



MUSTANG NEWS

John McCrae Public School
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MARCH 5, 2013

**DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP OF STUDENTS
AT BEGINNING AND END OF DAY**

Parents and Guardians:

Further to notice in September, please continue to make note of the **NO PARKING, NO STOPPING, NO U-TURN** signs along Stricker Avenue and Fred McLaren Blvd. Stricker is a very narrow street and buses can not safely pass to get into or out of our parking lot. Town of Markham By-law officers will ticket for parking and stopping on these streets.

Thank you for obeying these signs to keep our students safe !!



Our Grade 8's will be graduating on Wednesday, June 26th, 2013 @ 6:00pm. Plans are underway for this very special event for our Grade 8 students. Please watch for further information!

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar. 7	Spirit Day—Twin Day
Mar. 11-15	March Break—NO SCHOOL
Mar. 19	School Council Meeting—7:00 pm
Mar. 21	Pizza/Sub Lunch
Mar. 21	Grade 8 Grad Photo Day
Mar. 21	Spirit Day—Formal Day
Mar. 27	Today is a Friday schedule
Mar. 28	Spirit Day—Sport Day Assemblies Jk—Gr 2 9:10; Gr 3—8 9:50
Mar. 29	Good Friday—SCHOOL CLOSED
Apr. 1	Easter Monday—SCHOOL CLOSED
Apr. 3	Immunizations
Apr. 4	Spirit Day—Favourite Holiday Day
Apr. 11	ProGrant Parent Workshop (Anxious parents— Anxious kids—6:30-8:00pm)
Apr. 11	Spirit Day—Scarf Day
Apr. 16	School Council Meeting—7:00 pm
Apr. 18	Pizza/Sub Lunch
Apr. 18	Spirit Day—Mix n Match Day
Apr. 25	Spirit Day—Career Day
May 2	Spirit Day—Celebrity Day
May 2	Pizza/Sub Lunch
May 5-7	Dental Screening
May 9	Spirit Day—Heritage Day
May 14	School Council Meeting—7:00 pm
May 16	Pizza/Sub Lunch
May 16	Spirit Day—Wacky Hair Day
May 20	Victoria Day
May 23	Spirit Day—Pajama Day
May 27—June 6	Primary and Junior EQAO
May 30	Pizza/Sub Lunch
June 26	Grade 8 Graduation 6:00pm-7:30pm
June 27	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL



Principal: Ms. Lori Hall
Vice Principal: Ms. Robin Cockburn
Office: Mrs. Whitefield/Mrs. Dunlop

Superintendent of Schools:

Mr. Daniel Wu : 905-940-7800

School Trustee:

Mr. Allan Tam : 416-898-9607

School Council Chairs:

Ms. Margaret Mao and

Mr Roy Pedropillai



தமிழில் விபரங்களை அறிய அழையுங்கள்:

தேராய் பெட்ரோப்பிள்னை: (416) 917-3108

மொரீன் ரமணன்: (647) 977-4905

For a Mandarin translation of this newsletter, please contact Margaret Mao

Email: longarmding@yahoo.com

Home: (905)471-7098

Cell: (416) 258-6525

****PREPARING FOR 2013-2014****

Our preparations for the 2013 -2014 school year are underway, and our success depends on accurate projections of the school population. **If you are moving out of our school area, please complete the form below and return it to the school by February 28, 2013.**

My child(ren), _____ (name(s), who is/are in grade(s) _____ (current grade), will not be attending John McCrae Public School in September 2014. We will be moving to _____ (please provide name of new school, if known).

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____



Dear Parents and Guardians:

On February 13th, our Term 1 reports went home. We hope that you reviewed the achievement of your child (ren) in both their academic and learning skills. What are the achievements that are to be celebrated? What are the areas that need improvement? Read the comments carefully. The teachers have suggested ways that you can support your child's learning at home. **Contact your child's teacher** if you are unsure of how to support your child's learning at home.

One area of our **school improvement plan** includes improved **critical thinking** amongst our students. We know that robust tasks and higher order questioning are essential in our teaching practice if we are going to improve our student's achievement. Our teaching staff is learning to make greater use of the Inquiry approach in their teaching. Students are naturally curious as early learners; we want to maintain that curiosity so that they will become lifelong learners.

What a snowy February!!!! Our students are certainly enjoying the building of structures on our North Field. Our newly formed hills that border our north field and tarmac are fabulous. The students are learning that they need to have proper winter clothing to fully enjoy them. **Please remember that students should always have extra clothing.** To enjoy the winter conditions – layers of clothes are best! Packing some extra socks and mitts are very helpful.

Lori Hall

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Dear Parents and Students,

The Healthy Snack Program is off to a great start this year and really appreciated by the students who have a need and rely on it on a weekly basis. The school is fully committed to making this a priority and every effort is made in getting a variety of healthy/nutritious snacks. The Pizza lunch program is also going great. We would like to thank all those who are involved in making this happen.

The School Council along with the Administration is looking to utilize the funds collected in donations for some co-curricular/Interest activity courses for the students. We believe that the students will enjoy these programs and it will enhance their learning experience. Stay tuned for more updates.

We would like to see more parent participation in our meetings. We value your input!

PIZZA/SUB DAY

We have one pizza/sub day in March due to March Break. It is on Thursday, March 21, 2013



LOST AND FOUND



'LOST AND FOUND' items have been displayed on tables outside of the gym until Friday, March 8th. Items that are not picked up will be donated over the March Break !! Please have your child look for any lost items.

Thank you !



REGISTRATION CONTINUES FOR 2013-13 SCHOOL YEAR

Please note registrations for new students to John McCrae P.S. began on Friday, February 3.

If you still have not registered and if you have any children at home that were born in 2009, they are eligible to begin Junior Kindergarten in September 2013. Please register as soon as possible. If you know of any school aged children that live within the John McCrae community and are interested in enrolling for September 2013 please inform them of the importance of registering early. Go to the following website to access the registration forms as well as the list of necessary documentation:

1. www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca
2. Go under the Schools tab
3. Select the Registration tab
4. Choose Elementary Registration

PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT FOR GRADE 3 AND GRADE 6 STUDENTS (EQAO)

All students in grades 3 and 6 will be participating in the 201e Provincial Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics this Spring. We are in the planning stages for this assessment which will take place May 27th—June 7th, 2013. Please avoid appointments during this time.



HEY MUSTANGS !

Spirit Days are officially back at John McCrae !! Thank you to everyone who participated in the last few spirit days. Everyone did an amazing job of spreading the McCrae Spirit! The Spirit Committee has come up with fun and creative Spirit Days that will take place every Thursday until the end of May! Go Mustangs!

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| March 7 | Twins Day |
| March 21 | Formal Day |
| March 28 | Sports Day |
| April 4 | Favourite Holiday Day |
| April 11 | Scarf Day |
| April 25th | Career Day |
| May 2nd | Celebrity Day |
| May 9th | Heritage Day |
| May 16th | Plaid Day |
| May 23rd | Wacky Hair Day |
| May 30th | Pajamas Day |

Anjalee, Ruby and Corie (Spirit Committee)

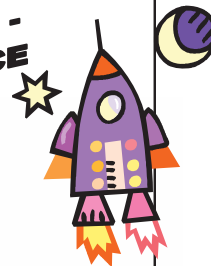
MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH INITIATIVE

If a person in the world is able to change someone's life for the better, it should be recognized. For the month of February, Mr. Kassam's class have been the ambassadors of the character trait initiative. What is initiative? Initiative is when a person or a group of people take action upon themselves to make a difference in the school environment. Throughout J.M.P.S., many students have exemplified this by inquiring about homework, projects, and giving their two hundred percent in all of their work—going above and beyond in their endeavours. For examples, our class demonstrates initiative regularly by delivering pizza to classes on pizza day, as well as taking the responsibility upon ourselves to get the school active with our end of the month assembly. We performed a variety of games, exercises, dances and other high impact activities in an attempt to get the school "running". Hopefully this shall inspire the rest of the community to take the initiative to make a difference in our daily lives.

By: Adam Nanji 8K



ROOM 102 NEWS - EXPLORING SPACE



I am making a star with wooden shapes. I used 18 triangles, 24 diamonds, 22 hexagons and 1 heagon. That was so cool!
By Andrew



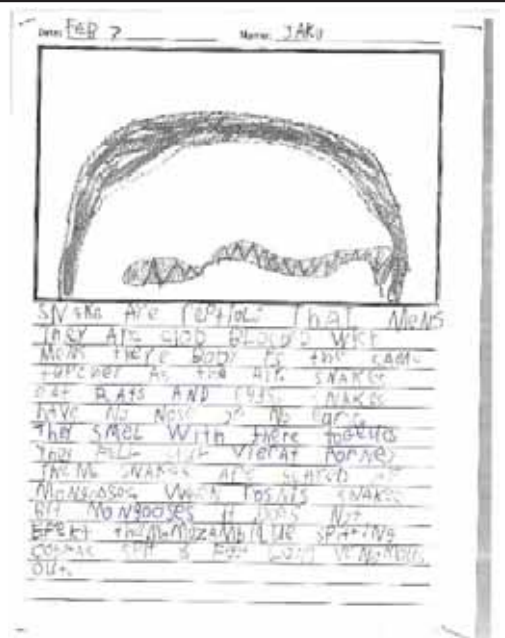
I am painting papier-mâché outer space planets. I'm painting the moon, my friend Liam is painting the earth. Michelle is painting Neptune. For my planet I used the colours silver, grey and black. I mixed white and black, then white and grey. It was fun painting the moon! The moon has no gravity. If you are on the moon you'll bounce.
By: Andrew

ROOM 104 NEWS - SAMMY THE CORN SNAKE

As you may have heard, we have a new addition to our class. His name is Sammy and he is a 6 foot corn snake. He joined our class on January 7th and things have never been the same since. We have been reading many books about snakes and engaged in numerous inquiry-based learning activities involving snakes. The children have been asking lots of questions about snakes and their skin, how they move, where they live, how they smell and hear, where they go in the winter, etc. They are now experts on the subject.

The questions that particularly fascinate the class are questions regarding the snake's diet. We discussed and showed the children pictures of snakes eating their prey which really tweaked their interest even more. The children became very interested in seeing Sammy eat for themselves.

So in the interest of Science, and to promote further learning and questioning in our class, we fed Sammy this past month so that the children could see first hand how snakes eat their food. It was amazing. The class loved it! So much so, we are going to feed him again early in March, and we have invited Ms. Yu's class to join us. We can't wait!



LIBRARY NEWS

The Forest of Reading has arrived! At the end of January the students at John McCrae were able to join Canada's largest recreational book club, over 250,000 people participate annually. The Forest of Reading helps celebrate Canadian authors, publishers and illustrators. The readers read to be eligible to vote for their favourite Canadian book. Each participant must read seven books to be eligible to vote. Voting takes place in the middle of April. Thank you to our Parent Council, their financial support is helping to keep excited readers reading.

ONLINE RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

To support learning at home with your elementary school children:

www.ontario.ca/abc123 . Here you will find video podcasts on topics such as Literacy and Numeracy on the Fridge and Getting Organized for School. Under the heading Tips and Tools for Parents, there are links to helping your child with math, reading, writing, communicating with teachers and more. To help you understand your teen and navigate through the challenges facing them, try the following resources:

www.camh.net Type "What parents need to know about teens" into the search bar.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/bullying.pdf> Helpful hints on bullying and what parents can do to address concerns.

For parents new to Canada or Ontario or for those already settled but wanting to find out more about the secondary school system, the following site is beneficial:

<http://www.settlement.org/index.asp> Click on 'Education' at the top.

LITERACY NEWS

The books are in!

Hot off the press, our classroom library book orders have come in. Your child may have noticed some new titles in his or her homeroom class. This is because we have purchased and distributed almost 400 additional titles to add to last month's distribution. These books range in genre, from science fiction to mystery to graphic novels. They vary in levels from gr. 1 to gr. 8, and combine some of the most popular new releases (Insurgent, by Veronica Roth), some of our favourites (Geronimo Stilton series books), and some timeless classics (Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte).

In addition to these fiction novels, we have added some exciting titles to our non-fiction collection. Topics include sports, global awareness issues, business and product development, science and energy, and famous people. We hope that each child will find something of interest to read, right in the comfort of their own classroom. As parents, you can further support your child's reading development by asking them about some of these new titles, and finding out what they are reading or like to read. Have a conversation about some of the things that your child likes about what they are reading, as well as those things that they don't like. ("If you were the author, what would you change about the book?")

Thank you again to all of the teachers, parents and administrators who contributed to the successful implementation of this project.

Happy Reading!

Special Edition

January/February 2013



Community Connections

The YRDSB and SEAC have established many community partnerships to provide seamless supports for all students with exceptionalities and their families.

ABC Ontario



<http://www.abcontario.ca>

COMMUNITY LIVING
Newmarket / Aurora District
Inspiring Possibilities

<http://www.chad.com>

York Region

<http://www.york.ca>

COMMUNITY LIVING
York South

<http://www.communitylivingyorksouth.ca/>



<http://www.dsayr.on.ca>

Autism ONTARIO
For All Partners

<http://www.autismontario.com>

Kinark
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
CARING · HELPING · HEALING

<http://www.kinark.on.ca>

YORK SUPPORT
SERVICES NETWORK

<http://www.yssn.ca>

cnibi
vision health. vision hope.
<http://www.cnib.ca>

ldayr • Learning Disabilities
Association of York Region
"You're the boss. It's time to advance."
<http://www.ldayr.org>



Children's Treatment Network
OF SIMCOE YORK
<http://www.ctn-simcoeyork.ca>

York Region
Head Injury
Support Group

<http://www.yorkabi.ca>



<http://www.voicefordeafkids.com>



For more information on SEAC - York Region visit:
<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=CCS000001>

WHAT IS A FERMI?

In Mr. Kassam's grade 8 class, we have been learning about Fermi problems in Math class. The inventor of Fermi problems is Enrico Fermi and he was a physicist that was famous for his multi-task estimation math questions. He answered questions which seemed to be difficult by using key questions that narrow down to estimations. Fermi was very intelligent in solving challenging questions, so our class decided to attempt solving Fermi Problems. We practiced many times answering questions like "How many pennies are needed to cover the top of your math text book?" To answer this question, we needed to think of subordinate questions to help deduce our understanding of the larger question.

Answers to Fermi questions are close estimations. For our final assignment, we paired up with a partner and made up Fermi questions to answer. The questions seem impossible to answer, however, by answering multiple subordinate questions, we could find an estimation to the original question.

By: Curtis C.

Flat Stanley Adventures

By Kamakshi (Ms. Ducheck's class)

In January my class read FLAT STANLEY by Jeff Brown. We also watched some videos on YouTube (such as Flat Stanley in Hollywood and Flat Stanley Skydiving). So we decided to make our own "Stanleys" and send them to someone who lives outside of Markham. I sent my Flat Stanley (Stephanie) to my Aunt in Scarborough. Our class' first Flat Stanley to come back went to Ottawa, sent to Katherine by Jordan. The second one came from Mariam's Uncle in England! Now we have to wait for 18 more Stanleys & Stephanies. You could do it to.



Drop by our classroom to see the adventures of Flat Stanley!

PEN PALS

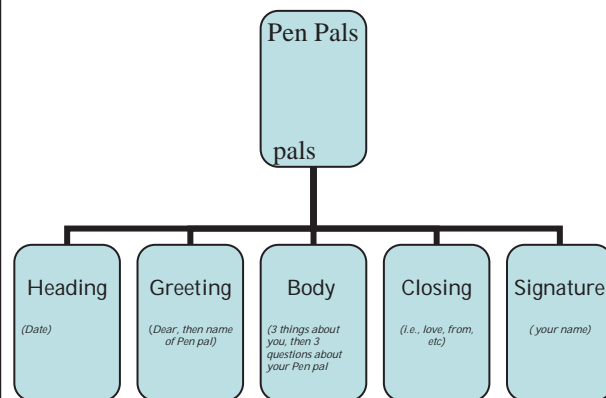


By: Yousuf (Ms. Ducheck's class)

In my class we started pen pals with Ms. Caughey's class at Ramer Wood Public

School. Everyone in my class has a pen pal and we wrote a letter to them.

Here is what we had to write:

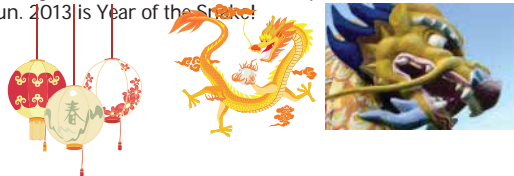


We are waiting for their reply!

CHINESE NEW YEAR

By: Sophia Liu (Ms. Ducheck's class)

In Gr.2 Social Studies we look at Traditions and Celebrations. So our class had a look at Chinese New Year. We decided to have a Chinese New Year party and a lot of kids made lanterns. And 3 groups made Chinese dragons. We made up a dance with our dragons using drums and a pearl of wisdom. We had a parade through the school to scare the evil spirits. We ate noodles for long life. It was fun. 2013 is Year of the Snake!



REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

By: Mariam (Ms. Ducheck's class)

Did you know that you can make garbage art by designing? That's called reusing. Did you that we can recycle stuff? We can recycle juice boxes (but not the straws). That's called recycling. Did you know that we can reduce stuff? Just don't use as much of it.

Let's be a healthy school! Go mustangs go!

Let's be an Eco school and win Gold!



Please join the York Region District School Board Psychological Services Department for:

An Evening Presentation for **PARENTS**

with **Dr. Wendy Craig**

Parents as Partners in Preventing Bullying - Online and Offline

Dr. Craig is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at Queen's University. She is co-leading PREVNet (Promoting Relationships and Eliminating Violence Network), a network to stop bullying in Canada. Her research focuses on healthy relationships, bullying and victimization. She has won many distinguished awards in recognition of her work. She regularly speaks to parents, educators, and professionals working with youth.

Bullying is a significant problem in our society and can have a significant impact on children's lives. In addition to traditional forms of bullying, online bullying through the use of technology is a serious concern. Technologies are changing the way we communicate, access, and share information. The Internet has opened the door to new learning and teaching opportunities. It has also raised issues about privacy, online respect, safety and appropriate uses for technology. Parents are critical in assisting their children in developing increased awareness, understanding and skills about being good digital citizens including an understanding of digital etiquette and appropriate use of the internet to promote safety online. Together with schools, parents can provide education how it affects others, to think and plan for using technology in the most appropriate way. The goal of this presentation is to empower parents in supporting their children by increasing their understanding about online and offline bullying and by providing concrete strategies to address it effectively in partnership with the school.

When: Thursday, April 11, 2013
Where: Riviera Parque Convention Centre
 2800 Hwy. #7 West
(Hwy. #7 & Creditstone Road/ between Keele and Jane, North Side)
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Registration Fee to reserve a seat: **\$10.00 per person or \$15.00 per Family**
(no refund if unable to attend)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION WILL BE SENT TO YOU VIA YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS PROVIDED

Name(s): _____ Contact Phone #: _____
(Please list clearly, names of each Parent/Guardian attending)

E-mail: _____ Number Attending: _____ Amt. Attached: \$ _____

Please **return this portion** of the flyer with your **CHEQUE only**. **(ABSOLUTELY NO CASH)**
made payable to York Region District School Board by April 5, 2013

By Mail: Elizabeth Iarocci, Psychological Services, York Region District School Board,
 300 Harry Walker Parkway South, Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 8E2

By YRDSB Board Courier: Attn.: Elizabeth Iarocci - Psychological Services - C.L.L. - Newmarket

A confirmation of registration will be sent to you on receipt of payment.

Please note: THE E-MAIL CONFIRMATION IS YOUR TICKET FOR ENTRANCE TO THE SESSION.