

# CONNECTIONS

ISSUE 10

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

**Principal:** Richard Erdmann

**Superintendent:** Paul Carew 905-895-5155

**Vice Principal:** Monica Wand

**Trustee:** Martin Van Beek 905-830-6776

**School Office Administrative Assistants:** Heather Komar & Lisa Mammone

**School Website:** <http://alexandermuir.ps.yrdsb.ca/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/AlexMuirPS> **Blog:** <http://123alexmuir.wordpress.com>

## From The Administrative Team

### June Events



Dear Muir Families,

We are down to the last few weeks of school and there is still a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done. From Track and Field meets (Area and Regional) and class excursions, to organizational matters relating to class placements, timetabling, end-of-year-wrap-ups, graduations and farewells, Alexander Muir P.S. continues to be a place of excitement and energy!

We would like to remind parents that our Term 2 report cards will go out on Wednesday, June 24th. As a result of the current job action affecting elementary schools across the province and in York Region, the planned early release for students on June 25 is cancelled. On Thursday, June 25, 2015, schools will be open and classroom instruction will continue for the entire normal school day. Friday, June 26, 2015 will remain a PA Day. If your child is eligible for school transportation services, school buses and taxi services will continue according to the typical full day schedule. The school board has communicated this scheduling change to in-school child care centres, including before and after care providers. Please check with your provider directly to confirm arrangements for this date. We recognize that this may cause some inconvenience. Please be assured that we continue to have your child's achievement, well-being and safety in mind.

In advance of our Grade 8 Graduation, we send Good Wishes to our graduates for their new adventures in High School. Also, as the busy days of June rush by, we would like to take some time, again in advance, to wish all of our families a safe and happy summer and look forward to working with you in the fall.



Don't forget to honour a Dad or a significant person in your life on Father's Day - Sunday, June 10th!

Remember the Golden Rule: *'Treat others the way you wish to be treated.'*

Sincerely,  
Richard Erdmann  
Principal

Monica Wand  
Vice Principal

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### York Region Mission:

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



# School Information

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION TEA

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the community members and parents who have given their time to the students at Alexander Muir P.S. We would not be able to run many events and initiatives without the kindness of our volunteers. Our **Volunteer Appreciation Tea** is on **Tuesday, June 16th**, at **9:30am** in our Library. Please RSVP if you are able to join us to: [linda.cabral@yrdsb.ca](mailto:linda.cabral@yrdsb.ca).



**LIBRARY UPDATE** With the end of this school year drawing near, it is just about time to call for our library books to be returned to school. The last day for book sign-out will be Thursday, June 11, after which we are asking students to finish reading the book they have signed out, and to return it. This allows us to be able to complete inventory, and see which books will need replacement prior to September. A note will be sent home with students who have outstanding books on our file. We appreciate you looking for any "lost" books under beds, behind the seat of the car, and from on top of the fridge. Together, we are generally able to locate most of the misplaced books!



**LUNCH ASSISTANTS** We are once again looking for School Assistants at Alexander Muir PS for this September 2015, through to the end of June 2016. This is a paid position and the hours are 11:50 p.m. to 12:50 pm DAILY. Please call Mrs. Mammone if you are interested at 905-895-9466.



Welcome to the  
**L & F Boutique!**

Thanks  
for helping  
to keep  
the Boutique  
tidy!



This Pop-Up Shop  
won't be here long!  
Find your clothes early!

Reuniting with your clothing never felt so GOOD!

**L&F BOUTIQUE** Our first Lost and Found Boutique Pop-Up shop was a great success! Many pieces of clothing were reunited with their owners. Look out for a second pop-up shop to set up shop in late June. Remember...reuniting with your clothing never felt so good!

*Any items that are not reunited by the end of the school year will be donated to charity.*

**FISH SITTERS** We are looking for any family that might have an aquarium up and running, and that might have space available for 4 or 5 fish. We will be closing down our library tank mid-June, and hope that its inhabitants might find a home with you! Please contact Ms. Spring if you are able to help fish-sit this summer. Our school tank will be up and running again in September should you want to give the fish back. You are also welcome to adopt the little fish, should you grow attached to them!



**GRADE EIGHT TRIP** Our grade 8 students are excited to visit Niagara Falls on Friday, June 19th. The trip involves visits to SparkTeering, Butterfly Conservatory, Botanical Gardens, Clifton Hill, and a number of other interesting and exciting sites. As a final trip to mark their elementary school years, students are looking forward to spending time with their peers and teachers while enhancing their knowledge of various aspects of the curriculum. We wish the Grade 8's a wonderful trip!



**GRADUATION!** Grade 8 **Graduation** is set for Monday, June 22nd. Graduation ceremonies will take place in our school gymnasium. A dinner at the Mandarin Restaurant will follow. The evening will end with a dance back at the school. Congratulations to all of our graduates and their families!

**CALLING ALL GARDENERS!** It's that time of year again!..

Some classes and our EcoTeam have been busy preparing the vegetable gardens at the side of our school. Last year, with help from families throughout the summer, we were able to grow beans, tomatoes, potatoes, zucchini, cucumber, kale and other vegetables. We also have perennial gardens that need tending during the summer.

If you and your family would be interested in signing up for a week of gardening, [please contact Ms. Spring](#) at school, and let her know which week(s) you are available. We will then sign you up on our master calendar. We will also be in touch with you to let you know where to find the garden tools, and answer any questions you might have.

It is not necessary to have a very green thumb, just some available time! It is a great opportunity for a family to weed, water and tend the gardens together, as well as to collect some of the vegetables to take home!

Because of our garden volunteers, we are able to provide some produce to a local food bank, as well as continue our reputation of being a fabulous EcoSchool!



# Muir Math Page

## YRDSB's COMPREHENSIVE MATH PROGRAM

Mini Lessons  
Meaningful Problems  
Games & Puzzles



## MATH PUZZLES & GAMES

### PRODIGY

<https://www.prodigygame.com/Play/>  
Over 1.5 million teachers and students already use the PRODIGY game. It takes just a few minutes to get set up. Try it today!

Math was boring.  
We fixed that.

Prodigy is a fun math game for Grades 1-8 your kids will actually want to play!

Register for Free



# Marshmallow 3D Shapes

Using only toothpicks and marshmallows try to build a 3D shape.

When finished:

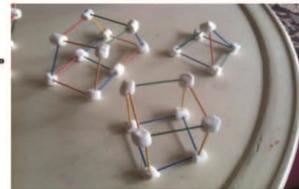
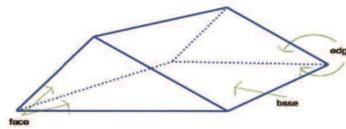
Can you name the number of.....

- Faces
- Edges
- Vertices



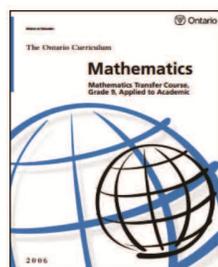
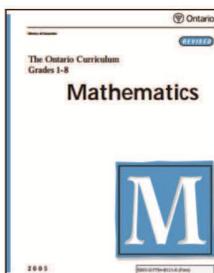
3D Shapes suggestions

Cube  
Triangular Pyramid  
Triangular Prism  
Square Pyramid  
Square Prism  
Hexagonal Prism



Can you make a cone or sphere?? YES or No WHY?

Access Math Curriculum  
<https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/math.html>



Math Games & Activities  
Check it out!

[www.bit.ly/ammathresources](http://www.bit.ly/ammathresources)



# Read All About it! Looking for Reading Help this Summer?

Two months is a long time to be away from school, especially for younger students who are just beginning to learn how to read. For these students and for those who need to enhance their reading skills, reading over the summer is **a must!**

So this summer why not make reading a part of everyday? Set aside a time to read together, perhaps at bedtime? Create an area in your home where your children can access reading materials. Visit the library or a book store together. Make reading enjoyable by finding books with topics that interest your child.

If your child needs help to develop the reading skills necessary for their grade next year, help is available! Did you know that the Newmarket library offers free **Reading Buddies** to help children become better readers? Volunteer mentors will work one-on-one with students between grades 1-4. All you have to do is sign up. Visit this link for more information <http://www.newmarketpl.ca/kids/reading-buddies>

Does your child love spending time on the computer? Check out these online literacy resources:

**TVO Kids:** This website is home to more than 170 educational games, more than 4,500 videos and the TVOkids homework Zone. [www.tvokids.com](http://www.tvokids.com)

**Tumblebooks:** This website gives you access to many online books that you would find at your local library or book store but here you can view them in action and even listen or read along with them. <http://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/home.aspx>

For more information on how you can help your child be the best reader they can be visit <https://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/tips/> where you can download many literacy guides in multiple languages.

**BEST ways to PREVENT SUMMER LEARNING LOSS**

Have your child read at least **20 MINUTES PER DAY**

Students who read **20 minutes** a day score in the **90th percentile**

Students who read **5 minutes** a day score only in the **50th percentile**

Visit **the Library.**

Find reasons for your child to **practice** writing skills. **Write...**  
a book, a blog, a zine, a poem

Engage in meaningful conversations with your child. **Stimulating conversations boost language skills.**

**Quick Conversation Tips:**  
1. Ask questions.  
2. Be positive.  
3. Give your full attention  
4. Be encouraging.

**Audio Books**

Instead of listening to the **radio**, listen to **audio books** during **long drives.**

**Model Reading Behavior**

If your child sees you reading, they will want to read as well.

**Read to your child**

This builds listening skills, imagination, and increases vocabulary

**Learn a new word each week.**

Post the new word with its definition and have a contest for who can use it the most times in one week.

Reciprocity  
Fait Accompli  
Equanimity  
Plethora  
Erudition  
Panacea

**COOK with your child**

Have your child follow a recipe. This enhances both reading and math skills.

**Big Universe**  
www.biguniverse.com  
Engage Students. Empower Teachers.

# Celebrations in our Community!

## ISLAM

**June 3 Nisfu-Shaban** is known as the Night of Forgiveness or repentance. Many Muslims spend the preceding night in prayer seeking God's guidance.

**June 18 Ramadhan** is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. All Muslims who are physically able, fast during this month abstaining from food and drink each day from dawn to sunset. The beginning of Ramadhan depends on the sighting of the moon on the previous evening.

## SIKHISM

**June 16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji**. The fifth Guru (1563 - 1606 C.E.), who built the Temple of God in Amristar, was martyred on this day.

## NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

**June 21 National Aboriginal Day** A day declared by the Assembly of First Nations.

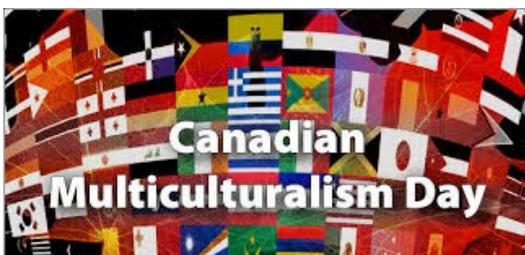
All First Nations' organizations cease work during this day. This is a day where all Canadians can celebrate the contributions Aboriginal peoples have made to Canada. This day was chosen because it is also the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. For generations, many Aboriginal people have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day. For more information about the day's activities, visit the Indian & Northern Affairs Canada Website at [www.inac.gc.ca](http://www.inac.gc.ca) and look in the "Culture and History" section. Additional resources on First Nation, Metis, Inuit (FNMI) can be found on the Equity page, as well as on:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/index.html>



## ZOROASTRIANISM

**June 29 - July 3 Ghambar Maidyoshem** celebrates the creation of water, the sowing of the summer crop and the harvesting of grain.



On November 13, 2002, the Government of Canada, by Royal Proclamation, designated **June 27** of each year as **Canadian Multiculturalism Day**.

**Canadian Multiculturalism Day** is an opportunity to celebrate our diversity and our commitment to democracy, equality and mutual respect and to appreciate the contributions of the various multicultural groups and communities to Canadian society". ([www.pch.gc.ca/special/](http://www.pch.gc.ca/special/)

# Preparing for the 2015/2016 School Year

As our school begins the process of organizing classes for September, it is important for parents to understand the procedure used in student placement decisions. The ultimate goal in all our efforts is to enhance student learning. We attempt to place students in the most positive learning environment possible, given each student's skills, knowledge, attitude, and work and social habits.

Classes at each level are formed using the criteria such as: class sizes consistent with Ministry and board guidelines; gender balance in each class; a range of performance levels within each class; matching pupil learning styles with teaching strategies wherever possible; promoting positive social relationships while minimizing unproductive associations.

Please be aware that staffing remains tentative at this point. In some schools, combined classes are often more the norm than the exception. We may still need to adjust our organization again before next September. As we get closer to the end of the school year, we have a clearer, yet tentative, picture of our organization for September.



We are currently working on the school set up for next year's projected enrolment. **At this time, the Board is projecting Alexander Muir P.S. will have a population of approximately 610 students.** Growth and change are certainly part of modern education in York Region and it offers a number of challenges in its wake. We remain busy hiring staff and are currently working on timetabling.

As you can see, a tremendous amount of time, energy and effort on the part of the entire staff goes into organizing the next school year. There may be changes before school starts in September and these may necessitate a change in teacher assignments before and possibly during the first month of school.

## Are you MOVING before September 2015?

A key factor in planning involves determining how many classes we will have in each grade. If you are planning on moving out of our area before September 2015, please let the office know (in writing) as soon as possible. Please include the last day of attendance and the school your child (ren) will be attending in September. Also, if you know of anyone moving into the Alexander Muir area please also let the office know.



Kindergarten! ... here I come!



**Our Kindergarten registration continues!** If you know of anyone in the neighbourhood whose child was born in 2011, please remind them to come into the school as soon as possible to register their child for Junior Kindergarten.

## School Bus Eligibility

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- ♦ All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- ♦ All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- ♦ All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.



For more information about bus transportation and to determine your child's eligibility please visit [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com).



*(and SAVE OUR SUBSCRIPTIONS)*

**OUR FUNDRAISER IS RETURNING THIS FALL  
AND YOU CAN HELP US!**

**YOU CAN ORDER MAGAZINES ONLINE ANYTIME:**

**GO TO [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca) and support our school.**

**NEW COMING THIS FALL!**

**The ENTERTAINMENT DIGITAL SAVINGS COUPON APP  
for your phone!**



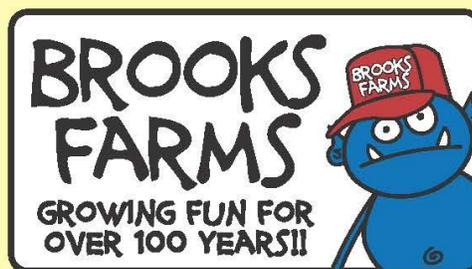
*If you have an inquiry please contact QSP Customer Service at 1-800-667-2536.*

**Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to a successful campaign!**



# teddy bear fair

## FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL



**SATURDAY, JULY 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 | 10 AM - 4 PM**  
**122-141 Ashworth Road, Mount Albert, ON L0G 1M0**

**Teddy Bear Clinic • Wagon Ride • Magic Show at 2:00 pm**  
**Games • Crafts • Balloon Artists • Teddy Bear Retail Village**

**PLUS ALL THE GREAT FUN THAT**  
**BROOKS FARMS HAS TO OFFER**

**Purchase your tickets to the Fair early and save money!**

Go to [www.teddybearfair.ca](http://www.teddybearfair.ca) and purchase your Family Pass for only \$25 (valid for a family of 4)

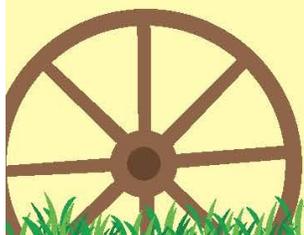
Regular admission on Saturday, July 11 at Brooks Farms is \$8 + HST/age 2 and under free

Save almost \$7 when you purchase a Family Pass!

This offer is available online only at [www.CancerRecovery.ca](http://www.CancerRecovery.ca) until July 3, 2015

Cancer Recovery Foundation of Canada | [events@cancerrecovery.ca](mailto:events@cancerrecovery.ca) | 905.477.7743

[www.teddybearfair.ca](http://www.teddybearfair.ca)



Children's  
**CANCER**  
**RECOVERY**  
 PROJECT

CHARITABLE REGISTRATION 89188 1005 RR0001





# WATER SAFETY

Canadians are concerned about safety in backyard pools, but not as concerned about wearing lifejackets in boats.

## TO MAKE A POOL AREA SAFER:

**51%** of Canadians who own a pool do not leave children under 10 alone

**36%** install 4-sided fencing

**33%** add a self-closing gate on the fence in the pool area

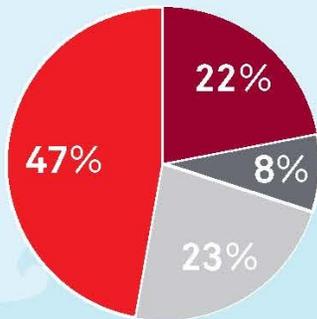
## 70% OF CANADIAN PARENTS SAY THEY:

would be concerned with their children playing in a backyard that has a pool, even if their children know how to swim.

## 73% OF CANADIAN ADULTS KNOW HOW TO SWIM



## BOATING HABITS



**47%** of Canadians who use boats say they always wear a lifejacket

**23%** say they wear lifejackets most of the time

**8%** say they never wear lifejackets

**22%** say this happens only sometimes



When it comes to children and lifejackets, **99%** of parents say their children are always wearing a lifejacket while boating.

## LIFEJACKET USE

1 in 4 people who do not use lifejackets do so because they know how to swim.

1 in 5 do not wear them because they say they are uncomfortable.

The Canadian Red Cross **SWIMMING & WATER SAFETY COURSES** teach both children and adults how to protect themselves in, on and around water.

To find a course near you, visit [REDCROSS.CA](http://REDCROSS.CA)

Note: All findings based on an Ipsos Reid poll conducted on behalf of the Canadian Red Cross between December 12 to 19, 2011. A sample of 1,997 adults from Ipsos' Canadian online panel was interviewed online.

# A Message from the Trustee

As the 2014-15 school year winds down, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our parents and guardians for their ongoing support of our students throughout the year. We know that parents are our most important partners when it comes to educating your children. Good schools become better schools when they are connected with parents and families.

During the year, I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy some of the many student performances, sporting events and cultural celebrations that take place in schools across our region. These events would not take place without the support of our school staff. I would like to thank the staff for their work to support student achievement and well-being.

Summer is a great time to relax and pursue hobbies or activities that complement the learning that took place over the school year. Whether you visit a museum, enjoy nature or just catch up on some summer reading, I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer.

Martin Van Beek  
Trustee



## 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

<b>Principal</b>	Richard Erdmann	<b>VM # 183</b>
<b>Vice-Principal</b>	Monica Wand	<b>VM # 182</b>
<b>Office Admin Assistant</b>	Heather Komar	<b>VM # 181</b>
<b>School Secretary</b>	Lisa Mammone	<b>VM # 180</b>
<b>Lead Caretaker</b>	Sandy Grant	<b>VM # 188</b>
<b>School Council</b>	Khaled Elsayed	kelsayed702@gmail.com
<b>Superintendent</b>	Paul Carew	<b>(905) 895-5155</b>
<b>Trustee</b>	Martin Van Beek	<b>(905) 830-6776</b>

*This edition was published on June 3rd, 2015.*



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.