

Boxwood Broncos



Volume 7, Issue 6
March, 2014

Boxwood Public School
30 Boxwood Crescent, Markham, Ontario L3S 3P7
(905) 294-5563 fax (905) 291-1452
www.boxwood.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Principal: Catherine Arnold
Vice Principal: Ruth Carmichael
Trustee: Juanita Nathan (416) 885-3479
Superintendent: Dr. Lisa Walsh (905) 940-7800



Principal's Message

I would like to thank all the parents and students who braved the snowy evening of February 20 to take part in Boxwood's EQAO evening. I would also like to thank Elsa Chan for organizing and supervising the very successful "Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament" that was held at the school on March 6th. The event was enjoyed by all of the staff and students who participated.

Our first term report cards were sent home on February 13th and I trust that everyone had an opportunity to discuss with your child his/her progress, strengths, and areas for growth. Learning is a collaborative process that we are all committed to, so conversations between parents, students, and school staff are very important to best ensure each and every child learns and achieves! Although no specific dates were set aside for formal parent-teacher meetings related to the report card, please remember that you are always welcomed and encouraged to contact your child's teacher at any time to discuss and clarify details about his/her progress.

On an unrelated note, once again I need to draw your attention to something that is also everyone's Responsibility - traffic safety! Parents who drive their children to and from school know just how congested traffic can be in front of the school and in the drop off loop in the parking lot. Not only are there many cars in the area, there are many traffic violations happening. Students are routinely observed not wearing seat belts, vehicles are making U-turns in the middle of the road, cars are being parked illegally, parents are letting their children get in and out of their cars in the middle of the road, and many more dangerous actions are happening. **We strongly encourage students to walk to school!**

Class Placement Process

This is the time of year that school staff begin the collaborative process of class placement meetings. Classroom teachers, in cooperation with support staff, administration, and parental input work diligently to create balanced classes for the upcoming school year. School staff consider the academic, social, and emotional strengths, needs, and interests, and more of each student when preparing class lists. The ultimate goal of class placement is to support and enhance the learning of all students. We welcome any input you wish to share about your child's strengths, needs, and learning styles. **However, requests for specific teachers will not be considered.** The responsibility for final decisions lies with administration. Please send any information you would like considered about your child's placement, in writing, to Ms. Arnold **no later than March 31st.**

Our Boxwood Touchstone

At Boxwood, we are active participants in our own learning and we persevere to reach our goals. We recognize our own success and the successes of those around us. We are responsible for what we say and how we act. We treat others the way we want to be treated. We celebrate the diversity of our community. At Boxwood, every voice is heard.



Front Doors Locked as of February 3rd



As you are aware beginning on February 3rd all school doors, including the front doors are locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. The doors remain locked for the rest of the day.

If your child is late for school please do not drop them off and leave them to enter by themselves. Please come to the front door with them so that you can ring the bell and make sure they safely gain entry to the school

We appreciate your patience when waiting for us to answer the doorbell. At times we may be helping a child who is hurt or sick.

We encourage parents to send lunches with your child(ren) first thing in the morning, before school starts. If you need to drop your child(ren)'s lunch off at school you can do so however you will still need to buzz in. JK/SK parents who pick your kindergarten child(ren) up for lunch please go through the kindergarten fenced play area and knock on your child's classroom door. The teacher will dismiss your child from this door. At 3:25 dismissal, Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to agree to a meeting spot with your child outside the building, or wait for them to come out of their appropriate exit door.

Our school continues to be a safe place where we welcome and encourage parent and community member involvement. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place for student and staff safety, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact the office at 905-294-5563.

Is your Child in a Booster Seat?

Booster seats are **required by law** for children under the age of eight who weigh between 18-56 kg (40-80 lbs) and who are under 145 cm (4'9") tall. Adult seat belts are not designed to fit a child. The lap belt can ride up on a child's stomach and this can cause serious injuries in a crash. A booster seat raises the child so the seat belt fits properly across the shoulder, chest and hip bones.

Your child is ready for an adult seat belt if you answer "yes" to the questions below.

With your child sitting up straight, measure him/her from the tailbone to the top of the head:

- Is your child's sitting height at least 74 cm (29 inches)?
- Do your child's knees bend comfortably over the edge of the car seat?
- Does the shoulder belt go over the shoulder and across the middle of the chest?
- Does the lap belt fit low over the hip bones and under the abdomen?

Always read the manuals for your booster seat and your vehicle to ensure you use your booster seat correctly.

Boost your child up and keep them safe!



Farewell, Mr. Dale

On February 28th we said farewell to one of our longstanding caretakers, Mr. Rick Dale. After a career in YRDSB spanning over 27 years, Mr. Dale made the difficult decision to move on to new adventures at Bur Oak Secondary School.

Mr. Dale loves Nascar raising and the Toronto Maple Leafs. Rick is a family man who enjoys good music. A friendly face around the school, always taking time to get to know about and work with all the students he passed. Mr. Dale will be sadly missed by staff and students.



FULL-DAY LEARNING FOR JK/SK STUDENTS AT BOXWOOD REGISTRATION BEGAN FEBRUARY 17th

Kindergarten registration began on Friday, **February 17th** for students entering JK and **new** SK in September 2014. Registration forms are available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

Children living within Boxwood's attendance boundaries born in 2010 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten (age 4 by December 31, 2014).

Children living within Boxwood's attendance boundaries born in 2009 are eligible for Senior Kindergarten (age 5 by December 31, 2014)

Students currently in Junior Kindergarten at Boxwood Public School are not required to register for September 2014.

Parents must bring the following information to register: (between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

- Proof of child's age (birth certificate/passport/permanent residence card)
- Proof of residency: Official lease or Purchase Agreement and a 2012 residential house tax bill.
- Parents must be **Public School Tax Supporters** to be eligible to register for kindergarten. Parents will need to complete a Public School Tax Support form at registration.

A Junior Kindergarten Orientation Session for those who have registered at Boxwood will take place on Thursday, May 8th . (details will follow).



Triple P Tip of the Month March - Swearing

Children often learn new words their parents do not like, particularly swear words. Some swear words may not be a problem because parents use it themselves. Parents need to decide which words are acceptable and which ones are not.

KEY STEPS:

- Set a good example
- Use planned ignoring the first time your child swears
- Decide which words are acceptable and discuss them with your child
- Praise your child for using acceptable words
- Act immediately when you hear your child swear
- Apply a consequence for swearing



Initiative

CHARACTER MATTERS

Independent Work

Our Recognition Assemblies were held on Friday, February 28th. Students who demonstrated the Character trait of **Initiative** are people who show initiative, look for and act on new ideas and opportunities for learning. They demonstrate curiosity and interest in learning and they approach new tasks with a positive attitude. Our Learning Skills focus is **Independent Work**. Students demonstrate independence when they use class time appropriately to complete tasks and monitor, assess and revise plans to meet their goals. The Junior/Intermediate Academic focus for February is French. Students will be receiving awards for showing a keen interest in the language, communicating in written form and attempting to speak in French.



Initiative: Madina, Dhiya, Declan, Arsalan, Anusha, Laya, Sanjay, Hanah, Ayaan, Shiyan, Harnoor, Jiya, Cyanthan, Arujan, Nibisshek, Amna, Mathusha, Maha, Adsayan, Haroon, Jancy, Mareum, Taha, Zainab, Maanik, Eashvar, Iman, Mithula, Aqib, Farhaan, Zain, Rhea, Vaisnavi, Keshanah, Sujeeka, Samantha, Nevetha, Amy

Independent Work: Rayaana, Elyad, Divyana, Prisha, Sahana, Dejha, Haseeb, Ashita, Saieraa, Kajaanan, Adeeba, Abdullah, Ajeena, Jenusan, Colin, Shahana, Kareena, Ethan, Faizan, Ashwin, Mahrukh, Ekaansh, Raya, Arifa, Rohan, Megan, Jessica P., Nisha, Thayalan, Laxen, Justin, Alisha, Helen, Parathan, Roshaant, Aravin, Nicholas, Brandon

French: Maha, Samini, Emily, Sinthuja, Sameer, Ro-J, Anise, Kothai, Purav, Shamini, Nicolas, Joshua, Jennifer, Praveena, Rhea, Anjali, Pooja, Noah, Verbana, Saimon, Roshaant, Sumana

March is Courage month! People who are courageous face challenges directly and seek help from others when necessary. Showing courage means doing the right thing even when it may be unpopular. A courageous person is able to recognize danger and does not take unwise risks to gain the approval of others. The Academic focus for March is Science and Technology. We will celebrate the award winners at our assemblies on Friday, March 28th.

In March
Boxwood
will be
Celebrating
Courage!

Golden Dust Pan



Congratulations goes out to the students in Ms Madhavi, Ms. Calverley and Ms. Fitzgerald's classes for winning Golden Dust Pan Award. **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Limited Class Interruptions

We value instructional time at Boxwood P.S. Our office staff has been instructed not to interrupt classes unless there is an emergency situation. Please make arrangements, in advance, if your child is to be picked up for an appointment and provide a note to the teacher. As well, please make sure that any arrangements made for lunch or after school are done with a note so that calls do not need to be made into the classroom.

Your support in protecting instructional time for our students is most appreciated.

Dates to Remember

March 3	School Council Meeting 7:00 pm
March 4	Milk Program
March 4	Lunch Ladies
March 5	Lunch Ladies
March 5	Jump Rope for Heart Kick Off Assembly 11:55 - 3:00
March 6	Milk Program
March 6	Pizza Day
March 7	Professional Development Day (no school)
March 10 –14	March Break
March 18	Lunch Ladies
March 19	Lunch Ladies
March 20	Milk Program
March 21	Pizza Day
March 25	Milk Program
March 25	Lunch Ladies
March 26	Lunch Ladies
March 26	Author Visit - J. Wilson
March 27	Milk Program
March 28	Character Matters assemblies <i>Primary @ 9:55 a.m.</i> <i>Junior @ 11:05 a.m.</i> <i>Intermediate @ 2:45 p.m.</i>
March 28	Pizza Day
March 31	Scholastic Book Fair March 31st - April 4th

**March Break
Holiday
Friday, March 7 to
Friday, March 14
inclusive
(no school)**

School Council
Meeting
March 3 @ 7:00 p.m.
Library

Attendance & Punctuality

Regular attendance and punctuality is
expected of all
Boxwood students.



What's next for Boxwood's Active Team?

March will be Boxwood's Annual Jump Rope for Heart event. Pledge forms will be coming home before March Break and the event will be at the end of March. Stay tuned for more exciting initiatives!

Help Us Keep Boxwood Safe, Supportive, and Child-Focused for All Students

- All students must arrive on time (8:50 a.m. or 12:45 p.m.).
- All students are required to enter and exit the school only through their assigned door.
- Parents are requested to meet their children at dismissal times outside their assigned entry/exit doors.
- Teachers' names are posted at each door to help students and parents know which door is assigned for their use.
- Parents visiting the school must register in the main office before moving through the halls.
- Lunches should be sent to school with children in the morning. Lunches that are brought to the school later in the day must be left in the main office. Please do not personally delivery lunches to classrooms.

Hand Washing



Children share many items throughout the school day and at home including books, puzzles, computers, water bottles and sports equipment. During the cold and flu season, this sharing can spread germs that can cause sickness. Correct hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of infection.

To help keep the people in your home healthy, take these steps:

- Encourage children to sneeze into the bend of their arm rather than into their hands.
- Make time for hand washing, especially before eating.
- Always have soap, paper or hand towels within easy reach.
- Remind children (and adults) to wash their hands:
 - before eating, preparing food or visiting someone who is sick
 - after using the bathroom, blowing their nose, sneezing or coughing, handling garbage, touching animals, playing outdoors or visiting someone who is sick
 - when they look or feel dirty

Together we can make the healthy choice the easy choice!

For health-related information call York Region Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools.

Winter Weather Reminder

Although children need an opportunity to get exercise and free play time outdoors, weather conditions sometimes warrant that indoor recesses, lunch periods and pre-entry periods be considered necessary for student and staff safety.

Environment Canada has produced cold weather guidelines which York Region District School Board endorses and follows when making decisions about how long students are outside on extremely cold days.

Cold Weather Guidelines Warranting Indoor Recesses

When the temperature and/or wind chill factor drops **below -25 C children will remain indoors** due to risk of frost nip and frostbite.

When the temperature and/or wind chill factor indicates **-18 C to -25 C, recesses may be shortened to 10-20 minutes**, depending on specific conditions.

There is usually no change to the length of recess and time spent outdoors when temperature and/or wind chill are above -18 C.



Ontario EcoSchools is an environmental education and certification program for grades K-12 that helps school communities develop both ecological literacy and environmental practices to become environmentally responsible citizens and reduce the ecological footprint of schools. The EcoSchools program focuses on 4 components: Ecological Literacy, Waste Minimization, Energy Conservation, and School Ground Greening.

In York Region, we currently have 147 certified elementary schools, secondary schools, and Outdoor Ed Centres. Each year, the number of certified schools in York Region grows and we get closer to our goal of "Every school an EcoSchool".

Boxwood is Thinking Green!!!

Our school has been registered as an eco-school! This program challenges our school and students to become more eco-friendly. We are taking small steps at our school to help the environment. Our students at our school are beginning to make small changes to becoming greener such as turning off lights and becoming more aware of what goes in the garbage bin and the recycling bin. These are some minor changes that we are taking to become greener.

Pop Tabs for Wheelchairs

We ask that all of our student collect pop can tabs this year. What do pop can tabs have to do with wheelchairs? Here's how it works: Pop can tabs are made from pure aluminum, which is valuable to the metal recycling depot, which will pay for them by the pound. Proceeds from this are sent to the **President's Choice Children's Charity** which buys wheelchairs and related equipment for children and families in need. All you have to do is remove the tab from your can of pop and save it. Ask your family, friends, and co-workers to help you collect! This can also be a great project for Kindergarten and Primary students who are learning how to count to high numbers. Our goal is to collect 30,000 tabs by the end of June. Together, we can achieve anything. So, show some Boxwood spirit and help support this worthy cause!



Reduce Energy Consumption during the Winter Season!

With the onset of winter we need to be aware of our carbon footprint. Our Board's footprint increases in the winter time due to our boiler plants consuming fuel. To **Reduce** energy consumption during the winter season and stay warm we recommend the following actions:

- Keep heat in the building by ensuring exterior windows and doors are kept closed.
- Ensure that all weather stripping is in place around doors and windows. If it is damaged, please let your caretaking services team know so they can have it repaired.
- The use of personal heaters is discouraged (the use of electric heaters in rooms that already have heating systems offsets any savings that might be achieved through energy initiatives and programs such as the "Lights Out" program).
- Ensure that all heating and cooling vents and radiators are clear of obstructions.
- Wear fall/winter appropriate clothing to work in layers to keep warm and comfortable.
- Use your blinds to assist with heating and cooling classrooms and offices.

School Bus Cancellation Notice

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.

School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather is not affecting all municipalities in York Region. Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.

Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM 1050 AM
1540 AM 1580 AM

88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM 94.9 FM
95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM
101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CFTO TV CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YCDSB and YRDSB on twitter.

Please note that school bus charters will not operate when home to school bus service is cancelled.



IF YOU ARE SICK “PLEASE” STAY @ HOME



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.

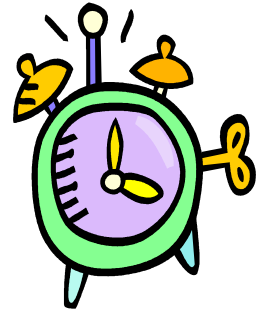
Students with heavy colds, etc., which are serious enough to prevent them from participating in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will likely benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of this illness to others.

Attendance - Lates

If your son/daughter is absent from school, you **MUST** call to let us know before 8:30 a.m. We do have an answering machine, if you call during the evening hours. Please tell us their name, grade/teacher name and the reason why they are away!

Being on time and prepared for instruction not only supports student success and academic achievement, but it is also an expectation of the staff at Boxwood. The school times are included below as a gentle reminder to everyone.

Entry Bell 8:55 a.m. Lunch 12:45 p.m.-1:45 p.m. Dismissal 3:25 p.m.



Student Safety Comes First

If you are picking up or dropping off your child at the front of the school please follow the no U-Turn sign. U-turns in front of the school are dangerous for our children. Take the time to follow the road signs, avoid u-turns and make sure all our children are safe.



Spirit Day



Ripley Aquarium

A picture is worth a thousand words !

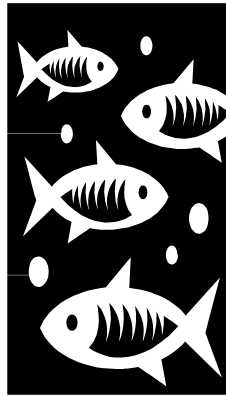
Three bus loads of lucky Boxwood students went to the Ripley's Aquarium on February 11, 2014. Ripley's Aquarium is the largest indoor aquarium in Canada.

It was really fun and had lots of interesting animals. We walked around the aquarium and looked at all sharks, cuttlefish, sawfish and even a giant kelp forest. You can even touch horse shoe crabs, bamboo sharks, manta rays. When you're finished looking at things you can go to the gift shop.

We learnt lots of facts in the aquarium: like it doesn't hurt a stingray when they cut their stingers. That is because the stinger is made out of keratin, the same material our fingernails are made out of. We also learned that octopuses can squeeze into small spaces since they don't have bones.

Many students commented that it was the best field trip EVER!

Written by Naira



Markham Public Library Resources

We are very fortunate to have a close collaborative relationship with the Markham Public Library. The public library is a treasure trove of resources that compliment the resources we have at the school.

Caroline O'Higgins from the Markham Public Library has come to speak to the Intermediate and Junior students. She explained to the students about how to access their amazing **Database** that is free with a library card. This data base has fantastic resources that you can access from any computer as long as you have your library card number and password.

In other words, our students don't even need to go into the library building in order to get resources to help them with research and homework. They can do it from any computer. They can also get ebooks too. Of course a visit to the library building is always fun ... especially for the primary students.



Library News



BOOK FAIR

Monday, March 31st to
Friday, April 4th



March 31, 11:00 – 12:00 & 2:45 – 3:30

April 1, 11:00 – 12:00 & 2:45 – 3:30

April 2, 11:00 – 12:00 & 2:00 – 3:30

April 3, 11:00 – 12:00 & 2:00 – 3:30

April 4, 11:00 – 12:00 only

(Helping children become lifelong learners!)
Buying a book at the Book Fair helps to support our Library.
Profits will be used to buy new books.

Please note: debit and credit cards are accepted.

Raffle for “free” books!!!



Celebrating the 2014 Winter Olympics at Boxwood

Throughout February and the Sochi Winter Olympics, Boxwood's Active Team has organized and run a number of Olympic-related events for staff and students this month in celebration of the Olympics.

Staff Pedometer Challenge

The Boxwood staff was challenged to walk to Sochi, Russia (8563km from Markham) throughout the month of February. Every 10,000 steps (the recommended number of steps an adult should take in a day to stay active) is 8km. But with only 28 days in February, the team decided to find other ways to help teachers earn more km for their walk to Sochi:

Torch Relay

A 3 day km club, with the final day giving students an opportunity to earn the 5 Olympic Rings – each lap or ring earning more and more km. These km earned house points and teachers could collect the km their house earned.

Olympic DPA

Each day had a new and exciting DPA activity related to a specific Olympic Sport. Each activity a class participated in earned their teacher more km and each student participating earned km too. What a great way to try different exercises that are related to Olympic sports.

Ball Hockey

Junior and Intermediate students had an opportunity to sign-up in teams of 3 for ball hockey. What a great event With 20 Junior teams, 9 Intermediate teams, and even a teacher team, it was an excellent tribute the Canadian Women's Hockey team who were playing and winning their gold medal at the same time.



Knitting and Crocheting Club

Mrs. Kenwell, Ms. Edlin and Ms. St. Jean are our knitting and crocheting teachers. The teachers organized the knitting and crocheting club and it takes place every Monday during lunch recess. We have so many girls and boys who take part in the club that we have had to move to the library. The cost of knitting needles is \$2 and yarn can cost from \$1 to \$2. Crocheting hooks cost \$2. Everyone enjoys the club and the great atmosphere. This is a club you may be interested in and want to try.

Written: Cynthia S.



York Region Skills Challenge



Curriculum and Instructional Services has provided, and paid, for all YRDSB schools to be affiliated with Skills Canada-Ontario. Skills Canada-Ontario provides numerous instructional opportunities (K-12) to engage all students with programs and resources that promote opportunities in technological education, mathematical and digital literacy, problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Animation Challenge Grades 4 - 6: Deepikaa, Megan, Arvind, Sarah

Lego Mechanics Challenge Grades 4 - 6

Team 1 - The Block Builders - Saranjan, Sinthujah, Lavan, Amber

Team 2 - The Block Joes - Nicholas, Anthony, Nirujan, Rohan

Skills Challenge

Lego Mechanics Challenge Grades 7 - 8

Team 1 - Team Imagination - Teg, Humza, Glen, Zoravur

Team 2 - The Unstoppables - Praveena, Almen, Kunal, Thilash

On Thursday, February 27, 2014 students in Boxwood from grades 4 - 6 went to Seneca College to compete in a competition (LEGO Mechanics Skills Challenge) in teams of 4. The challenge was created by the YRSC. The competition challenged the students to use their knowledge to solve a problem using LEGO mechanic sets.

The purpose was to provide students to demonstrate their skills through practical and theoretical application using Lego mechanics. Skills to be tested are group work, sketches, presentation skills, critical thinking, problem solving and creativity.

Late breaking news!! All the students who participated enjoyed the challenges presented (and pizza). They came home loaded with medals. Congratulations to the Animation Team who won a "Bronze" medal. The Lego Mechanics "Unstoppable" Team, grade 7 & 8 won a "Bronze" medal. The Lego Mechanics Challenge "Block Joes" walked off with a "Gold" medal, pennant and certificate of achievement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!

We are currently looking for community volunteers who have mechanical engineering backgrounds or people who just love playing with LEGO!

Ski Club

The weather outside has been cold and snowy - perfect for the SKI CLUB. The brave band of Boxwood Skiers and Snowboarders has finished their six sessions of skiing for this year at Dagmar. Many of the students were beginners but all have improved their skills, turning, snowplowing, stopping, and of course knowledge of all the safety rules. Rendezvous, Dagger, Bomber, Favourite, and the Bunny Hill - will all have to wait to see us next year.

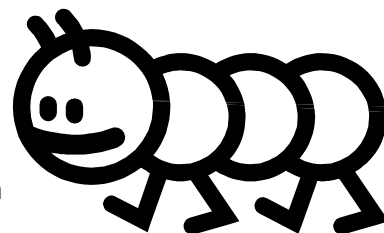
Thanks go to Mrs Brown who organized the entire session, Mr Kitching, Mrs ORourke, Mrs Turcotte, Mr Ursi and Ms St Jean who helped supervise the potential Olympic contenders for the Gold Medal in 2022 Olympics!

Written by Nick and LSJ



Walk To Sochi - Boxwood's Olympic Challenge

The teachers have to get more exercise, so Ms. Smith set up a pedometer challenge. Every teacher obtained a pedometer to keep track of the steps they took each day. The teachers were trying to walk the distance to Sochi, Russia from Markham, Ontario. If they reach the goal of 8563 km they would win a prize. They get help from their students by having their students do D.P.A. exercises. Each exercise earns them 400 km. It was fun! Thanks to Ms. Smith for getting our whole school, even the teachers, some exercise.



Written by: Hasna

Moving?



Are you moving over the summer? Please call our office at 905-294-5563 to share this information with our staff as soon as possible. We can help you plan for your child's schooling in September 2012.

If you know any families moving into the Boxwood attendance area over the summer, please let us know so that we can assist them in registering their children for September.

The Underground Alphabet Railroad

Many viewers seemed to like the play "Underground Alphabet Railroad". The goal of the play was to demonstrate the challenges of the African American throughout history. They were forced by other people to work for them. They were not allowed to read and write. The play was from the point of view of black slaves.

This dramatic play makes you want to think about how much luxury you have in your life. It sends you a great message about how poor people used to be. Back then people weren't able to open the door to their own house and think "I could do whatever I want with this day.". The slaves were forced to work for other people. Imagine how it would feel to be owned by someone else. The people back then basically didn't have their own lives.

We are lucky to have a great life. This play will make you feel very grateful for what you have today. This play definitely achieved its goal.

Written by: Aaran, Eashvar and Maanik

Comments from viewers:

If you read about it you can't feel what it is like, you can truly feel what it was like to be slaves. (Joshua)

The lighting was cool, when Joseph went to jail it looked like the shadows of a jail cell. (Eashvar)

I think the play really showed what African Americans were really thinking and how it felt to be denied education. (Arvind)

It was an important part of history and it shows how the world today was shaped. It also showed how the people had to live back then and what the slaves went through. (Aaran)

The sound effects really made the setting sound like it was really happening! (Maanik)

Libby St. Jean

Chess Club Update!

We asked Maanik, the founder and leader of the chess club, about how it was going. We are proud to share our information.

When asked what strategies he taught, Maanik said his students learned about winning material, simple tactics, and checkmating skills near the end of the game. He said that if he had more time, he would teach students about famous checkmates.

We had asked Maanik if the chess club was going as he planned, he replied "Yes", it is going as planned. Everyone is having lots of fun.

He also gave us information on people he wanted to acknowledge. This list included his dad (who taught Maanik how to play), Ms. St. Jean (who approved the idea and supervised) and Ms. Arnold (who put him on announcements and helped make the Chess Club into a reality). He also wants to thank everyone who participated and those who brought in the chess boards.

When he was asked why he started it, he said, he loved chess and was good at it, so he wanted to share his knowledge to make everyone just as good as him.

Written by: Huner & Joshua

