



JEAN LITTLE NEWSLETTER

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www.jeanlittlepublicschool.ca

Mr. Randal Wagner, Principal

Mrs. Lisa Doering, Vice-Principal



FEBRUARY 2012

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

A number of students, parents and staff have commented on the removal of trees on the city land adjacent to the school. Good news! One of our parents, April Nejedly, contacted the city and learned that an invasive species called the European Buckthorn has been removed. Apparently the Buckthorn, besides having spikes, chokes indigenous plants. There is a plan in place to plant new trees and to ensure sightlines remain open. However, when the city's operations department learned of our concern, we were invited to be part of the re-greening. April has offered her time to help organize the community in the spring and fall. More information will be provided as a plan develops. One of our students, Tyler, has offered to be the student contact. Thanks to both April and Tyler.

Another good news story concerns the Live Free campaign that is part of our breakfast club program. On March 2, 2012, students will be asked to donate a toonie to support our breakfast program. More importantly, students will be challenged to give up something for the day (candy, TV, etc.) in order to recognize that many within our community live without luxuries. Parents, students and staff will be invited to a breakfast at the school on March 2 to kick off this event. Magic106.1 will be broadcasting live from our school for the day. Mrs. Sowden will post an update with further details on our website in the next several days.

Finally, reports are going home on February 8. As always, please contact your child's homeroom teacher if you have a concern or if you wish to request an interview.

Regards,

Randal Wagner
Principal, Jean Little Public School



So you think you can dance? Well, come on down and party shuffle on February 17th, when Jean Little will be holding our 3rd Danceathon! All students will have a period of at least 30 minutes (hopefully more) where they will be encouraged to dance to music. We are hoping they will love it so much that they will come back during recess to improve their moves!

Because February is Heart and Stoke month, where the message is "look after your heart", AND Valentine's Day is the same week, we are looking for students to wear RED on the 17th!

The school's main goal is to get hearts racing - more activity, stronger heart health - but have fun too! As ever, we are also raising money needed for playground equipment and on-going playground improvements, all of which directly benefits your children, especially their health! Look out for a pledge form for your family, which will be sent home soon.

Parent volunteers will be needed to help supervise the dancing or to count funds raised. Please contact Jayne Godfrey if you can help: jaynegodfrey@hotmail.com

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

If you would like to receive an email with the newsletter and calendar each month, please send an email to Mrs. Wynne at kelly.wynne@ugdsb.on.ca requesting a copy.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



Junior and Senior Kindergarten registration begins the week of February 6th - 10th, 2012. To register for Junior Kindergarten your child must be four years old on or before December 31st, 2012. To register for Senior Kindergarten (if your child is new to our school) your child must be five years old on or before December 31st, 2012. If you can't register during this week, please call the school office at 519-837-9582 to arrange an alternate time. You must bring birth verification for your child and your child's immunization record to register. If born outside of Canada, proof of Date of Entry is required also as well as proof of address.

Custody Order documentation (if applicable) should be provided and viewed by the school office. Please pass this information on to anyone you know who may have an eligible child.

You can also get the admission form online_ and complete it before coming for registration. The website is:

http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/uploadedFiles/operations/registration/Student_Admission_Form_v13.pdf

WHAT DO WE DO AT SCHOOL ON “NO BUS “ DAYS?



Many parents wonder what we do at school on those days when the buses don't run, due to inclement weather, but the school is open. While there's a general perception that nothing educational happens, we do have strategies in place designed to ensure that student learning continues. But we don't do new curriculum work so that the students who can't get here don't fall behind.

At our school you will find us doing a number of things including:

Language Arts Blocks
Math Activities
Physical Education
Social Studies/Science/Art/Music

On days when the buses are cancelled but the school is open, it is your choice to drive your child to school and then to pick him/her up at 3:10. The majority of our students are considered to be walkers and do come to school on such days, as teaching and learning continues.

While it's your decision to determine if it's safe for your children to go to school, please don't make that decision based on the idea that nothing worthwhile occurs. Students are engaged and learning even though some of their friends can't make it to school.

If you are at home with your children on a no bus day, you can consider turning on the computer and checking out the following web sites that are focused on learning, and fun at the same time.

1. Nrich Maths:
<http://nrich.maths.org/public/index.php>
2. National Library of Virtual Manipulatives - free download
<http://www.mattimath.com/download.asp>
3. Eduscapes:
<http://eduscapes.com>
4. Discover Kids:
<http://kids.discovery.com>
5. National Geographic for Kids
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

GET CONNECTED!

Don't forget to check out the Jean Little website at www.ugdsb.on.ca/JeanLittle/ for copies of the latest newsletters, calendar of events, forms, classroom news, school council minutes, and the photo gallery of the great things happening at our school!



If you are new to the school and/or have not yet signed the "Web Consent Form" to allow your child(ren)'s pictures and/or school work to be displayed on our site, please print off a copy under "Forms" on our home page. It's great to be able to include as many students as possible in our celebrations of the things happening in our school.

WINTER ACTIVE ... ARE YOU READY FOR THE SEASON?



Be involved in your children's winter activities and make it fun and safe for everyone.

Follow these tips to keep the family safe:

Dress for the weather. The outer layer should be waterproof. Wear the right gear; helmets should be worn for skiing, snowboarding, skating and tobogganing. Practice snow safety; make sure children don't play in snow banks near the road, as snowploughs may not see them.

Watch out for frostbite. Signs of frostbite include tingling, numbness, burning and/or changes in skin colour. If you suspect frostbite go inside immediately, take off wet clothes and replace them with warm ones. Call your doctor if the area remains discoloured or numb.

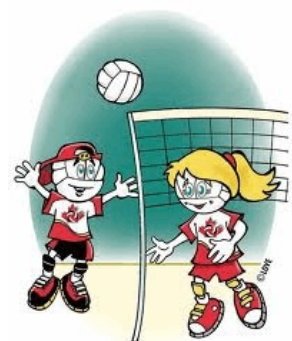
For more tips on kid's safety, check out

www.safekidscanada.com

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

The girls and boys volleyball teams participated in their tournaments on January 24 at Willow Rd. PS where they played against 7 other schools. While showing excellent sportsmanship and amazing skills, the girls team placed 5th and the boys team finished first overall. Congratulations and well done everyone. What great team work!! Glad to see all those early morning practices went to good use.

Members of the girls team were Chelsea Pergolas, Emily Stacy, Kylia Dillman, Lindsay Worden, Daffa Azkiana, McKayla Peterson, Sadia Khayer, Chelsea Pickering, Kalisa Ramashoi and Reaghan Tilley.



Members of the boys team were Ryan Cole, Jack Humphrey, Tomson McKenzie, Rahul Singh, Owuraku Anim-Somuah, Zack St. Amand, Aro Bhattacharjee, Hafiz Madzlan, Nigel McLean, Max Underwood and Hunter Aldred.

L. Doering and K. Baker

FAMILY DAY

The Upper Grand District School Board will be observing Family Day on Monday, February 20, 2012 and our school will be closed. We hope you enjoy the day with your family!



FAREWELL TO SMOKEY AND WELCOME FUJI

After almost 7 years of loyal service, Smokey, Jake Reid's chocolate Lab service dog is off to enjoy early retirement. Not to worry though, Jake's new service dog Fuji, a female yellow Lab (20 months old), is going to join the Jean Little family. Lions Club of Canada Foundation Dog Guides have trained and generously donated Fuji to Jake. There are a couple of important rules/points everyone needs to remember when you see Jake and Fuji in school working together:
Please do not pet or distract Fuji while she is in school working with Jake
Please do not give Fuji any treats or any other food

Thanks to Smokey for his dedicated assistance to Jake over the years and we are looking forward to seeing Fuji real soon.