



MUSTANG NEWS

John McCrae Public School
 565 Fred McLaren Blvd.
 Markham L6E 1N7
 Phone: 905-294-9122
 Fax: 905-294-8196
 E-mail: john.mccrae.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca
 Website:
 www.johnmccrae.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

OCTOBER 31, 2013

As you are aware John McCrae is an Eco School. In our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint this will be our last printed newsletter going home. If you are unable to access our website at home or work, please let the office know.

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are mid-fall and soon you will be receiving the Progress report. The progress report card will indicate to you whether your child is progressing well or progressing with difficulty. If your child is progressing with difficulty, there will be suggestions or next steps for improvement. We want all of our students to achieve to the best of their ability. The next steps and practice suggestions are critical to each child's success. This past June and this Fall, our staff have been considering very seriously the notion of Growth Mindset. Carol S. Dweck has been doing considerable research in this area. She has noted that "students with the growth mind-set (those who believed that intelligence could be developed) significantly outperformed their classmates who held a fixed mind-set." (*Principal Leadership*, January 2010, p. 26-28). See the video, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN34FNbOKXc>. We viewed this a few times this Fall and each time it makes us consider more deeply how the process is so much more important than the product.

Our school is highly successful. Our EQAO scores indicate that in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, 81%, 94% and 85% of our Grade 3 students are at the standard respectively and 94%, 94% and 90% of our Grade 6 students are at the standard respectively. Even with these excellent achievement results we continue to work to determine our students most urgent need. It seems from the data that our most urgent need is related to the development of improved Critical Thinking Skills. We believe that with greater Critical Thinking Skills that our students will be able to make greater connections between contexts and ultimately our students will find greater enjoyment in reading. We will keep you posted on our continued work in this area.

Lori Hall


A Message from the Vice Principal

It is hard to believe that we have already completed a phenomenal two months together at John McCrae! It was wonderful to meet so many families visiting the school at our Curriculum Night. I enjoy the partnership between school and home and look forward to continuing our work together.


It is very obvious that the focus is on student achievement and well-being and with your support the students at John McCrae will enjoy another wonderfully successful year in all areas of their development.

Thank you to our students, staff, families and community partners for all you do each day to make a positive difference at John McCrae.

Ms Lindsey Rhamey



Please remember to send a fork or spoon with your child. It seems many children have been forgetting to bring one and we need to reduce this at JMPS. Thank you.



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 1	Bus evacuation demonstration/presentation
Nov. 6	Grade 8 transition day at Bur Oak SS
Nov. 7	Bus evacuation demonstration/presentation
Nov. 7	Ms. Barnes Grade 6s—Angus Glen Library visit
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day Assembly—Grade 1 and 2—9:00am—9:50am Grades 3—8 9:50am—
10:40am	
Nov. 13	Progress reports go home
Nov. 14	Photo re-take day
Nov. 14	Grade 8 girls HPV vaccination
Nov. 14	Parent-Teacher Interviews, afterschool/evening
Nov. 15	Parent-Teacher Interview day
Nov. 15	PA Day
Nov. 22	Grade 3s to Black Creek Pioneer Village
Nov. 29	Monthly Assembly Grades JK-2—2:00pm—2:40pm Grades 3—8—2:40pm—3:30pm
Dec. 20	PA Day
Dec. 23—Jan. 3	Winter holidays



Principal: Ms. Lori Hall
Vice Principal: Ms. Lindsey Rhamey
Office: Mrs. Raymond/Mrs. Dunlop/
 Mrs. Fernandez

Superintendent of Schools:
Mr. Daniel Wu : 905-940-7800

School Trustee:
Mr. Allan Tam : 416-898-9607

School Council Chairs:
Ms. Margaret Mao; Mr Roy Pedropillai



தமிழில் விபரங்களை அறிய அழைப்புங்கள்:

தொழில் பெட்டிப்பிள்ளை: (416) 917-3108

மொற்றன் 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

Would you like to volunteer with school-related activities this year at John McCrae P.S.?

See page 3 for details.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Our school name "John McCrae" Public School is named after a famous Canadian Poet, John McCrae. We take great pride in the name of our school and we will honour John McCrae and the many soldiers who sacrificed their lives for our freedom at our Remembrance Day Service on Friday November 11, 2013. Please join us for this very special assembly. The times for the Service are as follows: Grades 1 and 2—9:00am—9:50am Grades 3—8 9:50am—10:40am

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

Punch
Dec 8-1915

John McCrae



John McCrae



November is poppy month, the time of the year when by the wearing of a simple emblem, a red poppy, we salute the memory of those who sacrificed their health, their strength, even their lives, that we might live in a free country. Long known as the corn poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) because it flourishes as a weed in grain fields, the Flanders poppy as it is now usually called, grew profusely in the trenches and craters of the war zone. Artillery shells and shrapnel stirred up the earth and exposed the seeds to the light they needed to germinate. Today the poppy is worn on Remembrance Day, the 11th of November. At 11 o'clock on that day, everyone is asked to be silent for just one minute. The silence is a chance to remember all those who have died in wars and to be glad that we are not at war today.



HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

HEY MUSTANGS!

This year the Healthy School Committee will be continuing our annual programs at John McCrae. These programs are not only entertaining, but also encourage kids to be active and stay healthy!

Some of the programs happening this year fall under the category of healthy eating. For the month of October, we have already started the Snack program, which is a program that hands out free healthy snacks, such as fruit and cheese strings to all students in the school every Tuesday. In November, we will also resume the "You're the Chef" program, a three-week course which encourages grade 6 and 7 students to change their eating habits by making their own healthy meals and snacks!

Being physically healthy and establishing community partnerships is also an essential part of our daily lives. Our Family Fun Night, which happened in the middle of October, has been a huge success to get your kids to participate in athletic activities with different family members and friends! We also have started the Recess Revival program in which student volunteers lend out new gym equipment every recess to the students and the students must bring the equipment back after recess.

Not only are we focusing on physical health and healthy eating, but we are also focusing on emotional and social health. This means that we want every student at John McCrae to have a positive attitude towards learning. That is why on announcements and podcasts every week, we would talk about how to stay emotionally healthy and get the support you need. This month, we talked about thankfulness, as well as Halloween Safety. For November, we will have announcements about how taking time to reflect can help you develop a growth mindset which can greatly impact your attitude towards learning. Bully awareness week is Nov. 17 - 23 so listen out for podcasts and announcements about that.

For more information, check out our bulletin board inside the school which will be launched in November. Be sure to keep updated on our upcoming events, by listening to the morning announcements and podcasts broadcasted every week at J. M. P. S!

STAY HEALTHY!!~Healthy Schools Communications Crew
Written by Roubing 7C, Sayithiyaa 7P, and Hrithika 8G

THINK RECYCLE PROGRAM

Please remember to bring in your empty printer cartridges, and old cell phones for recycling. Our school is given money for these items!

You can also recycle your old batteries here at JMPS. Let's do our part to help the environment!



DONATION RESULTS

Thank you to those who gave a donation back in September. We would like to advise that we raised \$2760.52 that will be used towards enhancement of programming at JMPS. We will consult with the school council and staff before the spending of these funds. We will keep you informed of our decisions.

J All parents new to volunteering in school-related activities at John McCrae P.S. must have a **Vulnerable Sector Screening (VSS)** conducted by the Police Department before they can volunteer in any capacity at John McCrae P.S. Once you have received the VSS, bring it to the office and we will make a copy and keep it at the school on file. In subsequent years you will need to sign the Annual Offence Declaration form at the school only. **The cost of the VSS if you are a volunteer is \$20.00.** You will not have to incur this cost in any future years that you intend to volunteer because you will complete the Annual Offence Declaration at the school at no cost.

M If you are considering volunteering at the school **ask your child's teacher to send home the VSS application as well as a letter from our school indicating that you wish to volunteer here.**

P Go to the police station in Aurora located at 47 Don Hillock Drive — completed in approx 1 week; or go to the police station at Hillcrest Mall, Richmond Hill — completed in approx 3—4 weeks.

S If you have volunteered in past years, you need to complete the Annual Offence Declaration and Confidentiality agreement at the school prior to resuming volunteering in this school year.

BILL CROTHERS SECONDARY

Bill Crothers Secondary School (BCSS) is a system-wide school with a focus on healthy active living and sport. The school is open for Grade 9 to 12 students. Students and parents from across the region are invited to attend an information evening. Information will be shared regarding the vision, mission, schedule, programs, transfer policy and application process.

All information sessions will occur at Bill Crothers Secondary School, 44 Main Street, Unionville, Ontario, L3R 2E4 from 7 – 8:30 in the cafeteria.

Tuesday, November 5th – Students in the East Region

Thursday, November 7th – Students in the Central Region

Due to building capacity regulations, we request that only students and parents interested in attending BCSS for the school year 2014 - 2015, attend one of these evening. Parking is limited so we ask that parents carpool or park at the GO Station. Markham By-law officers regularly enforce the parking regulations on school property.



We Scare Hunger Campaign

By: The Me to We Committee

During the month of October, our entire school took part in the We Scare Hunger Campaign, an initiative of Free the Children. We Scare Hunger is a campaign that helps to feed people who rely on food banks. We joined thousands of participants across North America and the UK who collected non-perishable food items and canned goods, and donated them to food banks. Many Canadians use food banks. During March 2012 alone, 882,188 Canadians relied on food banks to provide food for their families. From 2008 to 2012, there was a 31% increase in the use of food banks across Canada. In helping to collect non-perishable food items, we are helping to feed many hungry families, and also to raise awareness about local hunger. Our school goal was 1,500 non-perishable food items. Did we meet our goal? Stay tuned to find out!



Hello Mustangs! The holiday season is coming up, and you know what that means!

Operation Christmas Child is back this year and we want to donate as much as possible. It would be great if you could bring in a donation, toys, shoeboxes, hygiene, and so much more! We would like it if you fill each box (for boy or girl) with a minimum of \$7. Your donation can help a child be happy for Christmas. Please try not to donate any imitation of weapons, food, liquids and/or toothpaste. We would appreciate it if you help! Merry Christmas!

-Mr. Cheung, Flora, Isha, Abi, Rup, and Oustan



Hey Mustangs!

LIBRARY NEWS

Have you checked out the library recently?

If you have, then you have noticed that, we have sorted out our books into bins, so if you are looking for a book from a particular series or author, just find the bin and all the books from the series or author will be there. There will be a small sign above the bin, and on it, a QR code and a link. All you have to do is scan the code with your phone or a tablet and it will automatically take you to the website. If you want to learn about QR codes, ask Mrs. Viero.

If you have an overdue or missing book, there will be a red slip of paper next to your name the next time you try to check out books, as a reminder that you still need to return a book.

Looking for a book but we don't have it? No problem! Ask Mrs. Viero to request the book you are looking for. And who knows? Maybe the next time you come, it will be there!

Be sure to visit the new library website, to get the latest updates about what's happening in the library at www.mccraelibrary.wordpress.com. Soon, we will be holding a contest for a chance to win a one-of-a-kind Diary of a Wimpy Kid t-shirt! Check the website for more details.

There are so many new additions to the library, so why not see them for yourself?

Library Leaders, Meisa and Sophie

**GAME DONATION
REQUEST FROM THE
HEALTHY SCHOOLS
COMMITTEE**

We are looking for board game donations so we can start having Family Games Night at JMPS.

If you have a board game that has all the pieces, and you would like to donate it to JMPS Family Games Night, please bring them in to your child's teacher and stay tuned for upcoming Family Games Night at John McCrae!





Music News

Hey Mustangs! John McCrae Concert band 2013-2014 is officially underway! Band members consist of students in grades 6, 7 and 8! Throughout the month of October, all of the band members have been practicing hard at home and every Wednesday morning from 7:50 am to 8:50 am. We are excited to announce that we will be performing at the Remembrance Day assembly which will take place on November 11th! We are so excited! We hope to have a spectacular year together! Remember to read our newsletter every month to get more updates on this year's concert band!

Jazz Band has also started rehearsing on Mondays at lunch recess. We look forward to performing in the near future!

Grade 6s are excited to be on their instruments! They are hard at work learning their first few notes!!!

Ashley N.—Grade 8

Literacy News....

Establishing a love of reading in children involves a series of pieces to be put together in just the right way- much like a puzzle. It requires the modeling of good readers, support in learning how to read effectively and make sense of a text, variety in reading material and purpose, and an environment to support it all. So how do we get our students to love reading, and use literature to support their development? Research shows that as with many things, it starts at home. In the following excerpt by Laura J. Colker, Ed.D, she highlights some of the ways that parents can support reading development at home:

"A literate home needs books—lots and lots of them. Young children need access to a variety of books, [and] are attracted to both nonfiction and fiction. ABC books and informational stories are as appealing as the many wonderful storybooks. It is recommended that parents build a permanent library, so that children can go back to favorites again and again. Family trips to the public library can augment the collection with exciting, new titles."

In addition, it is recommended that children see their parents reading. This emphasizes to them that reading is important, relevant and encouraged. Researchers Timothy Rasinski and Anthony Fredericks write: "It is crucial that children see their parents use reading for a variety of purposes, from entertainment to maintaining a job. Parents should show children the many ways that they use reading."

It is important to note that a love of reading can be fostered in any language and in a variety of ways. Reading newspapers or magazines in a native language is just as relevant to child development as reading novels or informational texts in English. With a good foundation, we can all work together to create the next generation of literate minds and critical thinkers.

How does your family support a love of reading?

Cross Country 2013

On Thursday, October 10th over 70 students from JMPS travelled as the Cross Country Team to compete at the Area meet, held at Markham Fairgrounds. It was a wonderful day for our event and we had summer-like weather for our competition. Many students achieved new 'personal bests' or PB (a running short form). Student runners gave great efforts and we came away with six students who finished in the top fifteen places with a ribbon, moving on to the Regional meet at Bruce's Mill Conservation Area on Thursday, October 17th. The 6 runners were Tara and Connor in Mr. Brandt's class, Matthew in Ms. Gorgey's class, Kylie in Ms. Barnes class and Saryuhan in Mr. Kassam's class. Unfortunately one of our grade 8's, Jessica in Ms. Gorgey's class had to opt out due to illness. All our runners ran their best races and we represented the school very well. As Coach, I want to thank Ms. Crimi for all her efforts preparing our runners.

GO MUSTANGS GO!

LANGUAGE LEARNING IN ROOM 205

During the month of October, the students in Mr. Sciberras' class worked on a project called "Family Treasures". The activities that we had to complete for this assignment were: a family tree (we had to list our great grandparents, grandparents, parents and brothers and sisters), a crest or shield that represented us (on it was a short term goal, a long term goal, interests and we even had to come up with a motto). We also had to show on a map of the world where our family emigrated from. Another part of the project was a family recipe. The recipe was something that we enjoyed eating or something that represented our culture. We also had to find out how our parents came up with our name. Then we had to do some research to see what our name means. Also included in this project was an interview. We had to choose someone in our family to talk to about where they came from and some of the reasons they left their home land to come to Canada. The last activity we did was a family story. For the story we had to ask a family member to share a true story that took place in his or her life.

By doing this project we learned a lot about our family and why they chose to come to Canada.

Throughout the month of October we did silent reading every day and visited Mrs. Viero in the library every Wednesday.

By: Perry, Daniel, Katherhan, and Veehaan

SCHOOL COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parents and Students,

We would like to bring to your attention the following announcements and updates:

2013/2014 School Council

On October 16, 2013, the 2013/2014 JMPS School Council and Executive Team have been elected. They are:

Executive Team

Roy Pedropillai, Co-Chair, Pamela Selvaratnam, Co-Chair, Michael Chun, Vice-Chair, Jennifer Shum, Treasurer

Council Members

Sabena Nanji, Anu Radhakrishna, Jackie Harris, Maureen Ramanan, George Liang, Margaret Mao, Van Le Mac

The council will continue to support school programs and initiatives to further enrich student learning and bring the community together.

Healthy Snack & Pizza/Sub Days are Back!

The School Council will continue to assist with the healthy school program this year. Every Tuesday, a healthy snack will be made available at recess to all our students. Any parent who wishes to help out on distributing healthy snack to classes (Tuesday), please contact the School Office or School Council.

We are excited to inform you that the Pizza/Sub lunch days are back. Parents have the opportunity to order a pizza and/or sub lunch for their children to be delivered to their classroom every other Thursday starting on **November 28, 2013**. Order forms with details will be made available to students on **November 1, 2013**. Completed order forms and payment are due on **November 11, 2013**.

Upcoming programs funded by school council

This year, School Council contributed \$1,000 to the cost of providing Grow Interactive activities, a Character Building and Bully Prevention program, to JMPS students. Grow Interactive returned in October and the focus was: Respect, Responsibility, Right Choices, Multiculturalism. Each student in the school participated for 90 minutes of interactive team building activities that involved both students and staff.

East School Council Forum

Members of JMPS School Council attended the East School Council Forum held on October 21, 2013.

Next Council Meeting: November 20, 2013 @ 7pm.

Reminder: All parents and community members are welcome to attend these meetings. We value your input and hope to see you at the next meeting! THANK YOU for your continued support and contributions.

Sincerely,

JMPS School Council Members.

School Council Meeting 2013/2014 Calendar

- November 20, 2013
- January 15, 2014
- February 19, 2014
- March 19, 2014
- April 16, 2014
- May 21, 2014
- June 18, 2014

The Terry Fox Run

The Terry Fox run on September 26th 2013, was a blast. Kids were streaming through the doors and running around the block of John McCrae P.S. Students had the opportunity to run the school marathon around our school neighborhood while parents and teachers supported us. Everyone was working together to make this day successful. John McCrae is one of the many schools in York Region who helped to raise money for cancer research. Our school's goal was to raise \$3000.00. **This year we shattered that goal by raising over \$6300.00!!! What an outstanding effort Mustangs!** As a result Ms.Hall and Ms. Rhomey will be streaking their hair green at the next assembly. Also, congratulations go out to Ronan B. in Ms.Silverman's class who was the top fundraiser with \$300.00 raised. He will be the principal for the day. Further congratulations go to Mr.Brandt's class who raised \$427.00.

We would like to thank all the parents for helping to raise money for a good cause, and especially those parents who were able to cheer us on. Special thanks go out to those students who volunteered to be "rabbits" for the primary classes and to Mr. Doucet and Mr.Cheung, who were the 'Big Rabbits'.

Terry Fox had a lot of determination, and our school had a lot of passion for what we did. Once again, our school has done the Terry Fox run, not only to raise money for cancer research but to keep Terry's dream of finding a cure for cancer alive. Hopefully, next year we will be able to continue to support this wonderful cause.

Mr.Brandt

Good morning everyone;

I would like to alert you to a very important presentation being held at Markville on Nov. 20th from 5:30 - 6:45 pm. We have Dr. Gordon Flett, York University Professor and Canada Research Chair in Personality and Health coming to speak about his research and theories on the role of Perfectionism and psychological health issues. He has spoken to our staff at the school and he was extremely well received. Many of our staff felt that our parent population also needed to hear his message because so many of our students are increasingly showing the negative effects of stress and symptoms of perfectionism.

We want to open up this presentation to not only Markville parents and staff but also to the parents and staff in our feeder schools as well. I have attached a description of the presentation to help you to advertise it to your parents and staff through whatever means works for your school i.e. link it to your website, newsletter, email, etc.

Thanks so much.
Head, Guidance Services
Markville Secondary School

NO-TATION-YEARLY-PROGRESS-REPORT