



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

FAIRCLOUGH GAZETTE

Principal's Message

March 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.*****)

During the month of March, our focus in the area of character was on the trait of perseverance. Winter has certainly been providing us with an excellent example of this quality. March 20th was the first official day of spring and it has been hard to tell that it has arrived. Last year at this time we were dealing with record high temperatures but this year that is not the case. Please make sure that you continue to dress your child(ren) appropriately for the weather until the consistent, nicer weather arrives.

March was a busy month at Ellen Fairclough P.S. with a number of fun activities occurring. A few highlights included the Canadians winning the Golden Stick Trophy in the Fairclough Hockey League, our grade 4's participating in full hockey equipment during the on-ice portion of the Slap Shot Program, the skipping club members learning to jump using a long rope, and our school-wide participation in the W.W.F's Earth Hour initiative. On the Friday before the international hour, we turned off all non-essential lights and electronic monitors and devices for one hour to show our support for this important global awareness initiative. We also challenged all members of the school community to do what they can to be a friend to the environment. Be it walking instead of driving, turning off lights when not in use, putting food waste into the green bin, together we can, and do, make a difference! Finally the month wrapped up with Mrs. Scott and Ms. Persaud's classes presenting a wonderful Character Assembly highlighting the importance of never giving up and always trying your best.

At this time I would again like to share a few reminders in regards to our school's Code of Behaviour and the Board's Safe, Caring and Supportive Schools Policy as it pertains to appropriate Internet use. There have been a few incidences lately where some of our students have been using social networking sites or tools such as Facebook, MSN messaging and Tumblr in an inappropriate manner that has made other students in our school feel uncomfortable and/or unsafe. This is just a reminder that we all have an obligation to ensure that our children are using these sites and technologies responsibly. Regularly checking what your child is doing when using the computer is highly recommended. As outlined in the Board's pages provided to families at the beginning of the school year, misconduct in the form of bullying or intimidation over the internet (i.e., cyberbullying) may be subject to school discipline whether carried out at school, at home or elsewhere. If we support our children by reminding them of our expectations and monitoring their actions, these technologies can be used in a fun and positive manner.

Recently a form was sent home regarding an upcoming program called Aussie X that will be offered to all grade 4 to 8 students on Thursday, April 18th and Friday, April 19th. On the form, the opportunity was listed, in error, as being on the 19th and 20th. So to clarify, the program will run **during the school day** on Thursday, April 18th and Friday, April 19th. Each student will participate for a half day on one of these two days. My apologies for any confusion that this error may have caused.

Our staff looks forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the academic and social successes of your child(ren). As always, your child's classroom teacher and the administrative staff are available to discuss any questions, concerns or suggestions that you may have. I highly recommend that you make an appointment directly with individual staff members and have a respectful dialogue when you feel there is a need. It has been my experience that most issues can be resolved in a positive manner. Please call the school to book an appointment if you would like to arrange a meeting. Have a wonderful April!

P. Battler

Class placement Requests for 2013/2014

Parents wishing to share information regarding their child's class placement for 2013/2014 may do so via a confidential letter addressed to the Principal. Letters should outline the learning style of their child and factors that parents consider helpful to their child's success in school. Please understand that teachers will be creating learning environments/classes that meet the needs of ALL children in each class from a holistic perspective that only the classroom teacher and their colleagues can have. Criteria for designing classes are a combination of academic achievement levels; social/emotional supports; attempts to minimize behavioural issues, and ESL/Special Education learning needs for that classroom.

Requests specifying a particular teacher or a combined/non-combined class will be taken under advisement, however teaching assignments and organizations are typically not finalized until just before the start of the school year. Such requests are considered only after teachers have designed classes for optimal learning. All requests are at the discretion of the Principal and the Principal has the final decision in all class placements. All letters must be submitted to the Principal no later than May 15, 2013.

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).

Parent/ Guardian Signature



Understanding the Teenage World

How parents can better prepare to support their teenager?

Adolescent Mind

Bullying

Social Media

Eating Disorder



Drugs

Sleep Disorder



Stress

Depression

Self Harm

Uncertain Future

April 17th, 2013 (Wednesday)

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

**Middlefield Collegiate Institute
525 Highglen Avenue, Markham L3S 3L5**

**Speakers: York Region Police
Dr. Alan Fung, North York General Hospital
Dr. Jon Lee, University of Toronto**



In Partnership with Trustee Juanita Nathan

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Library Resource Centre News

We are celebrating the arrival of spring!

The primary classes met in the LRC to kick-off our annual Blue Spruce Reading Program. We will be reading ten picture books that have been written and illustrated by Canadians. After reading the nominated titles, students and staff will vote for their favourite book. The winning title will be announced in May!

Our Grade 7 and 8 students continue to prepare for Canadian author Wesley King's visit to Ellen Fairclough. Students have completed artwork, poems, reflections, letters and dramatizations related to his young adult novel, *The Vindico*. It will be great to meet Mr. King on April 9th!

April is poetry month. Take a good look. Find a good book!

Conversation Café

On Thursday, February 28th, we were pleased to have over twenty parents and kids participate in our session on **Creating Healthy Snacks**. We used this as an opportunity to share about the Ellen Fairclough P.S. Snack and Breakfast Program and to make some healthy recipes. All of us enjoyed trying the smoothies from our Ellen Fairclough Snack Recipe book. Parents were introduced to the Canada Food Guide and were shown how to access it online, as well as in pamphlet form. Many parents shared valuable information and asked great questions! A special thank you goes out to some of our moms who helped with set up and clean up.

Understanding EQAO

Would you like to learn more about the province wide EQAO tests?

Are you looking for ways to support your child with the testing process? If so, this workshop is for you! Parents and Guardians are invited to find out more about the Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO tests and how we at Ellen Fairclough P.S., help students to achieve and exceed provincial standards! Come and see a sample test and review take home booklets to practice with your child at home.

Please join us on Thursday, April 18th, at 1:45 p.m. in the Ellen Fairclough P.S. library



February 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 responses using actions and movement, and are learning important music terminology.
Grades 1 and 1/2	Students in grades 1 and 2 have been learning about how listening to music can help them create art works. They will be using rhythm and keyboard instruments to create simple accompaniments to some of Aesop's fables.
Grade 2/3	Hansel and Gretel is the theme for this group. We have read picture books, viewed a version of the children's opera by the same name, and shared reading of several versions of the story. Students will now dramatize a modern-day version of the story, and will create musical accompaniments, using rhythm and keyboard instruments.
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. Students in grades 4, 5, and 6 will be attending a Toronto Symphony concert on April 23; a permission form will be sent home in the near future. The concert features music from a variety of cultures, and the guest artists are the Juno-nominated "Sultans of String". It should be a very exciting day!
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. Congratulations to all of our students for their efforts!

French News

March has been an exciting month in Room 224! The Grade 4's are learning adjectives to describe animals, while the Grade 5's designed creative homes for an alien family. The Grade 6's have completed ice sculpture projects, which they will soon share with their peers. Grade 7 students are creating extreme sport video games, complete with instructions and game levels! The Grade 8's are about to wrap up a unit on French innovators during the 1900s.

C'est magnifique!
Mme Rampartab

Roots of Empathy

Claire, our Roots of Empathy baby is now 8 months old and is crawling and pulling herself up to stand with support. She is meeting all her milestones and is now quite aware of her surroundings. She is noticing object permanence and looks around for her mom or a toy if it is out of sight. She loves to listen to songs and finger plays. She is growing up so fast and learning so much.

Ms. Neal



Students of the Month



At the Celebration Assembly on April 2nd, the character trait of “Perseverance” was highlighted as was the following statement from our Touchstone: “**At Ellen Fairclough**, we always try our best”. 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. Walji
Mrs. Legault

Faheem R, Vaishnavi J, Zainab A.
Emaan R, Sujithan S.
Ashnavi J, Christina L, Akshanaa T.
Humaira S, Saloni P.
Mehak S, Prishil B, Lohit K.
Thanusha N, Nadira H, Nirussia S.
Boaz N, Akash L.
Fiona H, Varna P.
Navin I, Abhiya S.
Ashly R, Teresa Z, Yathoo V.
Muizz A, Aaliya M, Jarrar N.
Cholan R, Jhanvi P, Riya P .
Ke Xin, L, Naomi C, Parwana M.
Tharsan S, Shaumika N, Abbas R, Fatima M.
Rimshaw A, Harini K, Syed R.
Danny W, Kesanky K, Roya A.
Anjali S.
Nabiha N.
Tanique J, Teresa Z, Abhishek S.
Iman M, Iqra H.
Cindy L.

Congratulations to all! Keep showing that FALCON spirit!

The character trait of **Integrity** will be highlighted in the month of April. The focus Touchstone statement that will be highlighted is “We protect the environment because we care about our future.”

“Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none.”—William Shakespeare

“Let us speak the truth always.”—Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Troubles produce patience, and patience produces character, and character produces hope.”— Saint Paul



April 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1</p>  <p>EASTER MONDAY</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Character Assembly (1 p.m.)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>  <p>World Health Day</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Author Visit- Grades 7 & 8.</p> <p>School Council Meeting (6:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Gr. 3s - Swim to Survive (9:30-10:15 a.m.)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> 
<p>14</p> <p>BAISAKHI</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Pizza Lunch</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Gr. 3s - Swim to Survive (9:30-10:15 a.m.)</p> <p>Family Movie Night (4:30 p.m.)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Aussie X</p> <p>Gr. 3 Fire Safety make up date (10:20 a.m.)</p> <p>Parent Conversation Café (EQAO) @1:45 p.m.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Aussie X</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>Ridvan</p>	<p>22</p> <p>EARTH DAY</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Pizza Lunch</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Gr. 3s - Swim to Survive (9:30-10:15 a.m.)</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Character Assembly (10:20 a.m.)</p>				