

**PRINCIPAL:**

Mr. C. Zen

**OFFICE  
COORDINATOR:**

Mrs. K. Gardhouse

**CONTACT  
INFORMATION**

120 Main St. North  
RR 2  
Grand Valley, ON  
L0N 1G0

Phone:  
519-928-2172

Fax:  
519-928-2666

E-Mail:  
School Principal:  
[carlo.zen@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:carlo.zen@ugdsb.on.ca)

Check us out on the Web:  
[http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/  
grandvalley](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/grandvalley)

**Attachments**

November Calendar

O.P.P. News Release

School Council Annual Year  
End Report & Financial  
Statement

**Please remember:**

Parent Interviews –  
Thurs., Nov. 17th  
(3:15 to 8:00 p.m.)

PD Day –  
Fri., Nov. 18th, 2011  
(Parent Interviews)

**NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER****Remembrance Day**

On November 11th, we will be honouring our fallen heroes with an assembly that will begin at 10:45 a.m. in our gym. This year we are looking for students who may have a family member or close friend who fought or was involved in a previous war or who may be involved presently in peace keeping initiatives. Two or three students will be picked to share their story at the Remembrance Day assembly. For any other students who have a photo to share, we would appreciate scanning a copy of the photo to include in our slide presentation. If you send something in with your child please make sure it is labeled with the name of the person, your child's name, and the relationship the person is to your child. Any other information as to what war and dates would be appreciated but not required. If your child could share a photo or artifact, please contact Mrs. McPherson as soon as possible. Parents and members of our community are most welcome to attend the assembly. Our Grade 6 students will also be participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph downtown. Hope to see you here on the 11th.

**Progress Reports**

Last school year, you may recall that there was a new reporting progress implemented for all elementary schools in the province of Ontario. In November, all schools will be issuing a Progress Report Card that does not include "marks". Instead it reports on learning skills or work habits, as well as strengths and next steps to assist in improving student learning in subject areas.



This Progress Report will provide students and parents with early and specific feedback on the progress made during the first two months of the school year. It will tell you how your child is doing in all subjects using the words: "progressing very well", "progressing well" or "progressing with difficulty". After these reports go home, there will be an opportunity for parent/teacher interviews. This is your chance to find out early in the school year how your child is progressing, what the school will do to help and what you can do at home to support his/her learning.

The February and June report cards will follow a more traditional format with marks for all subjects. Learning skills will once again be highlighted because developing good work habits is crucial for your child to be successful in school and later in life.

This Progress Report is meant to tell you what you want to know about how your child is doing and what you can do to help. There is an excellent parent resource available from the Ministry of Education. It is called *Supporting your Child's learning through Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting* and it will be sent home to each family. It is also available on the Ministry website.

### Parent Teacher Interviews

**Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011** is a Professional Development Day and is designated for parent teacher interviews. The purpose of the day is to allow parents and teachers ample time to discuss their child's progress report. The staff at GVDPS also felt strongly that we should have an evening session open as well as many parents may be unable to make it to the school during the day. As such, we will also have parent interviews on the evening of **Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 3:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** At these conferences, achievement during the first half of this term and specific goals for the remainder of the term will be discussed. Sign-up sheets will be going home shortly for each of these days. It is important that school and home work closely together in order to ensure that each child reaches his or her highest potential.

### School Council News

This month our School Council Meeting will take place on **Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. Council would like to extend an invitation to all parents who have not yet participated to come and join us. Term Two pizza forms will be coming home the week of November 20<sup>th</sup> and are due back by December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Forms are also posted on the school website.

### Intermediate Soccer

In October, the Intermediate Co-ed Soccer team participated in the Dufferin Family of Schools Tournament at Laurelwoods. GVDPS sent a well talented, well-disciplined team that displayed a high degree of skill and competitiveness. Despite the rain our team's spirits remained sunny! The students played hard and represented the Gators proudly. Congratulations to all the players for a fun season, and to coaches McCarthy and White. A special thank you to Ms. McCarthy for standing in the rain and cheering the Gators on!



### Pick Up and Drop Off Procedures

Student safety is always our number one priority at GVDPS. We want to remind parents and caregivers that the front parking lot is out of bounds from 8:15 a.m. until 8:45 a.m., and from 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. to allow for bus students to mount and dismount safely. We are also asking parents to please refrain from dropping their children off on the track next door to the school. We have a number of students who use that area to gain entry onto the school grounds. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.

### Dogs on School Property

We would like to remind all parents who walk their children to school and bring along their dogs that the by-laws of the Township of East Luther Grand Valley regarding dogs are in effect on school property. We ask all our dog-owning families to please respect that we have some parents and children who are nervous or intimidated by dogs, specifically large ones. When you are walking to school with your family please remember that you must keep your dog under control at all times and be conscious of the effect that the dog may have on some of our children and their parents when it is on school property. We also ask that dogs not be brought into the JK enclosure as it can be quite congested with adults and small children. We appreciate your assistance.



## Mathematics - Problem Solving

This year, GVDP is putting a special focus on teaching mathematics through problem solving. We are a part of a group of schools within the UGDSB participating in 'Math Hubs'. A team from each school, comprising of teachers and administration, will be working with their colleagues to better understand how students learn math through the solving of real-world problems. This 'team' of educators is then asked to go back to their home schools and assist everyone within the building in order to build capacity. The following is an excerpt from the Ontario Curriculum for Mathematics:

*Problem solving is central to learning mathematics. It forms the basis of effective mathematics programs and should be the mainstay of mathematical instruction. It is considered an essential process through which students are able to achieve the expectations in mathematics, and is an integral part of the mathematics curriculum in Ontario, for the following reasons.*

*Problem solving:*

- *is the primary focus and goal of mathematics in the real world;*
- *helps students become more confident mathematicians;*
- *allows students to use the knowledge they bring to school and helps them connect mathematics with situations outside the classroom;*
- *helps students develop mathematical understanding and gives meaning to skills and concepts in all strands;*
- *allows students to reason, communicate ideas, make connections, and apply knowledge and skills;*
- *offers excellent opportunities for assessing students' understanding of concepts, ability to solve problems, ability to apply concepts and procedures, and ability to communicate ideas;*
- *promotes the collaborative sharing of ideas and strategies, and promotes talking about mathematics;*
- *helps students find enjoyment in mathematics;*
- *increases opportunities for the use of critical-thinking skills (e.g., estimating, classifying, assuming, recognizing relationships, hypothesizing, offering opinions with reasons, evaluating results, and making judgements).*

*Not all mathematics instruction, however, can take place in a problem-solving context. Certain aspects of mathematics must be explicitly taught. Conventions, including the use of mathematical symbols and terms, are one such aspect, and they should be introduced to students as needed, to enable them to use the symbolic language of mathematics.*

## Playground Structure Closed for Winter

We want to remind parents that UGDSB Policy states that all playground structures must be closed, for safety purposes, from November 1st to March 31. The structure is now closed for the winter.

## Bus Cancellations

During times of inclement weather, there are three 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
Oldies 1090 AM	99.1 FM CBC
105.3 Kool FM,	News Talk 570 AM
96.7 FM CHYM	CKCO-TV



2. **BOARD WEBSITE** - [www.ugdsb.on.ca](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca) and click on the yellow school bus on the right hand side.  
**SCHOOL WEBSITE** - [www.ugdsb.on.ca/grandvalley](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/grandvalley)
3. **CALL THE SCHOOL** - 519-928-2172 Ext. 605 will report any cancellations.

## Bullying Prevention

During the months of October and November all junior classes will participate in a three session Bully Prevention Workshop presented by Tamara Zappa, Child and Youth Counsellor. The workshops will include the definition of bullying, recognizing the difference between bullying and conflict, developing empathy for the victims of bullying as well as strategies to address bullying. Different forms of bullying including physical, emotional/verbal, cyber and social are discussed. Students will learn the importance of the role of the bystander in preventing bullying. Assertively standing up for yourself through the use of effective communication techniques and body language will be practiced.

Parents play an important role in bullying prevention. Families that are nurturing and caring and set clear limits can prevent bullying as well as victimization. Some strategies to prevent your child from becoming a bully or a victim include:

- teaching your child to be both strong and kind
- encouraging your child to be a good friend because good friends don't bully
- knowing your child's friends and making sure everyone understands your view of teasing and violence
- setting a good example by using appropriate conflict resolution
- teaching our children not to hit or fight back as it only makes it worse
- making sure your child understands there are consequences for aggressive behavior
- allowing your child to feel what they feel but help them find ways to express their anger without hurting others
- listening to your child's concerns, let him/her know that you have time for what concerns them
- monitoring your child's television, video and internet viewing

### Definition of Bullying:

Bullying is typically a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs where there is a real or perceived power imbalance. Bullying takes on different forms and contexts with age. It can be physical, verbal, social/emotional or through the use of technology. Bystanders contribute to bullying by doing nothing to prevent it or by becoming actively involved in supporting it.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, Tamara Zappia, Child and Youth Counsellor or Mr. Zen with any concerns.

## Bag 2 School

Grand Valley and District Public School will once again be participating in the Bag 2 School Program. Please bring in your used clothing, bedding, purses, and gently used shoes (tied together) etc. on either Thursday November 17th or Friday November 18th during school hours or on Saturday November 19th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. You may use any type of bag to bring the items to school. Bags will also be sent home in early November for your use as well. For every tonne of clothing donated, we receive \$200.00! Any questions, or for more information about this program, please contact Susan Stevenson at 519-928-9883.



## Character Education

Our Character Trait for the month of November is Compassion and in keeping with this theme, we have dedicated November as Peace Month. There is a special event happening in November that makes this an appropriate time to celebrate peace. Remembrance Day on November 11th is always a good time to be grateful for the times of peace that we are fortunate to live in.

### Our Food and Friends Student Nutrition Program



There are many different reasons a student comes to school hungry. Did you know that a dedicated group of volunteers and teachers here at Grand Valley & District Public School help to alleviate hunger for our students by providing a Food and Friends Breakfast program?

Each week we help an average of 50 of our students start their day with a healthy meal in a safe and inclusive environment. Our program runs Monday to Friday 8:00 – 8:30 am. Monetary donations are always needed! Please contact Mr. Zen for more information, or donate directly to Food and Friends, a program of the Children's Foundation. You may specify which school you would like your donation to benefit.

<https://www.canadahelps.org/DonatonDetails.aspx?cookieCheck=true>

### Lunch Supervisors

Each day, we have a team of dedicated lunch supervisors who come into the school and assist with the supervision of our students during eating and outside time. We want to thank one of these supervisors, Mrs. Diane Sevensco, who spent several years in this role, but who recently resigned to pursue other career opportunities. We want to thank Diane for her years of service to the school ensuring the safety of our students. We wish her the very best. Our current team of supervisors include Michele Chessell, Leanne Ethier, Dave Limbeek and Jackie deVries. Thank you lunch supervisors! If you would be interested in having your name added to our substitute Lunch Supervisor list, please contact the school office.



### Dental Screening










Members from the Wellington-Guelph-Dufferin Public Health Unit will be at Grand Valley & District Public School on November 3, 2011 to perform dental screenings for all students in grades JK, SK and Grade 2 and other students as appropriate. Dental screening is provided under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. If you have any questions or concerns about this school screening, please contact the Health Unit at 1-800-265-7293 ext 5662.

### Get your Flu Shot

The Wellington-Guelph-Dufferin Public Health Unit is offering Free Flu shots at the following Dufferin locations. No appointments are necessary. For more information please call 1-800-265-7293 ext.4161.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates/Times</u>	<u>Address</u>
Orangeville	November 7 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 8:00 pm	Orangeville Baptist Church Corner of Hockley Rd & Hwy 10
	November 14 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 8:00 pm	Tony Rose Memorial Sports Centre 40 Feed Street
Shelburne	November 8 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 – 8:00 pm	Mel Lloyd Centre 167 Centre Street

# November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 D.A.R.E. - Gr. 6's  Time2Read 6:00 pm	2  Read4Success 6:00 p.m.	 3 Pizza Day  Dental Screening JK/SK & Gr. 2's 	4	5
 6	7	8 D.A.R.E. - Gr. 6's  Time2Read 6:00 pm	9  Read4Success 6:00 p.m.	10 Progress Reports go home Pizza Day 	11 Remembrance Day Assembly 10:45a.m. 	12
13	14	15 D.A.R.E. - Gr. 6's  Time2Read 6:00 pm	16 Volleyball - Gr 4-6 4:30-8:30pm 	 17 Pizza Day Parent/Teacher Interviews 3:15-8:00 Bag2School	18 P.D. Day Parent /Teacher Interviews	19 Bag2School 
20	21	22 D.A.R.E. - Gr. 6's	23	24 Pizza Day 	25 Character Ed. Assembly 8:45 a.m.	26
27	28 School Council Mtg - 7: 00 p.m.	29 D.A.R.E. - Gr. 6's	30	DEC 1 Gr. 8 - Vaccinations Pizza Day 