



January 2017

John McCrae News



John McCrae Public School

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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,

Happy New Year to everyone - those who celebrated on the Winter Break, and to those who will celebrate on January 28th! We would like to welcome back all John McCrae families, students and staff to a new calendar year. We hope everyone had a rest filled Winter Break and that students are eager to work towards achieving their goals in 2017!

December was a busy month at John McCrae. This year's food drive was a huge success! Thank you to all of the families who supported this year by donating non-perishable food items. As a school, we donated over 600 items of food to the Markham Food Bank.

The beginning of a calendar year is a time when many are engaged in reflecting on the year gone by and setting goals for the New Year! At John McCrae we continue to refine our practices, and develop effective strategies. Our staff remains committed to student achievement and well-being and have high expectations for all students. Students will be receiving their first report cards the week of February 13th and will also be involved in reflection and goal setting. There is no formal interview process; however, the staff members at John McCrae are committed to maintaining a strong partnership with parents and welcome your participation in your child's education.

In this regard, a strong partnership between home and school remains essential. Effective communities unite in supporting student learning and exist when we work together toward a common goal. We invite you to attend the January School Council meeting on Tuesday, January 17th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. We encourage families to join us to learn more about John McCrae and how we can work together in support of improved achievement for all of our students.

On behalf of all staff, we would like to wish all the families in the John McCrae school community a happy and healthy New Year. We are looking forward to another successful year in 2017.

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.**

PARKING LOT - Please do not enter between 8:45am and 9:15am and 3:15pm and 3:45pm

For the safety of students and staff there is no parent /guardian/caregiver parking permitted in the parking lot during arrival and departure times during the school day. If you or the guardian/caregiver needs certain special accommodations please contact the school office and we would be happy to discuss how we can assist.



Walk to School...so fun!

Healthy School News - We are encouraging all students to continue to participate in walking to school every day, especially on Wednesdays where classroom reps are taking a tally and recording how many students from each class walk to school. Our December walking winners were Mrs. Grandbois' class for the Golden Shoe Award and Mr. McGouran's class for the Silver Shoe Award and many of our classes have started their walk across Ontario on our tracking map on our Healthy Schools Bulletin Board. Our next school-wide walk will be Wednesday February 1st for Winter Walk Day.



Weather Watch

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 will commence 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 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 Tuesday, January 17, 2017.



Please join us for our Family Fun Night

on

Thursday, January 26th, 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 7-8:30 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

For Year 2 (i.e., Senior Kindergarten) Parents/Guardians: Fred Varley Public School Grade 1 French Immersion Program Information Night

Thursday, January 19th, 2017 - 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Gymnasium

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.



My Healthy Lunch

Some of the classes at JMPS will be participating in a 'My Healthy Lunch' challenge from January 23-27. All students from Year 1 (JK) to Grade 6 will receive a Canada Food Guide the week before.

Literacy and Library Corner

Happy New Year and welcome back! It's wonderful to see so many of our students and families refreshed and rejuvenated from the winter break.

With the winter weather upon us, January is the perfect month to spend some time curled up with a good book. Often the question is raised - "What are the best books to read?" With so many styles and genres to choose from, that can be a difficult question to answer. Do you go with fiction or non-fiction? Do you choose a strong visual text like a graphic novel or picture book, or one without any visuals at all, such as a narrative or essay? Which one is best for your child? The answer to this important question is... all of them. There is no one style, genre, or type of reading that is "best". As readers, we read many styles and types of texts for various reasons: we read the newspaper to be informed of current issues and events, we read novels to explore characters and storylines, we read magazines to support our interests and hobbies. These are but a few examples of the many facets of reading in our daily lives. The best place to start is with your child's interests. What are they interested in? What characters or topics do they enjoy? Texts that support their interests are an excellent place to begin their independent reading journey.

Local and public libraries will also have various suggestions and genres to help with selecting a great book. Consider paying a visit to your local public library branch and inquire as to the many text styles and topics that they offer for children and families. Encourage your child to visit the school library during their Learning commons time to ask about the many wonderful titles and genres offered right here at JMPS!

We hope that you enjoy the many opportunities that are available over this winter season to help support and nurture a love of reading and enjoyment of literature!

*Snow is falling
and books are
calling...*



Public Health Immunization Information

If parents/guardians or students receive a letter from York Region Public Health requesting immunization information, here is what to do:

You can update York Region Public Health of your child's immunization status in one of the following ways:

*online at <https://eimmunization.york.ca>

*fax documents to 905-895-6066 or 1-866-258-2026

*call at 1-877-464-9675 x73456



BUS CANCELLATIONS - Keep in mind on field trip days

On occasion service cancellation due to inclement weather conditions may be required. A decision to cancel school bus transportation will be region-wide meaning all buses, vans and taxis will not operate. Parents, students and school staff are asked to access local radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information. A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and 1-877-330-3001 or by following the YRDSB on Twitter. Please note that school bus charters will not operate when regular home to school service is cancelled.

