



MUSTANG NEWS



John McCrae Public School
565 Fred McLaren Blvd.
Markham L6E 1N7
Phone: 905-294-9122
Fax: 905-294-8196
E-mail: john.mccrae.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

MARCH 05 2014

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Families,

We are heading into the March Break Holiday. It has been a very busy time since coming back from our Winter Holidays. The evaluation of term one was reported to you in the Term 1 Report Cards. I trust that you took time and went over them carefully with your son and daughter to note the strengths and the next steps. If you have questions about the progress of your child please contact your child's teacher.

I want to personally congratulate the students in the following classes : Mr. Kassam, Ms. Rose, Ms. Gorgey and Mr. McGouran for their incredible production of STEPS. The theme was "Every shoe has a story, every step is a choice". Ms. Rose presented the students with the notion of STEPS and then each class co-wrote their contribution with Ms. Rose. As well, the students were responsible for the video production, the choreography, the set and costume design, the posters and program. Of course there were many staff involved including Ms. Steiner, Ms. Crimi, Ms. St. Louis, Ms. Vierro, Mr. Doucet, Ms. Tustin, Ms. Lei, Mr. Cheung, Ms. Ukposidolo, Ms. Morrison, Mr. Sciberras, Mr. Kassam, Ms. Gorgey, Mr. McGouran and Mr. Vidrih. It was magical. Our entire school community enjoyed the performances. The "stand up to bullying" message was powerful and it resonated with the audience and caused some of our junior students to take action to immediately stop bullying. Thank you again to these classes, Ms Rose and the staff that produced such an incredible performance!

Lori Hall

Principal: Ms. Lori Hall
Vice Principal: Ms. Lindsey Rhamey
Office: Mrs. Raymond, Mrs. Dunlop and Mrs. Fernandez

Superintendent of Schools:
Mr. Daniel Wu: 905-940-7800

School Trustee:
Mr. Allan Tam: 416-898-9607

School Council Chairs
Ms. Pamela Selvaratnam;
Mr Roy Pedropillai

*****PREPARING FOR 2014-15*****

Our preparations for the 2014-2015 school year are underway, and our success depends on accurate projections of the school population. If you are moving out of our school are, please complete the form below and return it to the school as soon as possible.

My child(ren), _____ (name(s), who is/are in grade (s) _____ current grade), will not be attending John McCrae Public School in September 2014. We will be moving to _____ (please provide name of new school, if known).

Paren/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Locked Front Doors

As of February 3, all school doors including the front doors are being locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. The doors remain locked for the rest of the day. Anyone arriving at the school after that time must buzz in and sign in at the main office.

Our school continues to be a safe place where parent and community member involvement is welcomed and encouraged. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office upon arrival.

The buzzer, as shown here, is located to the right of the front doors. You will push the “call” button, the office staff will then see you on the inside monitor and will ask you to identify yourself.

A gentle reminder to help with these new measures, we ask that you try to ensure that your child is prepared for the day with all required items (agendas, homework, instruments, shoes, appropriate outdoor wear for the weather, and their lunch) so that unnecessary trips to the school and interruptions are not required.



Board Launches New Mission, Vision, Values and Slogan

Mission: To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

The York Region District School Board is celebrating the launch of its new Mission, Vision and Values statements and slogan – *Inspire Learning!*

The Board last reviewed these statements in the late 1990s. Since that time, education in York Region has been influenced by a number of significant changes, including changes in technology, in our communities and in our learning environments.

Community members, parents/guardians, staff members and students had the opportunity to provide input and share ideas about the ideal future of public education in York Region. Thank you to everyone who participated in the process.

For more information, visit the Board website at www.yrdsb.ca.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT AT THE SCHOOL



Please note: Parking is NOT permitted in the loop (drop-off) at the front of the school. Town of Markham Parking Officers have recently given tickets to parents who are parked in this area.

This is a designated fire route, so please ensure to abide by the parking signs on school property and on the streets around the school, when dropping off lunches or picking up students. These rules apply during all of hours of the day.

Thank you

STEPS Production - A student's perspective

The play "Steps" was a huge hit – musical theatre, drama, comedy and a very important lesson mixed into one hilarious, emotional, action-packed production – entertainment for viewers of all ages! But was *preparing* for the performance just as fun and exciting as the production seemed? I'm sure I am speaking for all of us involved in Steps when I say, "Definitely." It was a simple story. A boy wanting to join the basketball team gets bullied along the way. To see it acted out onstage gave audiences the chance to understand the impact of bullying and how others may feel. We were also given the chance to discover the hidden talents within one another.

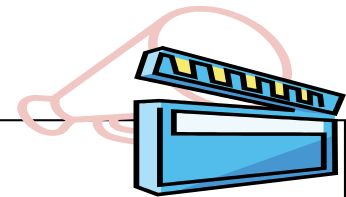
Experiencing first-hand how the scenes and choreography for the play were put together was new to me. Some scenes that were only two minutes long still took countless rehearsals to master. At first, to be honest, not many students were fully interested in the rehearsals or the play altogether. However, by the end of our first performance, we were all extremely excited and eager to start the second one. Because of this I learned to always take on my challenges with a positive attitude and do my best.

The students learned to cooperate. The play couldn't have been so successful if we didn't work together and encourage one another. We also learned how to give and take feedback. It occurred to me that the moral of the story is *very* true, and that we followed it while making the play. We took everything step by step, and we persevered the whole time. The play didn't become fantastic overnight - we had to rehearse, memorize and change up a few things in order to get the outcome of our work: A well organized original performance that got better and better every time we practiced.

I hope you enjoyed watching the show as much as we enjoyed creating it!

By: Alexis (Grade 8)

B



LITERACY CORNER



Jan. 27th was National Literacy Day in Canada. It was a day that many schools and organizations took some time to highlight activities and events that promote our literacy development. In recognition of this day, many staff at JMPS worked together to create a weeklong celebration of literacy in our school. These were some of the events and opportunities that our students participated in:

- *A visit by published author Gwen Petreman (The Blue Bottle, Laura's Loose Tooth) for our gr. 1-3 students

- *A guest read aloud by one of our many JMPS staff for our Kindergarten and gr. 4-8 students

- *Dress up as your favourite character day

- *Mystery library guest (who is now travelling to each class to visit over the next couple of weeks)

- *Duffel Bag Theatre presentation of Robin Hood for our gr. 4-6 classes

In addition to these activities, we hosted a Reading Race for all of our Kindergarten to gr. 8 classes,, and tracked how much reading our school did in one week. The totals are in and John McCrae students read over **3800 hours!!!** Way to go John McCrae!!

Thank you to all of our teachers, parents, administration, support staff and students who continue to recognize and celebrate Literacy in our school.

LANGUAGE LEARNING IN ROOM 205



During the month of January the students in Mr. Sciberras' class finished their inquiry-based learning project with the help of Mrs. Viero. We were researching information about: Christmas, Chinese New Year, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. The final part of this assignment was completed on powtoons. We completed this project using thick and thin questions, and doing research about the holiday topics. This project helped us with our research skills, it helped us to ask questions and it increased our knowledge of the holidays we researched.

During the month of January we also began to work on inferencing as our reading strategy. Inferencing to us is "an educated guess". It is also where the author "gives us clues to find out what he or she is talking about". We are learning about inferencing with text and in pictures. Some of the articles that we read were about Stonehenge, roller coasters, stingrays, and Amelia Earhart. Our culminating task for the article about stingrays and Amelia Earhart was to create a bitstrip about what we learned about stingrays and Amelia Earhart.

During the month of February we are going to continue working on inferencing.

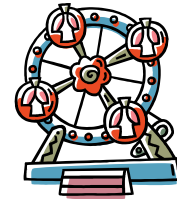
By: Perry, Daniel, Katherhan, and Veehaan

DESCRIBE A SETTING

Location: Carnival

As I walk out of the shiny black car and start approaching the local carnival down the street, I feel a rush inside of me. It's a beautiful windy, cool autumn day that's ideal to spend the afternoon out. When I pass the food court to go to the highly recommended ride, I could smell the crispy juicy burgers at each individual multi-colored tent. As I see people devour those burgers, I can hear workers promoting their games. "Five dollars per game! Winner every time! Come before it's too late!" As excited as I already am, I'm slowly but surely approaching that highly suggested ride. As I walk towards the line, my shoe begins to sink into the mushy brown mud and I start to lose the scent of the burgers. Now it just smells like smoke. As I buckle myself into one of those silver metal cages, the worker checks everyone's cage. People tell me it's so much fun and there's nothing to be worried about. But as the ride starts to gain its speed, there's a lump in my throat pulsed like a dislodged heart ready to walk the plank. The resistance of the gravitational pull makes it almost impossible to move. My stomach turns weightless as I'm experiencing a massive headache and now the entire carnival is blurry from my point of view and looks like a unicorn threw up a million colors. When the ride finally comes to an end, I walk out the ride like I saw a ghost. I'm as pale as could be and I'm now lying down on the carnival bench resting. I can still feel the breeze as nightfall comes as children are still screaming to the top of their lungs and having the best time of their lives.

Emily - 7/8 K



THE REAL PAC-MAN—by Andy —7/8

I was never like this, eating pellets all day, until my mother entered me in those competitions. "It's a good source of money," she says, "It's free," she says, but it's not like that at all. She knows our kind don't like ghost, or eat those no good pellets, we're not animals. They're fine in moderation but not how they're feeding us in these competitions. Pellets are full of carbohydrates, I mean look at me, I'm so round it looks like I could explode any second. Don't even get me started with power pellets, I'm already so full, and now they expect me to eat the ghost? It's madness, those evil giants think they have the right to control us like we're slaves. Some of them just ram me right into the ghost; I only have so many lives. I can't afford to waste them like my mom did. I get about 10,000 points a competition, which is what, one cherry. That's all I have to feed my mother for every time I risk my lives. If any of you grumpy old giants are reading this, something has to happen, trillions of pixels are dying because of you.

RAINBOW LOOM BRACELET SALES



The Rainbow Loom sale has been a great success! We have raised over \$280.00 We did this fundraiser because we wanted to donate money to sick kids hospital. There were a couple of people who helped with the sale. They are : Jane, Yang, Isabelle, Anya, Brian and Mrs. Miles.

By: Jane J. and Anya G (Grade 4)



LIBRARY UPDATE



There are lots of exciting events happening in the library. The literacy week was a great success example. A couple weeks back we had a contest to see how much we could read in a week. Our mustangs decided to read as much as they can, resulting in a massive total of nearly 4000 hours! In just a week we read more than an average person's 23 weeks total! We posted nearly 800 pictures to form a pictograph about how many hours we read. During literacy week, we also had a guest author, Ruth Petreman, speak and read to the primary students. We had a dress up day, guest readers, and a mystery pet visit!

Another example of a library event is the Forest of Reading program. In the Forest of Reading, there are book lists of fantastic books written by Canadian Authors that you can choose to read. If you read 5 books, you can vote for your favorite book. Students from all over Canada will have a chance to vote and in May, the winning books will be announced. We would like to thank the parent council for funding the Forest of Reading campaign. If we did not have this funding, we would not be able to introduce so many new types of books.

To see what is happening in the library, go to our library blog at www.mccraelibrary.wordpress.com



MUSIC UPDATE

Hey Mustangs! January has been an extremely amazing month, filled with fun and excitement for the music department! Here's our update for the month! We are excited to announce that auditions for Regional Band are going underway on February the 27th! Many of our musicians have been dedicating a lot of practice time for this event! It has also recently been confirmed that The Jazz Band will be performing at our February assembly! Lastly, we would like to announce that our concert band members have been working hard on pieces for The Together We're Better concert! All our musicians have been hard at work, putting their best effort into all the work they've done! Remember to check back next month to be updated on our latest news! Go Mustangs Go!

Ashley - Grade 8



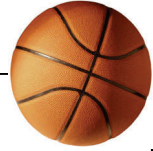
SNOW SHOES

A few of the intermediate classes of J.M.P.S got to experience the thrill of snowshoeing during their physical education periods. Although it was cold outside, the students had a lot of fun walking and attempting to run around the field. The snowshoes worked perfectly and we all had a great time trying to stay up (which wasn't very hard). Students were able to walk fluently on top of the deep snow, like there was no snow at all. Thank you to all the teachers who gave us the opportunity to try out the snowshoes and now we know we won't last in the arctic for too long. We hope that next year, we can try the snowshoes again.

By: Ushi and Kobisha (Mrs. Corcoran's 7th Grade Class)



MCCRAE MUSTANGS—INTERMEDIATE BOYS BASKETBALL



At the beginning of the season, it was looking a little rough for the Mustangs . However, as the season progressed, our chemistry built and with each practice we began to look stronger as a team. We were excited to be entered into an invitational tournament at Wismer Public School. So we practiced even harder, in preparation for the tournament.

On February 13th, we started off the tournament a little bit shaky, losing our first game by 16 to Wismer, however after a long inspirational speech from the team's coaches the players were pumped and were ready to play our hardest in our next game against Unionville Public School. We started off with an enormous lead, and that brought the second and third lines in, so everyone could get some game experience. In the end, we won by a margin of over 10 points. We were very excited as it was the first win of our amazing season! Our next opponents was Little Rouge. We ended up winning the game 33-5, a huge victory for our team and for our confidence. Now came the challenge, a rematch of the first game against Wismer; this time for the pennant. Our starting line got another big lead however Wismer battled back; the game was fairly even, right down to the last minute. Sadly, the Mustangs lost by 2 points. We still held our heads high and we were very proud of our accomplishment.

This greatly prepared us for the area tournament on February 26th. We practiced hard in preparation for the area tournament with an ambition to win a pennant for our school. We won our first game against Donald Cousens. We were victorious in our next game, against Coledale. It was now time to face the toughest opponent in our pool; Buttonville. It was a 'win or go home' situation as both were 2-0; we won against Buttonville. Next came the semifinals against Wismer P.S. It was time to exact our game plan and do everything we could to pull out a win against a team that we had not been able to beat. We took a tremendous lead, they didn't score in the first 7 minutes of the game and we were able to retain our lead, beating them by over 15 points. That was a real confidence boost for because we knew that even though we lost to Wismer twice, we beat them when it mattered most. We were now onto the final game, against Sir John A. MacDonald. They started off slow and were down for the majority of the game. However, in the second half, everything changed. After a brilliant pep talk from one of the coaches of our team, Mr. Sciberras, we came out stampeding and closed the gap. It was the last 2 minutes of the game, it was a very tense atmosphere and everyone seemed nervous because both teams were neck and neck. Both teams were exhausted but we somehow pulled energy out and put our hearts into it. In the end, however a costly turnover by the Mustangs tied the game and sent it into overtime tied at 42-42. It was neck and neck and tempers were running high. It all came down to the last 30 seconds of the game, where one of our players got fouled and made the basket! All that was left was to make the free throw to put the game away. Thankfully, the shot was made and with 16 seconds left, Sir John A MacDonald sprinted up the court, rushing a shot, one of our players got the rebound and passed it up. The victory was in our hands! Our team held the ball for the rest of the time left on the clock. Our team had won the areas! They all celebrated a well-earned win and another banner for our school. WAY TO GO MUSTANGS!!

Special thanks to the entire Mustangs Intermediate Boys Basketball Team: Joshua, Kenny, Ethan, Abisheik, Sidak, Calvin, Mehmet, Michael, Max, Kevin, Jason, Samuel, Saryuhan, Julius, Hanen, Ron, Anujan, Ryan, Alexander, and Maaran who worked extremely hard throughout the entire season, who played with such determination and courage throughout both tournaments. A very special thank you to our coaches Mr. Sciberras and Mr. Brandt who supported and guided us throughout the whole season.

We wish the team the very best of luck as they represent our area of the Board at Regional Tournament on March 18th at Bill Crothers Secondary School! GO MUSTANGS GO!!

By: Joshua, Kenny, Ethan, Abisheik & Sidak

We need your help with Jars on the Run!!!!



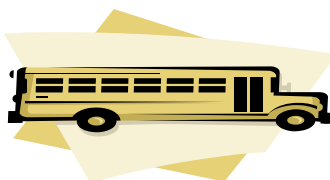
The Girls on the Run and Girls on Track teams have started a fundraising campaign and need your help. We are having a Jar Drive in March and need donated jars filled with fun things that the students of JMPS can buy raffle tickets to win!! If you would like to help, we are asking for donated jars (pickle jars are great) to be filled with items of some kind of theme. For example, a princess jar would be filled with princess stickers, headbands, hair accessories, etc. We greatly appreciate any contribution you can make to this fundraising effort. Please send any donated jars in to your child's homeroom teacher and they will pass them along to us for the Jar Drive!

Thanks so much for your support!

The Girls on the Run and Girls on Track Teams



TRANSPORTATION NOTICE TO PARENTS OF FRENCH IMMERSION or GIFTED STUDENTS



The large size of the attendance area for Gifted and French Immersion programs can increase the length of time students are required to travel on a school bus. School bus service for all students is created in accordance with Board Policy and adheres to the following guidelines;

Students who live the furthest from school often have the longest ride times.

Ride times will not exceed 60 minutes unless under exceptional circumstances.

All students will be assigned to centrally designated corner bus stops

Elementary students can be expected to walk up to 400 metres to a central bus stop location

Parents can confirm transportation arrangements by accessing the Student Transportation Services website at [<http://www.schoolbuscity.com>] www.schoolbuscity.com after Monday August 18th, 2014.

CANADIAN RED CROSS - BABYSITTING COURSE

For 11 to 15 years of age

Cost: \$60.00



DATE	LOCATION	TIME
March 8	Dufferin Clark Library	10:00-5:00
March 8	Nobleton Library	10:00-5:00
March 11	Maple Library	10:00-5:00
March 14	Oakridges	9:00-5:00
March 15	Maple Library	10:00-5:00
April 12	Newmarket	9:00-5:00
May 24	Maple Library	10:00-5:00
June 6	Oakridges	9:00-5:00

Course Content Includes:

Business of babysitting, caring for babies, caring for toddlers, caring for preschoolers, caring for school-aged children, creating safe environments and how to handle emergencies and first aid.

Held by CANADIAN RED CROSS—Region of York Branch

13311 Yonge Street Unit 204

Oakridges, ON L4E 3L6

1-800-361-9448

York.firstaid@redcross.ca

