

PRIORY PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

275 Scottsdale Drive • Guelph, Ontario • N1G 3A1

Phone: 519-836-7710

Principal: Blair Conrad

Office Co-ordinator: Linda Smith

MARCH NEWSLETTER

DEAR PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

When you look at the monthly calendar that has come home, you will see that the month of March is very busy at Priory Park. The **Live Free Campaign** is March 2 where students are encouraged to bring in a "toonie" to donate towards Food and Friends. The junior **basketball tournament** is March 6 for both boys and girls. We will also have our **Dance-a-thon** to look forward to March 23 and our theme this year is a "50's Sock Hop". Students are encouraged to dress in their best 50's outfit and asked to collect money from family and friends. The money will be used to buy resources and technology for students and staff to use in the classroom. All students who collect \$5.00 or more will have their name entered into a draw, to be one of 20 students to win a pizza lunch followed by free gym time. We have 2 Limited Edition hockey sticks signed by the Guelph Storm hockey team which students could also enter a draw to win. Parents are welcome to come and join us during the dance from 1:35- 3:00 that day.



Please remember that March Break is March 12 - 16 and there is no school that week.

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

If you have a child or know of anyone in the Priory Park area who has a child born in 2008, they are eligible for Junior Kindergarten. Please register as soon as possible. If your child is currently at Priory Park in JK you do not need to register for SK.

Parents must provide the following documentation in order to register your child:

- ✓ Birth Certificate/Birth Registration
- ✓ Immunization card
- ✓ any legal and/or custody papers, where applicable and if you are new to Canada then we need documentation of your Status and date of entry to Canada
- ✓ documentation with a current address (i.e. utility bill or driver's licence)

PLEASE NOTE: John McCrae P. S. is the French Immersion School for our area.



MATH QUESTIONS FOR STORM TICKET DRAW

Primary - What coins are needed to make \$.22 (Kdg. - Gr. 1)

\$1.43 (gr. 2 - gr. 3)

Junior - Mr. Martin really enjoys collecting hockey cards. He has collected 76 packages of hockey this years. Each package has 19 cards in it. How many hockey cards does Mr. Martin have altogether?

Choose the a Primary question if you are Kdg.- gr. 1 or gr. 2 -gr. 3 and the junior question if you are gr. 4 - 6. Parents are encouraged to help!

Student Name: _____ Classroom Teacher: _____

Show numbers, pictures and/or words to show your thinking. Use back if needed.

SCHOOL PARKING LOT

Thank you to all our community for not using our school parking during drop off and pick up times. We know this has been an inconvenient change. This has helped to keep our students safe and the buses and taxis appreciate a less congested parking lot. Please consider walking with your child and if you do drive remember to park on Wilsonview Dr.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

This month we will meet Tuesday, March 27 at 6:30. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend our meetings. Find out what plans and happenings are going on for the Spring Dessert Party at Priory Park, May 10.

LOST AND FOUND

Please be sure and check the lost and found for those missing mitts, hats and scarves before the March Break. Any unclaimed items will be bagged and sent off to a local charity.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL YARD SUPERVISION

Our yard is supervised for 10 minutes before school and 1 minutes after school each day. Children **should not** be arriving before 8:35 a.m. in the morning. For the continued safety of your children, please remind them to go home directly after school. As daylight increases, children may be tempted to linger in the park and school yard after dismissal when they should go home directly. It is also very important to let the school know if your child is going to be late or away in order for the safe arrival program to work. We remind and encourage children to go straight home and to walk with a buddy or two. The safety of your child(ren) is important to everyone and safety rules should be reinforced with them so they understand the procedures to follow.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM AT PRIORY!

Priory Park has voicemail for all staff. If Mrs. Smith can't get to the phone you will be directed to the automated system. We ask that you not leave messages for your child(ren)'s teacher regarding an absence or late but dial extension 100, where you can leave a message for the office. By pressing the # key, you can access our staff directory for voicemail. If you need to speak to the office or have an emergency please dial 0. Remember you can call the school anytime of day to leave a message on the voicemail.



ARE YOU NEW TO CANADA?

Guelph-Wellington Immigrant Services has a new location and many extra services to help new Canadians. There are settlement workers who speak several languages. They can help new Canadians find English language and citizenship classes, including classes that can be taken on line. Free tutoring is available for children new to the English language. They can also help connect new Canadians to community services such as translation needs, housing, job opportunities, support groups and many more. Please feel free to contact Immigrant Services, 926 Paisley Rd, Units 4-5, Guelph, On N1K 1X5, or phone 519-836-2222.

SHOES FOR SAFETY AT SCHOOL

With the wet and mild weather approaching it is important that all students have not only appropriate outdoor footwear, but also indoor shoes. This is a significant safety issue as proper footwear reduces the risk of slips and falls and stepping on items which may cause injury. It is vital, too, that students wear indoor shoes so that they are protected in the event of a fire drill or event resulting in a school evacuation.

BOOMERANG LUNCHES

We continue to encourage Boomerang lunches. Children bring home any uneaten food and items in their lunch that are not recyclable. This is part of our Waste Management initiatives as required by the Ministry of the Environment. It also allows you to monitor what your child is eating and what we can and cannot recycle at school. We are all being encouraged to use reusable containers. Thanks to Mr. Martin and the ECO Club for their announcements and encouraging our school community to recycle.

KIDPROOF CHILD SAFETY

For information on programs offered in the Guelph area dealing with bullying, being home alone, walking to school and babysitting, visit WWW.KIDPROOFCANADA.COM

HEAD LICE

Occasionally we have someone who finds head lice in their child's hair. We appreciate a call to the school so that we can let the parents of children in that class know to do a check. Our local Health nurse is Glenna Rogers and she is always happy to speak with you. She can be reached at 519 846-2715 ext 4656.



GAMEBOYS, IPODS, CELL PHONES ETC.

We ask that you please remind your child(ren) that these electronic items are to be left at home. These are very expensive items to bring to school and are easily misplaced, dropped or can be a distraction in the classroom. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

HOME ALONE (from the Guelph Police)

A safety concern for parents is how to protect "latchkey" kids who are home alone after school. Don't let a stranger inside the house. It's a good rule, but can be misleading.

Stranger is a confusing word for many children. Many kids expect strangers to be scary, poorly dressed people who drive dark old cars and offer candy.

Parents should leave children home on their own when they are certain the child is both able and ready for the responsibility. Age, maturity, location and time are just some of the variables that must be considered in doing so. The buddy system is the most ideal one and parents should seek out other parents with children compatible and suitable to take turns staying with each other. Any form of organized activity, or the immediate availability of a trusted adult, can provide the necessary guidance to help ensure your child's safety and also give you peace of mind.

If your child must be home alone, they need to know the following rules:

Keep Doors Shut: Instead of telling kids not to let a stranger in, the real rule needs to be: Keep the door shut and locked at all times. Don't fill your child's head with "don'ts"; simply tell them to keep all doors closed. If someone comes to the door, your child can communicate with this person through the door or ignore them completely.

Set Check-In Time: Another thing parents should ask their child to do is call and let Mom or Dad know that she is home safe. Have your child call at the same time each day. Give ten minutes plus or minus to allow for a slow bus, etc ... then call or have someone check if he/she doesn't meet this deadline. Also, find a close neighbor who is usually home around this time. If there is a problem and you can't be reached, the child knows to call this person. Parents need to remember that kids who are home alone are much more likely to encounter dangers such as cooking fires or accidental injuries while playing than being abducted by a stranger.