



# THE SANDPIPER

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## Principal's Report

December 2013

### Parent/Teacher Conferences:

During the month of November, we held our Teacher/Parent interviews where together parents, teachers and students had the opportunity to talk about their children's progress mid term. This meeting allowed parents to discuss their child's strengths and areas for further development. We would like to thank parents/guardians for attending this very important evening and showing your support. If you did not have an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher, feel free to call him/her and they would be happy to discuss your child's progress to date.

### Front Door Buzzer Locking System

E.J. Sand was equipped with front door cameras, monitors, intercoms and buzzer locking systems. Beginning **Monday, February 3, 2014**, the school will be locked 15 minutes after the school bell rings in the morning. This means all doors, including the front door will be locked at 9:15 a.m., and the doors will stay locked for the remainder of the school day. All visitors, including parents/guardians will be required to use the buzzer at the front door and to sign in at the main office.

Our school is a safe place and safety continues to be our top priority. We have a number of safety measures already in place. Locking doors during the school day is one additional step the Board is taking to support student and staff safety.

Our school will continue to be welcoming and inclusive places where parents and community members have an important role to play as a vital part of the school community.

As always, it is expected that students arrive to school on time and they are ready for learning at 9:00 promptly.

In addition, it is highly recommended that lunches be prepared ahead of the school day and packed in students' backpacks, rather than having them delivered by parents/guardians during the school day. This will reduce the front door traffic, and more importantly assure that your child is eating lunch with the rest of the students in a timely manner rather than waiting for his/her lunch. We appreciate your support with this matter!

### Regular School Attendance

Getting to school every day and on time is very important. Learning occurs daily at 9:00 a.m. By establishing patterns early on (i.e., by being punctual and responsible) children acquire positive habits about school attendance. Also, some families plan trips during the school year due to scheduling of vacations from work or to take advantage of low travel costs. When this occurs, children of every age miss valuable learning which can impact on their success. Even brief absences can have a negative impact. Family trips can be a wonderful learning experience, but should be saved for school vacation time, such as March Break. If you wish to have further information, please visit the school to obtain a copy of the pamphlet, "A Parent's Guide to Regular School Attendance."

### Lost and Found

Our collection of lost and found items is growing. Please check or encourage your child to check for lost items. These items will be on display during the last week before the holidays by the office. Unclaimed items will be bagged and donated to charity over the holidays.

### Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanzaa!

The staff at E.J. Sand would like to extend warm holiday wishes to all our families. For those families who celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, we wish you a Merry Christmas, happy Hanukkah, and happy Kwanzaa. May you share happy times with family and good friends as you celebrate the promise and hope offered by a New Year! We look forward to seeing all students back to school on January 6th well rested and ready for learning!

### Colds and Flu

A reminder that we do not keep children indoors during recess times because they may have a cold or flu. 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. who may not be able to participate in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of their illness to others.

### Snow Rules

Snow is wonderful! The children enjoy playing in it and building with it. Please remind your child to not throw snowballs. Snowballs are dangerous. We do not allow snow balls to be thrown in any area of school property. As well, children are not permitted to slide down any hills or play on ice patches at any time. It is also important that students wear appropriate footwear at all times. Boots are a must in wintery weather!



### **Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 17, 2014**

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 17, 2014 for the 2014-15 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). Children who turn four or five years old during 2014, 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 our school office. **Documents required for registration include:**

- ✓ Proof of child's age (birth certificate/passport)
- ✓ Proof of residency (for child and parent/guardian)
- ✓ Citizenship and immigration status (where applicable)
- ✓ Direction of school support form

### **French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations**

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Yorkhill Public School on January 16, 2014 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 17, 2014. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2014, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Yorkhill P.S. to register between January 17 and February 14, 2014. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrolment information or to pre-register. YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

### Authentic Math Learning in Our Grade 1/2 Classes!

Ms. Davidovich and Ms. Gallo's classes have been reading books and making connections about helping others and about how giving is better than receiving. As the grade 1's and 2's are beginning their math unit on Data Management this week we have decided that we would like to put our ideas of helping others into action! We have surveyed the students and staff at E.J. Sand P.S to find out which type of drive we would like to host to help others in need. Based on the data we collected and sorted the results show that E.J. Sand would like to host a new toy and winter clothing drive to help those in need throughout the holiday season. This event will allow the grade 1/2's to be involved in an authentic learning math experience. They will be collecting, and sorting data as well as creating graphs to show the results of our drive and then analyzing what it all means.

In order to carry out our vision of helping others this holiday season we will need your help! Please donate new, unopened toys or winter clothes (gloves, hat, scarves only). The toys could be appropriate for babies all the way to twelve years of age. Even something small would help others to have an enjoyable holiday season and get to experience the excitement of opening a gift.

Please start sending in toys or clothes with your child as soon as you can. All items must be in by **Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** so that we can have them all collected and sorted and ready to donate before the winter break.

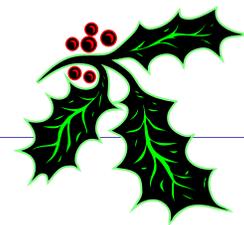
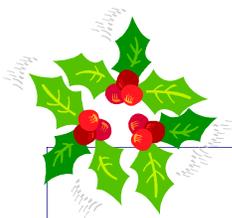


Thank you for supporting families in need and the learning of our grade 1 and 2 students.

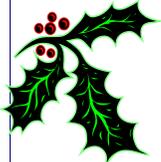
### Miss Gallo's Class

The Grade 1 and 2 students in Miss Gallo's class have been very busy learning many new things. In writing, we are learning how to write a recount. A recount is when we write about something that has already happened. In our class we celebrated Halloween. We carved real pumpkins and made jack-o-lanterns! We wrote all about our pumpkin carving experience. Then, we made a special class book with our writing and the pictures Miss Gallo took of us while we were taking the seeds out of our pumpkins and making a face for our jack-o-lanterns. Next, we are going to learn about letter writing. We are going to write letters to our friends, teachers, parents and some students may choose to write to Santa! December is going to be a great month filled with learning and celebrating many more holidays.





# December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 <i>-School Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. Cancelled—to be re-scheduled January 2014</i>	4	5 <i>-Gifted Screening for all grade 3 students -Gr. 8 Info Session at Thornhill SS</i>	6 <i>-Pizza Lunch</i>	7
8	9 <i>-Fire School Program for grade one students -Book Fair</i>	10	11	12	13 <i>-Pizza Lunch</i>	14
15	16 <i>-Feliz Navidad by Maderaz Latin Music –gr. 5-8 at 1:30</i>	17	18 <i>-Today is Friday Timetable -Character Matters Assembly at 9:10 (NOTE-changed from Dec. 19th!)</i>	19 <i>-9:15 to 10:30: Kindergarten to grade 5 Dance 1:40 to 3:10: Grade 6-8 Dance</i>	20 <b>PA Day: No School</b>	21
22 	<b>Winter Break/Holidays</b>					28 
29 	<b>Winter Break/Holidays</b>					

**Back to School January 6, 2014**