



ELLEN FAIRCLOUGH P. S.
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PRINCIPAL: PAUL BATTLER
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FAIRCLOUGH GAZETTE

Principal's Message

October 2012

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

As October progresses, the first number of weeks of the school year have been an exciting blur. It was great to get back into the swing of things following the summer holidays and our recent reorganization saw our class sizes drop dramatically from the beginning of the year. I thank everyone for their support during the transitions, as the changes were made in a positive and supportive manner by everyone involved. We are now settled in and looking forward to a great year!

September, as always, was an active month. The Km Club and cross country team have students running daily, our classes are attending field trips, and Mrs. Girdler's class presented an engaging integrated character assembly related to initiative, the first touchstone statement, and Terry Fox's legacy. The Terry Fox Run was once again our charitable focus for the fall and was a very successful event. As a school community, we raised over \$550 for cancer research. I thank Ms. Piwowarek, Ms. Robb, Mrs. Wascher and their respective students and support staff for their efforts in organizing the run, and I thank the families who were able to contribute a 'toonie for Terry'. The funds raised will support Canadian researchers in continuing to look for ways to treat and find cures for the various forms of this insidious disease.

Just a friendly reminder that as the season changes our students need to adjust to the colder weather by wearing warmer clothing. Students will be spending parts of each day outside and are encouraged to wear a coat, gloves and a hat on a regular basis so that they will be warm and comfortable during outdoor times. I also remind families that students should continue to apply sun block each day to exposed skin, and should do so throughout the year. The sun's UV rays can be harmful to skin even in colder weather!

I am pleased to share with you that we are going to be able to offer our Extended Library Hours every night after school this year except for the first Monday of each month, and during P.A. Days and holidays. We are also in the process of arranging to have some of our former graduates come back to do some tutoring during a portion of the library hours so students who require help with their homework can receive it at this time. Students in grades 4 to 8 are invited to use the hours without direct supervision but students younger than that must have an adult accompany them to the library. The Extended Library Hours are from 2:50 pm to 4:50 pm and the tutoring, when available, will be from 3:40 pm to 4:50 pm. Further details about the library guidelines can be found later in this newsletter.

I want to thank the many drivers who drop off students or pick them up each day for putting safety before convenience when they enter the school parking lot. Driving slowly and carefully, and following our established rules, helps to keep everyone safe. For drivers who are new to our school and our routines I would like to again share a few safe traffic rules that we have at Ellen Fairclough P.S. In the mornings, if you need to walk your child to class from your car, **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. Thanks again to all for putting safety before convenience and I remind everyone that walking to and from school is still encouraged when possible.

The results of the Grade 3 and 6 E.Q.A.O. assessments from the 2011 – 2012 school year have recently been released and we were able to share them in detail with parents at the first School Council meeting of the year on Tuesday, October 2nd. The general results are shared below but more detailed information can be found on the Board website. You can access them by following the following steps. Go to www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca, click on school profiles, click on Ellen Fairclough P.S., then click on 2012 under the Student Assessment Reports heading. I would encourage you to go to pages 7 and 11 respectively to see an accurate reflection of how our students did in grades 3 and 6 once our exempted students have been removed from the data.

If you go to those pages, you will find the following percentages of participating students who achieved at level 3 or 4 in the tested subject areas:

		School (E.F.P.S.)	Board	Province
In Grade 3	Reading	81%	77%	68%
	Writing	83%	87%	78%
	Math	60%	81%	70%
In Grade 6	Reading	82%	86%	77%
	Writing	96%	86%	76%
	Math	93%	73%	60%

We are once again quite pleased with the results as they indicate that our students are continuing to make positive progress and that our focused school initiatives are continuing to help our students to achieve to high levels. What was really exciting again this year was the significant increase in numbers of students achieving at level 4 in grade 6. That was a goal that was set as part of our improvement planning and it would appear that those efforts were effective. We look forward to using this year's data to inform our school improvement planning, particularly in the area of mathematics.

It was great to see so many families at our Meet the Staff Night last week. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to visit the spaces that their children are learning in and also to meet their child's teacher(s). On that note, it is my pleasure to welcome Ms. Vivian to our staff. She will be teaching Grade 4 for us this year and we are excited that she is joining our team. It is also my pleasure to welcome back Ms. Persaud who will be teaching Ms. D'Adamo's class for the remainder of the school year. We wish Ms. D'Adamo well as she eagerly awaits the arrival of her first child.

The first School Council Meeting of the year was well-attended and the executive positions were determined. Mrs. Perinparajah will be the Chairperson, Ms. Prabakaran will be the Secretary, and Mr. Ahmed will be the Treasurer. I thank these three individuals for accepting these roles and also thank the other parents who have committed to participating as members of council this year. I look forward to collaboratively working with the entire council! Our next meeting is being held on Tuesday, November 6th at 6:30 pm in the library. All interested parents are encouraged to attend.

As always, your child's teacher and I are available to discuss the needs of your child. Please call the school to arrange an appointment.

Paul Battler

Library Resource Centre 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 great reading. Remember to take good care of these resources.

Our Librarian Assistant program will be up and running soon. Students in Grades 5 to 8 will play an active role in keeping our library resource centre running. They assist with signing out resources, shelving books, and processing new resources.



French News

September has been an exciting month in the French program! The Gr 4's are learning about our school and about the French classroom. Gr 5's are learning about Olympic sports and athletes, and the grade 6's 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

We are happy to announce that we have found a family that will be participating in the Roots of Empathy program this year. Roots of Empathy is a program for children in kindergarten to grade 8. The program's aim is to increase empathy- the ability to understand another person's feelings. The program helps the students learn about a baby's needs and how babies develop, and lets children observe a loving relationship between a parent and baby. Through the Roots of Empathy sessions the children learn to care about and respect each other and research has found that there is less bullying and aggression in participating classes. We will be providing you with regular updates as the year progresses!

Ms Neal
Roots of Empathy Instructor





Students of the Month



At the Celebration Assembly on September 27th, the character trait of “**Initiative**” was highlighted as was the following statement from our Touchstone: “**At Ellen Fairclough, we use the character traits to express our positive attitudes.**” 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
SK/SK Mrs. Mascoll
Gr.1/2A Mrs. Sivarajah
Gr.1/2B Ms. Ginsler
Gr.1 Mrs. Clerk
Gr.2 Mrs. D’Adamo
Gr.3 Mrs. Scott
Gr.3/4 Mrs. Crawford
Gr.4 Mr. Nolson
Gr.5/6A Ms. Pang
Gr.5/6B Mrs. D’souza
Gr.7 Mr. Andersen
Gr.8 Mrs. Hughes
Ms. Robb
Mme. Rampartab
Mrs. Girdler
Mrs. Beckford
Mrs. Walji

Hamani P, Harni R.
Rishikesh L, Singh Gurman D, Aarushi V.
Aditya N, Fatima A.
Isra H, Alesha. R.
Halak P, Shathana P.
Kimberly L, Agisan K.
Aditi P, Harini P.
Imran I, Ubaid K
Heshanth R Vishw P.
David C, Vitsu P.
Aritha K Maha R, Shamama R.
Ramsha R, Kullalon K.
Nenthujan T, Kevin M, Sunjev J, Devarshi P, Tarnvir A.
Hamna A, Bonnie L, Thanuja T.
Brianna F.
David C, Aliya M.
Nenthujan T, Kevin M, Sunjev J, Devarshi P, Tarnvir A.
Manpreet S, Vasu P.
Bilal I, Safiyah M.

Congratulations to all! Keep showing that FALCON spirit!

The character trait of **Respect** will be highlighted in the month of October. The focus Touchstone statement that will be highlighted is “We respect one another and value everyone in the community.”

“If you want to be respected, you must respect yourself.”—Spanish Proverb

“Self respect is the cornerstone of all virtue.”—John Herschel

“Knowledge will give you power, but character respect.”— Bruce Lee



E.F.P.S. Extended Library Hours Use Policy

- Kindergarten to Grade 3 students **must** be accompanied by a parent (unless short term tutoring arrangements have been made by school personnel)
- Coats, backpacks etc. are to be hung up in the hall on the coat hooks outside the library (high school volunteers may be invited to place their personal items inside the library and off to one side)
- All students and their parents/caregivers are asked to sign in and out
- All students and caregivers are asked to bring their own pencil and paper supplies as the library does not have the budget to provide these materials
- E.F.P.S. students may use the computers, using their own logins and passwords, but the printers will not be accessible for use unless teacher permission has been provided
- Books may be signed out by E.F.P.S. students only
- There will be a maximum of 2 books per patron
- Students may not return to classrooms or lockers after leaving the library

Ellen Fairclough P.S. has a high standard of expectations for respectful and responsible behaviors, as well as a respect for academic achievement. This standard is expected to be met both during and outside of school hours. Individuals not meeting this standard may be asked to leave the library at any point by the library personnel.

- * Please note that the extended library hours are only for the parents/caregivers, students, and future students of the Ellen Fairclough Public School community. Also, for a variety of safety and liability related reasons, the extended library hours are not meant to be used as daycare by families. On any given day the hours can be cancelled and all students intending on using the library should be able to independently travel home immediately after school in the event they are cancelled.



MARKHAM AFRICAN CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION

Saturday School Upliftment Program for Students in Grades 1 – 10

New: Grade 3 EQAO Test Preparation
New: Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test Prep

Location:	Milliken Mills High School 7522 Kennedy Road (North of Denison) Markham, Ontario
Start Date:	September 15, 2012
Time:	10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Cost:	\$70.00 per Semester (September – December)
Registration & Open House:	September 15, 2012 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Contact Information:	905-294-5033
Email:	maca1987@rogers.com



October 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
	1	2 First School Council Meeting.	3 Meet the Staff Night	4	5	6
	8 	9	10	11 Grade 8 Ottawa Information Night—6:30 pm	12	13 
	15 Cross Country Area Meet	16 NAVARATRI	17 Bus evacuation visit Grade 6's at Lake St. George	18 Grade 6's at Lake St. George	19 Grade 6's return from Lake St. George	20
	22 PA DAY (No School)	23 Dental Screening	24 United Nations Day	25 School Photo Day	26 EID-AL-ADHA	27 
	29	30	31			