



February 2017

John McCrae News



John McCrae Public School

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School Website: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/johnmccrae.ps/Pages/default.aspx>

Principal: Helen Hart

Vice Principal: Krista Keirstead

Superintendent of Schools: Dan Wu - 905-940-7800

School Trustee: Billy Pang - 647-461-9965

Message from the Administrators



Dear Families,

The month of February will be another busy month with so many activities such as Milne outdoor education trips, Fire Department visits, our Dance-athon, dental screening for Y1/Y2 (ie., JK/SK), grades 2 and 8, visits from our Public Health Nurse regarding mental health - and that's just a few!

Staff Professional Learning - As a staff, we will continue to focus on professional learning during the February 3rd PA day around the comprehensive math program. Staff continue to be engaged in research based learning and activities so that they can support students' skills development in the area mathematics - with a focus on the math processes, having a growth mindset, and specific strands such as Geometry, etc.

Report Cards- First term report card will be sent home on February 15. There are no formal interviews scheduled at this time. Please take the time to review your child's progress and share their strengths with them as well as set goals for improvement. We value partnerships with our families and encourage parents to contact their child's teacher(s) if parents have any questions. Many thanks to our excellent teachers and support staff, whose care and dedication to their students make JMPS such a wonderful and vibrant place for learning.

Finally, we would like to wish you all a Happy Family Day on February 20th.

Helen and Krista



All About Safety!



Safe Arrival

Punctuality and attendance are very important to ensure your child does not miss important material being taught. It is critical that you call the Safe Arrival line when your child is going to absent or late so that the school can ensure all students are safe. If you do not call the school, the school will call home, business, and then emergency numbers provided to ensure your child is safe. **In the event that we are unable to contact anyone, it is Board policy that we contact the police.**



On February 1st our school participated in Winter Walk Day. Not only did we encourage all students to walk to school on that day, but we also had all classes join in on a walk through the community to get our school day started. We will continue to tally how many students walk to school each Wednesday and use those numbers to move classes across the map of Ontario on our Healthy Schools bulletin board.

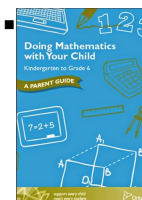
Our Public Health Nurse will be in to deliver lessons on managing stress to one class in each division and we will be passing those lessons and resources on to all of our classes.

Please follow us on Twitter for more Healthy School updates @JMPS_Healthy.

Magnificent Math!!

Doing Mathematics with Your Child (Kindergarten to Grade 6)

Today, critical thinking, problem solving, reasoning ability and the ability to communicate mathematically are essential skills. These processes are the foundation of mathematics instruction in Ontario schools. *Doing Mathematics with Your Child* is a guide available to parents of students in Kindergarten to Grade 6, from the Ministry of Education. This guide offers ways to engage your child in thinking and talking about mathematics. Please use the link below to access the guide in English and 13 other languages:



<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNumEn.pdf>

<http://www.beta.edugains.ca/newsite/lms/offeredotherlanguage.html>

Weather Warning - still on!!

All students from Year 1 (i.e., Junior Kindergarten) to Grade 8 are expected to go out for every recess unless the Principal or Vice-Principal decides that weather conditions are so poor that it would be detrimental for them to be outdoors. Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 40 minutes after lunch. We always monitor the weather and, in extreme conditions (e.g. wind chill) we keep the students indoors or shorten the recess breaks.

We often receive requests from parents asking us to keep their children indoors during recess times because they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or facilities to supervise students who are sick or still recovering from an illness. Students with heavy colds, etc., which are serious enough to prevent them from participating in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will likely benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of this illness to others.

Please make sure that your children are dressed properly for our invigorating winter days. It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the lost and found, please be sure to label all articles of clothing. Boots, hats, mitts, gloves, scarves, and snow pants for the younger children will help make recess an enjoyable time.

Year 1 (i.e., Junior Kindergarten) Registration
Registration for Year 1 began on January 20th, 2017 for the 2017-2018 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four years old during 2017, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public 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 the school. If your child did not attend Year 1 and turns five in 2017, they would also register on or after January 20th for the 2017-2018 school year.

You will be required to please bring the child's original Birth Certificate, Citizenship papers, and Proof of Residency such as a Tax Bill, Purchase Agreement or Lease Agreement to the school when you come to register. Please register your child early.

School Council 2016 - 2017

Chair: Michael Chun

Vice Chair: Helena Ke

Treasurer: Lavina Yip

Secretary: Christy Chen

Voting Members:

Anna Leung, Said Salameh, Yolanda Smidt,
Deepak Varma, Yamini Varma, Jennifer Shum,
Rakesh Yadav, Juan Du

Please plan on joining us for the next School Council Meeting, which will be held in the library at 7:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 22, 2017.**



Please join us for our Family Fun Night

on

Thursday, February 23rd, 2017

from

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

*Students must bring a family member to supervise them, as well as a pair of **indoor shoes**.

Markham District High School

Upcoming School Council Presentations and Events



MDHS School Council is pleased to be hosting a number of upcoming informative events and presentations. These events are open to students, parents and administrators. All local area schools are invited to attend. Events take place in the MDHS school library. Additional details are provided below:

Event	Details	Date/Time
Student Advocacy Cards	Learn more about the new Advocacy Cards program and gain a better understanding of how you can support your son or daughter to advocate for their learning needs in the classroom environment. This session is for both parents and students and will directly follow the School Council meeting taking place from 6-7PM. RSVP to markham.dhs@sc.yrdsb.ca by Nov 25th. Presented by the Learning Disabilities Association of York Region	November 28th 7:30 pm
Supporting Community Concerns	Learn about the board's policy on how they support community concerns. The policy and procedure reinforces the importance of high standards of practice with regard to service provision by the Board.	January 23rd 7:00 pm
Advocacy Training	A workshop on effective approaches to advocating for our children, school and community. Presented by YRDSB Inclusive School and Community Services	
Supporting High School Students with Math	A session for parents targeted on providing strategies to support your son or daughter with high school Math. Presented by MDHS Math Department	February 6th 7:00 pm
Social Media Branding	This session is open to both parents, students and teachers to gain an understanding on how social media can be used to portray who we are positively or negatively. As well, a brief discussions on the dangers of social media. Presented by Socially Active	March 20th 6:00-8:00 pm
YRDSB Mental Health Strategy (Tentative)	Session for Parents and Teachers to be held immediately following School Council meeting scheduled from 6:30-7. The focus will be on the board's strategy. Presented by Mental Health, YRDSB	May 15th 7:00 pm

Our Dance-athon is coming soon!!!

On Tuesday, January 31st, JMPS had it's "PUMP IT UP" assembly with DJ Trevor from Interactive Entertainment. The students had a great time learning some dance moves and enjoying some current hits. On **February 27th**, students will participate in our Dance-athon fundraiser - all funds raised will be used to purchase items for students. In the past, we've added musical instruments, gym equipment, and technology. There are prizes to be won for individuals and classes. Remember - the more we raise, the more we can buy for the students at JMPS!!!!



Healthy Snack Program

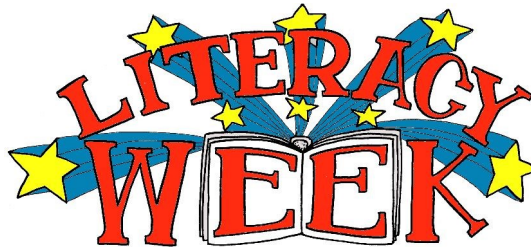
Every Tuesday and Thursday our students are offered a healthy snack. A variety of healthy snacks (e.g., apples, oranges, bananas, carrots, etc.) are available in the front foyer.



Planning on Moving??

Each year at this time we begin to plan our staffing and classes for the upcoming school year. It is important for us to know how many students to expect for September at John McCrae Public School - grades JK to 8. If your children (i.e., Year 1/JK to grade 7) will not be returning to our school in the fall, please inform the John McCrae Public School office as soon as possible - 905-294-9122

Literacy and Library Corner



The last week of January we celebrated literacy week. We began the week on Monday by giving every student in the school a free book to take home and keep! Every student in the school also participated in an author visit from either Rina Singh or Joyce Grant. On Thursday it was Family Fun Night and we opened up the library to families to engage in our Learning Commons activities and do some activities from our Maker Space. We had a dress up like a book character day on Friday. And, to top it all off, in the next few weeks, each class will be selecting books for the Kids Choice Book Awards that will be purchased for the library.

Thanks to all students, staff, and families for your enthusiasm and support in developing a love of reading! We would also like to extend a special thank you to the School Council for donating money to further enhance our library and learning commons. Way to go, JMPS!!!



Positions Available - School Assistants **Are you looking for a part-time job?**

If you have considered a fulfilling, part-time position working with students, we have an opportunity for you. At present, we are looking for 1-2 School Assistants. This is a part-time opportunity, 1 hour a day, to be a part of our John McCrae team. If you are interested, please call or come by the office to make an appointment with Mrs. Keirstead.



Children's Treatment Network **MARKHAM**

Special Needs Information Fair

Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017
1PM - 4PM
Angus Glen Community Centre
3990 Major Mackenzie Drive East
Markham, Ontario
 (Please use lower library parking)

FREE Open House

Everyone welcome: parents, families, caregivers, teachers, therapists and youth with special needs ages 0-21

Get connected and access information on various topics including but not limited to...

- Recreational activities
- Family resources
- Financial assistance
- Transition planning
- Funding options
- Therapy options

- Public and private services will be present
- Drop in - No need for registration
- "FAQs" sessions available to have individual questions answered with a CTN service provider
- FREE 2 for 1 coupon for City of Markham at admission
- Great Door prizes: program gift cards, t-shirts, gifts, special needs toys and equipment, planning guides, and therapy gift cards!

While we endorse your right to information, please note the Children's Treatment Network and our network partners do not endorse any specific therapy product, treatment, strategy, opinion, service, or individual. It is important to do your own research and make your own informed decisions.

For more information contact Kelly Lapham 905-898-6455 ext.2248 • klapham@ctnsy.ca

www.ctnsy.ca [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ChildrensTreatmentNetwork) [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CTNkids) [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/ctnkids)



In order to give students more chances to connect with and develop an appreciation for our local environment, the Eco crew has started hosting biweekly off campus nature walks for students during our Wednesday lunch hour. The walk will be in the local area and students will have a chance to explore, observe, as well as play some games to get them thinking about the environment. Students hoping to participate will need to bring their lunch and outdoor gear to the library so that we can have a timely start on our walks. Students will also need to ensure they have appropriate outdoor clothing for the experience. During the winter time this means boots, snowpants, jacket, gloves/mittens, scarf and hat.

This month Junior and intermediate divisions will be walking on February 8 and 22. Primary division will be walking on February 1 and 15.

We hope you can come. - Eco Crew

Message from our Trustee

We are now halfway through the school year. This is a good time to reflect on all that your child has learned and to look at setting goals for the rest of the school year.

Our Board believes that student well-being and achievement go hand-in-hand. One of our goals set out in the Board of Trustees' Multi-Year Plan is to "continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning."

The Ministry of Education has recently identified four priorities for well-being: positive mental health, safe and accepting schools, healthy schools, and equity and inclusive education. As a Board of Trustees, we will continue to further work in all of these areas to support student well-being in line with these priorities.

There are many resources on the Board website to help support student well-being, including tips for talking about mental health, managing stress, packing healthy lunches and addressing incidents of bullying.

Creating a healthy, safe and welcoming learning environment is key to helping our students reach their full potential. All of us have an important role to play in creating an environment that enables our students to thrive.

I wish you all the best for a healthy, happy and successful 2017.

Billy Pang

Huddle-Up Committee

The Huddle Up committee is a group of students from Grades 4 to 8 whose goal is to build inclusivity and promote anti-bullying at John McCrae. Our committee of students works with Mrs. Haidari and Mr.Sciberras to stand up for people who are bullied and not be bystanders. We would like to tell you about an initiative we are going to run for the month of February. To promote inclusivity and a positive learning environment at our school we would like recognize the good deeds of our students. If one of our Huddle Up committee members or a staff member sees a student aiding or helping a fellow peer, the student will be rewarded by the committee member or staff member by receiving a congratulatory ticket which will be taped to the door or poster that each homeroom teacher received. Our goal is to promote and recognize kindness. This will help us reach our ultimate target of abolishing bullying and make everyone at John McCrae feel comfortable and safe. We are looking forward to our month of recognizing and promoting random acts of kindness.

By: The Junior and Senior Huddle-Up Committee

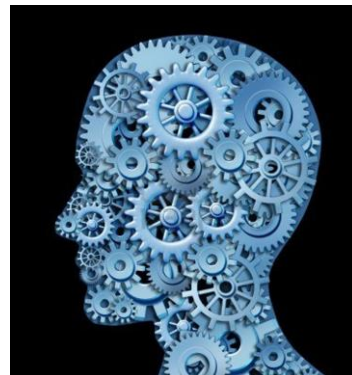
Mind your health

Mental health is a part of our overall health. It can determine how we think, what we feel and how we behave. Our mental health can have a great impact on our relationships, self-esteem and ability to learn new things. Mental health issues can happen to anyone regardless of age or circumstance.

Did you know that one in five students struggle with mental health? This is why it is so important to talk to your children about mental health and be able to recognize signs of poor mental health.

What are signs of poor mental health?

- Avoiding friends and family
- Rebelling against authority
- Not doing things they used to enjoy
- Frequent mood swings
- Getting significantly lower marks in school



What can you do as a parent to help your children develop good mental health?

- Encourage children to talk about their feelings
- Respect their feelings
- Stay positive and avoid being judgmental
- Take children to their family doctor to explore concerns

Your child can speak over the phone or chat online with a counselor from Kids Help Phone at 1-800-668-6868 or kidshelpphone.ca

For more information visit york.ca/healthyschools

This material is provided by York Region Public Health.



Warm up to this special for the month of February...

The 2017 Mid-Winter Special

**Chicken Parmesan with pasta in Tomato Sauce
& a Chocolate Pudding Cup**

Also available in gluten-free option!



Also available - our **Lunch Specials for February:**

All Specials are available as a combo or as an entrée only

**Chicken Pot Pie with
a Garden Salad**

OR

**Udon noodles with chicken
& vegetables**

OR

**Udon noodles with tofu &
vegetables**



Available EACH day we service your school from
February 1st to February 28th

Many more choices available on our regular menu!

Ordering is easy!

Visit us at www.kidskitchen.ca to place your orders online.

Online orders can be placed up until 10am the previous business day. Valid credit card required.

Enjoy more quality time with your children.

Leave the lunches to us.

905-944-0210 | www.kidskitchen.ca

