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PRINCIPAL: MOHAMED HAMID
SUPT. OF SCHOOLS: RASHMI SWARUP
SCHOOL TRUSTEE: JUANITA NATHAN

FAIRCLOUGH GAZETTE

September 2013

Principal's Message

(*Please note that the important dates to be remembered are now found on the calendar page at the end of each month's newsletter.***)**

Welcome to the 2013/14 school year! The month of September has been a wonderful time for new beginnings and many new and familiar faces. It has been a tremendous privilege for me to be able to join this wonderful school community!

With the start of a new school year brings with it change and a reflection around our school focus. Our student's performance is on the upward trend and as a staff we will be working through our most recent metrics of student achievement to refine our School Improvement Plan. In particular we will be working to broaden our measures of student achievement to ensure we are supporting creativity and innovation.

As for our teaching staff, we welcome a number of new teachers to Ellen Fairclough PS. We welcome Ms. Catherine Lee to our ESL teaching team, Ms. Anupama Jain as our Intermediate Special Education Resource Teacher and Ms. Rathini Rajesan in our Grade 2 classroom (until Nov. 25th).

Continuing as a Performance Plus school, we at Ellen Fairclough PS are committed to directing avenues of support into areas such as improving student achievement, working to foster community engagement and elevating our Healthy School environment. Through the coordination of our Performance Plus team there are multiple opportunities for both student and parent engagement in our school culture. Among those opportunities are the FAST program, Kindie Café, and Student Social groups.

We also have a number of extra-curricular opportunities available for our students to become engaged and involved in the school culture. These areas are divided into the four areas of Equity & Character, The Arts, Healthy Living School, and Eco-Schools. Parents are encouraged to talk to their children about what opportunities may be of interest to them!

Finally, I would like to remind you that we are here to support you and your children in any way we can. Please feel free to call or drop in to say hello or if you have a concern or a need we can help you with. We also hope we can continue to build a "Culture of Character" at Ellen Fairclough PS based on open communication and a commitment to improving student achievement and engagement through dialogue, and measures based on mutual respect.

Your Partner in Education,

Mr. Mohamed Hamid



416 885 3479

Juanita.Nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Message from our Trustee

I am very pleased to welcome our new and returning families as we start another school year. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer, and feel refreshed and energized.

There is a lot to look forward to in the first few months of school, and I hope you will find an opportunity to get involved in some way. Partnerships with families are essential, not only to student achievement and well-being, but also to creating a positive, caring and supportive school environment in which students can thrive.

There are many ways you can get involved and support your child's education from communicating with your child's teacher and asking your child about what they are learning to volunteering in the school or participating in the school council.

Thanks to your support and the hard work and commitment of our staff, students, families and community partners, we continue to be one of the top performing school boards in Ontario.

As an elected trustee and an advocate for high quality public education, I am committed to ensuring the highest quality public education possible for our students and their families. In the coming year, we will continue our focus on the priorities set out in our Multi-Year Plan: student achievement and well-being, the delivery of effective and appropriate educational programs and the responsible stewardship of Board resources.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email at Juanita.nathan@yrdsb.edu.on.ca or by phone at 416-885-3479. If you would like to be kept informed about various initiatives or topics that relates to your child's education and well being, please send me your email address and I would be happy to keep in touch with you on a regular basis.

I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you all the best for 2013-14.

Juanita Nathan
Trustee | York Region District School Board – Area 4
Town of Markham – Ward 7&8

Library Resource Centre and Technology News

Welcome back to another great school year. It is Book Fair time again. Our school Book Fair was held this week! It was great to see students visiting the Book Fair during the day and with their families during our Meet the Staff Night. The profit will be put towards purchasing new resources for the LRC to support our students.

All of our students have visited the LRC with their classes to sign out books. It is wonderful to see everyone engaged in reading. Please remember to take care of the books you borrow from the Library Resource Centre. Our Primary students have a book bag to help protect their books.

We continue to build upon our technology resources. Through fund raising, we were able to purchase eleven new laptops and three more iPads. This technology will be a great to support curriculum at all grade levels.



Music Room News for September 2013

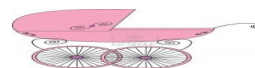
Kindergarten Music	Our Kindergarten students have been singing and dancing with great enthusiasm! Our senior Kindergarteners are showing our younger, new friends how to have fun in Music!
Grade 2 Music and Drama	In Music, the students are singing diatonic scales and simple unison songs. We are concentrating on the tone quality of our voices and matching our pitches well. In Dance, we have talked about what Dance is and how it makes us feel. We are looking at the role of Dance in our community.
Grades 3 Music, Drama, and Dance	In Music, we have been singing scales, a posture song, and simple unison songs. In Drama, we have played some cooperative games that show us how to work together. We have talked about what Dance is and will learn about some of the elements of Dance in the coming weeks.
Grade 3/4 Music and Dance	In Music, we have sung major scales using solfege, and tongue twisters that will improve our diction. We are currently learning a choral chant about the provinces and territories of Canada. We have talked about what Dance is and will learn about some of the elements of Dance in the coming weeks.
Grades 4/5 and 5/6 Music	In Music, we have sung diatonic major scales, ascending and descending in step motion and in thirds. We have reviewed some tongue twisters, and have sung several songs in 2-part harmony.
Grades 6/7, 7/8, and 8 Music	Our band classes are organized! All the beginner students have been assigned an instrument, and are learning how to handle these instruments carefully and responsibly, create initial sounds, and use the band method book. They will soon be ready to sign out and practice at home. Our returning instrumentalists are reviewing their skills and notation knowledge, and practicing at home. The Intermediate Band had its first meeting on Wednesday, September 25.

French News

September has been an exciting month in the French program! The gr 4s are learning about our school and about the French classroom. Gr 5s are learning about Olympic sports and athletes, and the grade 6s are trying to solve a crime based on suspect descriptions and clues. The grade sevens are researching the history of *Cirque du Soleil*, while the grade eight students are discovering that birth order can influence your personality, both as a child and as an adult. C'est intéressant!

Mme Rampartab

Roots of Empathy



I have been teaching the Roots of Empathy for 8 years at Ellen Fairclough and we are fortunately able to run the program again this year. Ms. Yui will be coming with her daughter Ivy. She has a twin sister Kyla who has the same birthday. We will be checking Ivy's developmental levels and trying to predict what she can do. We will also learn about their relationship as it develops and grows. We are very happy to welcome our new Roots family and we are looking forward to a great year.

Ms. Neal

BATTLE OF THE BEVERAGES!

Did you know that a 355 mL can of pop has about 9 tsp of sugar? That a 474 mL bottle of fruit drink has about 18 tsp of sugar? Pop and fruit drinks are replacing more nutritious choices in children's lunch bags. Offer only milk, water or 100% unsweetened fruit juice and avoid the pop, 'drinks', 'punches', 'cocktails', or '-ades'.



Visit Canada's Food Guide online at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/foodguide



WITH EFPS'S BREAKFAST CLUB

October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<u>1</u> Monday Schedule	2 Parents coun- cil meeting at 6:30 pm	3	4 EQAO student reports sent home	5 
6	7 Picture Day	8 Dental Screen- ing	9 Bus Evacuation Program	10	11	12
13	14	15 Islam Eid=ul-Fitr	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		