

- **Principal:**  
Mr. Matthew Biemiller
- **School Office Admin Assistant:**  
Mrs. Lisa Wilson
- **Admin Support:**  
Mrs. Emily-Ann Smylie
- **Lead Caretaker:**  
Mr. LeBlanc
- **Superintendent of Schools:**  
Mr. Paul Carew  
(905) 895-5155
- **Trustee:**  
Ms. Loreale Carruthers

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## Principal's Message

It was a busy November at Holland Landing! Our students were involved in a number of activities including: the Eco Club, Chess Club, Me to We Team, the Jr. and Intermediate Volleyball teams, as well as band practices and the Art Club. Several classes had field trips, and our Grade 8's made their first visit to Dr. Denison Secondary School. In addition, students presented at the Remembrance Day Assembly, as well as our Character Assembly. Through the support of our School Council, students from HLPS once again participated in the East Gwillimbury Santa Claus parade. We capped off the month with a Snuggle Up and Read evening that was attended by many of our primary families. We would like to extend our thanks to all those who arranged these activities on behalf of our students.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Holliday Concert the evening of December 12<sup>th</sup>, and sharing with you the best wishes of the season. The school is once again participating in our annual Care and Share Silent Auction the night of the concert. Proceeds from this event will be directed to students and families in need in our immediate school community. In addition, the Me to We Team has organized our school's participation with the York Regional Police Holliday Heroes Campaign where we will be collecting new unwrapped toys and clothes for distribution to families throughout York Region.

In closing, as we approach the Winter break, on behalf of the staff we would like to wish our Holland Landing families a restful break. The Winter Break begins with the PA day on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Students return to school on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. To those who celebrate at this time of year, we wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and all the best for the holidays and the New Year.

*Mr. Biemiller*

## Important Bus Transportation Message

Did you know that students' bussing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com).

*We wish all of our Holland Landing Families a peaceful and restful winter break.*

## Character Matters

Our Character Trait for the Month of December is **Initiative**.

“We act without being prompted by others. We are eager to do what needs to be done without having to be told to do it. We take the first step towards the achievement of a goal.”

### Character Calendar

*Empathy, Inclusiveness, Courage,*  
**Initiative, Responsibility,**  
*Optimism, Fairness,*  
**Respect, Honesty, Perseverance**

## Initiative Poster

At our monthly Character Assemblies, we introduce our upcoming character trait for the month. Each class also has the character trait posted, and over the course of the month, students and their teacher’s will engage in discussions about what the character trait means in the context of their specific grade (for example, how we demonstrate Initiative in Grade 8 is different than how we do so in Kindergarten). To the right, you will find this month’s character poster so that your child may chat with you about what Initiative means to them.

Holland Landing P.S.

### CHARACTER MATTERS

#### Initiative

We act without being prompted by others. We are eager to do what needs to be done without having to be told to do it.



## Holiday Reminder

Please note that the students’ last day of school is Thursday, December 19th and that the Winter Holidays run through to Friday, January 3rd. The first day of school in the new year is Monday, January 6th, 2014.



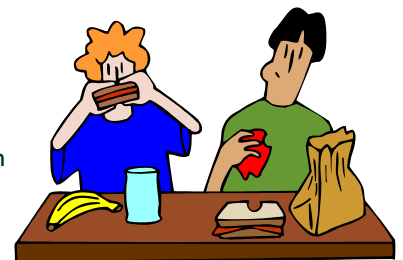
**If your family will be extending this holiday period, please inform your child’s teacher and the school office in writing at your earliest convenience.**

Thank you!

## Lunch Assistants Wanted!

If you are occasionally available to help with the supervision of students over the lunch hour (12:50—1:50 pm) daily then we need you!

We do have regular assistants who work on a daily basis, and are looking to find people either for daily or on an occasional basis as needed. For example, if you can be available even one day a week on a regular basis,



we can use your help! **This is a paid position. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Wilson in the office at 905-836-6614.**

We look forward to hearing from you!



## School Bus Cancellation Information

On occasion, service cancellation due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions may be required. As a result, parents and students should develop alternate care arrangements in case transportation services are cancelled. All cancellation decisions will be made by 6:00 a.m. to ensure the safety of the students. **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.**

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.) 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:

### RADIO

640 AM 860 AM 92.5 FM 89.9 FM 95.9 FM  
1010 AM 1050 AM 102.1 FM 94.1 FM 94.9 FM  
1540 AM 107.1 FM 88.5 FM 590 AM 1580 AM  
98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM 680 AM 101.1 FM  
104.5 FM 93.1 FM 100.7 FM 97.3 FM

### TELEVISION

CITY TV, THE A-CHANNEL, CFTO TV, THE WEATHER NETWORK  
GLOBAL NEWS

Please note a bus cancellation message will also be available at

[www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) and by calling 1-877-330-3001.



## Winter Weather

Winter tends to arrive like a lion. Please ensure that your children are prepared for the winter weather when coming to school. Supervision during the recesses is *outdoor only*, it is expected that if a child is well enough to come to school, that they are well enough to go out for recess. An extra pair of mittens or hat are good ideas in the younger grades as snow play often creates very wet children and outdoor clothes don't always have time to dry thoroughly between recesses. As well, please ensure that your child has **indoor** shoes to wear, this is necessary both for comfort and safety as children must have footwear on at all times in case of a fire alarm.

Please be sure to listen to the radio (or watch television news in the morning) on bad weather days to see if school busses have been cancelled. **Remember - if busses are cancelled in the morning, they are cancelled for the day.** Students who are dropped off at school in the morning need to be picked up by 3:30 pm promptly as we do not have staffing for after school supervision.



## Too Sick to go Outside for Recess?

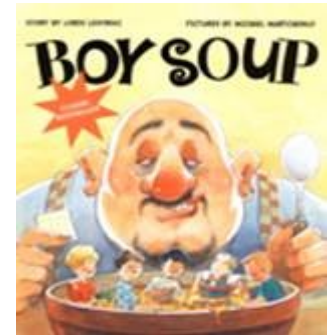
**Then you are too sick to attend school.** It is an expectation at Holland Landing that if your child attends school then they must go outside at the recess breaks. Supervision is not available in classrooms or the office during these times of the day. On severe weather days with extreme wind chill temperatures or a cold weather alert, we use judgement to shorten the length of time spent outdoors.



## Grade One Book Giveaway at the Public Library

Visit the East Gwillimbury Public Library for a free book! Ask at the front desk for **Boy Soup** or **La Soupe de Garçons** by Canadian author Loris Lesynski. This story includes a giant, some boys, a girl, and a big bowl of soup! Pictures by Michael Martchenko.

The Holland Landing Branch is located at 9513 Yonge Street. Questions? Please call 905-836-6492 or visit the library's website at [www.egpl.ca](http://www.egpl.ca)



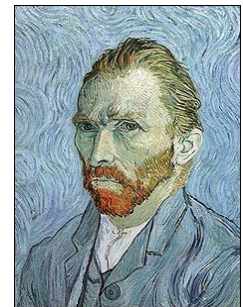
## Art-i-Facts

The Art-i-Facts Club will begin in January for students in Grades One to Five. This extra curricular activity will take place during the lunch hour in Room 20, with Mrs. Evans-Milak.

Workshops will focus on the biographies of various artists and students will create art-work which is inspired by famous paintings. The Grade One students will study *Vincent Van Gogh*. Grade Two students will study *Claude Monet*. The Grade Three students will study *Pablo Picasso* and the Grade Four and Five students will learn about the Canadian *Group of Seven* artists.

A letter will be sent home this month with complete details. Students must **pre-register** for this club so that sufficient supplies can be prepared and to ensure that appropriate supervision is arranged.

We look forward to another year of exploring our creative potential. **A special thank you goes to HLPS School Council for providing funding for this extra curricular activity.**



*I want to touch people  
with my art. I want them  
to say 'he feels deeply, he  
feels tenderly'.  
- Vincent Van Gogh*

## Care & Share Silent Auction

Holland Landing Public School is holding our annual Care and Share Silent Auction on December 12, 2013. All proceeds from the auction go towards supporting less fortunate families in our school community over the holiday season.

Any donations of new products or gift certificates that may be included in our Silent Auction the night of our Holiday Concert would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Mr. Biemiller or Mrs. Liski directly if you would like to make a donation.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be running in the library from **Monday, December 9th through Friday, December 13th**. Please support our literacy programs by purchasing books and other materials at the book fair.

*Give the gift of reading this Christmas!*

### Upcoming PA Days

Please note the following dates are P.A. Days therefore there is no school for students on these days:

**Friday, December 20**  
**Friday, January 17**



## A Message from our School Trustee

As 2013 draws to a close, I hope everyone has had a wonderful school year so far. As a trustee, I am always very proud to hear about the great things happening in our schools, thanks to the hard work of our students, staff and community members.

With the school year well underway, I hope you have had an opportunity to get involved with the school community. There are many different ways to get involved. Our great schools become even better when everyone in the school community – families, students, staff and community partners – feels welcome and engaged in the school.

We will begin 2014 with a renewed Mission, Vision and Values statement. They are being updated to better reflect the school communities we serve, and the changes we have seen in education over the past decade. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views.

As we enter the winter months, on behalf of the trustees and staff of the York Region District School Board, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season, and a wonderful start to the new year.

*Ms. Lorelea Carruthers*



## News from the Me to We Student Leadership Team

The school year has been off to a busy start for our Me to We team. In September, we gained ten new members and are so excited to have them join our team. Team members will be involved in Character Matters assemblies and other Free the Children initiatives.

In October, we supported the We Scare Hunger campaign. The Holland Landing Public School community generously donated 825 pounds of food to the Newmarket Food Pantry, surpassing last year's efforts and earning the whole school a Pajama day. For November, we supported the ABC Rafiki chain sales. Once again, your generosity has provided one year of school supplies to thirty students in developing communities where Free the Children works. We look forward to more leadership opportunities as the school year continues.

*Mrs. Chiarot and the Me to We Student Leadership Team*



## Kindergarten Registration - September 2014

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 17, 2014 for the 2014-15 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). Children who turn four or five years old during 2014, 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 Mrs. Wilson in the office via phone at 905-836-6614 or via e-mail at [lisa.j.wilson@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:lisa.j.wilson@yrdsb.edu.on.ca).



## Healthy Schools

### Give the gift of physical activity



When choosing gifts this season, consider items that can have a lasting impact on the health of your children; gifts that they can enjoy over and over again.

<b>Sports Equipment</b>	skipping rope, football, soccer ball, baseball glove and bat, skate board, skates, hockey net, basketball net, sports helmet, bicycle, toboggan or snowshoes
<b>Active Clothes</b>	t-shirts, track suit, swimsuit, ski suit, knee & elbow pads, hat/scarf and waterproof mitts, sport jersey, running shoes, warm winter boots, water shoes, reflective clothing or a water bottle
<b>Activities</b>	lessons such as swimming, dance, aerobics, or sports lessons; parks & recreation program registration, day pass to an indoor or outdoor playground (e.g. rock climbing, water park, mini-golf, ski hill pass) or a favourite sport membership



Why not buy one or more . . . and give yourself the gift of physical activity, too!

For health-related information call York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit [www.york.ca/healthyschools](http://www.york.ca/healthyschools)

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## Head Lice

Each year, cases of pediculosis (head lice) are found throughout our schools. In an effort to reduce the numbers of cases found and decrease the inconvenience to parents/guardians and students, the York Region District School Board requests your assistance. Periodic inspections during the year will help prevent the spread of head lice.

Head lice are tiny (1/8" or 3mm long) wingless insects with flattened bodies. They cling to the hair by

means of six legs. They live mostly behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. The female lays tiny, yellowish-white eggs called nits. They resemble dandruff but are attached to the hair by a cement-like material and are very difficult to remove. It is usually the eggs that are noticed first.

If head lice are found, do not return your child to school until treated. This will prevent the spread of pediculosis. Children are only allowed to re-enter the class when all the nits

are removed from the hair. For more information, please call the Public Health Nurses at York Region Health Services *Health Connection* line, 1-800-363-5653 (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).



**Pizza Lunch and Euro Panini Lunch Order Forms  
will be coming home soon!**

**Please check your child's knapsack to take advantage of one or both of  
these programs!**

## QSP Magazine Subscriptions for the Holidays!



**Are you looking for  
great holiday gifts  
for family and friends?**

**Go SHOPPING at [www.QSP.ca](http://www.QSP.ca) and you'll be supporting  
our school at the same time.**

**Our school group number is 9963 and the internet site is open to take  
your order 24 hours a day.**

**No line-ups, no gift wrapping and free delivery anywhere in Canada.  
QSP also offers a free e-card service.**

**A gift of a magazine subscription is like giving a gift  
every month for an entire year!**

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***DON'T FORGET OUR REGULAR FAMILY READING MAGAZINE FUND-  
RAISING CAMPAIGN WILL AGAIN BE COMING THIS SPRING, BUT FEEL  
FREE TO ORDER EARLY AS OUR SCHOOL STILL BENEFITS. THANK  
YOU!***

*If you ever have any questions regarding your orders, please contact  
QSP Customer Service at  
1-800-667-2536.  
They offer a 100% satisfaction guarantee.*

# December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>Initiative</b>						
1	2 (Day 1) Eco Club Meeting Euro Panini Lunch School Council Meeting	3 (Day 2) Georgina & Area Team Chess Challenge	4 (Day 3) Arts & Design - Gr. 6, 7 & 8	5 (Day 4)	6 (Day 5) Pizza Lunch 	
8	9 (Day 1) BOOK FAIR Eco Club Meeting Euro Panini Lunch	10 (Day 2) BOOK FAIR Jr. Boys' Area Volleyball Tour- nament	11 (Day 3) BOOK FAIR Arts & Design - Gr. 6, 7 & 8	12 (Day 4) BOOK FAIR Jr. Girls' Area Volleyball Tourn. Holiday Concert	13 (Day 5) BOOK FAIR Pizza Lunch 	14
15	16 (Day 1) Eco Club Meeting Euro Panini Lunch	17 (Day 2)	18 (Day 3) Character Mat- ters Assembly Gr. 4 Medieval Feast	19 (Day 4) Pizza Lunch 	20 P.A. Day—No School	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26 Boxing Day	27	28

## Christmas— Wednesday, December 25th

December 25 is Christmas for most Christians in the West. Some Orthodox Churches, such as the Ukrainian Church, follow the Julian calendar and will celebrate Christmas on January 7. For Christians, Christmas is a joyous religious celebration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We wish Christian students, staff and members of the community who will be celebrating Christmas, a Merry Christmas and a joyful time of sharing.

