARING OF A PROPERLY FITTING CSA APPROVED HOCKEY HELMET.**

If you would like your child to borrow a helmet for the days that he/she is skating, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible.

ALL CHILDREN MUST WEAR GLOVES OR MITTS WHEN ON THE ICE.

GRAND GIVING!

Thank you to the students of the Me To We Club whose enthusiasm and efforts helped to realize a school donation of \$520.00 toward the fund - SickKidsGetBetterGifts. To our school community, your generosity supported our character trait for the month of December - KINDNESS!

Hockey Helmets

If you have an extra ice hockey helmet that you no longer need or use, please consider donating it to the school. Please call the office or your child's teacher if you are able to donate. Thanks

Ontario Early Years Grand Valley Update

New to us this year at the Ontario Early Years Centre is a super exciting workshop just for dads!!! Come and join us Monday January 30th from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for dinner as a whole family. Afterwards the dads will be invited to join Travis from FTP for a funny, enjoyable, engaging and interactive presentation about "The Dad's Perspective". During this time the moms are encourage to stay and enjoy coffee and desert and network together with our OEYC staff.

As always Ontario Early Years is continuing to offer Parent Workshops in the New Year!

Please join us for a fun morning of information sharing with professionals and other parents.

Resource Workers are on site to offer child care to provide you with needed relief and your child the opportunity to interact with other children and adults in a safe and warm environment.

January 10th "Cold Weather Vehicle Emergency" 9:30-11:30

January 17th "Emergency Kit Building" 9:30-11:30

January 24th "Nutrition" 9:30-11:30

January 31st "A Mom's Perspective" 9:30-11:30

Grand Valley Community Learning Fair

Do you have a child born in 2008 and reside within the boundaries of our school?

Do you have a neighbour or friend, that lives within the boundaries of our school and do not have children presently attending the school, but have a child born in 2008?

Do you have a child or children born prior to 2008 and live within the boundaries of the school?












Do you want to learn more about typical childhood development and the milestones necessary for success in the Full Day Learning Program?

Do you want to learn more about your child's school and the services in the community that support children and families?



On Tuesday, February 7, 2012 between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm our school will be holding an informative community event. This is a new initiative developed to promote the services that are available to children and families within the school, the town of Grand Valley and the County of Dufferin. During this time, parents of children born in 2008 and eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten, will be asked to attend in order to complete the registration process. Further details will be in our February newsletter, and in a pamphlet that will be distributed throughout the community. Please contact Mrs. Gardhouse or Mrs. Yake at 519 928-2172 if you require further information.

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 1	2 Holiday	3 Holiday	4 Holiday	5 Holiday	6 Holiday	7
8	9	10	11	12 Pizza Day 	13	14
15	16	17 Gr. 5/6B - Curling 1:45 p.m. 	18	19 Pizza Day  CDDHS Course Option Presentation - Gr 8's	20 Primary Skating Gr. 1,2,& 3 9:00 a.m. 	21
22	23 P.A. Day No classes for students	24 Milk Orders Due Gr. 5/6B - Curling 1:45 p.m. 	25	26 Pizza Day  Character Education Assembly - 8:45 a.m.	27 Primary Skating Gr. 1,2,& 3 9:00 a.m. 	28
29	30 School Council Mtg - 7:00 p.m.	31 Gr. 5/6B - Curling 1:45 p.m. 	FEB 01	FEB 02 Volleyball Tournament Gr. 8 Parent night at CDDHS - 7:00 p.m. Pizza Day  	FEB 03	