A Message from the Administrative Team

February was a very busy month at Buttonville. Students were engaged in a wide variety of activities both in and outside of their classrooms. Our students participated in many events such as celebrating Lunar New Year, Black History Month and raising awareness against Anti-Bullying on our Day of Pink. Our Grade 8’s also went to Ottawa for their graduation trip. Thank you to our staff for all their efforts and commitment.

This year the board’s focus areas for improvement are: modern learning, math and mental health. As a school we continue to engage in professional learning. Currently many of our staff are participating in a Stanford Math Course. We are learning different ways to approach mathematics with our students. We will be learning more about pedagogical documentation in order to provide a variety of assessment opportunities for our students in the area of modern learning. As a staff we are learning different ways to support mental health, some things we are exploring are activities around mindfulness and healthy living.

We are in the process of organizing for the next school year. If you know you will be moving out of the Buttonville area, please let the office know as it is important for us to have accurate student enrollment numbers to determine staffing.

Thank you to our school council for providing hot chocolate to our students once again this month. This warm, sweet treat was appreciated by everyone.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxing March Break with family and friends.

Asha Rathod       Shelley Anand
Principal               Vice Principal

A Message from School Council

Only a few more weeks until spring vacation, even though it has felt like spring the last few weeks!! But before we break for the holiday, please don’t forget our monthly lunches. Pasta from Mother’s Deli is scheduled for Tuesday March 7th. Mr. Sub is scheduled for Tuesday March 21st, and Greek food from Mother’s Deli is scheduled for Tuesday March 28th. Also the sale of popcorn & cookies will be happening for $1 each on Thursday March 9th and Thursday March 30th at lunch time. Please note if school buses are cancelled due to the weather conditions, these lunches as well as pizza will be cancelled and rescheduled at a later date!!

We would like to thank all the school council volunteers that came in once again to help serve hot chocolate to all the children at recess on Friday February 10th. We hope the children enjoyed it as much as we did!! As a preventative measure, we have also arranged another visit from The Lice Lady on March 27th & 28th to see the students. We hope everyone has a great March Break! Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 26th at 6:30 pm in the library, all are welcome.

Sincerely,
Kerry Mallett and Neely Noticewala
Curriculum Corner

It is very important both to listen to children read aloud and to continue to read to them even after they become independent, fluent readers. There are many different ways of reading together: taking turns reading pages, reading in unison and stopping to talk throughout the reading. Children choose books about topics that interest them, and your interest in the same books will lead to rich conversations that will build talking and listening skills. -Ministry of Education

Tips For Supporting Reading Comprehension

- Go back and reread.
- Read ahead to clarify meaning.
- Identify what it is you don’t understand: a word, a sentence or a concept/big idea
- If it is an unknown word read beyond it and see if the meaning is clarified or think about the text and infer what the word may be about
- If it is a sentence in a picture book, look at the pictures
- Keep sticky notes with you as you read, write down any questions that come to your mind as you read, write down any connections that you make

~Adapted From 7 Keys To Comprehension~

ECO Corner

Did you know that 60% of the power used by a computer is by the monitor! The other 40% is used to keep your hard drive spinning and to power the electronics. In fact less energy is consumed when computers and monitors are turned off (as often as required) than when left on over time. All electronic devices use more energy when left on, as opposed to being turned on and off as needed.

EQAO for Grade 3 and 6

All students in Grades 3 and 6 will be participating in the 2017 Provincial Assessments this Spring. Please avoid withdrawing your child for holidays or making appointments for your child during the school day between May 23rd and June 5th, 2017. We will communicate further information regarding the assessments in the near future.
**Buttonville Lego Club**

Buttonville’s Lego club is off and running! Students in grades 4-6 have been creatively problem solving, collaborating and building a variety of structures during our time together. Students are given weekly challenges to plan, design and build structures including cars, amusement parks, roller coasters, fun houses, and many different simple machines using the principles of science covered in the Ontario Curriculum. A group of four students will represent Buttonville Public School in early March at the YorK Region Skill Challenge at Seneca College.

**Math**

Buttonville’s Grade 7’s have been extra busy with a patterning math challenge. The students started with an exploration of Pascal’s triangle and realized that when they coloured the odd and even numbers it created a Sierpinski’s triangle. From that they created a 3D replica of Sierpinski’s triangle and talked about the patterns within. The students are very eager to grow this pattern exponentially and create a second, third and fourth extra-large tetrahedron. Our students will be trying to create a tetrahedron four times the size!
Me to We - Valentine sales

The month of February was busy for our Me to We student leaders. We sold about $700 worth of rafikis, which allowed us to donate $350 for our chosen area of focus: health care in Kenya. We see many students wearing the beautiful coloured necklaces and deeply appreciate the enthusiasm with which the students participated in this fund raiser. Additionally, our student leaders visited every classroom to ensure that each student received a personalized appreciation card for Valentin’e Day. From Kindergarten to the Intermediates, we had wonderful messages to share with each other. Our students really know the meaning of sharing and caring! We are the change.

Student Equity Team

Our Student Equity Team has been hard at work leading Lunar New Year and African Heritage workshops this month! In total, they will have led 14 workshops to a variety of primary and junior classes. The workshops range from dragon mask making and chopstick lessons to African drumming, lessons on traditional spices, and inclusive art activities. Special thanks to our Student Equity Team leaders who have used their recesses and own time to create and lead the workshops!

Library News

Library is a busy place at Buttonville. Our students have been learning and playing chess at morning recess. It's amazing to watch the proficient players gently and patiently instruct and guide the inexperienced or newer players. Their behaviour exemplifies the Tribes focus of our school, which is students helping students regardless of age or grade. They participate with each out of a love for chess and a desire to support others who do as well.

Also, our Maker Space is now open and accommodating classes and groups of students as they explore a variety of resources to creatively find solutions to challenges posed by the teachers and each other. We will be including more classes in the coming months. It's fantastic to see how each group uses the space and materials in different ways and to watch the students combine their ideas and talents.

We have added quite a few new books to our collection, in part as a result of money raised through Book Fair, and now have a substantial number of books about First Nations themes, social justice concerns, book sets for classroom use and graphic novels. In an effort to meet the ever changing needs and interests of our Buttonville students, we have created a library survey which students will be completing. The information will be used to inform future purchases and programming.
Thank you to our School Council for organizing our Hot Chocolate Day! Our students enjoyed the warm treat.

**Student Surveys**

In order to provide information for Board and School planning, the fourth administration of the YRDSB School Climate Survey for Students will be conducted from March 20 to April 28, 2017. The survey is aligned with the BIPSA, and also fulfills the Ontario Ministry of Education’s mandate to conduct surveys related to school climate. It will include questions related to Math, Modern Learning, Mental Health and Well-Being, Equity, and Safety. This survey provides an important opportunity for student voice, and results will be used to guide planning to support student achievement and well-being.
Grade 8 Grad Trip

The Grade 8s recently spent three days in Ottawa where they engaged in a variety of educational activities including visiting the Diefenbunker, Canadian War Museum, and Parliament. The lucky Grade 8s also got to take part in a variety of winter activities including dog sledding, tubing, horse drawn sleigh rides to name a few. Special thanks to Ms. Turner, Ms. Waldman, Ms. Sellors, Mr. Davies, and Ms. Angel for accompanying the students on this overnight trip.

Earth Hour - March 25, 2017

Earth Hour began in 2007 in Sydney, Australia and quickly grew to a global phenomenon. By 2009 Earth Hour grew to over 4,000 cities, including 73 national capitals and nine of the world’s 10 most populated cities. In Canada over half of the Canadian adult population (over 10 million people) switched off their lights! The goal is to get as many individuals and businesses as possible to turn off their lights for one hour to raise awareness about climate change and demonstrate that people are ready to take personal action. Everyone in Canada is encouraged to participate in Earth Hour. It is a simple way to show that you want to be part of the solution and sends a powerful message to others that, together our small actions can make a big difference. Earth Hour is a straightforward way for York Region’s municipalities and citizens to take action and celebrate our existing efforts to fight climate change. Take this opportunity to spend time with family and friends celebrating Earth Hour. Find creative ways to spend an hour in the dark. For more information and ideas visit www.earthhourcanada.org.
Student absences have increased recently within several schools in York Region, related to illnesses with respiratory and enteric symptoms.

To protect staff, students and families from getting ill, remember to:

- Stay at home when you are sick, and keep your child home if they are sick
- Keep healthy by eating healthy foods, being physically active and ensuring your immunizations are up-to-date, including the seasonal flu shot
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue, not your hand, and throw away used tissues immediately
- Avoid touching your face
- Clean and disinfect common surfaces

Symptoms of respiratory and/or enteric illness can include:

- Headache
- Chills
- Fever (over 38 degrees Celsius or 100 degrees Fahrenheit)
- Muscle aches and fatigue
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Sore throat
- Watery eyes
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you or your child are sick and do not improve, contact your health care provider.

Many viruses are commonly active at this time of year, for example norovirus and influenza (flu). Both viruses are very contagious and can be spread by contact with contaminated surfaces, such as door knobs or eating utensils. For more information, read the norovirus and flu fact sheets online at the following links:

Norovirus fact sheet
Flu fact sheet
Math and Literacy Connections: What’s the Big Deal?

Reading to your child is both a wonderful way to spend time together and also an effective way to engage your child in meaningful conversations, make connections to experiences and learn further about their interest and ideas. Students of all ages love stories and love to talk about stories. In A Guide to Effective Instruction in Mathematics, Kindergarten to Grade 6, it highlights how “literature provides students with opportunities to make connections with their own lives, provides a context to think and practice mathematics, and enriches students’ view of the world of mathematics.”

Research continues to show the power of using picture books to encourage your child to become fluent, active and life long readers, has studies linked to home reading initiatives. Whilst children are involved in various activities leaving little time for engaging in simple home reading initiatives, its important to consider spending time using picture books to learn about math. Marilyn Burns, a dedicated teacher, researcher and trainer, dedicated to improving math learning, clearly explains the parallel between math and reading, as well as the importance of using reading to learn math. If you and your child are more comfortable in a language other than English, than read to your child in that language. Your local public library may be helpful in choosing books connected to math. The International Digital Library (http://en.childrenslibrary.org/) is a great resource, for free access to high quality digital books from around the world! Visiting your nearest bookstore is also a great way to explore math in reading.
Tips to Support Math and Reading at Home

It’s important to help your child to recognize that everyone uses math at all times. Here are a few tips that can support math reading strategies:

✓ Consider questions you can ask to gage your child’s understanding and interest
✓ Play simple games before or after reading, for example “I Spy,” to acknowledge how math is all around us
✓ Provide activities that enrich and relate picture books to math and daily life:
  - Have your child help measure ingredients for a recipe
  - Ask your child to compare prices of items when shopping?
  - Fold napkins in different shapes
✓ Use computer software to access e-books and related math activities. Visit www.tvoparents.com for Ontario focused resources to support your child’s learning journey


Talking about math with your child, whatever his or her age, helps strengthen his or her math reasoning and understanding. Some ways to keep the talk engaged and focused whilst you read with your child include:

1. **Revoice** - Repeat what you heard your child say, then ask for clarification (e.g., “So you are saying it’s an odd number?”).
2. **Repeat/Restate** – Ask your child to restate your reasoning (e.g., “Can you repeat what I said in your own words?”).
3. **Reason** – Ask your child to apply his or her own reasoning to someone else’s reasoning (e.g., “Do you agree or disagree? Tell me why.”).
4. **Adding On** – Prompt your child to participate further (e.g., “What more would you add to that?”).
5. **Think Time** – Wait several seconds (try five) to give your child time to think (e.g., “Take some time to think.”). You may be surprised by how hard it is to stay silent in that time!

References

Parent Newsletter – Special Edition: Math and Picture Books February 2017
## Upcoming Dates / Events

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<td>Mar 9</td>
<td>Ski Trip for Grades 6 to 8</td>
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**Markham Recreation**

**WE’VE GOT YOU COVERED FOR FUN THIS SPRING**

Go to markham.ca or Markham Life magazine for details

**General Programs**

**Swimming Lessons**

**Summer Camps**