

CONNECTIONS

ALEXANDER MUIR PUBLIC SCHOOL

75 Ford Wilson Boulevard, Newmarket, ON L3X 3G1

Phone: 905-895-9466 Fax: 905-895-9413

alexander.muir.ps@yrdsb.ca

From The Administrative Team

Dear Muir Families,

Term one Report Cards will go home on **Wednesday, February 17th**. Please take some time with your child to review their report card. Read over the comment sections and highlight your child's accomplishments for the term and discuss areas for improvement. This is also a great time to set some new goals for learning both academically and socially.

The start of a new month brings a change in our school staff. We welcome Mrs. Crowe, an experienced elementary teacher, who will be supporting a number of Primary & Junior classrooms for the rest of the school year. Welcome!

Kindergarten registration continues at the school for students born in 2012 wishing to attend JK in September. We look forward to welcoming these new students and ask that you register as soon as possible. Please call the office for further information about registration and our Welcome to Kindergarten orientation.

We continue to need to remind parents to follow safe practices when dropping off or picking up your child(ren) from school. Unfortunately, many parents continue to put both their own child as well as other children in danger by ignoring these expectations. As a school, we are relying on everyone to follow the expectations above to keep our students safe. Thanks for your support and cooperation.

- * PLEASE obey the posted STOP/NO PARKING/ONE WAY signs in the parking lot and on Ford Wilson Blvd.
- * PLEASE plan the time to walk to and from school. Great exercise, and great for the environment!
- * PLEASE make use of our crossing guards at ALL times when crossing onto Ford Wilson Blvd.
- * PLEASE park on the peripheral streets (Dowson Loop, Cheryl Mews Blvd, Patti McCulloch Way, etc.) and, using the cross walk, walk your children onto/off of school property.
- * PLEASE use the bus to and from school if you are entitled.
- * PLEASE make use of our Kiss and Ride drop-off between 7:50-8:00.
- * PLEASE be patient, patient and more patient during all pick up and drop off times.
- ! Please DO NOT put your child in danger by dropping your most precious persons in an unsafe place where they have to cross through traffic (bus loop/Kiss and Ride) where a serious injury may occur.
- ! Please DO NOT Park in the Kiss and Ride between 7:50-8:00am & 2:20-2:245pm.
- ! Please DO NOT stop in the inner parking lot before/during dismissal behind or beside parked cars and expect your child to cross through moving traffic to be picked up.
- ! Please DO NOT park/drop off or pick up in the Bus Loop at any time.
- ! Please DO NOT park in the lot to drop off or pick your child up at the start and end of the day. The parking spots are for staff only, unless you have an appointment in the school at those times.
- ! Please DO NOT cause a potential life changing accident by disregarding these safety expectations.

We look forward to a safe, engaging and productive second term!

Richard Erdmann
Principal

Monica Wand
Vice Principal



February 2016 Events



National Sweater Day 4

National Flag of Canada Day 15

Family Day (No School) 15

Report Cards go Home 17

Jr/Int. Electives Day 24

School Council Meeting (6:45pm- 8:30pm) 25

Beach Spirit Day 26

Professor Jamz & the Spin Machine March 1
School Dance-a-thon



York Region Mission:

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

Inspire Learning!

School Information

HEAD LICE Monitoring



As you may already be aware, our school is experiencing repeated cases of Pediculosis.

Getting rid of Pediculosis is a very time-consuming, frustrating and potentially expensive process. It requires vigilance on the part of families and school staff. With the support of School Council, we will be undertaking school-wide monitoring in form of three yearly school-wide lice checks by an outside company specializing in Lice detection. This is an expensive undertaking. For this reason, we are requesting that each family contribute \$5.00/child to cover the cost of these checks. Payment may be made through cash submitted to your child's teacher or through School Cash Online.

Thank you for sending in payment ASAP.

Our first school wide check will occur on Thursday, March 24th for all students.

**LEARNING COMMONS
OPEN @ A.M. RECESS**



Reminder that our Learning Commons is open for students to complete homework, check out our MakerSpace, use technology (for educational purposes), play a game, colouring etc. Five passes per class (grades 1-8) are available each day.

We are looking for age appropriate puzzles, checker games and decks of cards. If you have any to donate, please contact or drop off at the main office.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION CONTINUES

Please contact the office for more information or to get the registration forms. Please register as soon as possible. For more information please visit the board website for [Kindergarten](#).



ADDITIONAL ELEMENTARY P.A. DAY

As a result of provincial labour negotiations, **a P.A. Day has been added for all York Region District School Board elementary schools on Friday, May 6, 2016.** You can see the full updated school year calendar on YRDSB's [website](#).

These additional P.A. Days are mandated by the Ministry of Education. On these dates, teachers & staff will be taking part in professional development on education priorities identified by the Ministry of Education.

PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

Are you moving before next September? Is there someone in your neighbourhood with 4 year old children? If so, please let us know!

We are currently projecting our student enrolment for September 2016. These projections help us hire sufficient staff. Any information you can provide us know will help with next year's preparations. Call our office with any information: 905 895 9466.

Remember to Drive Safely!

Student Safety is Priority #1.





NATIONAL SWEATER DAY! THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

We will be turning down the heat (a few degrees) to support National Sweater Day! We encourage all students, staff & Muir families to turn down the heat and wear sweaters on Thursday, February 4th.

National Sweater Day is a fun way to learn about the importance of saving energy and to inspire you to use less heat all winter. Heating accounts for 80% of residential energy use in Canada and is a significant source of emissions. If all Canadians lowered their thermostats by just 2 degrees Celsius this winter, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 4 megatons – that's equivalent to shutting down a 600 mega watt coal-fired power station or taking nearly 700,000 cars off the road!

Winter is still very much in the air with a mixed bag of cold temperatures, snow, ice, slush and grey days. Using the Environment Canada Wind Chill Chart, we monitor real-time temperatures and wind speed to determine risk of frostbite and the amount of time students can be safely outside.

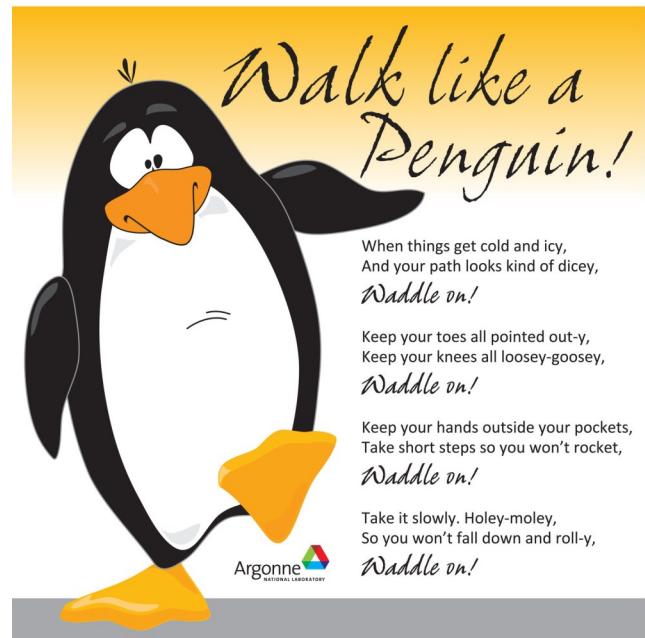
With the goal to have students outside and active each day, we make daily determinations on the need for indoor recess.

We are also very conscious of the icy areas around the school playground, and act preventatively when the yard is extremely slippery in order to prevent injuries from occurring.

We request that you continue to dress your child(ren) appropriately for the weather. Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 40 minutes after lunch.

TIPS FOR DRESSING FOR WINTER WALKING

- Keep hands and head covered to prevent heat loss
- On really cold days wear a scarf over your face and mouth
- Wear warm, waterproof boots
- Wear a warm coat that deflects the wind
- Woolen clothing helps to retain the heat
- Wear clothing or carry knapsacks with reflective material – it's important to be seen
- If possible, change wet clothes at school – tuck an extra pair of socks and mitts into knapsacks.
- Below -25°C is considered too cold for walking so move your walk in-doors or select another day for outdoor activities or walking to school.





Winter Weather is Here!

All students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 are expected to go out for every recess unless the principal or vice-principal decides that weather conditions are so poor that it would be detrimental for them to be outdoors. Students must come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 40 minutes after lunch.

We always monitor the weather and, in extreme conditions (e.g. wind chill); we keep the students indoors or shorten the recess breaks. We often receive requests from parents asking us to keep their children indoors during recess times because they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or facilities to supervise students who are sick or still recovering from an illness. Students with heavy colds, etc., which are serious enough to prevent them from participating in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will benefit everyone.



Please make sure that your children are dressed properly for our invigorating winter days. It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. **Please** be sure to label all articles of clothing. Boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants for the younger children will help make recess an enjoyable time.

Exceptions are made on an individual basis for children who may need to remain indoors for an extended period of time because of a physical condition or recovery from a serious illness or accident. In such cases, a letter from the doctor is required.

Environment Canada Wind Chill Chart

Actual Air Temperature T_{air} ($^{\circ}C$)

Wind Speed $V_{10\text{ m}}$ (km/h)	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25	-30	-35	-40	-45	-50
5	4	-2	-7	-13	-19	-24	-30	-36	-41	-47	-53	-58
10	3	-3	-9	-15	-21	-27	-33	-39	-45	-51	-57	-63
15	2	-4	-11	-17	-23	-29	-35	-41	-48	-54	-60	-66
20	1	-5	-12	-18	-24	-30	-37	-43	-49	-56	-62	-68
25	1	-6	-12	-19	-25	-32	-38	-44	-51	-57	-64	-70
30	0	-6	-13	-20	-26	-33	-39	-46	-52	-59	-65	-72
35	0	-7	-14	-20	-27	-33	-40	-47	-53	-60	-66	-73
40	-1	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-54	-61	-68	-74
45	-1	-8	-15	-21	-28	-35	-42	-48	-55	-62	-69	-75
50	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-49	-56	-63	-69	-76
55	-2	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-63	-70	-77
60	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64	-71	-78
65	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-79
70	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65	-72	-80
75	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-59	-66	-73	-80
80	-3	-10	-17	-24	-31	-38	-45	-52	-60	-67	-74	-81

Frostbite Guide

Low risk of frostbite for most people

Increasing risk of frostbite for most people within 30 minutes of exposure

High risk for most people in 5 to 10 minutes of exposure

High risk for most people in 2 to 5 minutes of exposure

High risk for most people in 2 minutes of exposure or less



Why Children Need to Play Outside – Even in the Winter Months

When the weather is nice and the sun is shining, most parents have absolutely no problems sending their children outside to play. Why? Because we all know that playing outside is good for our kids, but for a lot of us, playing outside means that we can actually get a few things done inside without being distracted. Perhaps, this is why so many people dread the winter months.



The weather changes from warm and sunny to cold and “dreary,” which means that the kids can’t go outside and play, right? Wrong! While your intentions may be a little off, it is still necessary for children to go outside and play – even in the winter months. No, it’s not just so you can get stuff done, but there are a lot of other “real” benefits for your children when they play outside. Below you will find several of them.

3 SIMPLE TIPS TO BEAT THE COLD DURING YOUR WORKOUT

1 DRESS IN LAYERS

To stay at an ideal temperature, we recommend three basic layers made of moisture wicking materials:



2 DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR EXTREMITIES

Hats, gloves, and scarves can help you stay warm during your workout by targeting areas of the body that are easily affected by temperature changes.

Keep your feet warm and insulated to give you an extra boost. Socks provide insulation and warmth. Shoe fit can vary by activity type. Add all of these pieces to your outfit wisely, since they can cause overheating.

3 BE MINDFUL OF YOUR CLOTHING MATERIALS

Workout gear comes in many different materials. There are benefits and drawbacks to each type of commonly-used material, including:

PRO	CON
wool	insulates well, transfers moisture adequately, doesn't feel wet
fleece	synthetic type of wool, comes in many weights, flexible
down	insulates well, can take up little room in closets, suitcases, etc.
synthetics	inexpensive, dries quickly, polyester is best for moisture wicking
cotton	inexpensive, widely accessible



Builds Up their Immune System:

It's no surprise that many children that are raised on, or around, a farm are generally healthier than those that aren't. This is because on a regular basis these children are exposed to dirt, animals, pests, bacteria and everything else that send modern-day parents running. While we like to think that dirt, animals, pests and bacteria do more harm than good it's actually the opposite. When your children come into contact with these things in a natural way (outside) and on a regular basis, they are less likely to develop autoimmune disorders and allergies.

Provides Exercise:

Playing outside provides children with something many children don't get enough of anymore – exercise. Exercising while having fun is the best kind of exercise, and that's exactly what playing outside does. Riding bikes, playing tag with friends, building a snowman, sledding, having snowball fights and other outside activities get our children's bodies moving...something most video games can't do.

Stimulates the Imagination:

Sadly, one of the things that today's children are lacking is an imagination. This is because we're in the technological age – today children are literally shown everything. Why go outside and play cops and robbers when we can watch a movie about it or play a video game? Playing outside helps children develop their imagination, which is something that television, video games, computers, iPods, etc. don't do.



It Promotes Problem Solving Skills:

Children who play outside learn how to solve real life problems better than children who are always in their rooms playing video games or secluding themselves. Regardless of if they're learning how to get along with friends or trying to figure out the best way to build a fort – they're problem solving.

It Provides Vitamin D:

It's important that your children get Vitamin D, which is provided by the sun. Vitamin D helps promote better moods, energy levels, memory, overall health and more. Just 10-15 minutes out in the sun will give your children their daily dose of Vitamin D.

It doesn't matter if it is summer or winter outside, your children need everything listed above and playing outside is a great way to get them all at once! Obviously, if it's blizzard-like conditions outside, your children should stay inside, but if it's nice outside then bundle the kids up and let them play for half an hour or so.

Source: <http://mommiesmagazine.com/10580/children-play-outside-winter/>

Let's brrrrring on the fun and get outside for some **Winter Play.**



**BRING BACK
WINTER
PLAY**

participACTION.com

PARTICIPACTION

School Council

School Council - Join Us!

Have you been to a school council meeting?
Why not join us!

Our next school council meeting is scheduled for
Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 6:45 PM
in the Learning Commons.

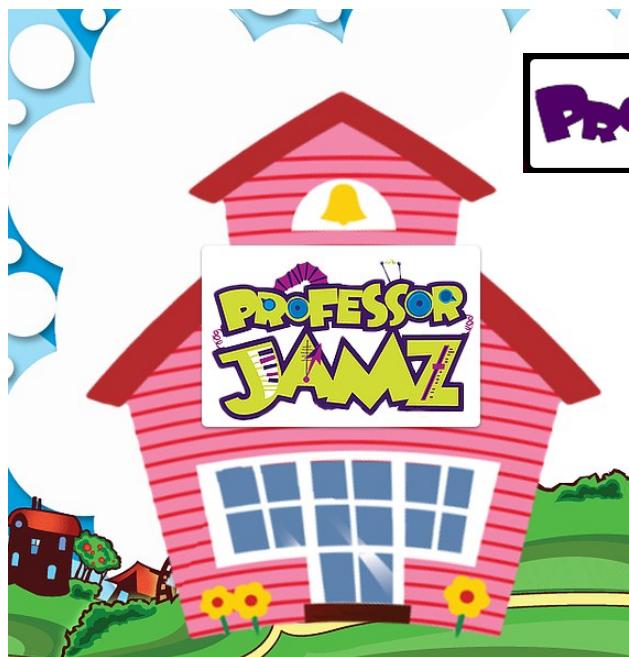
A variety of topics are discussed during these meetings.

Looking forward to seeing you there!



In School Council Fundraising News....

Students recently enjoyed our **PROFESSOR JAMZ AND THE SPIN MACHINE SCHOOL DANCE-A-THON** Kick-off Assembly. Please consider pledging your child to reach their \$10.00 goal. Watch for information and 'pledge-lopes' to come home in an agenda or backpack near you! Visit Professor Jamz's website to learn more, make online pledges and to request a song! Remember the big celebration Dance-a-thon party is **Tuesday, March 1st!** More details to come! <https://www.pledge.me/>



PROFESSORJAMZ.COM



SAVE THE DATE!

Come and join us for our **P.J. Movie Night!**
March 31st 6:00-8:00pm.

Join us for a special movie night in our school gym.
More details to follow!

Celebrations in our Community

BAHA'I FAITH

Feb. 26 – Mar. 1 **Intercalary Days** are four days (five in a leap year) that do not belong to any month. They are days of celebration, gift-giving, hospitality and charitable works.

BUDDHISM

February 8 ♦ **Lunar New Year** the day after the new moon, marks the beginning of the new lunar year. It is the year of the Monkey. Irrespective of their religion or country, all Chinese, Vietnamese and many Koreans celebrate the cultural aspect of this day. This is the beginning of year 4714 in the Chinese calendar. It is a time for renewal and personal relationships, and pledges of prosperity.



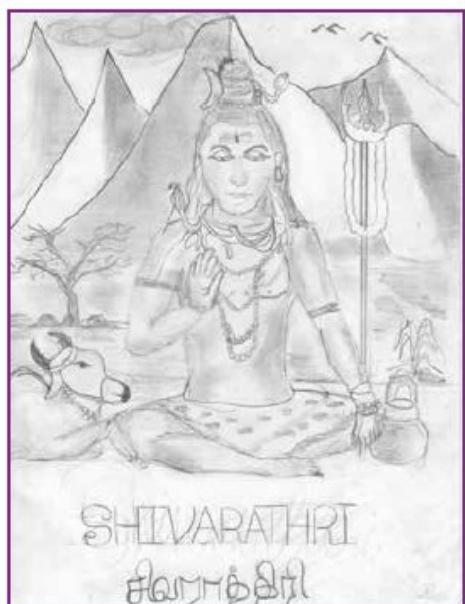
CHRISTIANITY

February 10 **Ash Wednesday** (Western Calendar) is the beginning of Lent, the forty day period (excluding Sundays) of prayer, repentance and self-denial that precedes Easter. It is a reminder of the days Jesus spent alone in the wilderness.



HINDUISM

February 12 **Vasant Panchami** is particularly celebrated in Northern India. This festival marks the advent of spring. Also known as Shri Panchami, it is a celebration commonly associated with Shri or Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth). It is also commonly linked with the Goddess of Learning, Saraswati.



The above monthly information about Celebrations is taken



Fostering Literacy @ Home!

How does writing help my child become a better reader?

Writing is the reading process slowed down. Writing is a tremendous help to your child's reading success. Write at home and on-the-go.

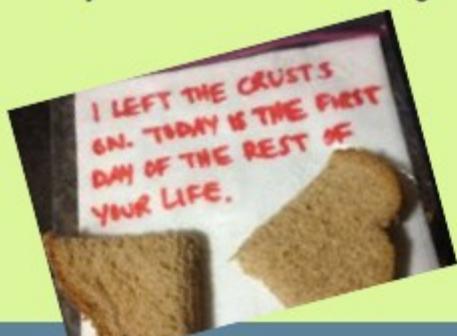
- **Carry a small notebook and pencil** and let your child see you use it to make a to-do list -- "Go by the bank, pick up milk, etc." Get a notebook for your child to write in as well. She can make a list of favourite foods, ideas for the weekend, etc.
- **Start a family journal.** Keep a pad on the kitchen counter. Each member of the family can contribute by recording happenings -- the dog going to the vet, the weather being rainy, something happening at school, for example. At the end of the week, read aloud from the journal after dinner.
- **Have family members send e-mails to your child.** Your child can read them when he gets home for school, improving his reading skills, and then respond back, improving his writing skills. No computer? Then leave your child a note and have him respond with a note to you.
- **Have your child write what he remembers about the day** -- almost missing the bus, a new kid in the class, having pizza for lunch, going to the computer lab, for example. You'll learn something about her day, and your child will have the opportunity to reflect on her day.
- **This list-making game is never the same twice.** Players have 45 seconds to write as many words as possible in a given category -- things that are red, sports, animals, for example. Then players, in turn, call off the words on their lists. If someone else has the word on his list, all players cross off the word. The player with the highest number of unique responses wins.

Reading around the house

Leaving short notes around the house can be fun and motivating for children and improve their reading. A note complimenting your child such as, "Thanks for helping with the dishes," or one that serves to remind your child--"Please hang me up. Signed, your towel"-can help

him or her practice reading. Look for unique places to put the notes, such as on pillows, by toothbrushes, above coat hooks, on the cereal box, on the computer, etc.

Your child will enjoy finding the notes and may even leave you one!



IT ADDS UP!

If you read just 15 minutes a day, in one year you will have read over 1,000,000 words!

Source: Statisticbrain.com



UNDERSTANDING LEARNING DISABILITIES AND ATTENTION DISORDERS

Date: Tues. Feb 23rd 2016

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Location:

R L Graham Public School
70 Biscayne
Keswick, ON
L4P 3M8

Date: Wed. Feb. 24th 2016

Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Location:

YRDSB Community
Education Centre North
130 Carlson Dr.
Newmarket, ON
L3Y 5H3

For more information and to
register please contact:

YRDSB
905-895-5155 ext. 144
Pauline Costello
pauline.costello@yrdsb.ca

LDAYR
905-884-7933 ext. 23
Stephanie Gatti
info@ldayr.org



**ldayr • Learning Disabilities
Association of York Region**

The right to learn, the power to achieve



presented by:

Learning Disabilities Association of York Region

in collaboration with:

**Inclusive School and Community Services
York Region District School Board**

***Free event.**

***Light refreshments provided.**

***Free child-minding is available upon request.**

Workshop Information:

The workshop will help parents and students better understand Learning Disabilities.

- ◊ What are Learning Disabilities/ADHD?
- ◊ Advocating for children/youth
- ◊ How to teach self-advocacy skills
- ◊ Problem solving model
- ◊ Building resiliency and well-being skills
- ◊ Mental Health awareness and stress management strategies
- ◊ Programming to support children, youth and families

Presentation Speakers:

Renee Flannery (LDAYR) is a Resource Facilitator with the LDAYR. Renee has provided support and guidance to parents for over 20 years.

Stephanie Gatti (LDAYR) is a Program Coordinator and Resource Facilitator at the LDAYR.

Parents Reaching Out Grants

 **Ontario**
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION


York Region


United Way
Toronto & York Region



EXPERIENCE the ARTS in a NEW WAY!



Presently accepting applications from students
interested in the arts.

MAY 28 to JUNE 4, 2016

York Region District School Board Students
from Grades 7 through 12 are eligible to apply

Application Information will be available
online in late January from
www.yrdsb.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 19th, 2016

Late applications will not be accepted!



STAY CONNECTED! Stay informed!



We are proud of the variety of communication platforms we use to communicate information to our school community. Please take the time to ensure you are on our school's email list for the weekly Wednesday File, subscribe to our [blog](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#), check out our [Facebook](#) page and [school website](#). Our communication efforts are much more valuable when our community members take the time to stay connected and informed.

In our efforts to reduce paper consumption and minimize environmental impact we will not providing hard copies of newsletter to all families. You can access an electronic copy from our website or through our Wednesday File. You may request a hard copy through the office if required.

Thank you!



Alexander Muir Connections Newsletter

School: (905) 895-9466

School Fax: (905) 895-9413

<http://alexandermuir.ps.yrdsb.ca/>

Community Education Centre - North: (905) 895-5155

York Region District School Board: (905) 895-7216

Principal

Richard Erdmann

VM # 183

Vice Principal

Monica Wand

VM # 182

Office Admin Assistant

Heather Komar

VM # 181

School Secretary

Lauren Malcolm

VM # 180

Lead Caretaker

Sandy Grant

VM # 188

School Council

Susan Hutterer

susanhutterer@rogers.com

(905) 895-5155

Superintendent

Michelle McLinden

michelle.mackinnon@rogers.com

Trustee

Paul Carew

(905) 830-6776

Martin Van Beek

This edition was published on February 3, 2016.



**BE BRAVE, BE BOLD!
AN ADULT MUST BE TOLD!**

Please report incidents to a staff member or come fill out an incident report at the office.