



April 13, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you to our parents who joined our Coffee Hour this morning which was presented by Vanessa Fortier, our York Region public health nurse. She discussed the difference between mental health versus mental illness and how to be proactive toward recognizing mental health difficulties. We hope you will join us on Wednesday evening for an open house to see the work your children have been working on in their classrooms along the lines of equity, acceptance and inclusion. This open house at 6:00 will be immediately followed by our School Council sponsored presentation: "The Empowerment Project" from 7:00-8:30 PM. Learn how you and your children can be happy and fulfilled to enable their growth as learners and contributing members of our ever changing society. (Please see the attached flyer for rsvp information, especially if babysitting is required.) The evening presentation will be followed the student equivalent on Thursday, so this should make for excellent dinner conversation!

We are very proud of our Grade 7 students, Maya and Gioia who have taken their learning about Social Justice issues from the classroom to the larger school community. In class, the girls were studying the impact of child labour and trafficking in countries where it exists. The girls decided to extend their learning to raise awareness for children living in poverty and how we can make a change for the better. As a school, we decided to support Plan Canada who will donate monies raised to a village in need of water, food or basic health care supplies. The girls have themselves made bracelets as a thank you to those who donated \$2 or more to the charity. They have been collecting donations for a few days this week and will continue to do so on Monday morning. Please consider supporting this worthwhile charity by sending a twoonie to school with your child. Thus far, our students have raised \$513 for Plan Canada! THANK YOU for your generosity!

We would like to remind parents to continue the flow of communication with your child on how to be a responsible and safe digital citizen. We are proud of the many paperless learning opportunities that promote student collaboration, deep learning and Eco awareness, but with this comes the requirement for everyone to maintain a safe stance regarding Internet exposure and respecting others while on-line. This can be in the form of taking care when sending emails to ensure that the intended recipient is the correct person, treating others on-line respectfully when texting or communicating, and ensuring that anything your children post on-line is something that they would be comfortable for anyone to see today, or in 30 years from now! Having these conversations with your children often, helps to ensure that they don't regret a bad decision that cannot be readily erased. Since technology is not going away, we need to teach our children how to create a positive digital footprint.

It was brought to our attention that students are sometimes crossing our parking lot at the end of the day in an unsafe manner. Please remind your children that they should cross the parking lot with care; they should be aware of traffic and not running or texting when walking to a car. Please do not call your child over to your car, rather park in a designated spot and collect your child from the sidewalk. As a reminder, the area along the sidewalk should be used only as a student drop off point where parents are asked to kindly remain in their cars in order to drive off in a timely manner in order to allow the continuous flow of traffic at busy times of the day. Not to mention, it is a hefty ticket to park there as it is a fire lane.....

EQAO assessments for Grades 3 and 6 will be taking place the weeks of May 22 – May 31, 2018. If possible, please avoid scheduling appointments during the school day on these dates.

“Bonne chance” to our Grade 8 students who will be performing their written and created 1 Act play at Aurora High next week. The grade 6 & 7 students were awestruck by the professionalism of the script, acting and performances. We wish our performers the best of luck in front of their big audience at Aurora high on Tuesday!

Wishing you a wonderful weekend! Stay safe in this crazy weather....

Heather Zaitlin

Principal

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C'est genial d'être gentil!