



John McCrae Monthly

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February 2016

Message from the Administrators



Dear John McCrae Families,

Term one Report Cards will go home on **Thursday, February 18th**. Please take some time with your child to review their report card. Read over the comment sections and highlight your child's accomplishments for the term and discuss areas for improvement. This is also a great time to set some new goals for learning both academically and socially.

Kindergarten registration continues at the school for students born in 2012 wishing to attend JK in September. We look forward to welcoming these new students and ask that you register as soon as possible. Please call the office for further information about registration and our Welcome to Kindergarten orientation.

We continue to need to remind parents to follow safe practices when dropping off or picking up your child (ren) from school. Unfortunately, many parents continue to put both their own child as well as other children in danger by ignoring these expectations. As a school, we are relying on everyone to follow the expectations below to keep our students safe. Thanks for your support and cooperation.

- * PLEASE obey the posted FIRE ROUTE/NO PARKING at the front entrance of the school on Stricker Ave.
- * PLEASE plan the time to walk to and from school. Great exercise, and great for the environment!
- * PLEASE park on the peripheral streets (Roy Rainey, Fred McLaren, Hammersly, etc.) and, use the sidewalks, walk your children onto/off of school property.
- * PLEASE use the bus to and from school if you are entitled.
- * PLEASE be patient, patient and more patient during all pick up and drop off times.

- ! Please **DO NOT** put your child in danger by dropping your most precious persons in an unsafe place where they have to cross through traffic (bus loop/Kiss and Ride) where a serious injury may occur.
- ! Please **DO NOT** stop in the inner parking lot before/during dismissal behind or beside parked cars and expect your child to cross through moving traffic to be picked up.
- ! Please **DO NOT** park in the lot to drop off or pick your child up at the start and end of the day. **The parking spots are for staff only**, unless you have an appointment in the school at those times. Please be respectful of this request.
- ! Please **DO NOT** cause a potential life changing accident by disregarding these safety expectations.

Please remember our new Kiss and Ride location begins **March 21, 2016**. We look forward to a safe, engaging and productive second term!

Helen Hart

Lindsey Rhamey

Principal

Vice Principal



Principal:

Helen Hart

Vice Principal:

Lindsey Rhamey

Superintendent:

Dan Wu

905-940-7800

Trustee:

Billy Pang

647-461-9965

School Council Members:

Suboshan Thevarajah

Michael Chun

Bing Deng

Jennifer Shum

Anna Leung

Helena Ke

Margaret Mao

Meg Liang

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Sally Zhou

Sheila Lau

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SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Report Absences to 1.855.203.2994

John McCrae launched a new absence reporting system called **Safe Arrival**. It allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in one of three ways:

1. Parents call into an automated interactive telephone system via a toll free number (**1-855-203-2994**) through which absences can be reported.
2. Parents can log into a website, **yorkrdsb.schoolconnects.com** to authenticate their Portal account to report absences and update contact information.
3. Parents who have authenticated their accounts and have either an iOS or Android device can download an app that can be used to report absences.

The system will be available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.



The school will notify the York Regional Police

How can I encourage my child to eat breakfast?

Do you rush out the door for work with only a coffee in hand? Children learn best by watching

their parents' positive behaviours.

It's very hard to ask your children to eat breakfast if you don't. One tip for getting your kids to eat in the morning is to set a good example. Give yourself



a few extra minutes each morning to enjoy a healthy breakfast with your family. Remember, your children are watching!



CHANGE OF CLOTHES

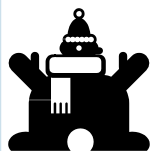


Wet weather is here!

We ask that parents send a change of clothes to school with their younger children.

An extra pair of pants and socks will avoid the office having to make a call to you if your child gets wet, by accident, at recess.

WINTER CLOTHING



A reminder to parents to please send their children with appropriate clothing for our winter weather. Gloves/mittens, hats and a winter coat/jacket, as well as socks and boots are a necessity. **If your child is not well, please keep him/her at home as all children are expected to participate in the outdoor recesses.**

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION CONTINUES

Please contact the office for more information or to get the registration forms. Please register as soon as possible. For more information please visit the board website for [Kindergarten](#).



ADDITIONAL ELEMENTARY P.A. DAY

As a result of provincial labour negotiations, a **P.A. Day** has been added for all York Region District School Board elementary schools on **Friday, May 6, 2016**. You can see the full updated school year calendar on YRDSB's [website](#).

These additional P.A. Days are mandated by the Ministry of Education. On these dates, teachers & staff will be taking part in professional development on education priorities identified by the Ministry of Education.

Projected Enrolment

Are you moving before September? Is there someone in your neighbourhood with 3 and 4-year old children? If so, please let us know! We are currently projecting our student enrolment for September 2016. These projections help us hire sufficient staff. Any information you can provide us now will help with next year's preparations. Call our office at 905-294-9122.

York Region Mission:

To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

Inspire Learning!

Message from our Trustee

Although winter still feels far from over some days, we are now halfway through the school year. With report cards coming home, this is a good time to review progress and celebrate what your children have learned both inside and outside of the classroom. This is also a good time to set goals for the months ahead.

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." Developing this supportive culture includes engaging parents/guardians and other members of the school community in public education and working together to create safe and supportive school environments that enable students to thrive.

As parents/guardians, there are many ways you can get engaged in your child's education and support their learning, including talking with them about school, communicating with teachers, attending school events or school council meetings, and volunteering in the school. However you get involved, know that you are making a difference.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you all the best an enjoyable and successful second term.

Billy Pang

MUSIC NEWS

Our students continue to work very hard towards achieving their BOPs and recorder belts. Students should aim to complete 8 BOPs or belts in term two. Students should be practising at home a minimum of 30 minutes per week.

Extra-curricular groups continue to rehearse at the following times in preparation for our Arts Night performances on Thursday, May 5th:

Monday am recess - ensembles, practice time and help available

Tuesday 8:00 am - Concert Band

Wednesday 8:00 am - Junior Concert Band

Thursday 4:00 pm - Markham Area Band (performance April 28th)

Friday lunch recess - Jazz Band

Students who wish to audition for a spot in the York Region Elementary Enrichment Band should speak with Mrs. Morrison to be endorsed. Information, audition material and on-line applications are available on the YRDSB website. Deadline for applying is Friday, February 12, 2016. All audition materials are on-line. Help is available from Mrs. Morrison when preparing for the auditions. Auditions are to be held at JMPS on the evening of Thursday, March 3, 2016.

J. Morrison

Music Teacher



JOHN MCCRAE PUBLIC SCHOOL

DANCE-A-THON FUNDRAISER



On the afternoon of February 5, 2016, JMPS students participated in a 'PUMP IT UP' assembly to learn more about our Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser and the exciting prizes that can be won. Every child was given their fundraiser envelope to take home and record the names and addresses of sponsors.

Here are some information tips to help you support your child's participation in our first annual JMPS Dance-A-Thon:

- Your child is encouraged to speak to family and friends to request support in the form of donations and ANY monetary amount is welcomed
- Students should not canvass for donations using door-to-door methods - this is **not safe**
- Students are expected to participate in the Dance-A-Thon on Friday, February 19, 2016 at their grade's designated time
- The fundraiser will formally end on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2016 when **ALL ENVELOPES WITH FUNDS ARE DUE TO BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL**
- Please do not return envelopes earlier than February 26, 2016 as there will be no collection from teachers
- Please return the envelope with your child on Friday, February 26, 2016
- You may return cash as collected in the envelope; however, we would prefer if families could write one cheque for the full amount on behalf of their child's total sponsorship. Please write cheques payable to John McCrae Public School
- Please remember to seal the returned envelope
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded to the students who raise the most funds
- The class (calculated by average) that raises the most sponsor funds will enjoy a team prize

We want all students to enjoy the Dance-A-Thon and learn about the importance of physical activity in our daily life. Every child who participates will receive a Certificate of Recognition. The funds raised this year will be used to revitalize our music program by replacing costly instruments and continue the revitalization of the Library. We thank you in advance for your support of this exciting initiative.



Upcoming Changes to our Kiss and Ride Program at John McCrae Public School



The safety of our students is very important to us; therefore, we ask for your support as we make some necessary changes to the Kiss and Ride program for the school year. These changes will be in effect beginning after March Break, on Monday, March 21, 2016. Staff and parent volunteers will be available to assist and direct you. The location of the new Kiss and Ride loop will be at the north side of the school by the parking lot. The existing Kiss and Ride at the main entrance is a Fire Evacuation Route and will only be used by buses and by emergency vehicles and will not be used as a Kiss and Ride or drop-off.

The Kiss and Ride program is intended for parents who are dropping off or picking up their child(ren). It is not intended for individuals who want to leave their vehicle to walk their child(ren) to the playground or to assist their child(ren) to leave the car. If you want to accompany your child to the fence of the playground, you must park your vehicle on the street (or in another designated space) and walk your child to the school yard.

There will be NO PARKING in the parking lot for parents.

In an effort to make drop-off and pick-up as orderly and safe as possible we ask that drivers respect the following rules:

1. Obey the road rules, crosswalks, and speed limits.
2. Move your vehicle up as far along the **curb side of the loop** as possible.
3. Have your child(ren) enter and exit the vehicle from the **curb side of the loop** (exit from the **RIGHT** side of the vehicle **ONLY**).
4. The Kiss & Ride area is **one way** only.
5. Your child(ren) should have their backpacks nearby to enable them to exit the vehicle quickly.

Never leave your car parked, idling or unattended.

We have sent home a *Kiss and Ride Contract* this week. Once the form has been returned, drivers will receive a tag indicating that they are part of the Kiss and Ride program. **Drivers without tags will not be allowed to use the Kiss and Ride area.**



SPORTS TEAMS

Congratulations to all the students who participated at the Area and Regional Basketball and Volleyball tournaments. Our Mustangs had incredible performances and should be very proud of their achievements. Way to go team! Special thanks to the coaches Mr. Sciberras, Mr. Brandt, Mr. Kassam, Ms Deleanu, Ms Kadowaki, Ms Ukposidolo, Ms Dzoutsidis and Ms Andrews.



AUTHOR VISITS

During the month of January, to celebrate Literacy Month, and Family Literacy Day on January 27th, our students had the wonderful opportunity to hear Canadian authors Caroline Pignat, Kevin Sylvester and Ruth Ohi speak about their award winning books. We were also visited by Dr. Debbie Donsky, who read her favourite children's book to our Kindergarten students. Their main messages were that anyone can be a writer and they demonstrated this by showing students how powerful words can be. It was a great experience for all who had the opportunity to attend.



PIZZA DAY and MILK ORDERS

We appreciate you supporting our Pizza Day and Milk Programs. Our last order forms will be made available during the last week of February. This order will take us from April 1st through to June 24th.



Note the Changes to City of Markham Parking Signs Around the School

City of Markham Sign Definitions



No stopping between the hours of 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

No stopping allowed between the hours of 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, except when necessary to avoid conflict or in compliance with the directions of a police officer or of a traffic control sign or signal.



No parking allowed between the hours of 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

No parking allowed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, except when temporarily halting for the purpose of, and while actually engaged in loading or unloading goods or passengers.



Fire Route – No Parking (Vehicles will be tagged and/or towed away)

Fire Route - No parking. Vehicles will be tagged and/or towed away.



No U-Turn

You cannot turn your car around on the street. Prohibits a 180 degree turning manoeuvre at or near the location of the sign.