



# LYDIA TRULL P.S.

April 2017

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## Principal's Message

April kicks off with Autism Awareness Day, and in light of this, I would like to provide some information for you around autism, or Autism Spectrum Disorder. Autism is a complex neurological disorder with no specific identified cause. It spans gender and ethnicity. It has been said that "when you meet one person with autism, you've met one person with autism" because each individual on the spectrum displays a range of characteristics unique to him or her. I call ASD the "invisible" disability in that you cannot see that a person is on the spectrum by how she or he looks. There is no label or physical marker on their bodies. However, not knowing a student is on the spectrum can cause misunderstanding and even discrimination when their behaviour is labelled as "bad" or "weird". Here at Lydia Trull Public School, we have many students diagnosed by a professional to be on the spectrum, and they are integrated into every class. Some of them have difficulty communicating with others, not just in speaking, but in understanding. Some are very literal and think very concretely, and therefore have difficulty inferring or generalizing information. Others persevere on seemingly insignificant details or topics. Navigating social relationships are often especially challenging for students on the spectrum as they may struggle to understand the perspective of others or do not read social cues. Typically students with ASD like routine, and need assistance with transition planning. A simple change in schedule might initiate extreme anxiety manifested in odd or inappropriate behaviours. These are just some of the characteristics one might observe, and each student with ASD would have a cluster of these in order to receive a diagnosis by a professional.

What does that mean for us? Just as we would not discriminate against a student with a visible disability, we do not discriminate against students with ASD. However, we know that makes it difficult for other students and parents to understand. That's why we encourage that all of our students know their diagnoses, and that parents provide us with the permission to share with other students and parents when appropriate. For example, when there is an incident involving a student with needs, it completely changes the understanding when others are aware of the diagnosis. Teachers are able to speak freely about what autism looks and sounds like, and why someone might behave in a seemingly incomprehensible way. We enjoy a very empathetic community, and it builds all of us up when we can support and work together with those who are "differently abled". If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Cheryl Fowler  
Principal

## Kindergarten Registration

If your child will be four years of age by December 2017, now's the time to register for Kindergarten starting in September 2017!

Our schools are stimulating, caring environments with a broad range of programs and opportunities to help students excel in learning, succeed in life, and enrich our communities.

Visit [www.kprschoools.ca](http://www.kprschoools.ca), and click on School Registration to find your local school and to learn more about how to register (e.g. proof of age, proof of address and immunization record) or contact the office at 905-438-9648

## Numeracy Tips

When students are at work doing math tasks at school, it can look very different than you may remember from your days in the classroom. One key difference is that there is a lot more talk. And not it's not just any talk-its math talk! There are two important reasons for this change:

Researchers and teachers now know that students learn and become better at math when they talk with others and explain their thinking or when they convince someone that their solution to a problem makes sense.

The skills of working with others and the skills of communication will be needed by students as they progress through school and beyond into the world of work.

As parents, you can help your child develop these important skills just by asking a few simple questions each day. For example, if you say to your child, "Tell me why you think that", you are helping your child to become better at explaining his or her reasoning. This skill is useful not just for math, but for many areas of daily life.

You can encourage math talk when your child is involved in homework as well. Have your child explain what he or she has done to complete a task or problem. If your child has done something in a different way than you would have done it, be patient. Try not to jump in. Watch. Listen. Ask your child to show you again or ask, "Do you think that will work every time?"

A good free app to use is Bedtime Math. It has a daily question at various levels/ages for parents to prompt discussion with your children, along with explanations for the parents. Try it!

## EQAO

Each spring, Grade 3 and 6 classes throughout Ontario will complete a common test, assessing reading, writing and mathematics skills that students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 3 and Grade 6. The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) create these assessments each year. We examine the data from these tests, along with data from other areas such as report cards to identify strategies to improve student achievement.

For parents of our students in Grade 3 and 6, please be advised that our EQAO assessment times will be in the first instructional block (9am – 11am) every day May 23 to June 5 inclusive. Rarely will the assessment take an entire 2 hours, however, we have set aside this time. Please have Gr. 3 and 6 students to school on time and consider making any appointments in the afternoon. When students are absent during the EQAO session, we are obligated to "catch them up" and it may mean your student misses a subject later in the day in order to complete an EQAO assessment. Thank you for your consideration. **For further information about EQAO assessments or to find out more about the process please go to the EQAO website: [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com) and click on the orange "Parent" resource link located at the bottom of the screen or go to: <http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/Pages/parents.aspx>**

## IMPORTANT DATES

- April 3 - Autism awareness wear blue
- April 3 – Mathletes Gr. 2-6
- April 4 – Toonie Tuesday popcorn
- April 7 – Pizza lunch
- April 11 Toonie Tuesday popcorn
- April 12 - Gr. 7 & 8 Immunization Clinic
- April 13 – Int. Badminton tournament at Trull
- April 14 & 17 Easter holiday
- April 18 - Toonie Tuesday popcorn (unless sold out)
- April 21 – Pizza lunch
- April 24 – School Council meeting 6:30
- April 25 – Toonie Tuesday popcorn (unless sold out)
- April 26 – Grade 8 picture retake day
- April 27 – Jump Rope for Heart last block
- April 27 Cancer awareness wear yellow
- April 27 – last day to order hot lunch
- April 28 P.A Day – no school

## **Clarington Girls Hockey Association**

Want to know what girls hockey is all about? Join us for a free 'Learn to Play Hockey' session.

May 1 - 3

5:30pm

South Courtice Arena

Please check website

[www.claringtonflames.ca](http://www.claringtonflames.ca) to verify dates/times and get further information on how to sign up.

## **Grade 7/8 Immunizations April 12**

On April 12 the Health Department will be at Lydia Trull administering Grade 7/8 immunizations.

Those students should wear loose clothing, eat a good breakfast, and pack a healthy lunch.

## **Summer camps at UOIT**

The Faculty of Education at UOIT is offering a variety of unique summer camp programs in July and August. A low camper to counsellor ratio ensures maximum involvement. Programs cover LEGO Robotics, STEAM, Coding and Minecraft.

- Three girls only weeks are available which allows them to share their interests in science, technology, engineering and the arts with like-minded girls.
- Counsellors are concurrent education students and graduates of UOIT's Faculty of Education program so qualified teachers.
- Camps are offered on the main campus of the University at 2000 Simcoe Street N. Oshawa from 9 am – 4 pm.

Additional information about dates and registration can be found at our website:

<http://uoit.ca/summercamps>

## **Youth Programs**

The Faculty of Education has been offering summer camp programs for children on our main campus for 10 years. This summer we have added new programs for youth ages 13-

17. <http://uoit.ca/summer>

Please find attached two promotional items that we hope you will share with students at your school.

## **Teacher Sessions – August 2017**

New educator sessions have been added this summer. Workshops provide teachers with the background they need to integrate these topics into their classrooms. Through hands-on, open-ended inquiry projects, participants will learn engineering concepts, and the connection between STEAM disciplines. Associated pedagogy/educational theory will be covered.

- **Coding and Minecraft in the Classroom – Expanded for 2017 – August 14-16**
- **Creating a Makerspace – Level One – Updated for 2017 - August 17-18**
- **Advanced STEAM/Makerspace – Level Two - New for 2017 - August 21-22**
- **LEGO MINDSTORMS Robotics - August 23- 25**

<http://education.uoit.ca/about/summer-camps-kids/teacher-workshops.php>

## **Hot Lunch**

Hot lunch is only available to order online. If you have not signed up for an account, instructions are available on the website. Hot lunch ordering is usually available at the beginning of the month (for the following month) and will be closed for ordering by the end of the month.

## **Safe Arrival**

Please remember to call the school when your child/children are ill or out for appointments, if it is a planned absence, you may send a note in. This enables the attendance to be completed in a timely manner and then we know that all of the students at Lydia Trull are safe. **Please note that call answer is on 24/7 for your convenience**



