# ALLISTON UNION PUBLIC SCHOOL

*25 ALBERT STREET WEST*
*ALLISTON ON L9R 1H2*
*VOICE (705) 435-7391  FAX (705) 435-6124*

LINDSAY RICHARDS
PRINCIPAL

PHIL CONWAY
VICE PRINCIPAL

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Lindsay Richards, Principal
Phil Conway, Vice-Principal
School Phone Number 435-7391
Safe Arrival Phone Number 435-9230

NEWSLETTER FROM ALLISTON UNION

Issue 5

**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

Happy New Year! Welcome back to Alliston Union and to what promises to be a continuation of a great school year filled with positive activities and regular fitness opportunities for growth.

Every January, many of us make New Year's Resolutions. Resolutions offer opportunities for improvement in whatever area of life we choose. We, at Alliston Union, are no exception. Please join us as our partners working together toward student safety and achievement for all of our students. Please remember, we ask that these resolutions be met for your child/children related to their success at school.

1. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time everyday, prepared to learn i.e. homework completed, nutritious lunch & snacks, appropriate clothing and outerwear, fully rested.
2. Please read with your child every day and talk about the story or book with your child.
3. Please walk your child to and from school and encourage older children to walk with friends.
4. Please ensure that you and your child use the student/parent agenda on a daily basis for homework and communication purposes.
5. Please discuss with your child our "I'm the ONE" bully prevention program on a daily basis. Ask your child to describe/explain the program to you.
6. Please familiarize yourself with our character traits and discuss examples of good character with your child.
7. Please join us at a School Council meeting or volunteer at the school.
8. Please plan you day with your child before school entry regarding pick-up, appointments etc. so that your child is well aware of these arrangements before leaving for school. Please make a note of these arrangements in your child's agenda for the teacher.
9. Please check in and sign in at the office <u>each</u> time you enter the school. If you will be staying with us for a while you are required to wear a visitor tag while in the school.
10. Please do not drive, park or walk on our bus pick-up or drop-off zones during the periods posted on our signs outside. These times are 8:40-9:10am and 3:10-3:45pm.
11. Please do not use our parking lot to drive through during entry and dismissal times – 8:40-9:10 and 3:10-3:45. Please park and walk your child to school from the arena parking lot on Albert Street.

Thank you for your assistance. Good luck with your resolutions!

Lindsay Richards,
Principal

## Thank you!

Our Holiday Dance was a great success! We were able to make a substantial donation towards the Christmas Food/Toy Drive to help out local families. The grade 8's were able to raise some funds towards their year end trip by selling snacks during the dance. A good time was had by all!

## School Holiday – February 15th

Don't forget the province-wide statutory holiday on February 15th. This holiday is known as Family Day and was created for the purpose of emphasizing and celebrating the importance of families taking time to be together.

## Attention Grade 4 Parents

Please remember to attend the **Grade 5 Extended French** program meeting if you and your child are interested in participating in the program next year. The meeting will begin at 7p.m. on Thursday, January 14th in our Library.

## Grade 9 Parent/Student Information For Sept. 2009

**January 7th** – Banting Guidance Councillors will be at AUPS at 6:30pm for a High School Curriculum Session.
**January 19th** – Open House at Banting at 7 pm. Parents & students invited.

## Grade 8 Ottawa Trip

Planning for our Gr 8 year end trip is well underway. The first deposit cheque of $50.00 was due January 8th. This deposit confirms that your child is wanting to participate and bookings will be done. The second payment of $200.00 is due February 19th. Please mark your calendar. Fundraising ventures continue to happen. Watch for our Pancake Special Lunch days order form.

## School Wide Head Lice Checks

Please note that we will be having school wide head lice checks on Monday, January 11th and Tuesday, January 12th. If you do not wish your child to participate in this screening procedure, you must provide a notice in writing to the school principal with confirmation that you will do your own screening at home.

## Olympic Torch Fundraising Report

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Olympic Torch Fundraiser in support of our Canadian Olympic Athletes. Alliston Union raised $715.00 with 100% of these donations going directly to the athletes.

## World Vision Fundraising Report

Student Council held a Movie Fundraiser the week before Christmas with all proceeds going to World Vision. Due to the generosity of the school community, they raised over $600.00. They were able to purchase two goats and supply two medical clinics and classrooms. Congratulations to Student Council and the school community for supporting such a worthwhile cause. Donations can still be made online to https://catalogue.worldvision.ca/Gifts/Forms/EventHome.aspx?eventId=264308.
Student Council is planning to hold a food drive between March Break and Easter in support of Alliston's Good Shepherd Food Bank.

## School Council Meeting

The next School Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 12 at 6:45pm. Please join us!

## Pancake Lunch

Due to the very successful Pancake lunches last year, please watch for information about upcoming 2010 Pancake lunches in February and March. This is a fundraiser for the Gr. 8 year end trip.

## Spectators at Sporting Events

Only students with parental supervision may remain after school to watch sports events. This is to ensure student safety.

## Please Help Keep our School Nut-Safe

We are striving to reduce the risk of allergic reactions to peanuts/tree nuts. Please do not bring ANY foods containing these products upon the premises. Please read labels carefully when packing your child's lunches.
Thank you very much for your cooperation.

## Public Speaking

It's that time of year again as our students begin working on their speeches. School finals will take place in the gym during the week of January 18th to Jan. 22nd. The finalists for the public speaking competitions will be competing at the Legion on Sunday, January 24th at 1p.m. Please be advised that students in grades 4 to 8 will be participating and, in some cases, in each grade, only by student choice. Alternative or modified oral language assignments will be provided for students not participating in speeches within the classroom or in the gym competition.
Good luck to all!

## Safe Arrival on Bus Cancellation Days

Please be advised that on inclement weather days when school bus transportation is cancelled that safe arrival practices will not be implemented for students who travel on the buses. Please note that only students who walk to school and are enrolled in our Safe Arrival Program will be called on days of School Bus Cancellations.

## Safe Winter Play at Alliston Union P.S.

The snow is here and all children enjoy playing in the snow during the winter months. As well as being fun, playing in the snow can be filled with invigorating exercise. While we encourage students to enjoy snow activities we also need to ensure that students are playing safely in the snow. Therefore the following rules are in place for all students K-8, while playing outside during the winter months.

1. Students may slide down snowbanks but as with all activities there are no hands on, pushing, shoving and piling on top of each other is prohibited.
2. Students may slide on ice patches one at a time on their tummies and bottoms only. They may not slide on their feet. Students may not pile on top of each other when sliding on the ice patches.
3. Teachers will monitor student co-operation with these rules while on duty.

## Your Child's Immunization Record!

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is required by law to keep complete immunization records on every school-aged child in Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka. Unfortunately the health unit does not receive immunization information directly from doctor's offices; **it is the parent's responsibility to give all immunization information to the health unit.** If your child's immunization record is not complete, you may receive a notice from the health unit requesting dates for immunization or proof of a valid exemption. You will also be advised that your child may be suspended from school if the health unit does not receive this information. Please check to make sure that your child's immunization information is up-to-date and that the health unit has a record of it. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Your Health Connection at (705) 721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

## Be a Germ Stopper

There are five EASY ways to stop the spread of germs and viruses that can make you and others sick:

1. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.
2. Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your upper arm.
3. Clean and disinfect shared surfaces.
4. Stay at home if you are sick.
5. Get your annual flu shot.

## 211 Helpline

211 is a 24/7 community information helpline connecting you to:

- Addictions assistance
- Child care, nursery schools, after school care
- Citizenship & newcomer services
- Counselling services
- Faith organizations
- Financial assistance
- Food assistance & meal programs
- Government offices & elected officials
- Health lines, walk-in clinics, flu clinics
- Home care & long term care facilities
- Housing help centres
- Legal clinics
- Service & sports clubs
- Transportation programs
- Utilities assistance, rent arrears
- Volunteer opportunities

And more…..

**For urgent needs or everyday concerns, dial 211. Help starts here!**

**Please be advised that any outside of school activates included in the AUPS newsletter are not endorsed by Alliston Union P.S. or the Simcoe County District School Board.*