



# MGPS Newsletter



Home of the Titans



JANUARY 2014

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## IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 6—Return from Winter Break

Jan 7—Character Assembly

Jan 17—PA Day (no school)

Jan 17—FDK registration for 2014 begins

Jan 23—Parent Council Mtg. & Building Confidence In Your Child

Jan 30—Pizza Lunch

Jan 31—End of Term 1

Feb 3—Term 2 Begins

Feb 3—Character Assembly

Feb 6—Winter Concert—One World Together Celebration Of The Arts; 1pm and 6pm

Feb 11—Term 1 Report Cards Go Home

Feb 17—Family Day (holiday)

Feb 20—Parent Council Mtg.

Feb 27—Pizza Lunch

## HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

Jan 5—Birth of Guru Gobind Singh Ji

Jan 6—Epiphany (Western)

Jan 7—Christmas (Eastern)

Jan 13—Mawlid-un-Nabi Maghi

Jan 14—Makar Sankranti

Jan 19—Epiphany (Eastern)

Jan 31—Lunar New Year

Feb 4—Vasant Panchami

Feb 17—Family Day

Feb 26—Intercalary Days

Feb 28—Mahashivaratri

## Principal's Message

### The Importance of Setting Academic Goals

*As we begin a new year, many of us take the opportunity to 'resolve' to make our lives better. Research shows that when we make "New Year's Resolutions", we have a greater likelihood of achieving our goal than setting one at any other time during the year. As we all know, setting goals is the easy part, it's putting the effort and energy to obtain our goal that is difficult part. But we also know that the rewards and our sense of self are greatly enhanced when we commit to a goal and achieve it. Goal setting, creating the plan and following through to achieve are more likely to occur when we experience success on a regular basis. The more experience you have in setting*

*goals and achieving them, the better able you are to do so on a more successful basis. This means that we need to instill in our children the importance of setting personal goals, making a plan to ensure their success, and committing to the work to be successful. Children need to set regular goals, both personal and academic, to build the experience required to achieve future successes in life. Discuss setting goals with your child, and your child's teacher. Academic goals are an excellent way for students to experience the work and rewards involved in goal setting, and will help promote a goal-setting stance with your child. Some of the key elements of establishing a successful goal are to;*

- Create a plan and celebrate as you go along
- Expect set backs but stay the course
- Involve family, teacher, friends as supports
- Reflect on a regular basis what is working and what is not
- Adjust your actions to support positive outcomes

- Make it achievable

### Next Parent Council

January 23, 2014

6:00—8:00 pm in the Library

Special presentation on

[How to Build Your Child's](#)

[Confidence Level.](#)

### Council Executive 2013

Lisa Volpe-Brehaspatt—Chair

Ratna Muralitharan—Treasurer

Elaine Bernard—Secretary



## New Safe Schools Procedure



Beginning **February 3**, all school doors, including the front doors, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. At MGPS, this means that our doors will be locked at **8:35 a.m.** every day. The doors will remain locked for the remainder of the day. Anyone arriving at the school after that time must



buzz in and sign in at the main office.

Measures will also be put in place for parents/guardians to buzz in and pick up students participating in before and after school programs. More detailed information will be avail-

able in January.

Our school continues to be a safe place where parent and community member involvement is welcomed and encouraged. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office upon arrival.



## One World Together Concert on February 6

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming **Celebration of the Arts—One World Together** concert on February 6, 2014. We will have **two** concerts this year to showcase the wonderful learning our students are doing in Music, Drama, Dance, and the Visual Arts. Half of the students will participate in the first concert, and the other half will participate in the second concert in the spring (in late April or early May). Families will be sent a ticket order form shortly so that they can reserve their seats!



## Follow Markham Gateway on Twitter

Markham Gateway has created a Twitter account for families to follow and get the latest about upcoming events, important news items, and to read about the great things going on in our school.

Follow Us on Twitter at:  
**@MarkhamGateway**



## Pizza Lunch Dates for 2013/14

- January 31
- February 27
- March 27
- April 24
- May 29
- June 19



## York Region Children's Chorus

The York Region Children's Chorus is holding auditions for our **winter/spring season**, starting in **January 2014**. The choir sings all different genres, from classical to pop and jazz music. Interested students starting from **Grade 5 up to Grade 12** are welcome to attend our auditions and to join our choir rehearsals on any of the following dates in **January 2014** starting at **6 pm**:

- Wednesday January 15
- Wednesday January 22
- Wednesday January 29

Please be prepared to sing a short "a cappella" piece of music (any genre: classical, Broadway, pop, etc.) for the choir director during our break. Piano accompaniment is not needed for the audition.

**You are invited to stay for the whole rehearsal, from 6 pm to 8:30 pm.** The auditions and all rehearsals are at **Redstone Public School**, located at 235 Redstone Road, Richmond Hill, south of Elgin Mills, west of Leslie. **Rehearsals run from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm every Wednesday.** Students interested in auditioning should email our director Mrs. Olivia Côté at [Olivia.cote@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:Olivia.cote@yrdsb.edu.on.ca) or email YRCC Manager Fran Fainer at [Francine.fainer@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:Francine.fainer@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

We hope to see you at our audition! Bring a few friends to audition with you, as well!



## Arts-based Program at Baythorn PS



### Learning through the Arts at [arts@baythorn](mailto:arts@baythorn)

Would your child enjoy learning the Ontario curriculum through the Arts? If so, the York Region District School Board offers an Elementary integrated Arts program at Baythorn Public School. Students currently in grades 4 and 5 may apply for the [arts@baythorn](mailto:arts@baythorn) program, where they will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music while meeting the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum for grades 5-8. To learn more about the [arts@baythorn](mailto:arts@baythorn) program, students and their families are invited to attend an information evening at **Baythorn Public School on Thursday, January 16,**

**2014 @ 6:30 p.m.** Applications will be on line via the school website and available after January 16, 2014. Please call us at Baythorn Public School (905) 889-7992, if you require further information. [www.baythorn.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.baythorn.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

## Character Awards for December—Empathy

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded a certificate to recognize their efforts in demonstrating **Empathy** within our school community. Each month we will recognize students' efforts to model our monthly character traits. Congratulations to:

Hasni, Fareeha, Aina, Maryam, Arushan, Amrit, Ishleen, Sajina, Aliza, Zaaida, Harshit, Najiya, Emaan, Ansh, Syeda, Vasi, Marya, Harjaap, Rohan, Aafiya, Rida, Smreet, Hadiya, Thushani, Gurmukhpreet, Musa, Mayurika, Syeda N., Shajithiya, Mahdi, Sufya, Piranavan, Arron, Aneeqa, Sharanpreet, Srilekha, Hasan, Abiraami.

## Parent Family Literacy Center (PFLC)

### Art @ the Centre is back!

The exciting project that brought professional artist, Tiziana Guido, into the PFLCs last year is back for a second year. If you and your children (between the ages of 0 – 6 years) would like to be creative with materials like watercolour paints, wire, paper and clay, we invite you to the Markham Gateway Parenting and Family Literacy Centre on the following days:

Monday January 13<sup>th</sup> – Wire Sculpture

Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Collage

Monday April 14<sup>th</sup> – Clay

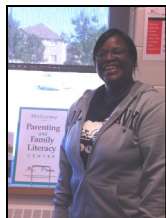


For more information, please come to Room 127 and speak to Parent Worker, Carlene Nembhard, about the next Art @ The Centre experience. Come and create your own family masterpieces!

**Parent Worker: Carlene Nembhard**

**Open: Every school day between 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**No cost or registration required. Snacks are provided for the children**



## COOK UP SOME FUN ON FAMILY LITERACY DAY

The families of the Markham Gateway Parenting and Family Literacy Centre invite you to



<http://www.york.ca/nutrition>

# Come Cook with Us



to celebrate  
**Family Literacy Day**

**PLACE: Markham Gateway P.S.**

**DATE: Monday January 27th**

**TIME: Drop in between  
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

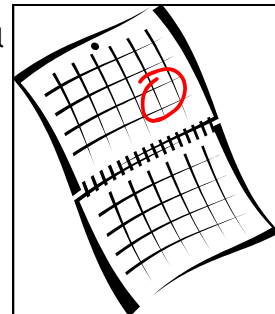


*Snack provided. No registration required.  
Please bring indoor shoes.*

## Mark Your Calendar!

### Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) Registration Begins January 17, 2014

The York Region District School Board welcomes you and your child to our education system. We are proud to be one of Ontario's top achieving school districts and to provide quality educational programs for all our students. Kindergarten is a big step on the journey of learning and this is an exciting time for you and your child. We strongly believe that forming strong partnerships with our parent community is a main factor in achieving success; and encourage you to engage in your child's education.



The York Region District School Board's mission is to unite in our purpose to inspire and prepare learners for life in our changing world community. We look forward to having your child join us and working with you toward his/her success.

Kindergarten Registration begins on January 17, 2014. To register, please bring the following documents with you:

#### Required Documents to Register:

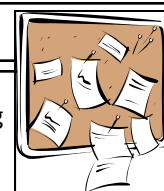
- Proof of child's age (Birth Certificate/Passport)
- Any legal documents related to custody arrangements if applicable
- Proof of Residency of the student - two documents, one from each of the categories below showing the home address;
  - **Category A** - notice of tax assessment, current rental/lease agreement, agreement to purchase including proof of purchase provided before the pupil attends the school, or property tax bill, and
  - **Category B** - utility bill, driver's license, bank statement or other official document.

Please let your neighbours and friends who are in our catchment area about the start of registration date.

If you have any questions, please contact the Main Office and speak to Mrs. Patel or Mrs. York. Our telephone number is 905-472-3303.

## Community Board

Check out our Community and Parent Information bulletin board outside our office for ongoing news and information around resources within our school community and Markham / York Region.





## French Immersion Information Night—Coppard Glen PS for Grade 1 FI

**French Immersion Information Nights will take place at all French Immersion school locations on January 16, 2014 at 7 p.m.**

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at [French Immersion schools](#) on January 16, 2014 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 17, 2014. **In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2014, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call their home school office and request an Office Index Card - short version.** The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to your [designated French Immersion school](#) to register between January 17 and February 14, 2014. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrolment information or to pre-register.

Families registering students who do not currently attend a YRDSB school will need to complete [full registration paperwork](#) at their designated FI school. Information required for registration includes:

- Proof of child's age (Birth Certificate/Passport)
- Any legal documents related to custody arrangements if applicable
- Proof of Residency of the student - two documents, one from each of the categories below showing the home address;
  - Category A - notice of tax assessment, current rental/lease agreement, agreement to purchase including proof of purchase provided before the pupil attends the school, or property tax bill, and
  - Category B - utility bill, driver's license, bank statement or other official document.

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. 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](#).

## You Are The Chef Program

### You're the Chef—Sharing Our Experience—Students' Perspective

Our experience was an amazing cooking adventure that let us make/bake various healthy meals. We have learned to make Breakfast, Snack, and Lunch while being supervised by experts. We had made food like pancakes, parfaits, fajitas, pasta, bruschetta, banana muffins, strawberry crisps and smoothies. We also learned some kitchen vocabulary e.g. dice, spoon, slice, chop, mash, etc. It was a great experience and it gets us involved at home with our friends and family, especially during the holiday season.



By Andy, Hanika and Suruthi. J



Thank you to Mrs. Lowry who organized and ran the You Are the Chef program for our students. It was a fun and rewarding time for all of the participants. The students were very proud of their culinary efforts and the food tasted great! Perhaps one day we will see one of our students with their own culinary



## New After School Program—Glee Musical

The City of Markham is offering an after school program at Markham Gateway for students who are interested in musical theater. The program is available for up to 12-14 students in grades 3-5 and runs for 8 weeks every Thursday starting on January 30th to March 27th. The program costs \$48.00 and is delivered by the City of Markham Recreation Services in partnership with Markham Gateway P.S. If you are interested in having your son/daughter attend, please have him/her pick up a registration form from our Main Office. Registration closes January 13th, 2014. If you have any questions, please call the school at your convenience.



### After School Programs

The City of Markham Recreation Services  
Department in partnership with  
Markham Gateway Public School presents....

### Glee—Musical Theatre Afterschool Program Grades 3—5



The City of Markham Recreation Services Department offers numerous recreational opportunities for you and your family. We are pleased to now offer you an opportunity to enjoy our programs at your local school.



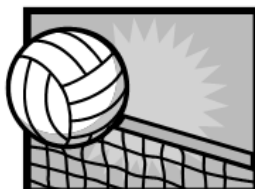
## Girls Volleyball @ MGPS

Go Titans Go!

What a remarkable season! The Titan girls practiced diligently four times a week. Throughout the season, skills improved and lasting friendships developed. We learned to move the ball, plant our feet and get our serves over the net consistently. But most of all, we learned to cheer each other on when times got tough. We won most of our exhibition games against Cedarwood and Ellen Fairclough but Parkland proved to be our biggest challenge. During the Area Tournament at Armadale, we won two of our pool play games. These wins were incredibly exciting! Although we lost our other games, we certainly put forth our best effort and showed tremendous spirit. Way to go Titan Girls!

A special thanks to all the parents who helped drive to and from all our games and tournaments. Our final celebration (Ice cream at McDonalds) was a sweet ending to a great season.

Congratulations to all our team members: Namrah, Gauri, Amavi, Nicole, Inthuja, Gayathri, Joey, Joellyne, Srilekha, Aatsana, Karshana, Julia and Cynthuja



## Thursday Afternoon Community Drop-In

Parents, grandparents and guardians are invited to drop in on **Thursday afternoons from 2:15-2:45 p.m. in the staffroom**. Come for a cup of tea and talk about the issues that are important to you and your children. Many great resources are available to borrow including:



- Literacy kits (with reading and writing materials)
- Picture books and parenting books
- Board games to promote language and math literacy skills

Mrs. Heather Lowry and Ms. Sarah Kolar will be available to answer questions and find resources to support you.

**Hope to see you there!**

## Hour Of Code

During the week of December 9-13, several classrooms at Markham Gateway participated in the world-wide Hour of Code. Together with almost 21 million students around the world, our students learned about the computer science for one hour and the process of



**The Hour of Code is here.**  
Join millions to learn for one hour.

writing a computer program. The students also learned about some of the most famous computer scientists of our times and how they started out—by writing simple computer programs. Thank you to Mr. Yoshiki for organizing the event and training his students to act as facilitators to our other students as they worked through their online experience. We hope we have planted the seed of curiosity in our students and have opened pathways for future computer programmers to have had their start at Markham Gateway PS!

## Boys Volleyball at MGPS

This year the intermediate Titan boys' volleyball team had a great season and they played tremendously well. During the season the boys showed a lot of teamwork and determination and this allowed them to be successful both on and off the court. The boys' team had their ups and their downs but a lot more ups than they had downs. In the area tournament the boys played great and ended up beating Milliken, Highgate and Unionville but fell short against Willclay and Aldergrove by only a couple of points. Even though the Titan boys didn't make it to the semifinals, everyone was proud of their great play. Special thanks to Mr. Yoshiki and Mrs. Kolar for coaching the team, and to all the staff and students at MGPS for their support. Also, a big thanks to the players for making MGPS proud. Go Titans!  
By: Vithun Arumathurai, Team Co-Captian

## Forest of Reading Program Takes Root at MGPS

The Ontario Library Association organizes an annual reading program for school and public libraries. The elementary school age selection of books are collated and make up collections in 3 categories—or forests (blue spruce, silver birch, and red maple forests)! Each forest has a collection of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, and all of the authors are Canadian. Markham Gateway has registered to participate once again in this fun and engaging reading program, where students get to read as many of the titles as they wish, and then vote on their favourite in each forest. This voting across the province results in the selection of award winners from each category. Over the years, many great titles have been awarded the coveted Forest of Reading award for best book in its category. Some of Canada's greatest authors have been among the recipients. Starting in January, students can register to participate and select books to read based on their age and reading levels. After students have read a book, they will find one of the staff who are acting as guest readers and have his/her Forest of Reading Passport signed, verifying that they have read the book. This allows them the right to vote in April for their favourite book. The winner from each category from across the province is announced in May. We look forward to this fun reading initiative. Thank you to Mrs. Kleiner for organizing this great event.



### **The Blue Spruce™ Award**

(JK - Grade 2 picture books)

The Blue Spruce™ Award program brings recently published Canadian children's picture books to children between the ages of 4 and 7 (junior kindergarten to grade two). For many children, this is their first introduction to the world of books.

This program promotes reading for enjoyment and begins to develop a child's skill in evaluating a picture book based on story, text and pictures.

**AWARD GIVEN: Festival of Trees™ in Toronto in May**



### **The Silver Birch® Award**

(Grades 3-6 fiction, non-fiction)

The Silver Birch® Award is comprised of three separate lists: Fiction, Non-fiction and Express. Our Express list is made up of both Fiction and Non-Fiction titles, and is geared to the more reluctant reader. The Silver Birch® program is meant for readers aged 8 to 12, (grades 3-6,) with the Express list (see below) typically suited to readers in grade 3 and 4.

**AWARD GIVEN: Festival of Trees™ in Toronto in May**



### **The Silver Birch® Express Award**

(Grades 3-4 fiction, non-fiction)

**AWARD GIVEN: Festival of Trees™ in Toronto in May**



### **The Red Maple™ Award**

(Grades 7-8 fiction, non-fiction every other year)

The Red Maple™ Award reading program is offered for the enjoyment of students ages 12 to 13, in Grades 7 and 8. This program includes a Fiction list every year and every other year Red Maple also offers a Non-Fiction list. This program aims to get readers engaging in conversation around the books and encourages them to use critical thinking while reading.

**AWARD GIVEN: Festival of Trees™ in Toronto in May**