



February 2017

CASTLEMORE PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Contact Information:

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Principal Gwen Emmerson
Vice-Principal Thang Tran
School Trustee Billy Pang (647) 461-9965
Superintendent of Schools Erik Khilji (905) 940-7800

Message from the administrative team...

February officially marks the halfway point of our school year! We are looking forward to the second half of the year, full of exciting learning opportunities for all of our students.

At this time of year, we have many things to celebrate as a community. In 2016, the House of Commons voted to recognize every January as Tamil Heritage Month in Canada to coincide with one of the most important celebrations for Canadians of Tamil heritage, the Thai Pongal harvest festival. January 28th marks the Lunar New Year, for the Year of the Rooster. We will be having a series of Friendship themed events during the week of February 13th to 18th, as a means of celebrating healthy and positive relationships for our students. February also marks Black History month. Throughout the month, students will be learning about contributions of Black Canadians and the importance of their actions towards equality.

This month, you will be receiving your child's Term One report card. Reports will be sent home on Wednesday, February 15th. Please review your child's report card and set goals with your child. As always, please contact your child's teacher should you require any further information or to set up an interview.

We would like to congratulate Mrs. Hoover-Joy on her promotion to Vice-Principal at Legacy Public School, effective February 6th. Over her thirteen years at Castlemore Public School, she has provided our community with leadership, friendship and exemplary teaching. We will all miss her. We wish her well in her new role.

It is exciting for our office staff to see the many families who have already come out to register for kindergarten. Please remember that registration is still open! We are already planning for the 2017-2018 school year. If you or one of your neighbours has a child born in 2013, and live within the school boundary, they are eligible to register for Junior Kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year. Please contact our office for more information. Also, if you are moving, it is very important that you notify our school office. You can either call the office or send in written notice.

We wish all of our families a wonderful Family Day weekend February 18th to 20th. Be sure to take the time to relax and connect with your loved ones!

Gwen Emmerson and Thang Tran



To all of our families who will be celebrating the Lunar New Year, we would like to wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. KUNG HAY FAT CHOI!

STUDENT ABSENCE

Please *call the office by 8:30 a.m.* at 905-887-1543 for **every student absence and/or late.** Messages may also be left on the school answering machine between 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.

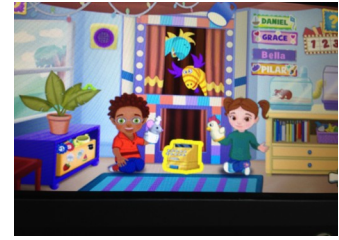
Full Newsletter Available Online

Enter - <http://castlemore.ps.yrdsb.ca/>
Click - News & Events
Select - Newsletters

Dates to Remember

TBA
Feb. 3
Feb. 15
Feb. 20
6:30 School Council Meeting
PA DAY (No school)
Report Cards Go Home
Family Day (No school)

♥ Welcome to Kindergarten



Kindergarten Registration Commenced January 20th, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

Kindergarten registration commenced on January 20th, 2017 at 9:00 am for the 2017-18 school year. Registration forms are available from the school office or on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2017, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. If you have neighbours with kindergarten aged children, please encourage them to register as soon as possible. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for May 11, 2017. For more information, please visit the YRDSB website or contact our school.

French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program took place at French Immersion schools on January 19, 2017 at 7 p.m. Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2017 (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location. FI registration began January 20, 2017. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2017, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register between January 20 - February 10, 2017. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

York Region District School Board School Climate Survey for Students

Students in Grades 5 to 12 at the York Region District School Board will be invited to participate in a survey between **March 20 and April 28, 2017**. **The survey is voluntary, anonymous and confidential**, and will take place at school.

The YRDSB survey fulfills the Ontario Ministry of Education's requirement for schools to conduct student surveys and is aligned with the YRDSB's Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being. Survey questions will address topics related to Math, Modern Learning, Mental Health and Well-Being, Equity and School Safety.

This survey provides an opportunity to hear directly from students and the results will be used to identify student needs and plan strategies to support student achievement and well-being. If you have questions, please contact the school office.

Important Staff Message



CASTLEMORE PUBLIC SCHOOL

256 Ridgecrest Road, MARKHAM, Ont. L6C 2R5
Tel 905 887 1543 - Fax 905 887 3849

Principal Gwendolyn Emmerson
Vice Principal Thang Tran

25 January 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians of Mrs. Hoover-Joy's grade 6 class:

At the Special Meeting of the York Region District School Board held on Tuesday, January 24, 2017; the trustees approved a board recommendation that Mrs. Leanne Hoover-Joy, at Castlemore Public School be transferred as Vice- Principal, of Legacy Public School, effective February 6, 2017.

Please join us in congratulating Mrs. Hoover-Joy and thanking her for the many contributions she has made and the fabulous support she has provided to students, staff and parents of the Castlemore school community during her tenure. We wish her a smooth transition as vice-principal of Legacy Public School.

You will be advised as to Mrs. Hoover-Joy's replacement, once interviews have been completed,

Sincerely,

G. Emmerson
Principal

Message from our Trustee

We are now halfway through the school year. This is a good time to reflect on all that your child has learned and to look at setting goals for the rest of the school year.

Our Board believes that student well-being and achievement go hand-in-hand. One of our goals set out in the [Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Plan](#) is to "continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning."

The Ministry of Education has recently identified [four priorities for well-being](#): positive mental health, safe and accepting schools, healthy schools, and equity and inclusive education. As a Board of Trustees, we will continue to further work in all of these areas to support student well-being in line with these priorities.

There are many resources on the Board website to help support student well-being, including tips for [talking about mental health](#), [managing stress](#), [packing healthy lunches](#) and [addressing incidents of bullying](#).

Creating a healthy, safe and welcoming learning environment is key to helping our students reach their full potential. All of us have an important role to play in creating an environment that enables our students to thrive.

I wish you all the best for a healthy, happy and successful 2017.

B. Pang



Congratulations to the Castlemore Community - Students and Parents for the overwhelming support and the success of the 2016 Shoebox Campaign.

360 Degree Kids opens its door every day of the year and supports many teenagers who are homeless due to circumstances beyond their control and end up destitute on the streets. Through this holiday shoebox collection, Castlemore had the opportunity to reach out to hundreds of teenagers and families in desperate situations.

360 Kids wishes to thank the Castlemore community as the 2016 Shoebox collection provided enough for 360 Kids to distribute to all their satellite locations which meant that all teens in need of help during the holiday season were able to receive a shoebox! Thank you for supporting the community in times of need. Your support and empathy demonstrates that Castlemore is a kind and caring community.

A special thank you to Mrs. Hoover-Joy for all her work in organizing and co-ordinating this program.



MONTHLY ECO THEME

January EcoTheme:

Good On One Side (GOOS) Paper

A fair number of Castlemore students have been wondering about "GOOS" paper. It sounds a lot like "GOOSE" but rest assured it is not at all related to the water fowl. "GOOS" is an acronym for Good On One Side, and therefore "GOOS" paper is paper with one usable side. By using the "good" side of the paper, we can help reduce paper use. "GOOS" paper can be used for making grocery lists, writing short notes, and arts and crafts activities. Give "GOOS" paper a try today!





School Bus Cancellation Notice

A bus cancellation message will be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and 1-877-330-3001.

On occasion, bus service cancellation, due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions, may be required. As a result, parents and students should develop alternate care arrangements in case transportation services are cancelled. The vast majority of buses transporting York Region students service multiple schools each morning and afternoon. As these buses begin their service schedules by 7:00 a.m. or earlier, all cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m., to ensure the safety of our students. Any cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with school bus company representatives servicing York Region. Decisions will be based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature and road conditions. A decision to cancel school bus transportation may be system wide (where all buses in York Region are cancelled) or municipality specific (where buses in one or more municipalities are cancelled). Please note if transportation in your municipality is cancelled but your child attends school in another municipality where service is not cancelled, your child will not be transported to school. Similarly if you live in a municipality where transportation is not cancelled, but your child attends school in a municipality where transportation is cancelled, your child will not be transported to school.

If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same parent transportation home. Please make arrangements and discuss with your child who will be picking up at dismissal in the morning before they arrive to school.

The above procedure is not applicable to school charters. Please confirm the cancellation of these trips with school administration.

Student Transportation Services of York Region would like to thank you for your support as we focus on providing safe transportation for all of our students.

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

640 AM 860 AM 92.5 FM 89.9 FM 95.9 FM 1010 AM 1050 AM 102.1 FM 94.1 FM 94.9 FM
1540 AM 107.1 FM 88.5 FM 590 AM 1580 AM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM 680 AM 101.1
FM 104.5 FM 93.1 FM 100.7 FM 97.3 FM

Dressing Warmly

As you know, our students are provided with nutrition breaks from 10:10-10:40 a.m. (recess) and 12:20-1:20 p.m. (lunch). Part of this break time is allocated for fresh air exercise. It is important to the health and well-being of each student that they be able to release their energy through outdoor activity. Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses (hats, scarf, gloves/mittens, boots, etc.).



It is advisable for children to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet. Being physically active during winter is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle. The office staff keeps a close eye on weather conditions, including wind chill. When conditions necessitate, students will remain inside for recess. When conditions dictate, reduced outdoor recesses may take place. If a student is well enough to attend school, then he/she will be expected to go outside for recess.

We would ask that parents be sensitive to the demands placed on the school office and not call the school to inquire about indoor recess, but rather that parents send their children dressed for outdoor play.

Snowball Policy



The winter season presents an opportunity for different types of outdoor play. Skating, skiing, snowboarding, and snow fort building are a few examples of winter activities for students. One activity we are asking students to avoid at Castlemore is snowball play. The concern rests with the possibility of injury arising from snowball play. Students are instead encouraged to find safe ways to use the snow while ensuring it remains on the ground (e.g., making snow angels).



STUDENT ABSENCE



Is your child absent from school? Please *call the office* at 905-887-1543 for **every student absence and/or late**. Leave a message from 4pm - 8am or call before 8:30 am. With respect to Castlemore P.S.'s Safe Arrivals Program, if the school does not receive a telephone call or message regarding your child's absence, calls will be made to #s on file until an adult verifies the student's absence. Please assist the office with this process by calling in promptly. Thank you.

Cold, Flu and Virus Prevention



Please have a discussion with your child about how to best prevent the spread of cold and flu viruses. Students need to wash their hands frequently throughout the day, particularly if they are coughing and sneezing in their hands. They should cough or sneeze into a tissue if they have one. If not, they should cough or sneeze into their sleeve. Remind your child(ren) not to share food or water bottles. Also, they should avoid sharing musical instruments unless they have sterilized the mouthpiece. **If your child is unwell, please keep her or him at home as rest will help your child recover more quickly and this will help prevent the spread of flu and viruses to classmates and staff.** Thank you to everyone who follows our school rule that states that if you are too sick to go out for recess, you are too sick to attend school. Please note that supervision is not available for students to remain in classrooms nor at the office during recess times if they are ill. If your child attends school, he or she will be expected to go outside at both morning and lunch recess.

Protecting Instructional Time

In order to limit interruptions to your child's learning we ask for your cooperation as follows:

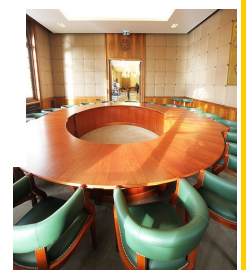
- ◆ Please ensure that your children are at school before the 8:25 a.m. bell. Students arriving late interrupt their classroom instruction already underway .
- ◆ Please schedule appointments for your child outside of class time whenever possible.
- ◆ To meet with teachers, please phone and make an appointment. Please do not interrupt teachers just before the start of class or during class.
- ◆ Wait outside the school when picking up your children from school so as not to distract classes.



Castlemore Public School
School Advisory Council Meeting Dates 2016 - 17
6:30 - 8:30 p.m. School Library

Co-Chairs Contact Information:
Katherine Gauthier (katherine@twinbytes.ca)
Siva Manivannan (smanivannan@suncor.com)

School Priorities		
Learning and Teaching Equity and Inclusivity	Eco School School	Healthy School Engagement
<p>Castlemore School Advisory Council generally meets the first Thursday of every month.</p> <p>Below are the remainder council dates for 2016-17:</p> <p>Thursday, January 19, 2017</p> <p>Thursday, February ?, 2017 - TBA</p> <p>Thursday, March 2, 2017</p> <p>Thursday, April 6, 2017</p> <p>Thursday, May 4, 2017</p> <p>Thursday, June 1, 2017 – Fun Fair</p> <p>Year-end Wrap-up meeting - TBA</p>		
Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend.		




York Region
Simcoe County

LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT Centres
YORK SIMCOE
coordinated language assessments and referrals

Free English language assessments and referrals to classes for eligible immigrants living in York Region or Simcoe County.

Language assessment services are available on a scheduled and pre-booked basis. Please call to schedule an appointment at a location close to you.

| Barrie | Bradford | Markham | Newmarket | Richmond Hill | Vaughan |



Toll Free: 1-855-330-8655
E-mail: ysla@tct.com
Website: www.tct.com/assessments

CLARS Language Assessment Services York Simcoe are operated by: Centre for Education & Training
Funded by / Financed par: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, Ontario

ADULT ESL CLASSES AT CASTLEMORE P.S.


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Simcoe County

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成人ESL課程在這裡

एडल्ट ESL कक्षाएं यहां

ਬਾਲਗ਼ ESL ਕਲਾਸ ਇੱਥੇ

இங்கே வயது வந்தோர் ஈஎஸ்எல் வகுப்புகளில்

Families of Castlemore Students:

Adult ESL classes have started at Castlemore P.S. Registration is ongoing and open to relatives of Castlemore students who live within the community, and have completed an ESL assessment within the past year. If an assessment is required, please contact 1-855-330-8655, as soon as possible in order to arrange for your free language assessment which may be completed at any location most convenient to you. Please bring the assessment to the school office and we will register you to begin classes immediately. There are two sessions available.

- 1) Mornings (8:30 - 11:30 a.m.) or
- 2) Afternoons (12:00 - 3:00 p.m.).

Both sessions run for 5 days a week. If you cannot attend every day, please talk with the instructor regarding which days are suitable to your schedule.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our school office - 905-887-1543.

Playing it **safe** this winter

Injury prevention plays a key role in keeping children safe



Check the weather forecast before heading out into the cold

Limit outdoor activity when the temperature or wind chill factor falls below -25°C (-13°F)



Play in safe areas, as a family

Children should always be supervised by a responsible adult



Sports equipment should be free from damage, fit properly and provide good support



When playing on ice or snow, always wear a properly-fitted certified helmet for your winter activity



Make sure winter play surfaces are free of hazards – cracks, trees, rocks, bumps and bare spots and far from roads



95% of all injuries are both predictable and preventable



Dress in layers of warm, dry, reflective, windproof and waterproof clothing



Ice on frozen ponds, rivers, lakes or canals should be at least 10 cm thick before you walk on it

Avoid areas where there is visibly open water



Although all individuals are at risk of injury, children and youth are especially vulnerable



In York Region, unintentional injury in children under 20 years of age accounts for 10 deaths, 451 hospitalizations and 24,166 emergency room visits per year



Predictable and preventable injuries are the leading killer of Canadian children and youth under 20 years of age



The economic burden and cost of preventable injuries now stands at a staggering \$8.8 billion in Ontario and \$26.8 billion per year across Canada



In 2012, falls were the leading external cause of unintentional injury resulting in an ER visit among York Region children and youth under 20 years of age



Take obvious steps to eliminate safety hazards and prevent injuries by recognizing, changing and controlling unsafe environments, conditions and behaviours



2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10 Gr. 3s - Swim - Kopman, Addison, Galloway Pizza Day 🍕	11	12 Gr. 1 & 2s - Skale Gr. 3s - Swim - Crawford/ Jessa	13
CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4	CD5
16	17 Gr. 6s - RHP Arts (6A & 6C) Gr. 3s - Swim - Kopman, Addison, Galloway Sub Day 🍕	18	19 Gr. 1 & 2s - Skale Gr. 3s - Swim - Crawford/ Jessa 6:30 School Council Meeting	20 P.A. Day — No School 9:00 a.m. - New Kinder- garten Registration Begins
CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4	
23	24 Pizza Day 🍕 Gr. 3s - Swim - Kopman, Addison, Galloway Gr. 6s - VIP Area Jr. Co-ed V.Ball @ MSS	25 Gr. 7s - Vaccinations	26 Gr. 1 & 2s - Skale Gr. 3s - Swim - Crawford/ Jessa	27 Gr 6 - 8 - Electives Day
CD5	CD1	CD2	CD3	CD4
30	31 Gr. 3s - Swim - Kopman, Addison, Galloway Gr. 6 & 7s - VIP Sub Day 🍕			
CD5	CD1			



CD = Cycle Day

🍕 Or 🍕 Days = NO Kids Kitchen

February 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2 Gr. 1 & 2 - Skate Gr. 3 - Swim: Craw./Jessa Regionals Jr. Co-ed VBall	3 P.A. Day — No School
			CD2	CD3
6	7 Gr. 3 - Swim - Kopman, Addison, Gallaway Pizza Day 🍕	8	9 Gr. 1 & 2 - Skate Gr. 3 - Swim: Craw./Jessa	10 Gr. 6 - 8 Electives Day
	CD4		CD1	CD2
				CD3
13	14 Gr. 3 - Swim - Kopman, Addison, Gallaway Gr. 6 - VIP Sub Day 🍕	15 Area - Intermediate Basketball Report Cards Go Home	16 Gr. 1 & 2 - Skate Gr. 3 - Swim: Craw./Jessa	17
	CD4		CD1	CD2
				CD3
20 Family Day Holiday - No School	21 Gr. 3 - Swim - Kopman, Addison, Gallaway Pizza Day 🍕	22 Gr. 1 - SIS - Suleman	23 Gr. 1 - SIS - Hoover Gr. 1 & 2 - Skate Gr. 3 - Swim: Craw./Jessa	24
			CD1	CD2
	CD4			
27	28 Gr. 3 - Swim - Kopman, Addison, Gallaway Sub Day 🍕			
	CD3			
				CD4

CD = Cycle Day

 Or  Days = NO Kids Kitchen

** February School Council Meeting -
Date To Be Advised