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Kleinburg P.S. Newsletter

November 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to November at KPS. The first two months of the year have been busy. We had our reorganization, then cross country, a presentation by Sara Westbrook and last week the Fall Festival Fun A Thon. A great deal going on at the school! We would like to thank our School Council and all of our volunteers for all of their hard work in organizing the Fall Festival Fun A Thon. The students were engaged and all had a wonderful time.

The Sara Westbrook presentation focused on Creating a Character End Result and each student participated in creating their own Character End Result poster. We also shared this process at our October School Council meeting. Below are the steps to creating a character end result if you wish to try the activity at home.

1. Choose your character trait from the YRDSB Character Matters list.
2. Write the "I choose to be _____ to myself and others " or "I choose to be _____ to everyone" along with your character trait on the front of a piece of paper using crayons, markers or coloured pencils.
3. On the back of your paper, write 3 ways that shows how you will be using your Character END RESULT.

We will be working with Sara two more times this year and building on our focus in supporting student well being particularly in the areas of grit, resiliency and perseverance. Stay tuned.

Happy November everyone!

Greg Morandi
Principal

Athena Loopstra
Vice-Principal



Sara Westbrook and Mr. Iskander!

At our October school council meeting we shared the following focus areas from our School Improvement Plan:

Student Achievement - Mathematics
Student Well being – Mental Health
Modern Learning

At each council meeting we will be sharing activities with our council reflective of what we are working on in the school. If you are able to please join us!

On a safety note – the traffic on Islington Avenue, directly in front of the school, continues to be problematic especially with the construction on going on in our community. Please be reminded to follow the rules of the road when driving on Islington during entry and dismissal times.

Weather Changes

As November arrives please be reminded that students should be dressed accordingly for the changing weather patterns. Children will be outside and should dress for outside play.

Links to Support Learning through Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

The link to the Ministry of Education's website entitled "Support your Child's Learning through Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting" <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reportcard.html> helps to clarify questions around the reporting process. In reporting please remember that every child is an individual who will meet goals at their own pace. Each child requires different levels of support to achieve success. Parents and teachers work together to ensure students have what they need to be successful. Please ensure that if you have any concerns about programming that you talk with your child's teacher on a regular basis. You can contact teachers by phone or send a note with your child.

Restorative Approaches in York Region Schools

In York Region, some staff and schools have chosen to adopt Restorative Approaches as a framework to address conflicts so that in a conflict situation no one is left behind and everyone is a part of the solution. When we take the time to do this, we increase school safety, build community and create a sense of belonging.

Where differences arise in our schools, we have a responsibility to work together to seek just and equitable solutions and to ensure the dignity of all who are involved in a conflict situation. The focus is on positive discipline, accountability, and support.

Restorative Approaches is an important part of the YRDSB commitment to building [positive climates for learning](#).

Restorative Approaches values:

- An inclusive approach to problem solving so that feelings, needs and views of everyone in a given community are taken into account
- The deliberate creation of school cultures and communities where all are encouraged not only to listen, but to have a voice and make valued contributions.
- A belief in people's ability to resolve their own problems given time, support and a chance to tell their story
- Respectful relationships
- Development of skills needed for conflict resolution

An important component of a Restorative Approach is the use of Restorative questions to help gather information, understand an incident and what needs to happen next, address the harm done, restore relationships and reflect on learning. All involved work with each other and ask:

- Who has been hurt?
- How have they been affected?
- How can all involved consider what needs to be done to “make things right” and through so doing, restore relationships?

Character Matters

In the month of NOVEMBER, we are focusing on COURAGE

What is courage?

Courage involves taking the first step.

- “ Courage is doing something even though you may feel afraid.
- “ Courage is looking past your personal goals and dedicating your life for the betterment of others.
- “ Courage is getting up to ride again after a really bad fall.

So, take the time this month to show courage and try something new!!!

Remembrance Day

KPS will be hosting a Remembrance Day assembly on November 11th. All parents/guardians are invited to come and join us in the gym at 10:45. Students are reminded to demonstrate respectful behavior during this solemn event. We thank those who have served our country and we celebrate peace.

Mathematics

At KPS we are actively engaged in implementing the Comprehensive Math Program, as per the YRDSB goal of improving students’ ability in mathematics.

The premise behind the *Learning* in a comprehensive math program is that students are actively engaged in the mathematics in order to construct understanding. Teachers plan, strategically sequence, and facilitate learning experiences in response to students’ strengths, needs and challenges. Students engage in various mathematical processes to construct, reinforce, apply or practice their understanding of math. Students are encouraged to talk with peers, ask questions, make connections, select tools and computational strategies, represent their thinking, reason and prove, think critically, and reflect on their problem solving strategies.

All learning experiences should:

- be linked to curriculum expectations
- build confidence and a positive disposition towards mathematics
- develop communication skills
- offer opportunity to learn independently and/or collaboratively in small groups or whole group
- give students an opportunity to explore mathematics in a variety of contexts

**Play with Math and
Give your Brain a Workout**



Meaningful problems:

- allow multiple entry points
- develop mathematical ideas, strategies and models
- have contexts that invite curiosity
- encourage students to see mathematics in the world around them
- provide challenge and have no immediate solution
- support students in finding their own solution and examine different approaches to the problem

Supporting Math learning At Home

There is access to a wealth of information on the internet in supporting math learning at home. The following are some links that will provide ideas and supports for parents.

1. Doing Mathematics with Your Child K-6: This is a fabulous resource and also has TV Ontario web resources for each strand.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNum.html>

2. Mathies website for parents and students: www.mathies.ca

3. Math Homework Help for students in Grades 7-10: <https://homeworkhelp.ilc.org/>

From our School Library

Woodbridge Fall Fair

Congratulations are extended to 64 Kleinburg Public School students who entered their drawings, posters and other art activities into the Woodbridge Fall Fair this past Thanksgiving Weekend. The students were thrilled to receive a ribbon congratulating them on their efforts.

Scholastic Book Fair

The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be held at KPS on November 23, 24 & 25 in our School Library. Further information and specific class visit schedules will be sent home to you in the next week. Any parent interested in volunteering for a shift during the Book Fair, should contact Mrs. Amedeo at Ext. 187. Please ensure that you have an updated Vulnerable Sector Check on file in the office if you would like to volunteer.

School Website

Please be sure to visit our school website for e-library resources. By going to www.yrdsb.ca/schools/kleinburg.ps, you can access our school library database, Vaughan Public Library and many additional resources with links to a number of other databases and websites for your children to use afterhours.

School Council Corner

On Thursday September 17th, 2015, the first School Council Meeting of the new academic year was held in the gymnasium. Thank you to all our parents who volunteered to serve as council members. The executive members of school council are:

School Council Chair: Michelle Qubti, mqubti@rogers.com

School Council Treasurer: Fabiola DiNardo, fabiola@worldwideiozza.com

School Council Co-Secretaries: Mary Aceto, proto1228@gmail.com and Franca Chari, fchari@rogers.com

School Council meetings take place in the school library unless otherwise note, start at 7 p.m., and usually conclude by 9 p.m. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend! The upcoming School Council meetings are as follows:

Tuesday October 20, 2015, Thursday November 19, 2015, Wednesday January 20th, 2016

Wednesday February 24th, 2016, Wednesday April 20th, 2016, Thursday May 26th, 2016

School council is committed to support our school's administration and our incredible teachers and staff as they help create the best environment for learning, growth and achievement. Fundraising is a part of what school council organizes and this year we have already launched 2 fundraising initiatives: Frozen Yogurt Program & Harvest Festival and FUN-A-THON.

Based on last year's success, we anticipate that the Frozen Yogurt Program will raise \$8000 and our FUN-A-THON raised just over \$11,200! Thank you parents for your amazing support. Look for the Council Approved Budget in next month's newsletter.

Throughout the school year, school council organizes and runs various programs/events to enhance our students' experiences at KPS. We are fortunate to have the help and support of our parents. Please let us know how you would like to help our efforts to deliver extra-curricular activities such as Builder's Club, Skipping Club, Healthy Snacks, Frozen Yogurt distribution, as well as so much more, by emailing one of the members of the executive committee.

We are so fortunate to belong to a community that believes that the school is the cornerstone of the community. With your continued help we will certainly have a fantastic year!

HEALTHY SCHOOLS COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Healthy Schools Committee is an important part of what happens at KPS because the volunteers of this committee not only co-ordinate healthy snack distribution but also make recommendations regarding school safety issues such as parking, run extra-curricular lunch-time programs such as skipping club, as well as look at creative ways to ensure that the self-confidence of our students is strong and positive.

This year the healthy snack program will be running every week. Students will have nutritious food options available in their classrooms and at various locations throughout the school including the school office and library. Research shows that students who eat healthy nutritious food throughout their day perform better academically!

The healthy snacks program is brought to you through funding through the Peterborough Family

Resource Centre, your School Council fundraising initiatives, and METRO Grocery Stores Green Apple Grant. If you would like to help this program continue its important work, distribution of healthy snacks happen on Tuesday mornings after the morning bell.

HARVEST FESTIVAL AND FUN-A-THON REPORT:

The first event organized by school council was a grand success! The students had a great day decorating pumpkins, dancing in the gymnasium, and playing games in the library and in the gym! Thank you to the amazing crew of parents who transformed our gymnasium and our library...you did a great job! As part of our FUN-A-THON, students returned their pledge forms and were entered into a raffle to win prizes. Thank you to those families that donated gift cards and gifts and thank you to Tip Top Tutors for donating Starbucks gift cards. Mr. Allan's class collectively raised the highest amount of all classes and they win a pasta lunch (with dessert) served by Mr. Morandi. Ms Tranter's class won a pizza lunch for being the class that had the highest participation rate. Great Job!

Classes also entered our pumpkin carving contest and a pizza lunch was awarded to Ms Fiorini's Class, Ms Colagiacomo's class, Ms Czender's Class and Ms Sandhar's class! The pumpkins were creatively transformed and our judges had a very difficult time selecting the winners!

And finally, congratulations to Matteo I. from Mr. Mincer's class who won Vice-Principal for the day!

SKIPPING CLUB UPDATE:

Thank you to our incredibly enthusiastic parents who come out on Fridays to run our very popular, positive and inclusive Skipping Club! Students engage in physical activity, learn a new skill and make friends! This is truly an amazing club!

Kleinburg Tennis Club

The Kleinburg Tennis club will be offering lessons for KPS students.

Next sessions will start in the week of Monday, November 9th, 2015

The kids age 5-7 start at 6:00pm and those age 8-12 start at 7:00 pm

Mondays	–	St. Padre Pio School,	starts Nov 9
Tuesdays	–	St. Andrew School,	starts Nov 10
Wednesdays	–	Kleinburg Public School ,	starts Nov 11
Thursdays	–	St. Padre Pio School,	starts Nov 12
Fridays	–	St. Mary School,	starts Nov 13

The schedule and locations as well as the registration form is available on our web site:

<http://tiamat-love4tennis.com/programs.html>