



ELLEN FAIRCLOUGH P. S.
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PRINCIPAL: PAUL BATTLER
SUPT. OF SCHOOLS: RASHMI SWARUP
SCHOOL TRUSTEE: JUANITA NATHAN

FAIRCLOUGH GAZETTE

Principal's Message

February 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.***)**

Who says Canada doesn't get snow in the winter anymore? Is anyone ready for spring yet? It has been quite the winter season of shoveling, interesting driving conditions, and bundling up to stay warm. From a child's perspective, it has been a season of making snow people and snow forts, and having a lot of fun while playing outside. While our children are really enjoying the joys of the season, the backs of many adults are likely looking forward to the end of the shoveling joy that this weather brings!

Despite what has been happening outside, we have been really busy at E.F.P.S. with a range of exciting and engaging learning opportunities for our students. Our student driven Living School team has been offering our students a variety of co-curricular opportunities since January to help keep our students active during their break times. The Fairclough Hockey League (F.H.L.) has been going strong for interested students in grades 6 to 8 and the regular season has just about finished. We are looking forward to the playoffs and seeing who becomes this year's winner of the coveted Golden Stick trophy. Our skipping club for students in grades 1 to 8 has had our participating students new to the activity learning how to master the basics and has been teaching our more proficient skippers new skills and challenges. Skipping is a lot of fun, great exercise, and a relatively inexpensive activity for kids.

The Slapshot program has been running for our grade 4's during the month of February as the participating students learn about the sport of hockey. The students are really looking forward to the culminating event on March 6th when they will take to the ice at the Milliken Mills Community Arena in full hockey gear and apply some of the skills that they have been learning each week in the gym. The City of Markham's Recreation and Culture Division has been offering after school sports and science programs on Fridays after school. The programs have just started but the early indications are that the students are really enjoying the sessions. Finally, for the first time, the York Region Youth Outreach Program is offering Saturday programs at E.F.P.S. The various programs (Sportball, tuition, yoga, Mega arts) will run from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm or 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm starting on March 2nd. Registration forms can be picked up in our office or for more information you can call 905-695-1779 at Ext. 221.

Our first term report cards were sent home in mid-February and it was a great opportunity to celebrate successes so far and to set goals for the second term. Although no specific dates were set aside for formal parent-teacher meetings related to the report card, please remember that you are always welcome to contact your child's teacher at any time to discuss and clarify details about his/her progress.

I am excited to share that we have recently been designated as the official overflow site for any families new to the David Suzuki P. S. community. Because their local school is at capacity, we will be welcoming any new students from their community until June 2014. It is my pleasure to welcome our new families to Ellen Fairclough P.S. as we are excited to meet and get to know our new students and their parents. I know from past experience that new students and parents bring wonderful experiences and skills that can only enhance our school community.

Finally, once again, an appeal to all family members who drive children to or from school to please put safety before convenience when traveling near or on school property. We continue to strongly encourage students to walk to school.

However, if you must drive your child to and/or from school, please **be patient, drive slowly and be careful**. Driving slowly and carefully, and following our established rules, helps to keep everyone safe. As a review, I would like to share a few traffic rules that we have at Ellen Fairclough P.S. In the mornings, if you need to walk your child to class, **please park in a designated parking spot and not in the driveway loop**. If you are dropping your child off using the kiss and ride program, please wait until your vehicle is **stopped between the two large orange pylons** before inviting the passengers to get out on the passenger side of the vehicle. During pick up times at lunch and after school, **please do not stop your car in front of the school as this is a designated fire route**. During pick up times, if you are waiting in your car for a child (or children), you are welcome to park along the outside of the kiss and ride drop off loop or in a designated parking space. **Please do not stop your car in the middle of the parking lot between the parked cars and the cars waiting in the outside lane.** It makes it very difficult for other drivers to get by and creates an unsafe situation as children are then forced to walk out into traffic to get into the vehicle.

I thank everyone in advance for their support in this area. After all, it's our working together as partners on common goals that helps to ensure that Ellen Fairclough is a place we can all be proud of!

Respectfully,

P. Battler

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.



***** Please note that hand written letters will not be accepted *****

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).



York Region District School Board



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(Continuous entry)

For school location, class times and more information visit us at:

www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca or call: **905-731-9557**

Library Resource Centre News

Classes have been coming to the library resource centre to share in the many February celebrations, through stories and activities. So of our finished products can be seen on display in the hallway and inside the library.

Ms. Vivian's class has started a short project on perspective. We are using picture books and the iPads to investigate the effectiveness of using a variety of perspectives in photography.

All of the intermediate classes are reading The Vindico, by Canadian author, Wesley King. The suspense novel asks the question, "What if you could have any superpower in the world? But first you had to become a supervillian...." Students and staff are enjoying the novel. In April, Wesley King will be visiting our school to work with the intermediate students. We are excited to have the opportunity to meet him and learn about the process of writing a young adult novel.

Enjoy a wonderful March Break. Remember to keep reading!



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Message From Our Trustee

We are now at the mid-way point in the school year. I know for many, it may feel like this year has been defined by the current labour situation. Public schools across the province are experiencing new challenges, and I appreciate that this has generated stress and a degree of uncertainty in our own school community.

However, great things continue to happen in our classrooms and schools. As you have heard from Director of Education Ken Thurston, we are committed to minimizing the effects of the labour situation on our students, and we continue to focus first and foremost on student achievement and well-being.

Our students continue to learn in innovative and exciting ways, and I encourage you to talk with them about what they're learning and how they're learning. Through the use of technology and more inquiry-based learning, for example, students are developing their skills in critical thinking and problem solving, enhancing their digital literacy and becoming more engaged in their own learning.

With report cards coming home, this is also a good time to review your child's progress so far, celebrate successes and set goals for the next term.

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 wish you all the best for a successful second term.

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

February Music News

<u>Kindergarten</u>	The boys and girls in Kindergarten have learned some Valentine's Day songs and some action songs, and have explored echo clapping in the large group and individually. In the next few weeks, we will add percussion instruments and movement to our singing.
<u>Primary Grades</u> (1, 1/2, 2/3)	In the coming weeks and months, students in the Primary grades will be participating in Off-based activities, which integrate singing, chant, movement, and playing keyboard and percussion instruments.
<u>Junior Grades</u> (3/4, 4, 4/5, 5/6)	Students in grades 3/4, 4, and 4/5 have started to play recorders, many for the first time. Proper posture, breathing technique, hand position, and reading standard musical notation are skills that will be emphasized in the coming weeks. Students in Ms. Pang's 5/6 class are reviewing recorder skills that were taught last year. Repertoire of a more challenging nature will be assigned once the review music is completed. Parents may expect that their child practice his or her assigned music several times per week, as part of their homework.
<u>Intermediate Grades</u> (6/7, 7/8, 8)	Students in our instrumental classes continue to make progress with their performance skills. Regular, weekly practice at home reinforces the concepts and skills taught in class. Students should be practicing 60 to 90 minutes a week at home.

French News

This has been a busy month in room 224! The grade 4s created comic strips with themselves as superheroes. The class book has been circulating among our excited readers! Grade 5s are working on projects that showcase their homes. Grade 6 students are learning about *Carnavale en Québec*, and now they will create their very own ice sculptures. Grade 7 students are learning about extreme sports, while the grade 8 students have begun learning about important people in the 19th century. It has been an exciting month *en français!*

Mme Rampartab

Roots of Empathy

Our Roots of Empathy baby Claire, is growing and developing month by month and she is now 7 months old. How time flies when you are a baby and learning so many new skills and meeting milestones. She can now sit up as well as "crawl" by pushing with her feet to move across the room to reach a toy though Claire still frequently checks to see that mom is nearby. Claire can eat a baby cookie and recently got some shots and was feeling a bit cranky. I'm sure she will be feeling better next time that we see her.

Ms Neal



Students of the Month



At the Celebration Assembly on February 28th, the character trait of “Courage” was highlighted as was the following statement from our Touchstone: “**At Ellen Fairclough**, As a living school, we make healthy choices and stay active” 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
Ms. Yiu

Sadiq M, Himani P, Aaron S.
Eliana N, Jeslyn A, Sajen P.
Zameer B, Harsha E, Taran Preet H.
Tenam L, Sabrina S, Sanam B.
Mathushan M, Sitara B, Maria S.
Inaya A, Annam L, Zarina Z.
Erica L, Sameer B.
Nerrosan K, Apevash K.
Shanthuru K, Nillani N, Cindya T.
Sufyan S, Vitsu P, Yolanda A.
Zain S, Tanrose B, Mailon K,
Safiyah M, Puneet K, Vasiharan P.
Devesh S, Harshini R, Barjot M.
Fahad F, Vicoria M, Ashwin Y.
Maryam D, Krutarth S, Kiruthika V.
Kesanky K.
Humza H.
Kushvir S.
Kullalon K, Austin C, Meghan S.
Bhavan S, Thiviya T.

Congratulations to all! Keep showing that FALCON spirit!

The character trait of **Perseverance** will be highlighted in the month of March. The focus Touchstone statement that will be highlighted is “We always try our best”.

“We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.”—Martin Luther King

“Victory belongs to the most persevering.”—Elbert Hubbard

“Perseverance is a great element of success.”—Nepoleon Bonaparte



March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 
3	4	5	6 Gr. 8 Grad Photos (a.m.)	7	8 International Women's Day	9
10	11 	12 	13 	14 	15 	16 
MID-WINTER BREAK						
17	18	19	20 Gr. 3 Fire Safety Presentation (10:20 a.m.)	21 Naw Ruz	22	23
24 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	25	26 PASSOVER / PESACH	27 Vaccinations - Gr. 7 Hepatitis B & Meningitis, Gr. 8 HPV	28	29  GOOD FRIDAY	30 EARTH HOUR
31 EASTER 						