



ELLEN FAIRCLOUGH P. S.
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FAIRCLOUGH GAZETTE

Principal's Message

April 2013

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

April was another fun and active month at E.F.P.S. To highlight a few of the opportunities that were made available to our students is easy. To name a few, our grade 3 students participated in the Swim to Survive program, the E.F.B.A. house league basketball season started up for students in grades 6 to 8, our intermediate badminton team started practicing, and the intermediate basketball team started playing formal games. Wesley King, author of 'The Vindico', spent a morning with our grade 7 and 8 students talking about his life's journey of becoming a published author. It was a very engaging and motivational session for our budding authors!

While those activities were happening, many of our students also chose to participate in York Region's 'Pause to Play' initiative which challenged students to reduce or eliminate their screen times for a week and to instead get outside and play, and to also eat healthy foods. According to Statistics Canada 2011:

- Boys and girls are sedentary over eight hours a day
- Sedentary lifestyles put children at risk for preventable health problems including Type 2 diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease

On the flip side of that, we know that students who exercise daily and who eat healthy foods tend to focus better in school. Research shows that there is a definite correlation between fitness and nutrition, and academic and social success. It is our hope that our students will reduce their screen times and get more active as a result of this initiative.

Believe it or not summer is fast approaching and many families are starting to look for opportunities to keep their children active and engaged over the summer months. The York Region District School Board offers a program called the Summer Institute. It is a program that "offers academic, recreational and athletic programs and activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum for children and youth from Kindergarten to Grade 8." Weekly sessions are offered at twelve elementary schools throughout the region from **July 2, 2013** to **August 9, 2013**. The closest location to the E.F.P.S. community is the Armadale P.S. Program and registration information is available on the YRDSB website www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca and we also have registration packages available in the school office.

Please be aware that the City of Markham also has a number of affordable summer activities available for children including swimming lessons, soccer, and skating. Look for a copy of Markham Life (Recreation Guide) Summer 2013 that will be delivered directly to your home for registration details. You can also find out the registration information on-line by visiting the City of Markham's website or by dropping in to one of the community centres to pick up a hard copy. The programs tend to fill up quickly so you may want to act soon so that your child(ren) will not be disappointed.

Finally, our School Council members have asked me to remind everyone that our annual Multicultural Fair is coming up on Wednesday, June 12th. Please mark the date in your calendars. Further details about this community favourite event will be coming out in the near future. We hope that your family will be able to join us!

P. Battler

2013 - 2014 Class Placement Process

Classroom teachers, in cooperation with support staff, administration, and after considering parental input, will be working diligently to create balanced classes for the upcoming school year. The academic, social, and emotional strengths, needs, and interests of each student will be considered by school staff 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 may wish to share about your child's strengths, needs, and learning styles.

However, requests for specific teachers will not be considered as teaching assignments are always tentative until the end of September. The responsibility for final decisions in terms of placements lies with the administration. Please send any information you would like considered about your child's placement, in writing, to Mr. Battler no later than Friday, May 24th.



ELLEN FAIRCLOUGH P.S. IS A NUT SAFE SCHOOL
JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER: PLEASE DO NOT SEND FOOD ITEMS CONTAINING NUTS AND/OR NUT BYPRODUCTS. THE BOARD HAS ALSO ASKED THAT A PRODUCT CALLED 'WOWBUTTER' (A PEANUT BUTTER REPLACEMENT) NOT BE SENT TO SCHOOL. THANK YOU AS ALWAYS FOR HELPING TO KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE!

Kindergarten

Registration

Registration for September 2013 kindergarten students has begun. Children born in 2009 are eligible for junior kindergarten this September 2013. Children born in 2008 and are currently attending public school are eligible for senior kindergarten in September 2013.

Documents that are required for registration are as follows:

Proof of child's age - Birth Certificate, if born in Canada.
- Passport, P.R Card of the child and parents if born outside of Canada.

Proof of Residency :

If you own:

- ◆ Purchase Agreement
- ◆ Town of Markham Tax Bill

If you rent:

- ◆ Landlord/Tenant Lease Agreement

Applications cannot be accepted without these documents . For further information please call the school.



Our preparations for the 2013 – 2014 school year are underway, and our success depends on accurate projections of the school population. If you are moving out of our school area, please complete the form below and return it to the school as soon as possible or contact the office and let us know the information requested below.

My child(ren) _____ (name(s)),
who is/are in currently grade(s) _____ will not be attending Ellen Fairclough Public School in
September 2013, We will be moving to _____ (please provide name of new school if
known).

April Music News

Kindergarten	Kindergarten students are enjoying their weekly music classes in the big music room. They are continuing to sing seasonal songs, express their response using actions and movement, and are learning important music terminology.
Grades 1 and 1/2	Students in grades 1 and 2 are practicing their singing: diatonic scales, tongue twisters, pitch matching and songs. They have also created simple rhythmic compositions and presented them in class.
Grade 2/3	Hansel and Gretel continues to be the theme for this group. We are divided into groups and each student has been given a role to practice, in a modern-day game show version of Hansel and Gretel. Each group will present to the class to conclude this unit.
Grades 3/4, 4, 4/5, and 5/6	Students in these grades are busy building their recorder skills, and are progressing well. Practice at home is required homework. Our trip to the Toronto Symphony was a great success. The music was outstanding, and our picnic lunch in the park was an excellent way to welcome spring!
Grades 6/7, 7/8, and 8	Band students are busy practicing diligently at home, playing individual performance tests at school, and building their musical skills. All instrumental classes have been busy studying and preparing for theory tests this month, as well.

French News

April has been a busy month in room 224! The grade 4's created animal masks and wrote paragraphs to describe their work, *en français*. The grade 5's made floor plans of their homes. Grade 6 students designed a brochure for *Le Carnaval*. The Intermediates have been working hard at designing French video game manuals, and learning about French innovators in the 19th century. May promises to be just as exciting *dans la salle de français!*

C'est magnifique!
Mme Rampartab

Roots of Empathy

Our Roots of Empathy baby, Claire has been developing more and more and meeting her milestones. She is now 9 months old and is very interested in exploring her surroundings and looking and touching the students, who are thrilled to have her attention. Claire is crawling around the blanket on her hands and knees to help her explore everything around her and now she has greater access to everything. Now we need to be aware of safety issues. Claire has now gained greater independence and can eat solid foods such as baby cookies. We are looking forward to next month to see all the new developments.

Ms. Neal

Library Resource Centre News

The LRC continues to be a busy place at Ellen Fairclough. Many classes have been working on a variety of activities and as usual, our students are reading, reading, reading!

Our Intermediate classes have been refining their inquiry skills this month. They are using online resources and tools to assist them as they work through the research process. Mr. Andersen's students were working on culinary creations. Ms. Girdler and Ms. Hughes' students are developing thesis statements and writing persuasive essays.

On April 9th, Canadian author, Wesley King visited our Grade 7 and 8 students. Mr. King shared an informative and entertaining presentation related to his journey to becoming a published author. The students have enjoyed reading his novel *The Vindico* and look forward to the sequel, *The Feros*.

Primary classes continue reading the Blue Spruce nominated books. We will be voting for our favourite picture books later this month.

Conversation Café

On Thursday, April 18th, we were pleased to have parents/guardians of our Grade 3 and Grade 6 students join us for a session on **Understanding EQAO**. We went through some sample tests.

We also shared what we do as a school to help our students achieve the Provincial standard to level 3 and above. Parents and relatives who attended received home booklets to practice with their child. All participants received a free reading book as well.

For more information and to access the parent resources on EQAO go to: www.eqao.com

Please join us for our next Conversation Café Session: Getting ready for summer! Twenty-five fun and educational experiences for you and your child. Prizes and lots of information to take away!

Save the Date:

Thursday May 23 at 1:50 p.m. in the Ellen Fairclough P.S. library.





Students of the Month



At the Celebration Assembly on April 30th, the character trait of “**Integrity**” was highlighted as was the following statement from our Touchstone: “**At Ellen Fairclough, as a living school, we protect the environment because we care about our future.**” The following students were recognized for their positive contributions to school life and for “Living the Touchstone”.

JK/SK Ms. Sutherland
JK/SK Ms. Dolabjian
JK/SK Mrs. Mascoll
Gr.1 Mrs. Clark
Gr.1/2 Mrs. Sivarajah
Gr.1/2 Ms. Ginsler
Gr.2/3 Ms. Persaud
Gr.2/3 Mrs. Scott
Gr.3/4 Mrs. Crawford
Gr.4 Mrs. Vivian
Gr.4/5 Mrs. D’souza
Gr.5/6 Ms. Pang
Gr.6/7 Mrs. Girdler
Gr.7/8 Mr. Andersen
Gr.8 Mrs. Hughes
Mrs. Wascher
Ms. Robb
Mme. Rampartab
Mrs. Partch
Mrs. Beckford
Mrs. Walji
Mr. Vitella

Mariam S, Jeevin J.
Hadi R, Rithikha K, Jenani S.
Sejal P, Varshika K.
Tenam L.
Ashwini M, Anusan K.
Mithulan M, Harshitha S.
Shajana S, Shayaan A.
Leana K, Varsha S, Austin W.
Gulkaran S, Rupal P.
Havidya B, Mithushan K, Kesaki M.
Muhammed H, Angela U, David C.
Harjas K, Vicky T, Keshini Y.
Kaurisan S, Hassan T, Shahidia J.
Sunjev J, Niranjana K, Virpal B, Kanwal B, Nenthujan T.
Loraine I, Simerpreet S.
Denny W, Ismael A.
Nathan C.
Adsiya J, Cindya T.
Gulkaran S, Adya P, Ubaid K.
Tristan B.
Karan S.
Karthiga K.

Congratulations to all! Keep showing that FALCON spirit!

The character trait of **Responsibility** will be highlighted in the month of May. The focus Touchstone statement that will be highlighted is “We take responsibility for our actions. We learn from our mistakes.”


“The price of greatness is responsibility.”—Winston Churchill

“Stay committed to your decisions, but stay flexible in your approach.”—Tom Robbins

*“Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today... Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.”—
Thomas Jefferson*



May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Pizza Lunch	8	9	10 Legacy Run - starting at 1:00 pm - students should dress for outdoor exercise (running shoes, sunglasses, hat, sunblock, shorts, t-shirts, warmer clothes if wet or cool)	11 
12 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!	13	14 Pizza Lunch	15 J/I School Track and Field Day - students should dress for outdoor exercise (running shoes, sunglasses, hat, sunblock, shorts, t-shirts, warmer clothes if wet or cool)	16 Gr. 8's to MCI (8:20 - 10:05 a.m.)	17 Area Tournament Intermediate Badminton.	18 
19	20  VICTORIA DAY	21 World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	22	23 Rain date for J/I Track and Field . Intermediate Boys Basketball Tournament @ Aldergrove	24 Grades 6-8 Dance (1:00-2:30 p.m.)	25
26	27 Gr. 7 Career Fair @ MCI. Gr. 3 & 6 EQAO Administration .	28 Gr. 3 & 6 EQAO Administration School Council Meeting (6:30 p.m.)	29 Gr. 3 & 6 EQAO Administration	30 Gr. 3 & 6 EQAO Administration	31 Character Assembly (1 p.m.)	