



MUSTANG NEWS

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

ADMINISTRATOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are off to a great start this school year. As teachers are establishing those important routines at school you should be establishing good ones for your children at home. Those after school and nightly routines should include:

- * designated time for the completion of homework and/or nightly reading;
- * the review of the agenda for our grades 1 – 8 student;
- * the packing of items in the school bag for the next school day;
- * the preparation of a healthy snack and lunch

Our focus for improvement for our school community (including staff, students, parents and community members) this year at John McCrae will be:

- 1) recognizing that each student has different strengths and needs and those needs may require accommodations and modifications;
- 2) increasing the opportunities of each student to learn through an "inquiry-approach", thus improving behavioural engagement.

See the last page of this newsletter for the contact numbers for our staff. It is a very important partnership between parent and teacher. We hope that you will join us **on Tuesday October 2nd for our Meet and Greet evening** with parents and staff. Due to a scheduling conflict we needed to change the date from what was originally reported in our first week packages. We apologize for any inconvenience. See Page 3 for details of the evening.

Our Health and Safety week is October 1st - 5th. During that week among the variety of activities that focus on student safety will be a lockdown drill. This is the school emergency response to the presence or suspected presence of a violent threat within the school. We plan to conduct this drill on October 3rd.

Please read everything in this newsletter; let us know if there is other information that we should add. You can reach us at: John.McCrae@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Lori Hall

தமிழில் விபரங்களை அறிய அழைப்புகள்:

தொடர்பு பெறப்படுகின்றன: (416) 917-3108

மொன்தீன் ரமணன்: (647) 977-4905

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



Sept 28th	PA Day
Oct. 2nd	Meet and Greet
Oct. 2nd	Immunization, Grade 7s Hep B; Grade 8 girls HPV
Oct 4th	Weekly VIP-Value, Influences and Peers Workshop—Grade 6
Oct 8th	Thanksgiving—NO SCHOOL
Oct 15-16th	Bus Evacuation Safety
Oct. 22	PA Day
Oct. 24	Picture day all grades

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 E-mail: john.mccrae.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

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 Chair:
Ms. Margaret Mao



Activities throughout the school year may require the use of student names, age, grade, etc. and while notices will be sent for most events, parents are welcome to discuss any restrictions they require with the Ms. Hall, Principal

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

Email: longarmding@yahoo.com

Home: (905)471-7098

Cell: (416) 258-6525

School Council Election: October 16th, 7 pm in the Library.

Nomination Forms are included in this newsletter on page 4.

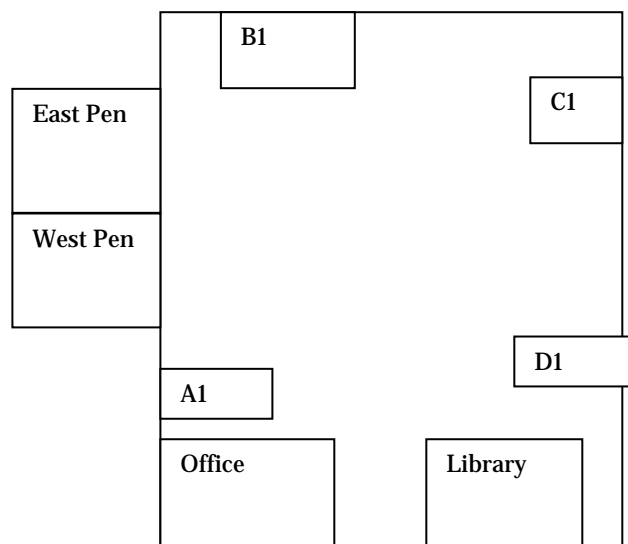
STAFFING CHANGES

During the summer Ms. Mano was offered and she accepted a position with Upper Grand District School Board. Ms. Noordeh has accepted a permanent position with the York Region District School Board at Thornhill P.S.. Ms. Chen has taken a position at Wilclay P.S. in YRDSB for this school year. Both Ms. Peters and Ms. Scott, two of our Designated Early Childhood Educators have accepted positions with the Durham District School Board. We wish these educators well and express a deep gratitude to them for the contributions that each has made to our school community. Finally, it is with mixed feelings that we announce that John Tsiampouris our Lead Caretaker has accepted a position as a plant services manager with the York Regional Police. We thank Mr. Tsiampouris for all of his considerable contributions to the learning and working environment of our school.

We are in the process of hiring our Lead Caretaker; we will let you know in our next newsletter as to the individual that will take over for Mr. Tsiampouris. May I introduce our new staff members. Mrs. Sheila Ducheck is replacing Mrs. Deacon-Stickney while on Maternity Leave. Mrs. Sheila Ducheck worked with the Halton Board of Education before moving to Markham. Ms. Katie MacMillan is teaching with Mrs. Danying Guo in room 102 until Mrs. Rossi returns in January from her Infant Care Leave. Ms. MacMillan recently taught in Northern Ontario and the Durham District School Board. Ms. Amanda Tustin accepted a permanent position at John McCrae. Ms. Tustin has considerable Early Learning experience with the Toronto District School Board. Also joining us this year are three Designated Early Childhood Educators. Ms. Barb Miyasaki will be partnering with Mr. Braj and Ms. Bettencourt in room 102. She has considerable experience as both a Kindergarten teacher and early childhood education locally and internationally. Ms. Anjum Naanzen will be partnering with Mr. Vidrih and Ms. Mohammad in room 105. Mrs. Naanzen has Early Learning experience in a local school in Markham. Mrs. Maryam Rahimi will be partnering with Ms. G. Lee in room 106. Mrs. Rahimi has considerable experience as a Early Childhood Educator in the Greater Toronto Area. Trudy Hinchley is assuming the role of Health Assistant in room 108 while Mrs. Fiona DeFry, a Childhood and Youth worker will be assisting us throughout the school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Alternate Fridays. Ms. Hinchley has worked recently in a Long Term position in a school in a North school in York Region and Ms. DeFry worked recently at a local school in Markham. John McCrae Public School is so fortunate to have such quality educators assume this important roles on our school staff. I am sure that you join me in welcoming them all to our school community!

ENTRY AND EXIT OF STUDENTS

Parent, caregivers, siblings, are asked to wait for students outside of the school at their exit door. See the diagram below.



Exit	Class
A1	Mr. Skilling; Mrs. Cusimano; Mrs. Choy; All Bussed students
B1	Mrs. Hoffenberg; Mrs. Ducheck; Ms. Yu; Ms. Farkas; Mrs. Silverman; Mrs. Chiang
C1	Mr. Kassam; Mr. Cheung; Mrs. Bragan; Mr. McGouran
D1	Ms. Wong; Mrs. Gorgey; Ms. Ukposidolo; Mrs. Grandbois
East Pen	Mr Vidrih/Mrs. Naanzen; Ms.G. Lee/Ms. Rahimi
West Pen	Ms. MacMillan/Mrs. Guo; Mrs Braj/Ms. Mayazaki; Ms. Tustin/Ms. Peddle-wood
P1	Mr. Brandt
P2	Mrs. Barnes
P3	Mrs. Baj
P4	Mrs. M.Lee

MEET AND GREET NIGHT AT JOHN McCRAE
DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2012

First Session 6:30- 7:10 pm
Second Session 7:20- 8:00pm



We will be providing two sessions for those families with more than one child. You may attend either session as they are the same. We will be following the same format as last year for our evening this year. Each session will have a classroom presentation and also time for thoughts around Parent Engagement at John McCrae PS. Further information about this evening will be coming in the next week.



ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL

There are children in our school with severe to life-threatening allergies. We are doing everything possible to ensure a safe environment for all students and ask that parents refrain from bringing anything with peanuts to the school environment. When packing lunches, please choose items that do not contain nuts or nut by-products.

Please speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other children. Staff have received instruction in the use of an epipen and the signs of an anaphylactic reaction.

If your child has a severe allergy or other medical condition, we request you fill in a medical form which will be posted in the health room where the medications are stored.

LITTERLESS-WASTE-FREE LUNCH PROGRAM



Boomerang Lunch programs and Litterless-Waste-Free Lunch Programs are excellent ways to reduce and/or divert waste at your location. Both of these programs can work well in conjunction with a Green Bin/Organic Waste program if you are fortunate enough to have one at your location.

A Litterless/Waste-Free lunch contains no throwaway packaging or food leftovers. Lunches are packed in servings that will be completely eaten. To avoid any packaging, all food and drinks are packed in reusable containers with a reusable lunch bag or box. With this type of lunch, food items can be bought in larger quantities. The packaging can be left at home for reuse or recycling. Waste-free lunches are not only a wise environmental choice; they are less expensive as well. With Boomerang Lunch programs, whatever comes to school/office for lunch and snacks and is not consumed, will go back home.

These tips are useful for parents and individuals interested in joining the challenge to reduce waste.

Students taking the Bus



If you are a bussed student, please arrive 10 minutes early at your bus stop.

Check the www.schoolbusycity.com website for any bus delays / cancellations (cancellations due to weather will also be aired on tv/radio stations)

In the event of a bus delay / cancellation, have a back-up plan in place for your child and communicate this plan with your child from time to time so they remember (i.e. does your child walk back home or to a neighbour's?)

Students can only get on their assigned bus; students cannot get on another bus to go to a friend's house etc.

Please let the school office know if there are any changes to your home address or if you have a pick up or drop off address that is different than your home address so we can advise the Transportation (bussing) department.

York Region Health Services' Guide to Packing a Safe and Environmentally-Friendly Lunch:

When preparing food, first wash your hands with soap and warm water, and start with a clean counter-top and clean utensils.

In the morning pack cold foods directly from the refrigerator and make sure that hot foods are steaming hot when placed in a thermos. Foods that might spoil should be carried in an insulated bag to keep them cold or hot.

To keep foods cold, use frozen bread for sandwiches, or a small freezer pack with the lunch.

Use cloth bags, lunch boxes, thermos containers, thermal bags and re-usable plastic containers for sandwiches and other lunch foods instead of paper or plastic bags.

Use washable utensils instead of disposable cutlery. Make sure these items are washed every day.

Wrappings should not be re-used because they may carry bacteria.

Benefits of a Boomerang Lunch Program:

Parents can see how much food their child is/ is not eating.

Provides communities with the opportunity to re-direct what is placed in the school (such as partially-eaten food, uneaten food, etc.) and re-direct it to the residential curb-side program offered by the Region which is not currently available to all of our schools and administrative centres

Drop off and Pick up of Students

KISS N RIDE



Thank you for your cooperation in our Kiss n Ride running so smoothly the first few weeks. We have staff on duty from 8:45 - 9:00am to assist you.

Please follow the procedures below to allow for a safe arrival for all students.

In order to make this run as smoothly as possible we are asking that you:

- 1) drop your child off ONLY at the stop sign where there will be a staff to assist. Do not drop off along the Kiss n Ride as this will result in a standstill of vehicles.
- 2) there should always be only a SINGLE lane of cars. Please do not try and pass vehicles as this is very unsafe. The orange pylons are there to avoid more than one lane of traffic
- 3) always have your child exit the vehicle on the sidewalk side and where the teacher on duty is standing.

PARKING

Please make note of the **NO PARKING, NO STOPPING and NO U-TURN** signs along Stricker Ave and Fred McLaren Blvd. Stricker Ave is a very narrow street and it is difficult for our school buses to drop off the students if people are illegally parked.

The Bi-Law officer and Town Supervisor have been in our area assessing our situation, evaluating the traffic flow and parking. The by-law officer will come around at times and ticket cars. Please obey these signs to ensure a safe arrival for all students.

PARKING LOT

For safety reasons and for the buses to be able to drop off the students, there is no parent parking permitted in the parking lot during arrival and departure times during the day. There is exception for people who have an accessibility sign in their window to use our parking.

A few ways we can reduce the congestion

- Allow your child to take the bus
- Walk if possible
- Give your child time to get to schoolyard on time

Thank you for your cooperation

John McCrae's SCHOOL COUNCIL

Everyone is welcome to attend the school council meetings; please consider becoming a member of School Council. We will be holding an election at the next meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 2012, 7:00pm in the Library.

The School Council meets once each month (7:00pm) to discuss events and issues pertinent to your family. Parents are encouraged to have a voice in shaping the events that make John McCrae such a terrific school. Please join us and bring your fresh ideas and enthusiasm. See the following page for details regarding Nomination and Self-Nomination.



@YRDSB Now Up and Tweeting!

The York Region District School Board recently entered the social media universe as part of its ongoing effort to enhance parent, family and community engagement in public education.

Parents and students who are interested in learning more about what is going on in York Region public schools are invited to follow the York Region District School Board's newly established Twitter account.

Followers of @YRDSB can expect to receive information about:

- Opportunities to provide feedback or participate in surveys
- Busing and transportation
- Student programs and events
- Board policy information
- Board meetings and agendas
- New content on the YRDSB website
- Board events and photos
- Media releases

Visit www.twitter.com/yrdsb to follow the York Region District School Board.

John McCrae Public School

School Council Nomination Form

The John McCrae School Advisory Council, will be holding elections for general membership on the School Council on **October 16, 2012.**

Pursuant to the School Council's Constitution , nominations for membership will be accepted in the main office of the school between September 24th and October 5th. A parent may either nominate themselves or have someone nominate them. For parents interested in a copy of the John McCrae School Council Constitution please contact the office and we will send one home to you. Or you could view the constitution on our School Website , under Council.

Please note that executive positions on the School Council will be determined by the newly elected School Council following the elections on October 16th.

2012-2013 School Council Candidate Nomination

I would like to nominate the following parent _____ for an elected position on the School Council.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (Home) _____

Business/Cell: _____

Email: _____

Employed with the York District Region School Board: (yes or no): _____

Nominator's Signature: _____

Child's Grade and Teacher's Name _____

Date: _____

2012-2013 School Council Self-Nomination

I would like to declare myself for an elected position on the School Council.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (Home): _____

Business/Cell: _____

Email: _____

Employed with the York District Region School Board: (yes or no): _____

Nominator's Signature: _____

Child's Grade and Teacher's Name _____

Date: _____

What parents need to know about immunization



Immunization is your child's best defence against serious childhood diseases. All vaccines on the Routine Immunization Schedule in Ontario are publicly funded.

Ontario law requires students attending school in Ontario to be up-to-date with diphtheria, tetanus, polio, mumps, measles and rubella immunization. Students who are not up-to-date may be suspended from school.

Upon school registration (JK/SK) public health will contact you requesting complete immunization history. It is the parent's responsibility, not the health providers, to maintain a record of a child's immunization and inform Public Health of these immunizations. The name of the vaccine and the date it was given should be included in the yellow Immunization Record. After your initial contact with Public Health, call York Region Community and Health Services, Immunization Services at 1-877-794-1880 every time your child gets any of the above immunizations. Some students may be exempted from immunization based on medical, religious or conscientious grounds. Vaccines against HPV, hepatitis B and meningococcal disease are offered free of charge for certain age groups at your child's school.

Please visit www.york.ca/immunization for more information.

For health-related information call York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools



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What parents need to know about the flu



What is influenza (Flu)?

Influenza is a serious, highly contagious, acute respiratory infection that is caused by a virus.

How does the flu spread?

The flu spreads easily from infected people through coughing and sneezing. It also spreads through direct contact with contaminated surfaces, unwashed hands, or objects such as eating utensils that have been contaminated by the influenza virus. Young children are infectious from 24 hours before symptoms appear up until seven to 10 days afterwards.

How can you help prevent your child from getting the flu?

- Get your family immunized
- Teach your child to wash their hands with soap and water thoroughly and encourage regular washing especially before meals
- Teach your child to sneeze or cough into their upper sleeve or a tissue, not their hand
- Keep your child at home when they are sick and limit contact with others

For more information on clinic dates, times and locations, visit www.york.ca/flu

For health-related information call York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools



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Help your kids take a break from screen time.



Taking a break from screens (computer, television, video and hand held devices) can be a challenge. According to Statistics Canada, boys and girls are sitting for long periods over eight hours a day. This puts children at risk for preventable health problems including Type 2 diabetes, obesity and heart disease.

Recreational screen time for children should be limited to less than two hours per day.

Tips for parents:

- Talk with your kids at an early age about screen time limits and stay committed to your agree
- Consider a no/less T.V. or gaming rule during the school week and at meal times. Watch for signs of excessive gaming, T.V. watching, texting and using the internet
- Life is busy and it's hard to get quality time with your kids. Look at times of the day when you family can do something active together
- Safety is always important. Make sure the proper safety gear is worn during activities
- Look for more tips at <http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/parents/index.cfm>

For health-related information call York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools



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Healthy classroom rewards



Rewards or "treats" are often used to recognize children for success in the classroom and at home. It's quick and easy but rewarding children with food, healthy or unhealthy:

- Confuses children by contradicting classroom healthy eating lessons
- Discourages positive attitudes towards healthy eating habits
- Harms children's dental health
- Teaches children to eat even when they are not hungry
- Reinforces eating outside of meal or snack times
- Promotes a preference for sweet food over healthy plain foods

The Ministry of Education's School Food and Beverage Policy recommends not using food or beverages as rewards or incentives. Instead, try the suggestions below when at home or school:

- Non-food items (e.g. stickers, pencils, bookmarks, balls, hacky sacks)
- Privileges (e.g. being a helper, extra recess or playtime)
- Recognition (e.g. certificates for special accomplishments or taking time to say "great job!")

For more information about creating a healthy school nutrition environment, visit www.nutritiontoolsforschools.ca

For health-related information call York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools



4863.08 2011

JOHN McCRAE PUBLIC SCHOOL STAFF DIRECTORY 2012-2013

905-294-9122 THEN PUT IN EXTENSION #

<u>GRADE</u>		<u>Voicemail</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>V/M</u>
ADMIN	HALL, Lori (Principal)	184	CCG 6/7	BRAGAN, Daniella 213
	COCKBURN, Robin (Vice Principal)	183	CCG 6/7	UKPOSIDOLO, Mercy 221
	WHITEFIELD, Nadene	180	GR 7	McGOURAN, Michael 217
	DUNLOP, Kim	181	CCG 7	CHEUNG, Osgood 212
			GR 7/8	GRANDBOIS-CARTER, Nyka 200
Grade JK/SK	MacMILLAN, Katie	102	GR 8	KASSAM, Shamir 210
	GUO, Danying (ECE - with MacMILLAN)	151	CCG 8	GORGEY, Jennifer 219
Grade JK/SK	BRAJ, Robert	104	CCG 8	WONG, Agnes 218
	MIYAZAKI, Barbara (ECE - with BRAJ)	150		
Grade JK/SK	VIDRIH, Robert	105		ZAKI, Shahla (SERT) 223
	NAAZNEEN, Anjum (ECE - with VIDRIH)	152		MILES, Karen (SERT) 155
Grade JK/SK	LEE, Gina	106		STEINER, Robyn (SERT) 507
	RAHIMI, Maryam (ECE - with LEE)	153		SCIBERRAS, Manny (SERT) 205
Grade JK/SK	TUSTIN, Amanda	121		McNAUGHTON, Jen (Librarian) 185
	PEDDLE-WOOD, Karen (ECE—with TUSTIN)	157		CLARKE, Denise (ELL/RR) 186
CCMA	BROOKS, Erica	108		LOGAN, Nicole (ELL/PRIM.PREP) 505
GR 1	CHIANG, Katherine	120		ST. LOUIS, Dana (ELL/PRIM.PREP) 509
GR 1/2	SILVERMAN, Lorrie	119		MARTIN, Cheryl (RR/PRIM.PREP) 127
GR 1/2	FARKAS, Nicole	118		BROWN, Linda (PRIM.PREP) 154
GR 2	YU, Jessica	112		MAYLES, Shauna (PRIM.PREP) 505
GR 2/3	DUCHECK, Sheila	110		FLEURY, Ann (French) 156
GR 3	HOFFENBERG-SZWERAS, Daphne (Lead)	204		DOUCET, Jean (French) 222
GR 3/4	BAJ, Dana	321		MORRISON, Jill (Music) 123
GR 3/4	LEE, Martha	503		ABEYSURIYA, Fiona (CYW) 502
GR 4/5	CHOY, Tracy	203		BETTENCOURT, Nina (CYW) 504
CCG 5	BRANDT, Kirk	322		MOHAMMAD, Kristina (CYW) 506
GR 5/6	CUSIMANO, Cynthia	202		HINCHLEY, Trudy (HLTH ASST) 508
CCG 5/6	BARNES, Anna	323		RICE, Wendy (EA) 503
GR 5/6	CUSIMANO, Cynthia	202		LATINO, Ellie (HLTH ASST) 501
GR 6	SKILLING, Andrew	201		TBD (Lead Custodian) 113
				CAIRNS, Robert (Bob) (Custodian) 114
				POLOWYK, Mike (Custodian) 114
				HOPE-BLUNDELL, Edie (Custodian) 114