

ALEXANDER PUBLIC SCHOOL

GATOR GAZETTE

May 2019

Important Dates

May 6-10 Education Week
May 6 Alexander Track and Field at LU
May 15 Welcome to Kindergarten 5:00PM - 6:00PM
May 27 to
May 31 EQAO testing for Gr. 3 and 6 students
June 14 PD day no school for students
June 26 Grade 8 Graduation 5:30 pm
June 28 Last Day of school. Report Cards

Education Week

Education Week is from May 6 to May 10
There will be a variety of activities occurring that week. Parents will be invited to join their child at school for an in-class activity. Education Week is also a good time to acknowledge equity champions in our classrooms and schools. We take this time to recognize the contributions of students, teachers and parents who help promote and ensure equity and an inclusive education.

What to expect during Education Week:

- Classroom invitation by your child's teacher
- Monday Track and Field
- Tuesday: Musical performance from the band and a few Alexander students
- Thursday: Visit from author Amanda Maybee
- Friday: Electrical Safety Presentation

Earth Day

This year Alexander Public School continued their tradition of honouring Earth Day by some of our classes participating in a neighbourhood and school yard cleanup. Additional activities were also part of the day. There are also plans in the works to continue promoting a 'GREEN' Alexander Public School with our cutlery drive and an upcoming Walk for Water.
Thank-you Mme Horton for planning Earth Day.

Festival du Livre

We are excited to be hosting the **Spring Scholastic Festival du Livre** on Tuesday, May 7th and Wednesday, May 8th from 9:30 - 2:30.
This is such a great way to add fun and interesting French language books to your home library. Stock up for the summer holidays and your child(ren) can enjoy reading their new books at the beach, on road trips and at the cottage. Everyone is welcome!

Graduation

The date for the Grade 8 graduation will be Wednesday June 26th at 5:30 p.m.

EQAO

EQAO testing this year is fast approaching. Here are the dates:
Grade 3 & 6 - May 27th to May 31st

Please ensure that your child is at school on those dates. If possible, please pre-book any appointments before or after the testing dates.

EQAO testing is a province wide test given to all students in Grade 3 and 6. The results from the test help teachers, Boards and the Province fine tune our teaching practices in order to assist each child reach their full academic potential. More information regarding EQAO to come this month

Kindergarten Camp

We are very excited that we will be offering Kindergarten Camp at **SCHOOL** in August! The camp is being offered to all students in first year kindergarten.

The camp will be running Monday, August 19th- Thursday, August 29th, excluding weekends. The hours of the camp are from 9:00am – 12:00pm, daily. The focus of the camp will be on routines and activities that will help prepare your child for Kindergarten.

Each day your child will engage in activities in the classroom and have outdoor exploration time.

It is our goal that the program will get your child familiar with their new school and to make the transition into kindergarten smooth and successful.

If you have any questions about kindergarten camp, please don't hesitate to contact Ashley Conley, by email at conleya@rainbowschools.ca, or by phone, 705-675-0202 or you can contact Alexander PS at 705-675-5961

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Equity

Thanks to Alexander parents for your donated books and \$750 in "Grant" money, Alexander has been able to purchase a wide variety of books for all ages that celebrate the differences among us.

Now, we want you and your kids to take them home and read them!

During Education Week, please come visit the newly renovated Alexander library and sign out a book or two from our new Diversity Books collection!

Special thanks to Taina Heikkila our library clerk for all her help!

Kindergarten Orientation

Rainbow Schools will offer Kindergarten orientation sessions for children starting school this fall as well as their parents/guardians. Parents who have not registered their children still have time to do so and can reserve their spot for Kindergarten orientation by calling Alexander PS. Registrations for September 2019 will also be accepted at the Kindergarten sessions.

At the orientation sessions, families will have an opportunity to connect with Kindergarten teachers, early childhood educators, school personnel and staff from community agencies. They will also meet other children starting school this fall.

At the orientation sessions, children will participate in early learning activities. Parents/guardians will learn strategies on how they can help orient their children for school, with a special focus on literacy and numeracy.

Please join us at Alexander **Public School on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**
39 St. Brendan St., Sudbury - Phone: 705-675-5961!

Sunscreen

With the nice weather arriving, please make sure you apply sunscreen on your child or that your child comes to school with sunscreen on. If your child needs to apply more sunscreen, please have them come to the office where they can apply their own sunscreen before recess.

Fit Spirit

Fit Spirit is a foundation that provides opportunities for girls between the ages of 12 to 17 to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle in a fun environment. The Fit Club, Fit Spirit's flagship program, is a movement that encourages girls to enjoy the benefits of getting active with friends. After 8 to 10 weeks of training, the Fit Club participants take the great personal challenge of completing a 2.5K, 5K or 10K race. Happy training to all the girls who are participating! The celebration will occur on May 28 at Laurentian University.

MS & T Olympics

Congratulations to the 8 intermediate students who were selected to participate in the annual Math, Science and Technology Olympics Competition at Science North on Thursday, April 11. They represented our school well. Congratulations:

Team 1

8 Ben T
8 Ellie R
7 Arina K
7 Liam B

Team 2

8 Eric K
8 Elizabeth C
7 Matthias S
7 Rebecca L

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Fire and Lockdown Drills

As part of Alexander Public School's ongoing interest in the safety of all of our students in our school, we will continue to practice being safe at school by having fire and lockdown drills in the early weeks of May.

We will again practice what we would do if a violent intruder entered our building or was in the neighbourhood.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we endeavor to provide a safe environment for our students where they feel valued and safe.

Suggested Points to Emphasize When Talking to Children

- Schools are safe places. School staff works with parents and public safety providers (local police and fire departments, emergency responders, hospitals, etc.) to keep you safe.
- We have many procedures in place to ensure the safety of our school building (controlled entry, visitor passes, bullying reporting procedures).
- We all play a role in the school safety. Be observant and let an adult know if you see or hear something that makes you feel uncomfortable, nervous or frightened.
- There is a difference between reporting, tattling or gossiping. You can provide important information that may prevent harm by telling a trusted adult what you know or hear.
- Although there is no absolute guarantee that something bad will never happen, it is important to understand the difference between the **possibility** of something happening and **probability** that it will affect you (our school community).
- Senseless violence is hard for everyone to understand. Doing things that you enjoy, sticking to your normal routine, and being with friends and family help make us feel better and keep us from worrying about the event.
- Sometimes people do bad things that hurt others. They may be unable to handle their anger, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or suffering from mental illness. Adults (parents, teachers, police officers, doctors, faith leaders) work very hard to get those people help and keep them from hurting others. It is important for all of us to know how to get help if we feel really upset or angry and to stay away from drugs and alcohol.
- Stay away from guns and other weapons. Tell an adult if you know someone has a gun. Access to guns is one of the leading risk factors for deadly violence.

- Violence is never a solution to personal problems. Students can be part of the positive solution by participating in anti-violence programs at school, learning conflict mediation skills, and seeking help from an adult if they or a peer is struggling with anger, depression, or other emotions they cannot control.

For more information on how to talk to your children about school safety, you may wish to visit the following websites:

http://www.nasponline.org/resources/crisis_safety/talking_violence.pdf

<http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive/talk/news.html>