Administrator’s Message

Welcome back to school, and welcome to 2019! Happy New year to all our families and friends reading this edition of The Franklin Flash! It’s hard to believe that our two-week winter holiday is behind us and we’re approaching the end of Term 1.

Before we look ahead I would like to express my thanks to you for supporting our annual Holiday Drive which took place in December. Together, your generosity helped our Student Leadership Team donate several hundred kilograms of non-perishable food, new clothing and many new toys to York Region Police’s Holiday Heroes campaign, benefitting many deserving and needy families in York Region. Thank you for your generous support!

Looking ahead, a reminder that Term 1 Report Cards will be coming home with all students on Wednesday, February 13, 2019. For parents of children in Grades 1 through 8, these report cards are the first of two, summative reports you will receive this school year. Subject achievement is reported using letter grades for students in Grades 1 through 6, and percentage grades are used for students in Grades 7 and 8. There are no summative marks for students in Kindergarten. Although subject learning and achievement is being reported, the Learning Skills are prominently featured on the front of the report card, with more space for staff to comment on these skills and attitudes, which are most important to every child’s success and academic achievement.

On another note, there can be no doubt that cold and typically wintery weather is here. Please remember that children are outside every day in the morning when they arrive to school, at morning recess for 20 minutes, and for 40 minutes at lunch recess. Outdoor recesses are shortened only when temperatures (including wind chill) drop to –18 degrees Celsius. Once temperatures drop to –20 degrees Celsius outdoor recesses may be cancelled and the children may kept inside the school. As a result, it is important for your children to dress appropriately for the weather each and every day. Please help your children enjoy their day at school by checking the day’s weather forecast in the morning and ensuring they leave the house with plenty of warm clothing!

After all, it's only by supporting one another that we can ensure Franklin Street P.S. remains a school of excellence!
2018-2019 Professional Activity & Training Days (No School for Students)

Friday, January 18, 2019
Friday, February 1, 2019
Monday, June 3, 2019
Thursday, June 27, 2019

11:15 a.m. DISMISSAL FOR ALL STUDENTS

2018-2019 School Holidays (School Closed)

Family Day
Monday, February 18, 2019

March Break
March 11-15, 2019

Good Friday
Friday, April 19, 2019

Easter Monday
Monday, April 22, 2019

Victoria Day
Monday, May 20, 2019

Important January Dates

1. School Council Meeting — Wednesday, January 16, 7:00 p.m.
2. Professional Activity Day — School Closed to Students — Friday, January 18
3. Author Melanie Florence Visiting Grades 4-8 — Thursday, January 24
4. Power of Play Visits Grades 3-8 — Thursday, January 31
5. Professional Activity Day — School Closed to Students — Friday, February 1

Grade 1 French Immersion Information Session & Registration for 2019-20

Information Sessions
Information sessions for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools that have a Grade 1 program on January 17, 2019 at 7 p.m. Our community’s Grade 1 French Immersion school is Reesor Park PS. Please visit YRDSB’s website in January 2019 http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx to find the FI program location for your elementary school location.

Registration
FI registration will begin on January 18, 2019. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2019, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call their home school office and request an Office Index Card - short version. This Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to the designated FI program location to register, between January 18 and February 8, 2019. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Late Registrations
Late registrations are those submitted after February 8, 2019. Late registrations will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

Accommodation Plan
YRDSB’s FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community’s Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student’s FI education. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools.

More information is available on the Board’s website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.
Battle of the Books!
The Battle of the Books team, consisting of grades 4 - 6 students who love to read and talk about what they read, have been working hard since October to read all 40 books on the competition list. We meet every Thursday at morning recess in the Library to prepare for the Battle that will take place in May and is hosted by the Markham Public Library.

The Red Maple Book Club is Back!
The Red Maple Book Club will begin in the new year. Grade 7 and 8 students who like to read are invited to join. Ten novels have chosen by the Ontario Library Association for this Forest of Reading program. Listen to the announcements for further details. Book lists are available on the OLA website: http://www.accessola.org/web/OLA/Forest_of_Reading/Awards_Nominees/Red_Maple_Fiction_Nominees_2018.aspx

Makerspace Mondays
Makerspace Mondays happens weekly at lunch recess in the library. Students in Grades 4-8 come to create, explore, inquire and have fun! Listen to the announcements for your chance to participate.

Tinkertime Tuesdays
Mondays aren't the only days students can come to the Library to build, inquire, and explore! Tuesdays are “Tinkertime Tuesdays”, when students in Grades 1, 2, and 3 are invited to come at lunch recess to create using the materials and tools available. Listen to the morning announcements for a reminder of which grade can attend on which day.

Chapters Indigo Fundraising Wrap-Up
Thank you to all our families who took some time to come out to Chapters at Woodbine Centre, on Wednesday, November 28th, to support Franklin Street P.S. It was a fun evening to enjoy books and get some holiday shopping done, all while supporting our school. Your presence on that one night helped raise $438 for Literacy resources at the school! Thank you to our student and staff ambassadors who were able to take part — Teena, Zeyana, Ms. Maxmen, and Mrs. Lessard.

Thank You for Being a Holiday Hero!
Huge thanks to everyone in the Franklin Street PS community for being Holiday Heroes! From late November through until the middle of December we accepted donations of non-perishable food, new unwrapped toys, new children’s clothing, and major store gift cards, all for donation to York Region Police’s Holiday Heroes campaign, an initiative that the Franklin Street PS community has been a part of now for 2 years in a row.

If you who were in the school around the middle of December you would have seen the front foyer around our tree bursting with examples of our community’s generosity. On behalf of those families in York Region who benefitted from your assistance, thank you for making someone else’s holiday season a little brighter this year.
Kindergarten Registration Starts January 18, 2019

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 18, 2019 for the 2019-20 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB’s website: www.yrdsb.ca.

Children who turn four or five years old during 2019, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact our school.

NEW THIS YEAR—ONLINE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS HERE!

This year, our school is excited to be one of the pilot schools in the Board offering online registration for Kindergarten.

If you, or someone you know, is registering a child for Kindergarten at our school, you can access the online registration information at bit.ly/KindergartenYRDSB. Please note that for this pilot, a laptop or desktop computer is strongly recommended, rather than a mobile device.

Families are still welcome to register in person in the school office. Registration forms are available on the Board’s website at www.yrdsb.ca.

Snapshots from “Paint the Town December”

Congratulations to all our Kindergarten to Grade 3 performers. “Paint the Town December” was a smash hit!
School Bus Cancellations and Delays

School bus service may be delayed or cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with school bus companies servicing York Region. Decisions are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature and road conditions.

Buses that are delayed on their morning or afternoon route are listed under the “Late Bus Report” tab at www.schoolbuscity.com. Under this tab you will find all routes that are running late, listed by route number, along with the number of minutes they are late. It is critical that you know the bus route number for your child’s morning and afternoon buses in order to read the late bus report!

**BUS CANCELLATIONS:**

- A decision to cancel school bus transportation may be system wide (where all buses in York Region are cancelled) or municipality specific (where buses in one or more municipalities are cancelled).
- If school bus transportation in your municipality is cancelled and your child attends school in a different municipality where service is operational, your child will not be transported to/from school.
- If school bus transportation in your municipality is operational and your child attends school in a different municipality where service is cancelled, your child will not be transported to/from school.
- If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

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<td>THE WEATHER NETWORK</td>
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A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001.

Dress Properly for Cold and Rainy Weather

Being physically active during winter is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle and recess is one opportunity for students to have that activity. **Students must come to school dressed to play outside during recesses (hats, scarf, gloves/mittens, boots, etc.)**  It is advisable for children to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet. The school staff keep a close eye on weather conditions, including wind chill. When conditions necessitate, the principal may decide that students will remain inside for recess or may go out for a shortened period of time.

**Indoor and Outdoor Shoes**

Please make sure your child has a pair of indoor shoes for the school. With the wet, and soon to be slushy weather, outdoor shoes track mud into the halls and classrooms. If the students are able to change into indoor shoes when they are in the building, this will contribute to a cleaner school environment for us all. Thanks for your support!
The Math Corner

Monthly Math Problem

This triangle has 4 dots on each side. A total of 9 dots were used to make the triangle.

The bottom triangle has 6 dots on each side. A total of 15 dots were used to make the triangle.

How many dots, in total, would be used to make a triangle with 10 dots on each side?

Questioning

Using effective questions when talking about math, supports the development of your child’s mathematical reasoning. The use of questioning provides children with opportunities to share and clarify their ideas, draw conclusions, and explain and explore new strategies. With good intention, we often rush to provide our children all the information they need to solve a math problem. By giving your child this information too quickly, they may not think deeply about the problem or engage in mathematical processes.

Here is a list of questions you can ask to support your child’s mathematical thinking:

- How did you solve the problem?
- What did you do?
- What strategy did you use?
- How did you estimate what the answer could be?
- What would happen if …?
- Tell me what is the same? What is different?
- How do you know?
- How did you know where …?
- How did you know which …?
- How did you know when …?
- How do you know your/our answer is reasonable?
- Would this work every time? Can you/we think of any examples that don’t work?
- Have you/we found all the possibilities? How do you/we know?
- What have you/we discovered about __________ while solving this problem?
- What have you/we learned?
ALLERGY ALERT
Ensuring a Safe and Healthy School for All Children

We have students attending our school who have life-threatening allergies. It is important that all parents help to make our school an allergy sensitive environment and minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions. In keeping with best practices around the Board and issues of student health and safety, we are vigilant and insist that all food in the school meets “nut-free” and “allergy-safe” guidelines.

ALL STUDENTS are asked to NOT bring any foods that may contain peanuts and/or nuts, or nut byproducts. In MANY CLASSES we also ask for every family's help to NOT send seafood, shellfish, sesame. Details about specific allergens in your child’s classroom will be sent home in early September.

Please check the list of ingredients carefully when selecting food for your children’s lunches and snacks. Please avoid products that say “may contain peanuts/nuts”. Imported products have different labeling requirements, so please read the labels carefully when sending these products to school. If you are unsure about a chosen product, please do not send it to school. Thank you for your cooperation. Remember, we must all work together to keep children safe!

Since September 2017 we have also been asking parents to NOT send food to school to recognize student birthdays, special days, etc. In an effort to consider allergy and religious/cultural limitations that make many food choices inappropriate we suggest alternate ways to recognize student birthdays without providing food (i.e. Dollarama gift bags, pencils, a book with your child’s name in it donated to the classroom library or school library, etc.). Thank you for your cooperation.

Tips to Help Pack a Waste-Free Snack and Lunch

Did you know that most lunch trash comes from disposable packaging of single use food items, plastic bags and foil? It’s estimated that the average school age child using a disposable lunch produces 67 pounds of lunch waste per school year! Using re-usable containers, thermos bottles and bringing the right amount of food will let children know they can be part of the solution to our waste problems.

Waste Free Snack/ Lunch Tips

1. Use reusable lunch carriers. Please avoid plastic or paper bags.
2. Use reusable containers. Please avoid plastic wrap, foil, wax paper, Styrofoam.
3. Use reusable drinks bottles or thermos. Please avoid single-use juice boxes, pouches, cans and plastic water bottles.
4. Use a cloth napkin and wash and re-use. Please avoid paper napkins.
5. Use silverware and wash and re-use. Please avoid plastic forks/knives.
6. Buy fresh fruits and vegetables and cut them up so you can send the right amount. Cutting and peeling fruit and vegetables makes it quicker and easier for your child to eat in their short eating time.
7. Get your children to help pack their snacks/lunches with healthy foods.
8. Only pack as much food as your child will eat.

Concerned about illegal parking and traffic congestion around the school? Remember, a solution is up to all of us! Please be sure to obey all posted traffic signs, and be a positive role model for your child and all the students at Franklin Street PS.