



PRINCIPAL
GARY YOUNG

VICE PRINCIPAL
KURT CHIN

**SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS**
ERIK KHILJI

SCHOOL TRUSTEE
JUANITA NATHAN

Important Dates

- Dec 01 - Milne trip Gr. 7
- Dec 2 & 3 - Milne Trip Gr. 4
- Dec 12 - School Council Meeting @ 6 pm.
- Dec 17 - JK/SK trip to Ripley's/ Winter Dance (Gr.6 - 8)
- Dec 10 & 17 - Pizza Lunch.
- Dec 18 - Spirit and Character Assembly @ 1 : 10 pm.
- Dec 21, 15 - Jan 01, 16 Winter Break

Courtesy

Cooperation

Consideration

Commitment

December 2015

Message from the Administration

It was a pleasure meeting and speaking with some of you during our recent Parent-Student-Teacher interviews and student led conferences. Listening to how your child is progressing within their programs and activities, hearing about some of the planned goals that have been shared with the teachers, and getting feedback from the family's perspective on the school experience as a whole – these are valuable conversations to have and provide us with opportunities to plan for next steps. Thank you so much for sharing these positive messages and engaging in constructive dialogue with the entire staff. We greatly appreciate your commitment and dedication to your children and support of their learning, achievement and well-being. Please note that Elementary Progress Reports will be sent home on December 11th.

Our school continues to be a vibrant learning environment and much of that is attributed to the staff who contribute to extra-curricular activities and to the willingness and engagement of the students who decide to get more involved in their school. The Student Council continues to add energy and fun to our school assemblies and through their

various Spirit Days and student-led events. Within this newsletter you will find further details about the activities of the Student Council. The School Council remains a dedicated group of parents who are able to co-ordinate fundraising initiatives and activities that benefit the entire school. The next School Council meeting will be held on December 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the conference Room 104. All parents are invited and welcome to attend. Please also be on the lookout for a letter about an opportunity to donate to the school through the School Council. Funds raised by the School Council will be incorporated into our school's fundraising plan. A direct benefit to students through fundraising would be the purchase of additional technology which can enhance student learning.

We have noticed that our traffic flow, especially during busy drop-off and pick-up times, has been more manageable and safer for all. Thank you for slowing down, and following the expectations and directions of the adults on duty, to ensure everyone's safety. As a reminder, please continue to move forward in the Kiss 'n Ride lane nearest the curb, and if you do need to leave your vehicle for any reason, find a parking spot in the lot or in one of the spaces in front of the school. Safety is a shared re-

sponsibility and we thank everyone for their attention to this matter.

Other safety information for parents and students can be found in the Board's "Guide to the School Year, 2015-2016". This booklet was distributed to each student at the beginning of the year. In particular, our Caring and Safe Schools policies and procedures (#668, pages 62-63) outline the student responsibilities and progressive discipline approach that is administered when a student has committed an infraction. All students are duly reminded that possessing a weapon, or replica weapon, is a significant infraction and will be disciplined accordingly.

We would like to wish everyone a relaxing, safe, festive and wonderful holiday with your family and friends and look forward to our continued partnership in the New Year.

Next School Council **Thursday, Dec 10th, 2015**

6:00—7:00 pm in the Library

Council Executive 2015-2016

Lisa Volpe-Brehaspatt—Chair

Ratna Muralitharan—Treasurer

Hema Alageson—Secretary





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Message From Our Trustee

It is that time of year when our schools brim with energy and excitement for the many diverse celebrations taking place across our region. I am always happy to join the festivities happening in our schools and appreciate the efforts of our students, staff and community members to bring the holiday season alive.

As we wind down 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and guardians for their support of our students and staff over the past few months. A school community is only as strong and welcoming as the people who make up that community. Our students, staff and community members have continued to demonstrate respect, character and commitment in their work and interactions over the last few months. As a trustee, I consider myself very fortunate to work with such supportive community and staff members.

On behalf of all of the trustees and staff of the York Region District School Board, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

All the best for 2016!

Parent Workshop Tomorrow

Have you registered for our parent workshop on Digital Literacy? You can simply register by visiting <https://goo.gl/DObUhZ>. The session will take place on **Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015** from 6:30-7:30pm at MGPS. The workshop will discuss online tools your child is using at school so you can ensure your child is using the internet safely at home. Childcare is available.

Pizza Lunch Dates



Thursday, December 10th

Thursday, December 17th

(Winter Break Special)

Thursday, January 21st, 2016

Me to We Holiday Food Drive

Did you know...

"Thirteen percent of Canadians live in a state of food insecurity, which means they do not have reliable access to adequate amounts of safe, good-quality, nutritious food. The root cause of hunger in Canada is low income, which consistently affects more than four million of us at any given time. Food banks are an important method of addressing this need. Each month, over 850,000 people turn to food banks for help; more than one-third are children and youth. The people who visit food banks come from all backgrounds. They include families with children, employed people whose low wages do not cover basic living essentials, individuals on social assistance, and Canadians living on a fixed income, including seniors and people with disabilities."

<https://www.foodbankscanada.ca/Hunger-in-Canada/About-Hunger-in-Canada.aspx>

This year, the Me to We Team at Markham Gateway will be collecting healthy non-perishable items between **Wednesday November 25th and Friday December 11th** for the **Markham Food Bank**.

Examples of healthy non-perishable food items include:

- dried beans
- spices
- rice
- canned tomatoes
- canned vegetables & fruit
- dried milk powder

And the list goes on... J

Let's work together to make positive change in our community!

The Me to We Team

Message from Student Council.....

Student Council strives to make sure every student has a voice and is having a safe, fun, school year. We hope the beginning of the year has been a great experience so far for all students, staff, and families! A few of the Spirit Days we celebrated were Blue Jays Day to support their recent run in the playoffs, Twinsie Thursday where you can dress up as twins, triplets, and even quadruplets with your friends. We also dressed in blue to support awareness about bullying last Friday.

Some upcoming events Student Council will be working on are Movember Monday on Monday, November 30th - we hope to see a lot of our students and staff wear moustaches that day! As well, we'll begin selling Candy Grams next week where students can buy a special treat for their friends, siblings, family members, or that special someone. Student Council will also be presenting our Winter Pause and Play, an event where students can stop to have fun with their classmates while competing in silly and fun obstacle courses and games! Lastly, our grade 6 to 8 students will get to partake in our annual Winter Dance with a live DJ, dance competitions, and prizes. Finally, Student Council would like to wish all of the families in our community a very happy holiday season. We're excited bring more Spirit Days, school-wide competitions, and initiatives to you all in 2016!

Thank you,
Student Council

News from the Markham Gateway Parenting and Family Literacy Centre

It's Holiday Time in the PFLC!



Please join us in Room 127 for the following Special Events:

Art @ the Centre – Paper Sculpture – December 7th

Pot Luck Party – December 17th

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**



Positive Parenting TIP



As the weather starts to get colder, it's natural to want to bundle up and stay indoors but according to the *2015 ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth*, the biggest risk to our children's health and well-being just might be keeping them bundled up inside!

After conducting two systematic reviews of the best available scientific research, the Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research Group at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario along with 13 other organizations concluded that:

“Children who engage in active outdoor play in natural environments demonstrate resilience, self-regulation and develop skills for dealing with stress later in life.”

“Outdoor play that occurs in minimally structured, free and accessible environments facilitates socialization with peers, the community and the environment, reduces feelings of isolation, builds inter-personal skills and facilitates healthy development.”

For more information, please go to <http://www.participaction.com/report-card-2015/report-card/>