



ELLEN FAIRCLOUGH P. S.
33 BRANDO AVE. MARKHAM, ON. L3S 4K9
905-294-9455
www.ellenfairclough.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca



PRINCIPAL: PAUL BATTLER
SUPT. OF SCHOOLS: RASHMI SWARUP
SCHOOL TRUSTEE: JUANITA NATHAN

FAIRCLOUGH GAZETTE

Principal's Message

January 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.*** Reminder— Kindergarten registration for the 2013—2014 school year starts on Friday, February 1st— more details can be found later in this newsletter)**

On behalf of our staff, I would like to extend warm wishes for a happy New Year to all members of the E.F.P.S. community as we begin a new calendar year. January was a month of extremes in terms of the weather as we had record high temperatures, followed by a week of extreme cold. Please rest assured that we make outdoor decisions for our students on a daily basis and reduce time spent outside, or don't go out at all, if we feel that it is too cold. It is important though that our students come appropriately dressed for the time they do spend outside so that they are warm, safe and comfortable while playing. I continue to encourage students to wear long johns and/or snow pants, winter boots, hats, gloves and winter coats on a daily basis. It is important for all of us to get fresh air at this time of year and break times at school are a good time for this to happen for children.

Our staff remains committed to offering the best programs possible to try to help our students achieve to high levels. In this regard, a strong partnership between home and school continues to be essential. With this in mind, the first term report cards will be sent home on February 13th. It is my hope that our students have been encouraged to follow the goals that they and their teachers set in November when the Progress Reports were shared with families. Please note that the Term 1 report cards will include learning skills, as well as grades for each subject that was taught during the term. This will be an opportune time to review the goals that were set previously, to celebrate accomplishments and growth, and to set further goals moving forward. Should you have any questions regarding your child's first term report card please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

As shared with you in September, the Ministry of Education has developed a province-wide Lockdown procedure for all schools to follow in the unlikely event of a violent incident occurring on our school grounds. Our staff and students have been trained to respond quickly and safely to any threat of that nature. We are required by legislation to practice two lockdowns every school year, as well as a Hold and Secure drill, and we will be practicing both procedures once again during the first week of February. This standard procedure of practicing helps to ensure that we respond appropriately and efficiently to any potential threatening situation in the future, no matter how unlikely.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind members of the community that during the winter season there can tend to be icy areas on our walkways and in our parking lot on any given day. Please travel carefully during such weather conditions. Driving slowly and cautiously in the parking lot is a must, and wearing footwear that is appropriate for winter conditions (i.e. boots with good treads) is highly recommended. Also, please remember that our official entry time is 8:03 am. We have noticed a recent trend of people arriving after that time and dropping their children off later and later. This means that the staff member on duty and the students of the Safety Patrol are having to remain outside for a longer period of time and it is impacting their ability to get to their first period on time. Please note that the Safety Patrol team will be heading inside in the future once the official end time of their duty has been reached. I thank everyone in advance for helping us out by arriving on time in the future.

Finally, please remember that in the event of inclement weather conditions, any information regarding bus cancellations or school closures will be broadcast regularly on numerous radio or television stations. A comprehensive list of stations can be found on the School or Board websites under the Student Transportation tab. All families are encouraged to listen for, or watch on TV, information regarding cancellations or closures instead of contacting the school for verification. Those mornings are typically extremely busy in making sure that our children and staff are arriving safely and we need the phone lines open in the event the Board or other people are trying to contact us with further information.

As always, I am looking forward to continuing to work closely with our families in February to support our amazing students. I am also looking forward to meeting our future students and families as Kindergarten registration for September 2013 begins on **Friday, February 1st** (* please note the date change). If you have any friends or neighbours who live in our area and have children who were born in 2009, please remind them that it is in everyone's best interest to register their children for school as soon as possible. A list of the required documents for registering can be found later in this newsletter.

Paul Battler

French as a Second Language Programs

Recommendations based on YRDSB's French as a Second Language (FSL) review are being implemented to allow YRDSB to continue to offer its total early FI program while also accommodating the growing number of students who wish to participate. These recommendations will also enable our Board to strengthen its Core French program to provide more active and authentic learning. One of the recommendations was to establish consistency among elementary FI schools in terms of the hours of French instruction and the subjects taught in French. Regardless of where students attend an YRDSB French Immersion program, they will have access to the same number of hours of French instruction. All subjects will be offered in French in Grades 1 to 3. Starting in Grade 4, English will be introduced as a subject, math will be taught in English and a portion of the Physical Education, Health and Arts subjects will also be taught in English. Starting in Grade 6, the program will be shared equally between French and English instruction. We've also developed an accommodation plan to ensure we can continue to welcome all students who wish to enrol in the French Immersion program and provide long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region. Implementing the recommendations from our FSL review will allow YRDSB to continue to offer high quality, sustainable FSL programs throughout the Board.

Arts@Baythorn

Would your child enjoy learning the curriculum through the Arts?

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an Elementary integrated Arts program at Baythorn Public School. Students currently in grades four and five may apply for the art@baythorn program, where they will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music while meeting the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum for grades five, six, seven, and eight.

To learn more about the arts@baythorn program, interested students and their families are invited to attend an information evening **at Baythorn Public School on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00pm in the gymnasium.**

Applications will be available on Tuesday, February 12 in the Baythorn P.S. main office and on the school website.
www.baythorn.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for September 2013 kindergarten students begins on Friday, February 1st. 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 *****

Library Resource Centre News

The Library Resource Centre was a very busy place this month!

Our kindergarten classes have been reading and learning about penguins. We are using nonfiction text to discover true facts about them. You will be able to learn about penguins by reading our work and looking at our pictures! Students are also enjoying picture books with penguins as the main characters.

The Grade One and Two classes came to the LRC to share winter stories. Mrs. Clark's class used the Smartboard to share information about a story and explain the procedure for making a snowman. The students in Ms. Sivarajah and Ms. Ginsler's classes read Perfect Snow by Phoebe Gillman and created perfect snowmen!

The Grade 2/3 classes were preparing to work on research assignments. We reviewed the features of non-fiction text and practiced taking point form notes to prepare for their assignments. They are ready to find the facts!

Mrs. Hughes' Grade Eight students came to the Library Resource Centre to hear about some of the new books we have added to our collection. We started to talk about some of the titles nominated for this year's Red Maple Awards.

Family Literacy Day was celebrated on January 27, 2013. Here is the official website for Family Literacy Day, <http://abclifelifiteracy.ca/fld/family-literacy-day>.

Conversation Café Survey for Ellen Fairclough P.S.

The Parent Engagement team would like to plan ahead for the New Year. Please fill out this survey and have your child return it to the office by Friday February 8th, 2013

*** The first 10 surveys returned will receive a prize!***

What topics would you like more information about?

1. Positive Parenting (Discipline): Yes ____ No ____
2. Healthy Active Living: Yes ____ No ____
3. Helping your child to become better a reader and writer? Yes ____ No ____
4. Bullying Prevention: Yes ____ No ____
5. Internet Safety: Yes ____ No ____
6. Stress Management (Parent and Child) : Yes ____ No ____
7. Transition to Adolescence: : Yes ____ No ____
8. _____

What topics would you be willing to share with the group?

Tell us about yourself:

Your Name: _____ Ages of your children: _____

Would you like to be contacted about upcoming parent engagement events? If so, please fill out below.

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

January Music News

<u>Kindergarten</u>	Students in Kindergarten are now very familiar with rules and routines in Music and have started going to the Music Room for their weekly classes. The boys and girls have sung some seasonal winter songs, learned a penguin dance, and started to explore rhythmic patterns.
<u>Primary Grades</u> (1, 1/2, 2/3)	Students in the Primary classes have learned about the families of instruments in the symphony orchestra. They have watched an educational film entitled "The Orchestra" and reflected on what they learned. They have read books from our library about the various instruments, and have used informational posters, to further their knowledge. Students have created art work and have written about what they learned.
<u>Junior Grades</u> (3/4, 4, 4/5, 5/6)	Students in grades 3/4 and 4 have continued to improve their vocal skills by singing scales, warm ups, and 2-part songs, rounds, and other repertoire. Students in grade 4/5 and 5/6 have continued to focus on performing from the musical notation, giving attention to the melodic contour of the notes to guide their voices. They have completed notation assignments, in preparation for our recorder playing unit. All junior grade students will be playing recorders, beginning in February. 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)	Our band program continues to progress well. Students in all instrumental classes have been practicing diligently for individual performance tests. Students are given the option of repeating their test, after receiving feedback from their first attempt. Students are reminded that 60 to 90 minutes a week of practice at home is part of their homework. They may sign out instruments any day of the week, as often as they wish. Practice at home reinforces the concepts and skills taught in class.

French News

In room 224, the Grade 4 students are learning how to use descriptive adjectives. They have had a lot of fun creating comics with themselves as superheroes! The Grade 5's are decorating and designing a home, completely in French. Grade 6 students are learning about influential people and groups who have worked towards world unity and peace. Grade 7 students created store flyers using creative advertising techniques and Grade 8's are currently writing folktales which will be presented to our Grade 4's. What a fun-filled month!

Roots of Empathy

Our Roots of Empathy baby, Claire is now 6 months old and meeting all her milestones. She is rolling and "crawling" by pushing herself forward with her feet to reach a toy. She can say mama and is copying sounds as she "baby talks." She has established a regular sleeping pattern and mom and dad are also getting regular amounts of sleep. We are looking forward to observing her accomplishments next month.



Students of the Month



At the Celebration Assembly on January 31st, the character trait of “Fairness” will be highlighted as will the following statement from our Touchstone: “**At Ellen Fairclough, we celebrate and honour our differences. We take pride in our cultures.**” The following students will be 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.1/2 Mrs. Sivarajah
Gr.1/2 Ms. Ginsler
Gr.1 Mrs. Clark
Gr.2/3 Ms. Persaud
Gr.2/3 Mrs. Scott
Gr.3/4 Mrs. Crawford
Gr.4/5 Mrs. D’souza
Gr.4 Mrs. Vivian
Gr.5/6 Ms. Pang
Gr.6/7 Mrs. Girdler
Gr.7/8 Mr. Andersen
Gr.8 Mrs. Hughes
Mrs. Wascher
Mme. Rampartab
Mrs. Partch
Mrs. Walji
Mrs. Beckford

Mariam S, Sukhpreet N, Jeevin J.
Olivia C, Sumaiyaa N, Avinesh A.
Ashvika S, Birenavan B, Harwin S.
Kumaran K, Mehak S.
Khushmeet B, Kanish T.
Stephanie R, Nickey L.
Marzuqah L, Karrar N, Soban G.
Cindy L, Saniyah B.
Nicholas, D, Rene A.
Amaan F, Sadaq A.
Amina R, Abinan S, Keeran S.
Brandon S, Lauren F, Austin C.
Shaathushan K, Ramsha R, Imaadudeen M.
Arschaya R, Victoria M.
Aaron L, Ryan R, Sabbithaa S.
Joanne C, Denny W.
Peravina S, Heshanth R.
Aritha K, Rahulan S, Arabe J.
Safiyah M, Harish E.
Rene A, Nicholas D

Congratulations to all! Keep showing that FALCON spirit!

The character trait of **Courage** will be highlighted in the month of February. The focus Touchstone statement that will be highlighted is “As a living school, we make healthy choices and stay active”.

“Courage is going from failure to failure without losing enthusiasm.”—Winston Churchill

“Courage is the power to let go of the familiar.”—Raymond Lindquist

“Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one’s courage.”—Anais Nin



February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<p>1</p> <p>PA DAY (No School)</p>	<p>2</p> 
<p>3</p> <p>CHINESE NEW YEAR</p>			<p>6</p> <p>Slapshot Session # 1 for participating grade 4 students—students need a lunch</p>		<p>8</p> <p>Afterschool Sports and Science Programs begin for participating students. (2:50—4:20 pm)</p>	<p>9</p> 
<p>10</p>			<p>13</p> <p>Term 1 reports go home</p> <p>Slapshot Session # 2 for participating grade 4 students—students need a lunch</p>	<p>14</p>  <p>Last day to select Gr. 9 courses on Career Cruising</p>	<p>15</p> <p>PA DAY (No School)</p> <p>National Flag Day</p> 	<p>16</p> 
<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Family Day</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>A Monday on all schedules.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Slapshot Session # 3 for participating grade 4 students—students need a lunch</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Afterschool Sports and Science Programs Session # 2 for participating students. (2:50—4:20 pm)</p>	
<p>24</p>		<p>26</p> <p>School Council Meeting (6:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Slapshot Session # 4 for participating grade 4 students—students need a lunch</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Character Assembly (10:20 a.m.)</p>		