



Ashton Meadows Public School



# Connections

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Email: ashton.meadows.ps@yrdsb.ca

Principal: Calvin Darby  
Vice Principal: Matt Champion

Superintendent: Rashmi Swarup  
Trustee: Ada Yeung

## Administrator's Message

The school year just speeds along as we enter November. The staff and students of Ashton Meadows were thrilled with the announcement that Ms. Perera gave birth to a son, Matthew Isaiah, on October 18. Ms. Perera will take the rest of this school year to support her family and we are pleased to have retired Principal Matt Champion here to fill her shoes. Mr. Champion comes to us after almost 30 years as a teacher and school leader in York Region before retiring in 2012.

## November 2014



On Wednesday November 12, progress reports will be sent home. The fall progress report card is intended to facilitate communication among parents, teachers, and students, encourage students to set goals, assist parents in supporting learning at home, and help teachers establish plans for teaching. This report places a strong emphasis on the development of students' learning skills and work habits. These are: (1) Responsibility, (2) Organization, (3) Independent Work, (4) Collaboration, (5) Initiative, and (6) Self-Regulation. These are essential skills that students require in order to achieve academic success each year and by focusing on them at this time, teachers can give parents insight into how their child have adjusted to the expectations set for the coming school year and what support they may need to achieve success.

Student Conferences will be held on November 13 and 14 and this will give parents an opportunity to come into the school to discuss their child's progress and the evidence that teachers have to support what has been communicated in the reports. We welcome all parents to come into the school over these two days as we build the necessary partnerships required for every student to be successful.

## Remembrance Day Service at Ashton Meadows

This service will take place on **Tuesday, November 11th, beginning at 10:50**, for all of our students, and community. Parents and guardians of our students are welcome to attend. If you are attending, we ask that you do not disturb our service by arriving late or leaving early. **Poppies will be distributed, please send a donation with your child to their homeroom teacher.** Thank you



## Intermediate Literacy

During the month of October, while intermediate students in Ms. Lee's class and Intermediate SSC worked on their Narrative unit in Literacy; they wrote Important Books about themselves. In the process of writing these amazing books, students had an opportunity to become more aware of their strengths, needs, wonderings, and character traits.

This "reflection journey" was the first step in the yearlong self-discovery process, which prepares them for transition to High School. The next phase of the process is developing a self-advocacy card that could be used as a tool to communicate what they need in order to be successful.

Both writing pieces will be presented by students to their parents during upcoming student led conferences this year.



**“THE IMPORTANT THING ABOUT ME IS THAT ..... I AM ... ME”**

## Our Library is Getting a New Look!



Ashton Meadows PS was fortunate enough to receive funds, from YRDSB, to have our halls and Library painted. Gone are the old peach walls of the library and the painters should be finished this week. This is also a great opportunity for a revisit of the library's current floor plan and our collection of text. This reorganization may take a few weeks and during that time our library will be closed. We will have a reopening towards the end of this month, during which classes will be reoriented with the 'new look' library! Parents and community members are welcome to come by and check out our progress when they visit for student-led conferences on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Primary House League

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Ashton Meadows P.S. will be offering a free lunch time **Primary House League Program** for students in grades 2 and 3 beginning on **November 26th**. Games will be played every Day 2 and Day 3 (12:45 p.m.-1:15 p.m.) Students will eat their lunches and then proceed to the gym.

\*\* A schedule will be sent home with each participant to match Day 2 and Day 3 to calendar dates.

\*\* Indoor running shoes are necessary in order to participate.



The following team activities will be played:

November through February — Floor Hockey  
March through April — Indoor Soccer



## Student Election Day! By Sandra Xu



Dear Parents/Guardians,

On Friday October 24, we did our 2014 student election! It was held by some great helpers, who all worked very hard researching, putting power points together, doing presentations, and performing all of the jobs during the elections.

The reason why we decided to hold a student election was that we want kids to know that Canadians have the right to vote. You don't need to be the voting age or older in order to choose who you want to vote for in the Student Vote election. All Canadian adults have voting rights, and we want all of Ashton Meadows to know that. So we held this election to let kids know how to vote and that voting is a way to have a say in what happens in our city.

The vote went really well. The scrutinizers' made sure that everyone one knew what to do, that everything was quiet, and they organized how many people would come into the gym at a time. The poll clerks crossed off names of students, signed the ballots to make sure that no one would vote twice, and tallied up all of the votes in the end. Finally, the Deputy Returning Officers made sure everyone knew what to do, and did a fantastic job counting all of the votes.

In the end, the winner for the Mayor was Frank Scarpitti. The Regional Councilors were Ivy Lee, Joe Li, Jack Heath, and Sofia Sun. The ward 2 YRDSB School-Board Trustee winner was Billy Pang, and the ward 2 Councilor winner was Alan Ho. Thank you to ALL of the people who helped, and voted! Sincerely, The AMPS grade 5's!

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## Band Trip to Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School

On Friday November 21, the Ashton Meadows senior band will travel to Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School for a day of masterclasses, sectionals, and clinics in conjunction with the University of Toronto Faculty of Music.

During the morning session all students will receive a masterclass on their instrument (basic playing technique) by University of Toronto students, and a sectional rehearsal with their band. In the afternoon, full rehearsals are led by a variety of guest conductors including professors from U of T, Graduate students from U of T, and Trudeau Music Faculty. Students should arrive at school at the usual time on the day of the excursion, and will return to Ashton Meadows prior to the end of the school day for regular dismissal. The only cost is \$5 per student, which covers a pizza lunch.

In the evening, Pierre Elliott Trudeau High School will host a Celebration of Bands concert, which will include performances from Trudeau bands, along with elementary schools that participated during the day, and special guest The Wind Ensemble from the University of Toronto. Students (and families) that wish to participate in this evening event should arrive at 6:30 PM, with the show running from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Also, parents are welcome to join us for the Remembrance Day assembly, which begin at 10:45 on Tuesday November 11th.

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## Falcons Athletics

**Volleyball** — Our intermediate boys' and girls' volleyball teams continue to prepare for the upcoming area tournaments. The girls area tournament will be held at Markville S.S. on November 25th and the boys will be on November 28th at Bill Crothers S.S. Please contact Ms. Dano or Mr. Thomas with any questions in regards to the girls or boys teams respectively.



**Badminton** — A reminder that the badminton club meets every Wednesday and Friday morning at 7am. It is open to any students in grades 4-8. Please contact Ms. Dano with any questions.

**Basketball** — The intermediate basketball teams continue their preparation for the highly anticipated, upcoming season starting in January. Grade 6 students are welcome to the practices and can participate in some to help them get experience for their junior season. There are no set days for practices yet as we work around the volleyball teams' schedules. Please contact Mr. Thomas with any questions.



Please contact Mr. Thomas with any other questions or concerns regarding Athletics at Ashton Meadows.



## We Scare Hunger By Rosana G. and Evan W.

As you know, over the month of October Ashton Meadows' Me to We club held the We Scare Hunger campaign. Did you know that 14% of food banks ran out of food in 2012? Or that in 2013, 1.7 million Canadians used food banks? What we want to do is change this so that everyone has enough food to eat, so that is why we held this event.

Remember that we had a contest to see which class could bring in the most food donation items? The class that brought in the most food wins a pizza party. Well, now that We Scare Hunger is over, we have the winners to announce. The winner of the pizza party is Ms. Sidenberg's class with 189 food items! In second is Ms. Schmalz's class with 99 food items. In third is Ms. Freeman's class with 84 items. Our school raised 681 food items in total! This foods will be donated to Markham food bank. Good job everyone!

Many people around the world have cancer and sometimes their treatment makes their hair fall out. Since we had reached our fundraising goal and collected over 600 food items, this weekend Ms. Sidenberg will cut her hair for an organization that makes wigs for people who need hair, so that they can feel more normal.

Thank you to everyone who supported us! We appreciate your help a lot.

From, The Me to We club



## Character Corner

The character Trait for the month of **November** is **Honesty**. Parents/Guardians whenever possible please talk to your children about honesty.

### What is honesty?

**Honesty is telling the truth. Honesty is straightforward conduct.**

**Quote of the Week:** *"People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built."* Eleanor Roosevelt.

Has your child demonstrated **HONESTY** at home? Tell us about it!

**Parents**, tell us if your child has been **"Caught in the Act"** of being **honest** at home.

Let us know how your child has demonstrated honesty at home by filling out the form below. Once the form has been completed, please send it with your child to school. Your child's name will be place in a ballot, which will be drawn at the end of the month. A winner will be selected from each division

(Primary, Junior, and Intermediate) to win a prize. Let's be Honest! Honesty is the best Policy!

\_\_\_\_\_ (students's name) in \_\_\_\_\_(Teacher name/class)

has demonstrated HONESTY at home by:

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Please submit by November 20th, 2014.



# Ashton Meadows Connection Newsletter



School: (905) 887-2656 Fax: (905) 887-2684 www.ashton.meadows.ps@yrdsb.ca  
 Community Education Centre: (905) 940-7800 York Region District School Board: (905) 727-3141

Principal: Calvin Darby (ext. 107)  
 Vice Principal: Matt Champion (ext. 106)  
 Head Secretary: Soula Karagiannis (ext. 100)  
 Secretary: Laura Furgiuele (ext. 105)

Caretaker: Tom Andrews (ext. 122)  
 School Council Chairs: Malinda Hepworth/  
 Deborah Woolston  
 Superintendent: Rashmi Swarup (905) 940-7800  
 Trustee: Ada Yeung (416) 885-3294

## Thank You!

Thank you to all of the students who enthusiastically participated in the Grade 8 Haunted House, and to all of the parents who donated money to this Grade 8 Graduation Fundraiser! This experience, not only raised money for graduation, but it taught the grade 8 students invaluable "real life" skills such as teamwork, planning and working towards a deadline, and persevering when faced with last-minute obstacles. It was a great way to kick off our grade 8 graduation fundraising efforts!



Sincerely, The Grade 8 Staff and Students

We have incorporated the 5-Day Cycle Calendar in our School calendar below. It can also be found on our website by following the link to

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/ashtonmeadows.ps/NewsEvents/Documents/5%20Day%20Cycle%20calendar%202014%202015.pdf>

## November 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  (change clocks)	3 Day 2 Gr.7 Students HepB Gr. 8 Girls HPV vaccinations.	4 Day 3	5 Day 4	6 Day 5 Student Council 6:30 pm (Library)	7 Day 1	8
9	10 Day 2	11 Day 3 Remembrance Day Assembly 10:45 am in Gym	12 Day 4 Progress Reports sent home	13 Day 5 Parent Teacher Interviews	14 (no school)	15
16	17 Day 1	18 Day 3	19 Day 3	20 Day 4	21 Day 5 Ms. Sidenberg/ Mr. Singh's class to Safety Village	22
23	24 Day 1	25 Day 2	26 Day 3	27 Day 4	28 Day 5 Character Assembly	