



Mackenzie Glen Public School

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September 2013

Principal
Mr. B. Taha

Vice Principal
Mrs. O. Soroka

School Council Chair
Mrs. P. Wood

Superintendent
of Schools
Mrs. S. Logue
(905) 764-6830

Trustee
Mrs. A. Debartolo
(905) 898-9653

A message from the Principal...

Happy New Year! It is my privilege and honour to welcome back students, staff, and families to Mackenzie Glen Public School. I am excited to join this community and am looking forward to a year of success for all.

For the last few weeks staff have been working tirelessly to get us ready to welcome you and your child(ren) to a new school year. Please join me in thanking the efforts of our office staff, Ms. Nupoort and Mrs. Kemble, our caretaking staff, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Costoglou, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Goulet and our entire teaching staff, educational assistants, designated early childhood educators and child and youth workers.

I am pleased to announce new staff to our school. Welcome to Mrs. Yarde, and Mrs. Madden. Also, welcome back to Ms. Knez, Mrs. Kaur and to Mrs. Setton who has returned from her leave.

Parental involvement is a key factor in student achievement and success in school. I invite all parents to become involved in our School Council. Please see more information on page 5.

At Mackenzie Glen, it is our goal to have regular communication between home and school. We aim to achieve this in a variety of ways:

- Student agenda
- Direct Email Updates
- Monthly Newsletters
- Classroom and Divisional Newsletters
- **NEW!** Twitter Feed—Follow us @MackenzieGlenPS
- Scheduled meetings
- Phone calls are always welcome

As your new Principal, I am seeking your help. Please help me learn more about the school by answering the following short questions (please submit responses via email to mackenzie.glen.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca or in writing to the office):

What should I know about this community and our students?

What are you most proud of at this school?

What do you feel are the key issues facing this school now and in the near future?

What are the areas for improvement that you feel we should focus on?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Blustein for her leadership and commitment to making our school a great one. I wish her a happy, healthy and lengthy retirement. I would also like to give a huge 'THANK YOU' to Mrs. Soroka who has been instrumental in my transition to Mackenzie Glen PS.

I look forward to the challenges and successes that lay ahead. I also look forward to a strong partnership between home and school to ensure that each of our students has... **Roots to help grow, and Wings to help fly!**

Mr. B. Taha
Principal



PA DAY

There will be
No School
for students on
Monday,
September 23,
2013

**School
Council**
General Meeting

**Thursday, Sep-
tember 26, 2013**
at
7:00 p.m.

All parents are
welcome to attend.



School Security

We are so pleased to welcome you to the first day of school. At Mackenzie Glen PS, the safety of our students is a shared interest and commitment of both parents and staff. It is imperative that we create an environment that ensures the safety and proper supervision of our students.

To that end, parents/guardians and caregivers will **NOT** be permitted to enter school hallways before, during and after school. It is expected that any adult entering the building **WILL** sign in at the office. To enter the hallways of the school, visitors will be provided with a Visitor's Badge. This will enable staff to identify visitors who have received permission to be in the building.

These protocols will be in place throughout the school year. All exterior doors to the school will be locked during class time except for the main entrance which will allow parents/guardians and caregivers direct access to the office when needed.

Please be assured that we encourage ongoing parent school communication. To be able to communicate effectively and in a responsive manner, it is important to provide adequate time and opportunity for staff. To support this, we request that parents/guardians contact the school to set an appointment if a meeting is desired.

We thank you in advance for respecting the aforementioned requirements in order to ensure the safety of all our students.

We look forward to your ongoing support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mr. B. Taha
Principal

Mrs. O. Soroka
Vice Principal

Student Busing Eligibility

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit:

www.schoolbuscity.com

@MackenzieGlenPS

Mackenzie Glen has joined the twitterverse! Twitter is an additional tool that we can use to keep parents informed of school happenings. This does not replace the newsletter or emails. It is simply another way to share news and good stories. Follow us:



@MackenzieGlenPS

YRDSB General Interest Courses

YRDSB General Interest Courses have experienced a steady decline in client registrations for the past six years. As a result, YRDSB General Interest Courses have operated at a financial loss in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This information was brought forward and discussed at the Board Standing Committee Meeting on May 21. At the June 4, 2013 Board Meeting, the decision was made to discontinue General Interest Courses.

Continuing Education Services thanks you for your past support of YRDSB General Interest Courses.

Our School Hours

Parents, guardians and students are reminded of school entry, recess and dismissal times. We encourage students to be on time for school, as late arrivals cause disruptions to a class that is already in session. **If your child will be absent, or late, please contact the school.** Additionally, if a student needs to leave early for an appointment, please send a note to your child's teacher that morning with the details thus eliminating the need for the office to have to call into the classroom and disrupt the class. Where possible, arrangements should be made ahead of time.

When your child will be absent from school, please take a moment to call to advise us of the absence. If you need to call before the school day begins we have an answering machine available between 4:00pm and 8:00am to take your message. You can call whenever it is convenient for you. Please make sure you speak slowly and clearly, providing details of the absence. A call is required each day of the absence. This is part of the YRDSB Safe Arrival Program.

If we do not receive a call, or if we cannot contact a parent or one of the emergency contacts listed, Board policy is for the school to notify York Region Police.

**Please remember to call the school if your child will be late or absent.
Especially in the event of a religious holiday.**

School Day

Supervision begins	8:00
Entry Bell	8:10
Period 1	8:15-8:55
Period 2	8:55-9:55
Recess	9:55-10:15
Period 3	10:15-11:05
Period 4	11:05-11:55
Lunch	11:55-12:55
Period 5	12:55-1:35
Period 6	1:35-2:35
Dismissal	2:35

Message from Trustee Debartolo

I am very pleased to welcome our new and returning families as we start another school year. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer, and feel refreshed and energized.

There is a lot to look forward to in the first few months of school, and I hope you will find an opportunity to get involved in some way. Partnerships with families are essential, not only to student achievement and well-being, but also to creating a positive, caring and supportive school environment in which students can thrive.

There are many ways you can get involved and support your child's education from communicating with your child's teacher and asking your child about what they are learning to volunteering in the school or participating in the school council.

Thanks to your support and the hard work and commitment of our staff, students, families and community partners, we continue to be one of the top performing school boards in Ontario.

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. In the coming year, we will continue our focus on the priorities set out in our Multi-Year Plan: student achievement and well-being, the delivery of effective and appropriate educational programs and the responsible stewardship of Board resources.



I hope you have a great start to the school year and wish you all the best for 2013-14.

Medication Required?

The safety of our students is paramount. Please let the office know of any medical conditions or allergies that affect your child by filling it in on the Emergency Form. It is a good idea to mention any significant health issues to your child's homeroom teacher.

Children who need to take medication at school require a **Request for Administration of Oral Medication Form** signed by the parent before the medication can be given. If your child requires medication during the school day please speak to Mrs. Kemble in the office.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The York Region District School Board recognizes and highlights the significant achievements of our students through a variety of sources—front hall displays, school and board publications, as well as in the media and on our computer web site, special fundraising events that attract media attention, recordings and displays for events such as graduations and seasonal celebrations. We believe this recognition is essential to enhance our students' self esteem and to foster a positive school environment. To enable us to be in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act we request that those parents who do NOT want their child (ren)'s accomplishments recognized, work displayed or photographs taken for this purpose, please notify the Principal **in writing**.

Combined Grade Classes

A class of combined grades is composed of students from two or more adjacent grades who are grouped with one teacher for instruction. In all classrooms, no matter how they are organized, teachers need to provide for the individual needs of students. To achieve this, they use a variety of methods on a daily basis to assess the needs of each student, and then adjust the focus of instruction for skill development accordingly. The focus of instruction for all subjects is on helping students to advance regardless of age, grade, or current level of performance.

Within a class of combined grades, students work towards the achievement of their **grade-specific curriculum expectations**. When common “big ideas” or skills are involved, all students in the class often work together, but at other times, instruction may be specific to each grade. Assessment, evaluation and reporting are grade-specific.

Why do you have classes of combined grades?

Most classes of combined grades are created to accommodate students in a school where it is not possible to create only single-grade classes. For example, if there are thirty Grade 2 students, thirty Grade 3 students, and three teachers, the only way to organize the children into smaller classes is to combine some students from both grades in one class.

What are the benefits of placement in a class of combined grades?

There are many socio-emotional benefits for students who are in classes with students of various ages. For example, in such classes peer interactions have been shown to be very positive; students have opportunities for greater development of social skills and cooperation skills and students often develop a feeling of comfort and security, a positive self-concept, and a sense of satisfaction with their achievements. There are also significant opportunities for development of leadership skills and for learning from peers. In studies measuring academic achievement, students in classes of combined grades were found to perform as well as students in single grade classes.

Why was my child chosen to be in a class of combined grades?

When placing students in all classes, we consider a variety of factors, including number of students, number of boys and girls and students’ interests, strengths, needs, learning styles, motivation, work habits, emotional development, maturity and cooperation. We also consider student academic achievement.

The placement of your child in the higher grade of a split class does not mean that your child has not met curriculum requirements. If your child is in the lower grade, they are not necessarily ahead of their peers in a straight grade.

Will the teacher have as much time for each child in a class of combined grades?

The amount of time for an individual student is not determined by the organization of classrooms by grade. In all classrooms, teachers employ a number of instructional strategies to address the needs of all students. On a daily basis teachers work with large groups, small groups and individual students.

(Ministry of Education, Combined Grades, 2007)

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/combinedClassrooms/combinedClassrooms.pdf>

Curriculum Night

Thursday, October 10, 2013
at 7:00 pm

We look forward to welcoming you!

Mark your calendars. More information to follow.



Tentative Homeroom Organization 2013-2014

We are thrilled to begin our new school year with 23 homeroom classes. Please see below for the *tentative* teacher assignments for 2013-14 school year.

Teacher	Grade	Room
Ms. Schatzky/Ms. Alexeeva	K	110
Ms. Oosman/Ms. Wilson	K	113
Ms. Lee/Ms. Manoharan	K	119
Ms. Chow/ Ms. Amanullah	K	120
Ms. Madden	1	104
Ms. Rabinovitch	1	108
Ms. Park	1/2	103
Ms. Muzzatti	2	109
Ms. Raviandran	2/3	122
Ms. Kaur	2/3	125
Ms. Borzellino	3	124
Ms. Facchini	3/4	121
Ms. Fabiano	4	219
Mr. Locke	4	218
Mr. Aulakh	4/5	222
Ms. Knez	5	P2
Ms. Di Mascio	5/6	200
Ms. Dodaro	6	201
Ms. Bernbaum	6	221
Mr. Charalambous	7	204
Ms. Norris	7	205
Mr. Sebastian	8	203
Mr. Lewis	8	206

Remember, the school organization may change based on student enrolment and need. We carefully monitor our enrolment number and registrations during the month of September. There is a possibility that students and teachers may need to be reorganized by September 23rd in order to meet the Ministry of Education guidelines for class sizes.

For more information regarding the Ministry of Education commitment to reduced class sizes:
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/cst/>

Creating a Safe & Healthy School for Children with Allergies

School staff and parents strive to create a safe and healthy environment for all students. This is an additional challenge for schools attended by children with allergies, especially life threatening allergies. While it is impossible to create a risk-free environment, parents can take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions as there are implications for the whole school, not just individual classrooms.

It is especially important that parents communicate a life threatening allergy to the school as soon as they are aware of it. Please notify the Principal so that we have accurate records and establish the protocol to follow with your child.

We ask that you avoid sending any foods that may contain peanuts and/or nuts. Please check the list of ingredients for peanut oil/butter/sauce/flour/meal, mixed nuts, ground nuts, goober peas, artificial nuts and macadamia nuts. Examples include: cookies, chocolate, granola bars, some cereal bars and some chocolate nut spreads. Avoid products that say "may contain peanut/nuts".

Imported products have different labelling requirements, please read the labels carefully when sending these products to school.

If you are unsure about a chosen product, please do not send it to school. We thank you for your cooperation. Remember It could easily be your child!

An important note: We ask that you DO NOT send any food items to school for birthdays and other celebrations! Thank you for your support!



Bringing Toys, Cell Phones and Valuables to School

Toys are a distraction to learning time. Students are pre-occupied with lego, trading cards and other toys. These may lead to arguments, theft, trades and take considerable time to manage. There are many activities for students to do during both indoor and outdoor recess breaks.

Cell phones are considered valuables and we ask your cooperation in keeping them at home. Our policy is that we don't see them and we don't hear them. Students are asked to keep them **AT HOME OR LOCKED IN THEIR LOCKERS AT THEIR OWN RISK**. If they are found to be using the phone, it will be confiscated and returned to the parent.

We ask for your cooperation in keeping toys, cell phones and other valuable items at home.

We Need *YOU!*

Mackenzie Glen Public School Council Nominations

Are you interested in being a part of our School Council? Your participation can make a difference by strengthening our community partnerships. Our School Council will meet on the council approved dates for this year beginning on September 19th. Meetings are held in the library at 7:00pm. Newcomers are always welcome! You do not have to be a member of the School Council to attend meetings.

According to the Ministry of Education Regulation 612.0 and in accordance with Board Policy 262, I formally give notice that nominations are now open for our School Council. Nominations will close on Wednesday, September 19 at 2:00pm. In accordance with the above mentioned policies and regulations, this is the required 14 day period between notification of nominations and election.

Once parents have been elected to the School Council, those parents will then elect the Executive of the School Council. The elections of the School Council Executive will be held at our first School Council meeting on Thursday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m. in our library.

School Council Chair:

- Acts as a liason between parents and the Principal/Vice-Principal.
- Plans meeting agendas with the Principal.
- Works with other parents on the council to achieve council goals.

Secretary:

- Takes notes during the meeting.
- Distributes notes to the other members.

Treasurer:

- With administrative assistant, develops a financial report for council funds
- Ensures that administrative assistant is aware of upcoming council contributions/expenditures
- Shares financial report with council

Members at Large:

- Attend school council meetings on a regular basis.
- Provide input during meetings.
- Lend support when available.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact the school. If you are interested in becoming a member of the School Council please complete the 'School Council Nomination Form' found as part of the School Start-up forms. Please return all completed forms to the office.

School Start-Up Packages

With this newsletter, you would have received a School Start-Up Package. Included in this 'School Start Up' package are student forms based upon York Region District School Board policies and procedures. Please complete and return the forms to school with your child at your earliest convenience. A complete list of YRDSB policies and procedures are available online: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

A reminder that if your contact information changes throughout the year, you must notify the office. This includes address, cell phone numbers, work numbers etc.

Before/After School and Daycare

York Region District School Board has approved Upper Canada Child Care as the daycare provider for our school. The program is offered from 7:00 am until school begins and again from school dismissal until 6:00 pm. It is open to students in JK to 12 years old.

If you require information they can be contacted at (905) 832-7290. Please leave your name, phone number and a brief message. Staff will respond within 24 hours of your call.

You can also access their website at:

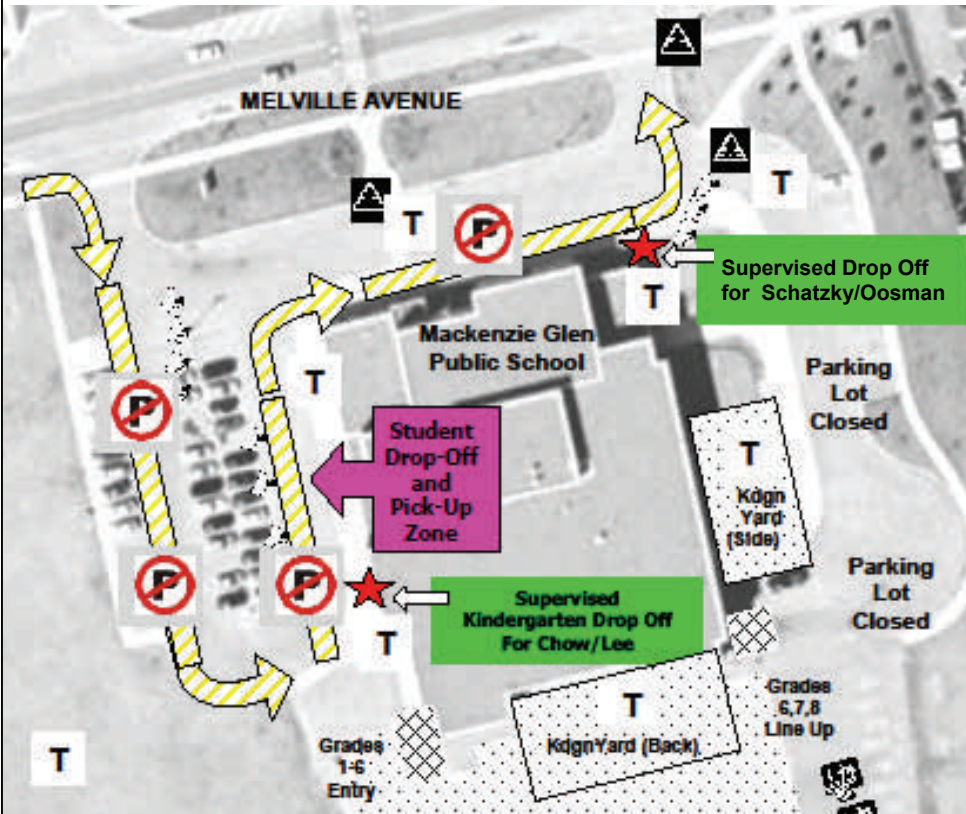
www.uppercanadachildcare.com

Kiss N' Ride Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

Your child's safety is a priority at Mackenzie Glen Public School.

If driving is necessary, we ask that you follow the procedure outlined on the attached map and adhere to the following guidelines:

For students in grades 1 to 8, we would like to utilize our large parking loop by directing traffic through the loop and around to the yellow, lined Drop-off and Pick-up Zone. Cars will be waved all the way up to the front of the loop where 5-6 vehicles can drop off at the same time. It is very important that you do not let your children off at any other part of the loop, as walking through the parking lot is extremely dangerous. As well, when cars stop throughout the loop it holds up traffic for the cars behind you. Once you have



dropped off your child in the Drop-off Zone, you may continue out along the front of the school using the **FAR LANE** of the front driveway (the lane closest to Melville).

For students in Kindergarten, cars will enter the same way as above and circle through the entire loop, waiting patiently as other cars drop off. There will be two Kindergarten Drop-Off areas. The regular Drop-Off zone will be used for students in Ms. Chow and Ms. Lee's classes and a teacher will accompany these students to the back kindergarten play area. For students in Ms. Schatzky and Ms. Oosman's classes, please continue through the loop and drop off your child just before the exit to Melville, where a teacher will walk your child to the side Kindergarten play area.

Do not park your vehicle at the front of the school at any time.

Let's work together for student safety...

- Drive all the way through the loop and only drop off your children in the Drop-Off zone.
- Pull all the way up into the drop off zone—5 or 6 cars can drop off at the same time.
- Students should have their bags ready on their laps.
- To ensure a quick and safe drop-off, parents are not to get out of the vehicle.
- Students are to exit from the passenger side of the vehicle **ONLY**.
- Students should never walk through the parking lot.
- End of day Pick-Up: You will have to circle the loop, exit onto Melville and re-enter the loop if your child is not ready for pick-up at the end of the day.
- Always follow the direction of staff wearing vests.

We are a team! When we work together to follow routines, our students feel safe and confident when arriving and departing from school.

Supervision begins at 8:00am. Your child should arrive between 8:00-8:10 to give everyone plenty of time to safely drop off, as well as to give our students a calm and orderly start to their day.

At Mackenzie Glen PS we value **SAFETY over *Convenience!***

September 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labour Day <i>No School</i>	3 	4	5 ♦ Rosh Hashanah	6 ♦ Rosh Hashanah	7
8	9 <i>Ganesh Chaturhi</i>	10	11 <i>Coptic/Ethiopian Orthodox New Year</i>	12	13	14 ♦ Yom Kippur
15	16	17	18 <i>Ananta Chaturdasi</i>	19 <i>Sukkot</i>	20	21
22	23 PA Day <i>No School</i>	24	25	26 School Council Meeting, 7pm	27 <i>Simhat Torah</i>	28
29	30	<p>To report your child's absence, Please call our attendance Line (905) 417-9771 <i>Leave a message at any time!</i></p> 		YRDSB School Holidays & PA Days 2013-2014		
				November 15	<i>PA Day</i>	
		December 20	<i>PA Day</i>			
		December 23– January 3	<i>Winter Break</i>			
		January 17	<i>PA Day</i>			
		February 17	<i>Family Day</i>			
		March 7	<i>PA Day</i>			
		March 10-14	<i>March Break</i>			
		April 18	<i>Good Friday</i>			
		April 21	<i>Easter Monday</i>			
		May 19	<i>Victoria Day</i>			
		June 6	<i>PA Day</i>			
		June 27	<i>PA Day</i>			

Upcoming Dates

October	
1	Grade 7 and 8 Girl immunizations
2	School Bus Safety Program
8	Photo Day
10	Curriculum Night
11	PA Day— <i>No School</i>
14	Thanksgiving Day— <i>No School</i>

November 15	<i>PA Day</i>
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April 21	<i>Easter Monday</i>
May 19	<i>Victoria Day</i>
June 6	<i>PA Day</i>
June 27	<i>PA Day</i>