

UGDSB TOGETHER

Monthly communications updates from the Upper Grand DSB

Black Heritage, Black Brilliance & Black Futures Month

This February, the Upper Grand District School Board is honouring Black Heritage, Black Brilliance and Black Futures Month - celebrating Black Joy. This is a month of celebration and important learning, but it's important to note that this work must happen throughout the school year, not just in February. We're excited for a great month ahead!

School & Board Information

Student Attendance at School: Tips and Strategies for Families

In the UGDSB, we know how important school attendance and established routines are for students to build knowledge, skills and confidence. We also recognize that ensuring consistent attendance at school relies on strong home/school relationships and consistent communication.

Every day that a student is absent from school is a lost opportunity for that child or adolescent to learn, build social skills, and receive the benefits associated with the sense of community found within our schools. Chronic or prolonged absenteeism can also result in decreased academic success and related employment prospects later in life.

For students struggling with attendance, the UGDSB offers many supports including access to Attendance Counsellors, Social Workers, referrals to community agencies and support staff in schools, in addition to many ways to ensure students keep connected and on top of their learning for periods when they have to be absent from school. [If you are interested in learning about strategies at home that can help with student attendance, please visit the UGDSB website.](#)

Parents/guardians invited to Understanding Human Trafficking webinar

The Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington, in partnership with the Upper Grand District School Board and several other community partners, is pleased to announce part two of the Understanding Human Trafficking series. If you didn't attend the first session, don't worry, you can still participate in this session. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, from 6-7:30pm. To learn more and register, [click here](#).





UGDSB Pathways

Did you know the UGDSB has a comprehensive website for families looking for information on moving through their school grades? Get information for grade 7 and 8 student, starting high school, various pathways students can take in high school and more! The UGDSB Pathways website also has great information about experiential learning in K-12+, transitioning out of high school, and more.

[Visit UGDSB Pathways to learn more!](#)

Stories Around the UGDSB

Alma PS experiment chosen for Student Spaceflight Experiments Program

Alma Public School has some exciting news! After submitting an experiment proposal to NASA's Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP), the school learned that their experiment was chosen to be the UGDSB's selection for the SSEP. Alma PS's experiment is now set to be part of the International Space Station's upcoming mission, scheduled for launch in the spring of 2024. This achievement is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and scientific prowess demonstrated by Alma PS and all UGDSB schools involved. [Read more!](#)

EDHS students share Beyond the Canvas art show

Students from Erin District High School had the chance to showcase their art at the Alton Mill last month, in an exhibit called "Beyond the Canvas." Each student explored a topic that was personal, social or political in significance. The students had been hard at work on their creations since September. [Read more here!](#)

