



DECEMBER 15, 2014

This is just a brief newsletter to quickly inform you of a few happenings in the school and to remind you to include our website as a favourite. <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/johnmccrae.ps/Pages/default.aspx> Please visit our website daily for the most up to date events taking place in the school. See the highlight reel and click on it and you will find more details about events and important initiatives. See "Classrooms" for details regarding classroom programming. See "Council" for the dates of School Council meeting dates and minutes.

Dear Families,

Ms. Rhomey and I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season with friends and family. We hope that you find some time with your loved ones to play and have fun. Whether you are three or thirty-three exploring and playing is so incredibly important. Our youngest learners are naturally curious but for those of us a little older we need to nurture that curiosity. Listen to your children – what do they want to learn more about. Our teachers are learning more about how to nurture a thoughtful community. We want classrooms where students have a voice and feel that their opinions are valued. We took three intermediate students to YRDSB's Quest conference and these are the two quotes from the keynote presenter, Andy Hargreaves of Boston College, that resonated with our students: "Why would I want to learn from someone who doesn't want to learn from me?" and "I don't want a life of tests; I want a test of life." These quotes are really making us think about our practice. We are a learning community at John McCrae Public School; we are always reaching forward and evolving.

At the YRDSB meeting in Aurora on Dec 9th, it was announced that I will be principal of Wismer SW #4 beginning September 1, 2015. This is the new school that is being built at Alexander Lawrie Ave. and James Parrott Ave. While I am very excited about this opportunity, I am sad to be leaving John McCrae P.S. It is comforting to know that I will be in a neighbouring school with a number of students that currently attend John McCrae P.S. and are living south of Bur Oak Avenue. See link on New School Page of the YRDSB website. <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/NewSchools/Pages/default.aspx>. For any students currently at John McCrae that live in the area south of Bur Oak, we will simply transfer the registration. There will be no need to re-register. For any siblings that need to register for Junior Kindergarten, parents should register at John McCrae beginning January 16 at 8:30 am.

We will keep our families informed throughout the next few months as we transition some of our students to Wismer SW #4 for September 2015.

**Kindergarten Registration for September 2015 enrolment for all children living in the John McCrae P.S. boundaries and the Wismer SW #4 E. S. boundaries will commence January 16th, 2015 at 8:30 am at John McCrae P.S.**

Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca). Children who turn four or five years old during 2015, live within our school boundary or the boundary of Wismer SW #4 and whose parents are public school 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 John McCrae at 905-294-9122.

## HOLIDAY CONCERT

Due to the inclement weather this past week our Primary Holiday Concert had to be rescheduled to the evening of **Thursday, December 18, 2014**. The Kindergarten classes and McNaughton/Peddlewood's K/1 class and Rossi/Martin's grade 1s will be performing from 5 to 6 p.m. The grades 1 to 3 classes will be performing from 7 to 8 p.m.

If you find that you are unable to attend the evening concerts and are able to attend the dress rehearsals during the day on Thursday, December 18th, please feel free to join our audience: 9:30 a.m. Kindergarten classes and McNaughton/Peddlewood's K/1 class and Rossi/Martin Grade 1s performing and 11:30 a.m. Grades 1 to 3 performing.

We thank you for your support and appreciate your flexibility with our rescheduling!

**Principal:** Ms. Lori Hall  
**Vice Principal:** Ms. Lindsey Rhomey  
**Office:** Ms. Allum, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Leung

**Superintendent of Schools:**

**Mr. Daniel Wu : 905-940-7800**

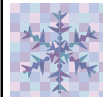
**School Trustee:**

**Mr. Billy Pang : 647-461-9965**

**School Council Co-Chairs:**

**Ms. Jackie Harris and**

**Mr. Roy Pedropillai**



Our next school council meeting will be:  
**Wednesday, January 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**

Website page:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/johnmccrae.ps/SchoolCouncil/Pages/default.aspx>

**Welcome!**

We say goodbye to Mr. Jean Doucet as he retires from teaching and we welcome Ms. Alison Karsh to John McCrae. Ms. Karsh will be assuming Mr. Doucet's French classes and the other classes he has been teaching on January 5, 2015.





**Message From Our Trustee**

As we near the end of 2014, I hope everyone has had a great school year so far and found opportunities to get involved with the life of the school. Partnerships with families are essential to student achievement and well-being, and to creating a caring and supportive learning environment in which students can thrive.

There are many ways for families to get involved – from volunteering with the school and getting involved with the school council to attending school events, communicating with your child’s teacher and supporting learning at home. However you choose to get involved, know that you are making a difference.

Earlier this year, the Board of Trustees reviewed and revised our Multi-Year Plan, the plan which guides system direction. The plan continues to have a sharp focus on student achievement and well-being, the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and the stewardship of Board resources.

Thanks to your support and the hard work and commitment of our staff, students, families and community partners, we continue to move forward in achieving our goals. As an elected trustee and an advocate for high quality public education, I am committed to ensuring the highest quality public education possible for our students and their families.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to the new year. I hope you are able to enjoy time with family and friends.

Billy Tang



**PARKING LOT -- 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.

**Car Seats and Seat Belts — please make sure that you buckle up your children and use the proper car seats.**

<b><u>Secondary School — Grade 8 Information Evening Sessions for September 2015</u></b>		<b><u>Enrol-ment</u></b>
Markham District H.S.	January 8, 2015, 7 p m	
Markville S. S.	January 14, 2105, 7 pm	
Stouffville DHS	January 14, 2015, 6:45 pm	
Bur Oak S. S.	January 15, 2015, 7 pm	



Next Pizza/Sub lunch: Jan 8th, Jan 22nd



**French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations**

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Sam Chapman P.S. on January 15, 2015 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 16, 2015. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2015, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call our school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by Ms. Hall, our principal. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Sam Chapman to register between January 16 and February 13, 2015. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB’s FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community’s Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student’s FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board’s website: [www.yrdsb.ca](http://www.yrdsb.ca). Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.