



# Alma Public School

## December 2020 Newsletter



It is hard to believe that December is here already!

Thank you to teachers, ECEs and families for participating in this year's Parent/Guardian-Teacher Interviews. While school-home communication is ongoing throughout the year, the November interviews were a great opportunity to connect with families, sharing how students are doing both

in school and at home.

We would also like to thank families for your continued efforts to screen your children on a daily basis for COVID-19 symptoms, as well as following the new drop-off and pick-up routines this year. It has been amazing to watch even our youngest learners adapt to this year's routines and the positive atmosphere that permeates the school.

With New Year's Eve just around the corner, we look forward to seeing everyone back at school on January 4, 2021 for a great start to the new calendar year. 2020 has been interesting, to say the least, but our school community continues to pull together to make the most of our current circumstances, modelling for our students flexibility, perseverance, and community.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a great start to 2021!

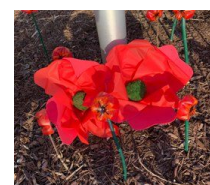
Sincerely,  
Ms. Spike



This year, in lieu of a holiday production, we have opted for a [December Celebrations Family Choice Board](#)! You may decide to try out all the activities or just one or two . . . the choice is up to you! Our hope is that you will enjoy some extra-special time together as a family this December, as well as learn something new about other cultural traditions celebrated this month. [Resource Link](#)

### **Remembrance Day**

This year we honoured Remembrance Day with a virtual assembly at school. We started our virtual ceremony with a land acknowledgement, recognizing the treaty lands on which Alma PS is situated, followed by the Grade 1/2 class sharing O'Canada in sign language. Our Grade 3 students shared a special presentation highlighting various family members from our school community and their role in past and present combat, while a number of our Grade 5 and 6 students contributed by reading poetry and leading the assembly for our student community.





The staff and students of Alma Public School would like to offer our deepest appreciation to the Alma Optimist Club for their generous donation. With funds from the Optimist Club, the school was able to purchase 13 new Chromebooks



to be used to support students' learning in the classroom. The Alma Optimist Club has been an important part of our school community and we look forward to being able to meet in person to celebrate this donation, as well as enjoy some food and fun together! Thank you again from all of us at Alma Public School!



### School Communication

Please remember to check the following sources for important school information:

- ★ School Website
- ★ School Twitter [@AlmaPublic](#)
- ★ UGConnect App
- ★ Bus Cancellations <https://stwdsts.ca/>

## Receiving Bus Notifications

In order to receive email notifications of bus delays or cancellations, you have to re-register. Go to <http://stwdsts.ca/home/> and click on "Subscribe". Your registration from last year will not carry over to this year.



Service de transport de  
**Wellington – Dufferin**  
Student Transportation Services

**On Centre Wellington/Zone 2 Blue "no bus days", Alma PS remains open for students who can safely get to and from school.**

**\*\*Students who regularly walk to school, please be sure to call the school attendance line if you are choosing to stay home on a "no bus day".**

If you have students in high school or any other bus related questions, please read [here](#) for more information regarding bus cancellations.

#### Daily COVID-19 Screening:

- All parents must screen their children every day before leaving home for symptoms of COVID-19. If there are symptoms, children need to stay home from school. If COVID-19 is suspected, testing is recommended.
- Link to [self-screening tool](#)

### **Absence and Late Arrival Procedures**

If your child will be late or absent, we ask that you let the office and the homeroom teacher know, just like usual. This year, though, we ask that you avoid the use of paper notes for this purpose. Please send an email to your child's teacher and also the school email account ([alma.ps@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:alma.ps@ugdsb.on.ca)) or you may phone the school office and leave a voice message (519-846-5110).

If your child arrives late to school, please call the office from the parking lot or knock on the office window. Mrs. Driedger or Ms. Spike will come to meet your child and escort them to class. We can only take one student at a time, so if there are a few people waiting, then it may take several minutes. The very best thing is to have your child at school by 8:50 am so they can go inside with their classmates and start the day right on time. Arriving late not only disrupts the learning of students who are already there, but also causes some anxiety in the late child because they are not sure what is going on at first.

If you or a family you know has concerns around access to food, please contact Ms. Spike ([shannon.spike@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:shannon.spike@ugdsb.on.ca)).

**Thank you School Council!** With the help of our community partner, the Alma Optimist Club, we received a donation of just over \$1000 to support school-wide initiatives (Mom's Pantry, Kitchen Cuttings, and Santa's Little Helper community fundraisers).

### **Equity and Inclusion**

We would love to hear from you! If you have a suggestion or idea on how we can acknowledge/celebrate a special day or celebration within our school community, please contact your child's teacher or Ms. Spike.



We have a number of artists in our school!! Check out the “Four-Seasons” artwork submitted by students throughout the school.



Grades 1 to 6 have been making great use of Chromebooks and their Google Classrooms! Pictured here are Grade 3 students hard at work, exploring inquiry projects during Science class with Mrs. Woodland.



Please contact your child’s teacher if your child is unsure of their log-in for their Google Classroom. Log-in information is necessary in the event of classroom closure due to COVID-19 and/or school closure due to inclement weather, etc.



Thank you to the Students' Council for planning our school-wide December activities!

# December Activities!

Food Drive !!! (all month long)

-bring non-perishable items in to earn points for your class AND TO HELP OTHERS!!

Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> → Holiday Crazy Socks!

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> → Dress in Holiday Colours!

Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> → Holiday Sweater Day!

Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> → \*Holiday Symbol Day\*

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> → Holiday P.J.s

Alma Royalle Comp. ←

## School Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	School Food Bank Drive: Dec. 1-16th	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11  Hanukkah	12
13	14 Choice Board Photos Due	15	16 Choice Boards due back to school	17	18 End of Hanukkah	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Christmas/Winter Holidays						
27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve		Back to school Jan. 4/'21
Christmas/Winter Holidays						

- See school website calendar for additional information/event updates