



## Principal and Vice-Principal's Message

Yesterday, April 2, was World Autism Awareness Day...intended to bring the world's attention to ASD. Autism Spectrum Disorder, which affects an estimated 100 000 Ontarians, is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the functioning of the brain. ASD impacts the typical development of the brain in the areas of social interaction and communication skills. Children and adults with ASD typically have difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, and leisure or play activities. Educate yourself about autism by visiting [www.autismontario.com](http://www.autismontario.com) or our local service [www.kerrysplace.org](http://www.kerrysplace.org)

We are looking for several parents/guardians who would be willing to volunteer at PEPS during our EQAO assessment. This provincial assessment takes place between May 27 and June 6. Volunteers will assist students who require additional support for this assessment. Please let us know if you would be interested and available during this period. Merci!

We welcome Mr. Stolfi back to PEPS who will be covering for Ms Armstrong during her short term medical leave.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us

Tracy Armstrong  
Principal  
[tracy.armstrong@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:tracy.armstrong@ugdsb.on.ca)

Sean Singh  
Vice-Principal  
[sean.singh@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:sean.singh@ugdsb.on.ca)

## Active & Safe Routes to School

Thanks et Merci to all parents/guardians who filled in the survey related to active and safe routes to school earlier this year.

Congratulations to the Jones family whose name was drawn as the winner of the \$75.00 Canadian Tire gift card.

The family has kindly donated this amount back to school to use towards purchases of outdoor equipment for recess.



Now that spring has arrived, we encourage all students who do not take a bus to school to walk or wheel to school. Recently, one of our crossing guards said she was getting a bit bored due to lack of students to cross. Walking or wheeling to school not only helps the environment but also provides an opportunity for exercise and fresh air. Most students traveling to school out of vehicles also help our congested parking areas at the beginning and end of the day. A reminder that if students do wheel to school, we ask them to walk their bikes, scooters, skateboards etc...on school property, for safety reasons.

## Spirit Day at PEPS!

**Hat Day**  
**Friday, April 19**

## Allergy Alert!

Please check food labels to ensure that food coming to school contains no NUT products.

## Food Days

We thank our many families who regularly participate in our various food days/programs – Pizza, Hot-dog, Hot Lunch, Pita Pit, Milk etc...not only do students really enjoy these programs but they provide us with additional funds to support school activities and our Breakfast Program. Special thanks families who include top up donations for our Breakfast, lunch and snack programs.

If, for any reason, your child does not get the food items you ordered, please remind your child that they need to inform their teacher or lunch supervisor right away. Your child will be given permission to come down to the office or TEAM room in order to problem solve. Either the mix-up will be sorted out and your child will get the expected items OR they will be provided with additional lunch items from our snack/lunch program.



## Differentiated Instruction

Today's teachers are no longer standing at the front of the class delivering a lesson to all students. The education system realizes that no two students learn in ways that are exactly alike. If there are 25 students in the class, each individual has their own academic strengths and weaknesses, personality traits, social tendencies and emotional needs.

Currently, through advanced assessment strategies, a team based approach to instruction and increased use of technology, educators are seeking to tailor education to the needs, interests and personalities of individual students.

Differentiation can occur in terms of curriculum (different levels), lesson delivery (visual, auditory, kinesthetic) and assessment (ways to demonstrate learning).

Differentiated instruction is much more engaging and motivating for our students. Children do better when the learning environment best meets their individual learning needs.



## Tentative Classroom Organization for 2013/2014

### English:

Kindergarten (Mon., Wed., alt. Fri.)  
Kindergarten (Tues., Thurs., alt. Fri.)  
2 classes of Grade 1/2  
Grade 3  
Grade 4  
Grade 5/6  
Grade 5/6  
Grade 7/8  
Grade 7/8  
Grade 7/8

### French

3 Classes of Kindergarten (Mon., Wed., alt. Fri.)  
3 Classes of Kindergarten (Tues., Thurs., alt. Fri.)  
3 Classes of Grade 1  
3 Classes of Grade 2  
Grade 2/3  
2 Classes of Grade 3

### Gifted

Grade 4/5  
Grade 5/6  
Grade 7/8



We will be making tentative placement decisions at the beginning of June. If you have placement requests, you must submit this request in writing to the Administrators, Tracy Armstrong & Sean Singh. The request must specify the reason for the request. Valid justification for placements include academic and social/emotional reasons.

Also, if your family is moving and your children will not be attending PEPS in the fall, please let us know so they will not be placed in classes. Merci Beaucoup!



**Earth Day/Jour de la Terre  
April 22, 2013:  
Celebrate Earth Week at public  
Kids Fest event**

On April 19 everyone can celebrate Earth Week at a public Kids Fest event.

Members of the public are invited to **Orangeville District Secondary School, from 6-9 p.m. on April 19**, where there will be live entertainment, face painting, prizes, and the opportunity for families to participate in more hands-on energy and environmental-themed activities.

Orangeville Hydro has partnered with the County of Dufferin, Orangeville Sustainability Action Team (OSAT), Credit Valley Conservation (CVC), The Town of Orangeville and TREC Education to host an event to educate and inspire students and families in topics of energy conservation, electricity safety, water conservation, waste reduction, renewable energy and environmental stewardship during Earth Week.



Experience hands-on, interactive activities and informative sessions that will help foster a culture of conservation.

For more information about the event, visit: <http://www.orangevillehydro.on.ca/> or call 519-942-8000.

**Spring is Here!**

Now that we are experiencing milder temperatures, the snow on our yard is melting quickly. Our custodial staff always has a challenge at this time of year due to the resulting mud. We thank you for ensuring your child has a pair of indoor shoes as well as outdoor footwear during this season.

**School Council/Conseil d'école**

All parents/guardians are welcome to attend our upcoming Council meeting.



Thurs. April 25

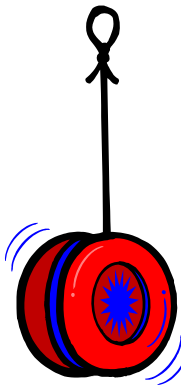
7:00 – 9:00 pm

PEPS Library

Babysitting available.  
Snacks provided!

**Character Education – the NED show**

On Friday, April 5, PEPS will be having two character education assemblies called NED. The performer uses storytelling, audience participation and yo-yo tricks



NED is an acronym for the following three core messages:

**NEVER GIVE UP**

**ENCOURAGE OTHERS**

**DO YOUR BEST**

These shows are provided at no cost because the sales of yo-yos to students cover expenses.

An order form for the yo-yos will be sent home before the assembly. They will be on sale at morning recess during the week of April 8 – 12.

Please visit [www.thenedshow.com](http://www.thenedshow.com) for additional details.

## Dress Code

As spring has arrived, we can shed some of our layers. We remind families of our dress code.

- Dress appropriately for personal safety and weather conditions
- All clothing should reflect respect for yourself, your body and your school
- Dress should reflect the positive outlook of PEPS as a work and learning place
- Attire should be free of symbols of hate, gang membership or images that portray violence, death, abuse, cigarettes, drugs, inappropriate language, political, sexual or racial statements
- Hats are not to be worn during instructional time
- Bare midriffs & backs are not acceptable
- Clothing should be of appropriate length and fit
- Underclothing (underwear, bra straps or boxer shorts) should not show
- Halter tops, muscle shirts, spaghetti straps & low scooped necklines are unacceptable
- Shirts must be "tuckable" and not excessively tight
- Wheeled shoes are not permitted



## Grade 7 & 8 Presentation



On April 24th, we have booked Covenant House to come and present "**Before You Run**".

The presentation is for intermediate students only and will be 75-90 minutes in length.

The presentation educates youth about the realities of running away. The facilitators address issues the youth currently face such as bullying and peer pressure and include frank discussions of the realities of life on the street.

Here's the link to the main website if parents/guardians would like to visit.

[www.covenanthouse.ca](http://www.covenanthouse.ca)

## Wellington-Dufferin Health Unit

# Health What a good feeling!

### Free dental care for children ages 17 and under

If you don't have dental insurance and can't afford care, we have free services for your children at Public Health. At our dental clinics, we help children prevent cavities and disease. We also make sure that children with urgent problems get the treatment they need.

For more information about our dental services, call our Dental Line at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 2661 or visit [www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca).

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph  
Public Health  
1-800-265-7293 |  
[www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca)  
[info@wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca](mailto:info@wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca)



## April is Dental Health Month



Did you know?

- Tooth decay is an infectious disease and according to the Ontario Dental Association, it's one of the leading causes of school absenteeism
- Dental cavities are five times more common than asthma in children ages 5 – 17

Action Ideas:

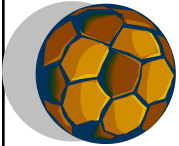
- Send a tooth-brushing chart home to help students develop regular brushing habits. You can download a free one at [www.yhouroralhealth.ca](http://www.yhouroralhealth.ca). Set up a reward program to encourage completed charts.
- Encourage children to avoid eating sticky snacks that promote tooth decay such as Fruit Roll-ups or drinking sugary drinks.
- Avoid using candy as rewards. Try rewarding children with other tangibles.

## PEPS collects the following:



\*Campbells' Soup Labels (we get points for recess equipment)

\*Zehrs Grocery Tapes (we get funds back)



\*Canadian Tire Money – in memory of Mr. Lennox (we purchase recess equipment)

Collection Bins are located in the Front Hall, ready for deposit of any of the above.

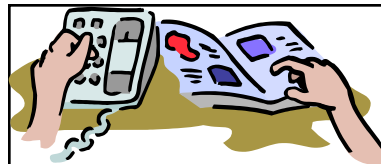
Pennies for our ME to WE penny drive.



Milk Bags (outer) - donated to make sleeping mats !



Merci Beaucoup!



## Fundraising – Merci again!

Thanks for supporting our Family Reading Magazine fundraising campaign this past year. Your tremendous support has made this a very successful fundraiser for our school.

Plus everyone is reading more!

Looking for some summer-time reading? Looking for Mother's Day or Father's day gifts?

You can still help our school, by placing your order at

[www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca)

We will be running this reading fundraiser again in the Fall. Some publishers may send you early renewal notices. If you renew with the publishers, the school does not benefit. If you wish to renew early, please do so on-line.

Remember, if you ever have a question regarding your order, please call:

QSP Customer Service at  
1-800-667-2536

## Spring Cleaning? Donations Wanted!

Cleaning? Organizing? Purging?

We are ALWAYS looking for the following donations.



- Books
- Board games
- Magazines
- Gently used toys
- Used cookie trays (magnetized)

## School Clothing/vêtements – online sales!

Dufferin Apparel sells PEPS clothing online at



<http://www.dufferinapparel.com/>

T-shirts  
Sweatshirts and pants  
Hats  
Bags

**Linking Family-School Partnerships to Student Achievement Event – sponsored by your Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and the Upper Grand District School Board**

**With guest speakers: Annie Kidder and Jacqui Strachan from People for Education**  
<http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/>



**Thurs., Apr. 26 at College Heights  
Secondary School Guelph  
4:30 – 8:00 pm**

*PEPS is looking for parents interested in attending this session, along with a member of School Council and school staff.*

Many studies show that students are much more successful when their parents are actively involved in their education. However, misunderstandings and differences may create barriers on both the school and family sides.

This event will allow our school attendees to examine how welcoming our school really is and to work to increase family participation and involvement with the goal of improving student achievement. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact the Vice-Principal at [sean.singh@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:sean.singh@ugdsb.on.ca)

**Thanks/Merci to parents/guardians who assist us in the following ways:**

If your child is ill or not attending school for any reason, please remember to call our attendance line before 8:30 am. This really saves time for our always busy office staff.

If your child normally rides a bus but for some reason is being picked up and not riding the bus, please remember to call and let us know before 2:30 pm. This really helps us be organized for the hectic dismissal time.

Check your child's agenda/back-pack daily to look for notes, reminders, newsletters etc....



**Top 10 Tips for Raising a Socially Conscious Child:**

1. Foster empathy...ask your children to put themselves in someone else's shoes
2. Tune in...make time for regular, casual communication with your children
3. Teach responsibility...enlist your children to help with chores from a young age
4. Not-so-random acts of kindness...show your child that acts of caring are an important part of everyday life
5. Talk about the headlines...when reading the paper or watching the news, discuss the individuals who are making a difference in this world.
6. Find a mentor...seek out positive role models who can help your child develop self-confidence, strong values and resilience against negative peer pressure.
7. See a problem, take action...donate old cloths and toys to local charity or participate in a local food drive
8. Gift + issue = change...encourage your children to use their talents to help others
9. Positive rites of passage...celebrate milestones and achievements, give them room to make their own decisions and mistakes
10. Be the Change...model the behaviours you wish to see in your child, from appropriately dealing with frustration and refusing to speak poorly of others, to standing up against bullies and making responsible consumer choices.

Adapted from [metowe.com](http://metowe.com)



# April 2013 avril



**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

1	2 World Autism Awareness Day  <i>Pita Pit Lunch Kindergarten</i>	3  <i>Hot Lunch Day</i>	4	5  Pizza Lunch  <i>NED Show Assemblies</i>
8 <i>Pita Pit Lunch</i>	9 <i>Pita Pit Lunch Kindergarten</i>	10 <i>Hot Lunch Day</i>  Anti-Bullying Day of Pink  <a href="http://www.dayofpink.org/">www.dayofpink.org/</a>	11 Bissell/Scott swimming	12 <i>Pizza Lunch</i>  
15 <i>Pita Pit Lunch</i>  Waste Presentation – Hughson	16 <i>Pita Pit Lunch Kindergarten</i>  Grade 3 Agri-food Day	17  <i>Hot Lunch Day</i>	18 Bissell/Scott swimming	19 <i>Pizza Lunch</i>  <i>Hughson &amp; McLellan – Medieval Trip</i>
<b>22 EARTH DAY</b>   Professional Activity Day – NO school for students	23	24  <i>Hot Lunch Day</i>	25 <i>Intermediate Awards assembly</i>  Bissell/Scott swimming	26 <i>Pizza Lunch</i>  <i>Junior Assembly</i>  Scientists in the School – Hunter
29 <i>Pita Pit Lunch</i>	30			