



John McCrae Public School
565 Fred McLaren Blvd.
Markham, ON L6E 1N7
Telephone: 905-294-9122
Fax: 905-294-8196
Email: john.mccrae.ps@yrdsb.ca

September, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians:

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back and a special “Hello” to all new families joining the John McCrae Public School community! We hope that you and your family had a restful and enjoyable summer. We are looking forward to the school year ahead. The beginning of school is always an exciting time and it is definitely something we look forward to every September. Please read and review all of the messages enclosed. **Kindly return all forms to the classroom teacher by Monday, September 8th.**

- 1) Review, complete and return the **‘Important Information’** form enclosed.
- 2) Let us know if you are interested in volunteering in our school community. See enclosed Volunteer Information Form and School Council Parent Involvement Form attached.
- 3) This year, the school will be purchasing **the Agenda** for each child in Grades 1 – 8. We expect each child in Grades 1 - 8 to use the agenda to support their learning skills development. It will also serve as a communication tool between school and home and home and school. Please read the school agenda pages carefully since they include our Code of Conduct as well as our important school day practices to support a safe and secure learning environment.
- 4) If you are able, please consider making a **voluntary donation** that will enhance curriculum support materials, equipment, resources and activities which support our school improvement plan as well as provide assistance. See last page of this package for further details.
- 5) A **Student Registration Verification form** will be sent home with students in the next few weeks. Please read this form very carefully and make any necessary changes to the contact/emergency info., phone numbers, etc. Please ensure this information is accurate as this is the information that will be used to contact you in case of emergency. If your child has a health concern or life-threatening condition, this must be reported to the office so we can process the necessary documentation and take steps to inform staff and volunteers of required emergency procedures.
- 6) **Communication between home and school is very important.** Our school website is www.yrdsb.ca/schools/johnmccrae.ps and is full of great information including our current and past newsletters. Check it out. Consider giving us your email address so that we can alert you online of postings on our website. We hope to see all parents at our **“Meet and Greet” evening in early October.** More information will follow regarding this event.

We are extremely confident that with your support we will achieve all of our goals in the upcoming year. We look forward to celebrating these successes with you. We share a great common interest – your children! Please do not hesitate to contact the school to ask questions or express any concerns you have regarding your child’s education. We welcome the opportunity to talk with you!

Sincerely,
Lori Hall
Principal

Lindsey Rhamey
Vice Principal



FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th at 7:00pm.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A MESSAGE FROM SCHOOL COUNCIL

Last June, the School Council reflected on the positive initiatives the school council has facilitated. Examples of these were: Pizza/Sub Fundraising activity, contributions towards purchasing technology equipment & the Forest Reading Program. We also contributed to the Grow Interactive Learning Program again this year, which was another great success and was well received by both the students and the teachers. This program focused on Leadership, Communication, Team work & Honesty. We also would like to extend our gratitude to teachers, students and parents for their participation in this year's "Plugged In" event. Tips and methods about how to use technologies to enhance learning at home were introduced to parents and students through a series of presentation. Stay tuned for more learning events this year.

The School Council is an important & integral part of school life. In ensuring continuity and council's contribution to the school's well-being we urge more parents to become involved. Our next Council Meeting is on September 17th, 2014 at 7:00pm. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

John McCrae Public School Council

John McCrae P.S. – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please return to homeroom teacher by Monday September 8th, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS *PRIOR TO SIGNING* BELOW.

Student Name: _____ Homeroom Teacher: _____

ITEM #1: School Emergency Closing *(please check one box below)*

In the event of a school emergency closing, my child should go to the following location:

Home To the home of Name/Address/Phone: _____

ITEM #2: Community Walks: I am aware that my child may be participating in a supervised activity in the larger John McCrae P.S. community as part of their classroom program or extracurricular endeavours.

ITEM #3 Medical Information: Please inform the school office of any allergies, life threatening medical conditions or other necessary medical information. Please visit the office to obtain the necessary documentation for completion and return to the office as soon as possible.

ITEM #4 Nut Safe Policy: There are students in our school community who have a life-threatening allergy to nuts which can cause an anaphylactic reaction. It is for this reason we ask for your cooperation in refraining from sending peanut or other nut products and by-products to school. This includes any nut or peanut butter replacements!

ITEM #5 School Communication:

I will provide my email address so that the school can send alerts regarding important school happenings and key postings on our website, including newsletters, fundraisers, curriculum, parent learning sessions, school sports, Arts evenings and so much more Yes, I have included my email below. No, I am not interested at this time.

Family email (1): _____

Family email (2): _____

ITEM #6 Safe Arrival Program: Ensuring the safety of our students is our priority. Our Safe Arrival Program is in place so that we can account for the whereabouts of absent students. Parents/guardians are responsible to inform the school when their child is absent or late. A message may be left on the school's voicemail system before school opens @ 905-294-9122, option "2".

ITEM #7 Translator Required: Please advise if you require a translator when communicating with the school, including language spoken. YES, I require a translator

Language(s) spoken: _____

ITEM #8 Interest in Volunteering at the School: If you are interested, please see the "Volunteers in our schools" form attached .

ITEM #9 Fall 2014 Fundraising Initiative: Please see the last page of this package of details. Participation is strictly voluntary!

Parents/Guardians are asked to acknowledge receipt of this *Important Information Form* by signing and returning it to your child's homeroom teacher by Monday September 8th, 2014.

I have read and reviewed the JMPS pages in the Agenda as well as the Code of Conduct with my child.

I have read and understand Items 1 through 9 above.

I have read The York Region District School Board Guide to the 2014-15 school year.

I have signed and returned the following forms:

Caring & Safe Schools Agreement

Information Technology Acceptable Use Agreement

Lunch time Agreement Form

Student Insurance Agreement

I understand that these forms are optional:

Volunteers in our schools

School council Nomination form

Fall 2014 Fundraising Initiative

Parent/Guardian (Please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

(Date)



VOLUNTEERS IN OUR SCHOOL



Support our Mustangs.....

Have you ever thought about volunteering your time for the school? We have many opportunities available where your support contributes to the success of various programs that benefit the students of John McCrae Public School.

If you are interested, please provide us with your contact information and let us know your volunteer interests for the 2014/2015 school year by checking the applicable boxes below.

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Name of Student(s): _____

Homerom Teacher(s): _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Interest in helping out at the school:

- Healthy Snack Program (Purchase and Set-Up Healthy Snack Table)
Snacks available for all students and encourages healthy eating habits.
Time Commitment: from 9:15 to 10:15 am, each Tuesday
- Pizza/Sub Day (Receive and Organize orders by Classroom for distribution by Grade7 and 8 students).
This is a school council fundraiser that raises funds to enhance curriculum support materials, equipment, resources or activities which support the school improvement plan.
Time Commitment: from 12:00 to 1:00pm, on alternate Thursdays
- School Council Involvement
Time Commitment: attendance at monthly meetings

Interest in helping out on Field Trips and/or Classroom:

Note: In order to volunteer for field trips or classroom, you must obtain a Vulnerable Sector Screening through York Regional Police and submit your results to the office. There is a fee associated with this application. Successful applications only need to be completed once and will not be asked to re-submit on a yearly basis.

Please visit the following website for further information and a list of locations where you can submit your application (<http://www.yrp.ca/community-policing/how-do-i/vulnerable-sector-screening.aspx>)

- Classroom Support
Individual teachers may request additional volunteer support in the classroom and will contact you if needed.
- Field Trips
In order that our students can participate in out of school field trips, we need additional adult supervision.

John McCrae P.S. Fall 2014 Fundraising Initiative

**** Participation in this fundraiser is voluntary. Only send this form in to school if you wish to participate**

I am interested to make a voluntary donation to John McCrae P.S.

I have enclosed the following donation with this form: _____ cash or cheque.

All cheques need to be payable to: John McCrae P.S. Please note that the York Region District School Board will issue tax receipts for charitable donations of \$25.00 and over.

I understand that participation in fundraising activities is strictly voluntary. Fundraising activities are developed and organized with advice and assistance from the school community, including students, staff, parents, and community organizations. Any monies raised through these voluntary donations will be tracked and reported back to the school community through our monthly newsletters and school council minutes. Privacy will be respected.

I understand that the funds raised through this initiative will be used to enhance curriculum support materials, equipment, resources, or activities which support the school improvement plan as well as assistance, such as providing payment for the cost of a field trip for students who cannot afford it.

Student Name

Homeroom Teacher

Donor Name (please print)

Donor Address

Parent/ Guardian signature

Date