



THE DENNE PRESS

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School Website: www.yrdsb.ca/schools/denne.ps/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DennePS>

Principal's Message

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! On behalf of our staff, I would like to welcome you all back to an exciting start to 2016!

Once again I'd like to thank all of our students and families for your wonderful donations to our holiday giving tree. Many boxes of non perishable food items, and unwrapped gifts were donated to the York Regional Police Holiday Heroes Campaign. Thanks for showing that Denne PS cares for our community!

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Ms. Golsa Faghani who will be taking over Mrs. Mavros' Jr. SSC class and SERT role while she is on a maternity leave. Ms. Faghani recently completed a similar LTO at Aldergrove P.S. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce Tracy Lee to our school as our new gr. 4/5 LTO teacher, replacing Mrs. Muschkat. She will be starting at Denne on January 7th, 2016.

I wish to remind students and parents at Denne that we believe that children learn better when they receive regular intervals of exercise and fresh air. We send the children out for either a full or a shortened recess in everything but the most inclement weather. We keep a close eye on all weather conditions, including wind chill before making our decisions. When conditions necessitate, students will remain inside for recess or reduced outdoor recesses may take place. It is advisable for primary children to bring in an extra pair of pants and socks in case they get wet. Indoor shoes are also required for all students.

Conditions may vary from school to school, so it's important that we continue to make decisions based on conditions at our school. We ask that parents be sensitive to the demands placed on our secretaries and not call the school to inquire about indoor recess, but rather ensure that their *children are appropriately dressed for the weather: warm hat, gloves, scarf, coat, pants and boots at this time of year. Generally, if students are well enough to attend school, then they will be expected to go outside for recess.*

Also, we would like to remind you that Term 1 ends on January 29th, and Report Cards will go home on February 19th, 2016. Term 2 effectively begins on February 2nd, 2016. Please feel free to contact the office or your child's teacher if you have any questions about the reporting process for this school year.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment in helping prepare your child for learning in a safe, comfortable and enjoyable manner.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Nazreen Freeman, Principal

January Events



Jan. School Council Mtg canceled	
First Day back to School	4
Gr. 6 VIP Session	5
Pizza & Sub orders due online	8
Gr. 6 VIP Session	12
Girls Inc Session starts	13
Spirit Day: Comfy Cozy Pajama Day	14
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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.

York Region SLOGAN:

Inspire Learning!

School Council - Join Us!!

Have you been to a school council meeting yet?
Why not join us!

Our next school council meeting is scheduled for **Monday February 1st** starting at **7pm** in our school library.

Parents talk about how to support the students, teachers and build a great school community. At meetings, council plans how to raise or use funds, and hears about new initiatives in the school. Our meeting minutes are posted at: <http://dennescminutes.blogspot.ca/>

Have an idea? Everyone is welcome to attend council meetings the **1st Monday of each month**. Please join us or contact denne.ps@sc.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

Our **January meeting is canceled**, but we will start up again in February.



Get a copy of the school newsletter online!

We will continue to use the emails provided by families at the time of registration to send out our monthly newsletter. We would appreciate it if you could ensure that we have your most up to date email. If you prefer to receive a (black and white) hard copy, please inform Mrs. Adley in the main office. If you know of someone who is not receiving our emails, please tell them to contact our office to update their contact info.



School Cash ONLINE
www.schoolcashionline.com



ONLINE PAYMENTS ARE HERE!

Our school will be accepting online payments through School Cash Online. School related expenses such as hot lunches; field trips and fundraisers will be online soon for you to make a payment. Registration information was sent home with report cards.

Math Skills for the 21st Century

The set of skills our children need today extends beyond the traditional paper and pencil calculation skills that dominated mathematics instruction that most parents remember. In addition to having a good understanding of number facts and the ability to work with numbers, there are other important skills such as reasoning, problem solving and the communication of mathematical ideas that are also essential in the twenty-first century. For example, students need experience with making estimates, deciding on and adjusting their strategies, persevering through to a solution, and justifying their thinking. *The Ontario Curriculum; Mathematics, Grades 1-8 (2005)* supports the development of this mathematical thinking in a way that is meaningful and relevant to students. *The Ontario Curriculum: Mathematics, Grades 1-8 (2005)* is available on the Ministry of Education's website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum>.

http://www.edugains.ca/newsite/math/schoolleader/ideas_for_school_leaders.html



Look for learning worth remembering for a lifetime.

~Unknown



Newmarket Cares



Newmarket Cares for Kids is a local non-profit organization whose aim is to promote and facilitate the participation of children ages 3-18 in physical and cultural activities, regardless of their ability to pay for services.

Opportunities with local groups featuring drama/musical theatre, karate, music and dance are offered (subject to availability). In some cases, transportation through a local taxi company may be available.

Call (905) 716-1447 for more information.

Basketball Tryouts

Intermediate boys and girls basketball tryouts will be taking place this January. Please tell your child, if interested, to listen to the announcements for more information.

Mrs. MacIntosh will be providing more details soon.



Kinder Registration

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 15, 2016 for the 2016-17 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2016, live within the school boundary and whose



parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.

"It always seems impossible until it is done."

~Nelson Mandela

School Committees - We Need YOU!

This year we are once again hoping to have parents join some of our school committees. This is a place where parents can share their concerns and ideas with regards to a specific topic. We are looking for volunteers as soon as possible so we can set meeting dates.

Positive Climates for Learning (PC4L)/ Caring and Safe Schools Committee

Building a caring and safe school climate is complex. It requires the involvement of many partners in the broader community. Every public school in Ontario is required to have a safe schools team. The team is made up of parent representatives, students, the school principal, teachers, non-teaching staff and a community partner. The team must review the results of the school's School Climate Survey.

In York Region, these committees are called Positive Climates for Learning Committees. Would you like to be part of our committee? Let us know! Please send an email to nazreen.freeman@yrdsb.ca expressing your interest to join this committee, or call the school at 905-853-2303 and let us know. **We are hoping to have our first meeting by the end of February.**



Home Time Literacy Connections



MAKING CONNECTIONS – Using Our Background Knowledge

“...a story has as many versions as it has readers. Everyone takes what he wants or can from it and thus changes it to his measure. Some pick out parts and reject the rest, some strain the story through a mesh of prejudice, some paint it with their own delight. A story must have some points of contact with the reader to make him feel at home in it. Only then can he accept its wonders.”

~ John Steinbeck

Background knowledge combines the personal history, all that’s been read or seen, individual adventures, relationships, passions and day-to-day experiences of a reader, and this is what the reader brings to the world of the text that is being read. All of these things colour how we read and respond to songs, novels, poems, movies, and stories. The meaning we derive from what we read is layered with the background knowledge we activate as we think about the text. The connections that are explored and created through our discussions and thinking about what’s been read help us to remember and interpret the word, thus improving our comprehension of the text.

When you’re reading with your child, stop to model different connections you are make. These might be text-to-self (reminders of something that has happened in your own life), text-to-text (links to something else you’ve read or seen on t.v. or at the movies), or text-to-world (reminders of something in the broader world). These various connections help us to bond emotionally to the text, to crystallize images or ideas and to think beyond ourselves. Conversations about these will help to make stories more meaningful to children. This will help children learn because they will spend more time processing and pondering new ideas, which make it more likely for ideas to make it into long-term memories. Encourage your child to use his/her background knowledge to become an avid, interactive reader.

Here are some prompts that will support this strategy:

“Oh, that reminds me of...”

“When I read the part about... I thought about

“The character ... reminds me of ... because

“When I think of (a personal experience), I understand ...”

“Use these sticky notes to show the “footprint” of your connections to the text.

Hang them off the edge of the page like bookmarks.”

“This picture reminds me of ...”

“What do you know about the way a poem is organized? How does that knowledge help you make sense of this one?”

“You’ve just underlined words that remind you of a personal memory. How does this connection help you think more deeply about the meaning of this piece? Does it make you come away with a bigger idea not directly stated by the author? What is your new thinking now? What have you learned about yourself as a reader?”

“How does the connection help you understand the text better?”



Wonderful Celebrations in our Community!

Sikhism

Jan. 5 - Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji. The tenth guru (1666-1708 C.E.) was the final master who created the Sikh Brotherhood, the Khalsa.

Jan. 13 - Maghi commemorates the forgiveness shown by Guru Gobind Singh to forty deserters who returned to fight the Mughal army and sacrificed their lives under the leadership of a brave Khalsa woman named Mae Bhaago.

Hinduism

Jan. 14 - Makar Sankranti, is also known as Lohri, Thai Pongal and Til Sankranti. It marks the winter solstice and is primarily a rice harvest festival.

Buddhism

Jan. 1 - Temple Day has become a day for Canadian Buddhists to attend a special service in the local temple.

Christianity

Jan. 6 - Epiphany (Western Calendar) is the 12th day of Christmas and the end of the Christmas season. It comes from a Greek word referring to the baptism of Jesus and the arrival in Bethlehem of the Three Wise Men who came to worship Jesus. The Armenian Orthodox Church celebrates the nativity of Jesus on this day.

Jan. 7- Christmas (Eastern Calendar). In York Region, this is often referred to as "Ukrainian Christmas". Some Orthodox churches celebrate the birth of Jesus on this day. The Julian (Eastern) calendar is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian (Western) calendar.

Jan. 19- Epiphany (Eastern Calendar). The Eastern Church associates the date with the baptism of Jesus by John and the miracle of Cana in which Jesus turned water into wine. This day is also known as Theophany in Orthodox churches.



Religious based articles & image taken from the YRDSB Holidays & Observances Calendar.

Girls Inc. Coming Soon...

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Girls Inc will be starting this January running a 10 week program. during our lunch hour for girls age 9 to 11. Sessions start January 13 and run until March 9th.

You'll find the registration form and more information attached to the email with this newsletter. If interested, please return the completed form to the Denne PS by Monday January 11th.

Any questions can be directed to Mrs. Harris.



DENNE P.S. LUNCH PROGRAM



AGES 9-11

Calling all girls between the ages of 9-11! Do you want something fun and exciting to do during your lunch hour? Look no further Girls Inc. of York Region will be running a 9 week lunch program at your school. During the program we will be exploring girlhood, healthy friendships and the art of communication.

TIME: 12:30 pm—1:30 pm

WOULD YOU ENJOY **COLLABORATIVELY** LEARNING THE ONTARIO CURRICULUM THROUGH **THE ARTS?**

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an **Elementary Integrated Arts Program** at **Baythorn Public School**. If you are currently in grades **four or five** you may apply for the **arts@baythorn program**, where you will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music in a **cooperative learning environment**.

To learn more about the arts@baythorn program, you and your family are invited to attend an information evening at Baythorn Public School on:

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

Applications will be available at [**bit.ly/arts_application2016**](http://bit.ly/arts_application2016) online after January 13th, 2016.

If you require further information, please call us at
Baythorn Public School
(905) 889-7992.

Kate Kurek
Principal

The Arts Team

Meytal Daniels
Vice Principal

