



MGPS Newsletter



Home of the Titans



FEBRUARY 2014

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IMPORTANT DATES

- 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
- Feb 27—Junior/Intermediate Winter Activity Day
- Mar 6—Primary Winter Activity Day
- Mar 6—Primary Movie Night
- Mar 7—PA Day; no school
- March 10—14—March Break
- April 18 & 21—Holiday
- May 26—June 5—EQAO Grades 3 & 6

HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

- Feb 4—Vasant Panchami
- Feb 17—Family Day
- Feb 26—Intercalary Days
- Feb 28—Mahashivaratri

Principal's Message

YRDSB Launched New Mission, Vision, and Values

On Wednesday, January 29, ten of our students were invited to attend, along with students, staff, parents, and community members from around the board to the launch of York Region District School Board's renewed Mission, Vision, and Value (MVV) statements. Our Director, Ken Thurston, Anna De-Bartolo—Chair of the Board, and our Student Trustees presented during this energized event at Richmond Hill S.S. It is important to note that our mission, vision, and values guide our daily work and planning to improve student achievement and well-being

across the board, in all of its schools and work places. Ms. Kolar accompanied our students to the launch, and spent an afternoon watching and listening to student performances, dignitary speeches,

Together with the renewed MVV statements, available at <http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=MVV00001> YRDSB also launched a new motto that encompasses the spirit and direction of these renewed statements; Inspire Learning! Our work ahead, guided by our renewed MVV, will truly inspire learning for all!



and enjoying some light refreshments. Our students enjoyed the experience and we are proud to have been one of five schools in our area invited to attend. For more information about the event, please visit <http://www.yorkregion.com/photogallery/4341042/>

Next Parent Council
February 20, 2014
6:00—7:00 pm in the Library

Council Executive 2013
Lisa Volpe-Brehaspatt—Chair
Ratna Muralitharan—Treasurer
Elaine Bernard—Secretary



Safety First—Parking Lot

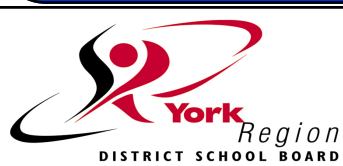


Our number one priority is always the safety of our students and staff. With the colder weather, we have been experiencing issues in our parking lot, especially at the end of the school day. It's important to remind all of our parents and guardians of the safety rules that govern the use of our parking lot. Please ensure that these rules are in place to sup-

port a safe entry and dismissal from school for our students and staff. We also want to remind families that **students should be encouraged to walk to school**, even in inclement weather. This promotes healthy living, supports our Eco Schools initiatives, and encourages social interactions with peers, friends and neighbours.

Parking Lot Rules

1. Maximum speed is 20 km/hr.
2. Do not park in **Fire Route** areas .
3. Only drop your child(ren) off in the Kiss n' Ride lane.
4. Drive to the **front** of the Kiss n' Ride area when entering.
5. Do not park in the Kiss n' Ride lanes
6. Do not leave your car **unattended**.
7. Do not **block** the flow of traffic by parking in drive-throughs or lanes.
8. Use only assigned parking spaces to park your car.
9. Be respectful of others and be safe.



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

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



Thinking of Volunteering?!!!

Research shows that one of the top contributors to student success is parent partnerships with their child's school. We value all the ways our parents participate at Markham Gateway from being part of School Council, to helping organize pizza lunches to attending field trips and more! If you are thinking of volunteering at the school please drop by to see Ms. Ishtiaque in the office. We welcome your involvement!

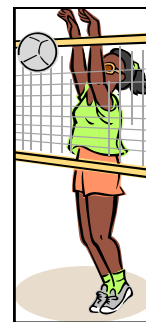


Junior Girls Volleyball Team @ Wilclay

The Titan's Junior Volleyball team had an amazing time at the area tournament held at Wilclay Public School on Wednesday February 29. The effort and confidence we put forth during our game truly showed the skills we have. We had two great wins against Coppard Glen P.S. and Aldergrove P.S. but we lost in a tight game to Armadale P.S. and Unionville Meadows P.S. Even though we didn't make it to the semi finals, we learned a lot from each game we played and it was a great experience. Each player on our team did a really great job of showing what they learned at practice and demonstrated outstanding character. A special thanks to our coaches Mr. Yoshiki, Mr. Whitestone, and Mrs. Gowans who encouraged us to play well and the staff and students who cheered us on. We couldn't have done it without them!

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

- Karshana, Grade 6



Forest of Reading Program at MGPS

Our Forest of Reading Program has started and has inspired many students to come out and join. The program requires students to read a selection of fiction and non-fiction texts written by Canadian authors, and then to vote on their favourite. Students all across Ontario participate in this engaging program, and the books selected by the students are awarded coveted Forest of Reading Award Winner status. Students can still join our Forest of Reading Club, and are asked to Mrs. Kleiner in the Library.



"Forest of Reading is a really fantastic reading program! It helps to improve your reading a lot and if you don't like reading, you will start to enjoy it with all the exciting books we have. If you are not part of the Forest Club you are missing a lot of fun! You still have until April to read so it's not too late to join! You can come see Ms. Kleiner in the library today!"

-Zarah Baloch - Grade 4 - Mrs. Chowdhury's class

Character Awards for January—Fairness

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded a certificate to recognize their efforts in demonstrating **Fairness** within our school community. Each month we will recognize students' efforts to model our monthly character traits. Congratulations to: Rabiya, Satpartap, Sambavi, Arangan, Lacshiea, Shafee, Taymoor, Sumaiya, Manahil, Moiez, Simar, Sufyaan, Faraz, Angelina, Ethan, Hibah, Ashley, Thayanika, Mayuran, Nicole, Lina, Mustafa, Dilakshana, Aayan, Kyle, Rida, Brahith, Tia, Samia, Uzzam, Shivangie, Adam, Swathi, Amira, Aziz, Arooj, Nashita, Zayd.

Parent Family Literacy Center (PFLC)

News from our Parenting & Family Literacy Centre

Do you have a child who will be starting Full Day Kindergarten in September 2014?

You can help make the transition into school easier for both you and your child by visiting the Markham Gateway Parenting and Family Literacy Centre any day that school is open.

Here you and your child can become familiar with the school building. You can get to know the school staff. And your child can have a chance to try out the toys and equipment s/he will be using next year.



Come and meet a Kindergarten Educator at the Markham Gateway Parenting and Family Literacy Centre!

You're invited!

Where: Markham Gateway P.S. - Room 127

When:

- Thursday March 6 — 9:00 — 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday April 8 — 9:40 — 10:10 a.m.
- Tuesday May 13 — 10:50 — 11:20 a.m.
- Wednesday June 11 — 9:40 — 10:20 a.m.

Snacks Provided
No Registration Needed

Parenting and Family Literacy Centres
Markham Gateway

If you have any questions about Full Day Kindergarten, please come and talk with a Kindergarten educator on the dates listed to the right.

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



Long Canadian winters can be stressful for parents and children according to the experts at The Psychology Foundation of Canada (www.psychologyfoundation.org). Children need sunlight and fresh air to stay physically and mentally healthy, and all it takes is dressing warmly in layers and heading outdoors for some time each day whenever possible. If the temperatures are too cold for outdoor play, there are also lots of ways to be active indoors. You can put on some lively music and get everyone dancing. You can put an old mattress on the floor and let the children jump on it like a trampoline. Or you can create an obstacle course in the house by having the children crawling under chairs, over couches and through tunnels made from blankets. So what's the secret to surviving long Canadian winters? ... Staying active both indoors and out!

Girls Basketball Team—A Dream Come True!

For the past few years, some Gateway girls have dreamed about having their very own basketball team. This January, we were determined and extremely hopeful that our dreams would finally come true. Everything that we have been waiting for has finally arrived - we have our very own basketball team!

Congratulations to our amazing team members: Jennifer, Laiba, Hajera, Amavi, Gaurii, Namrah, Iman, Agetha, Inthuja, Maheen, Thevanthi and Emily.

With practices, games and tournaments starting, we are set to begin our first season together and we are so proud to represent our amazing school - Markham Gateway. During our first game at Cedarwood, you could see sweat dripping, our hearts pounding and our cheers filling the gym as we focused on one simple thing - the basketball. Dedication and passion helped us win our first game and we are looking forward to the games ahead as well. Working together as a team showed us that victory, whether it is small or big, doesn't come easy. All this wouldn't be possible without our coaches, Mr. Armoogam, Ms. Forsywezski and Mrs. Gowans. They have helped improve us individually but also as a team. We have a lot of work ahead of us but we are ready. Bring it on!

- Written by Hajera, in Grade 7/8, Mr. Yoshiki's class

It's like I said, it isn't what you do with the shots you make, but the ones that don't go in. The rebounds.

-Eric Walter

Way to go Titans!



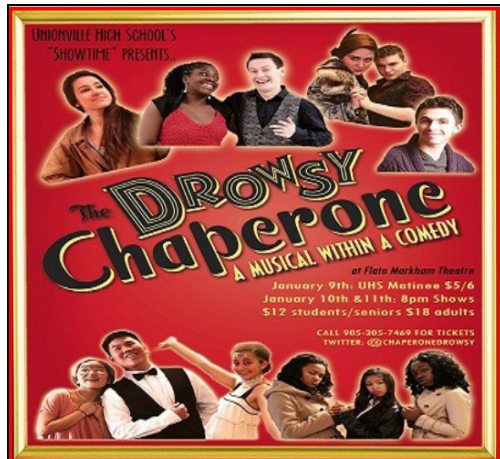
Community Board

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.



Students Go to See *The Drowsy Chaperone*

On January 10th, the grade six, seven, and eight students of MGPS went to Unionville High School to see a musical performed by some of the students there. The musical, called “The Drowsy Chaperone”, takes place in the 1920’s and is about a man who is obsessed with musicals. Every day he puts on his favourite musical *The Drowsy Chaperone* and imagines the whole thing playing out before him. He explains that it’s about a showgirl (named Janet Van de Graff) who throws away all her fame and fortune to marry an ordinary man. On the wedding day, the couple goes through some problems and Janet ends up cancelling the wedding. They work out their problems, however, and by the end of the show there’s not only one wedding, but three of them! Some of their wedding guests also fell in love while helping them! This trip was for Drama class and was meant to help the students understand the different aspects of performing on stage. The students enjoyed the trip and were very impressed. Since it was the first time most of them had actually seen a musical, they were very curious about all the practice it took to put on such a wonderful play. We made sure to ask the actors questions during the “Q and A” session and complimented them on their great performance. The students were very entertained and many of them hope to have more trips like this in the future.



-Sarah Ahmed, Grade 6, Mr. Armoogam’s class

Grade 1s & 2s Go to See *Dino Light*

Our Grade 1s and 2s visited the Flato Markham Theatre on Wednesday, January 29 to watch a performance of *Dino Light* by the Lightwire Theatre Group. The students had a great time and were engaged by the “electroluminescent creature light up in the darkness in a heart-rendering tale.”

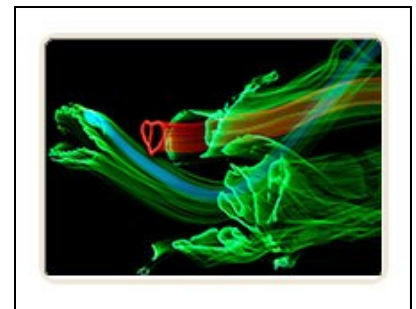
Dino Light by Sumaiya

On Wednesday, January 29, 2014, all the grade 1s and 2s went to Markham Theatre to watch *Dino Light* to learn how to tell stories in different ways. First we took the bus to Markham Theatre. Then we went inside the theatre to watch the play *Dino Light*. Next, we sat down on the chairs, and after the lights turned off the show began.

The play is about a scientist who went to explore the dinosaurs and becomes good friends with a nice dinosaur. Then he goes to get a bone but by the time he comes back the dinosaur is gone! The man thought the he died so he was really sad. Next, the bad dinosaur came and he was eating all of the animals! He ate a baby dino! At the end the bad dinosaur was trying to eat the man, but the good dinosaur came and the good dinosaur and the bad dinosaur fought with star wars sticks! I laughed a lot I thought it was really funny. After the bad dinosaur died and the man and the dinosaur lived happily just like how they were before.

After, the play was over and we got ready and took the bus back to school. I liked the play a lot. I wish I could watch it everyday!

Recount written by
Sumaiya, Grade 2,
Mrs. Cheung’s class.



Staffing Models for MGPS for 2014/15—Parent Input

We have begun the process of planning for next year. Each year the school board provides each school with projected student enrolments for the following year. These projections are based on actual enrolments this year, together with historical mobility demographics from our school community, and ask that we create a school model based on these projections. In developing this model, we are required to follow Ministry, YRDSB, and ETFO guidelines that indicate class sizes for Kindergarten, primary and junior/intermediate divisions. We are then given a staffing allocation based on the projected enrolment and guidelines. With the total number of staff and students determined for the year, the Staffing Committee creates models of what the school will look like—how many straight and split grade classes based on our defined numbers. If you are interested in participating in this process, please call the school to let us know, as we are organizing parents to also create a school model based on our numbers.

Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament at MGPS

On Tuesday January 21st, our Junior Co-ed Titan Volleyball team hosted an invitational tournament involving four teams from our area. Our team played some of their best volleyball this season and finished second in round robin play. Our team advanced to the championship final against a strong team from Armadale Public School. Unfortunately, we lost in the final to this talented team but we gained valuable experience in preparation for our area tournament on January 29th. Huge thank-yous go to our Titan Athletic Council who helped officiate and sell snacks for this tournament. We wish our Titans best of luck in our Area tournament at Wilclay Public School.



Me 2 We—Making a Difference in Our World

In the month of December, the Me to We had been raising awareness about Typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines and how the country was affected by this terrible disaster. The Me to We team wanted to help out in some sort of way. We heard that the Canadian government would double any donation. We asked for donations around the school, and with everyone's help and generosity, we were able to raise **\$1,361**. As a result, we were able to donate \$2, 722 to the Red Cross to help people who have been affected by Typhoon Haiyan. Way to go Me to We Team!!!



This past month the Me to We team decided to sell buttons for \$2 for the **We Are Love** campaign, to help kids around the world. All of the proceeds will go towards helping kids in developing countries. On the buttons there are quotes about love and how it helps those in need. For example, some of

the buttons says things like We Are Love, Love is Learning and Love is Growing. Throughout the year we have had a lot of success with our Me To We campaigns, and we hope that all of our students and their families will continue to support this great cause.

Me To We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and generosity!

Fostering Confidence Presentation

On Thursday, January 23, we welcomed Shymala Kiru to our Parent Council meeting to present to us way to foster confidence in your child. The informative and helpful session taught us that confidence is not something we are born with, but something we develop over time and through experience. It is an attitude that we learn. We also know that anxiety plays a major role in lowering our level of confidence, so reducing anxiety has a meaningful impact on developing confidence. Parents play a crucial role in this development, and during the presentation Shymala provided a toolbox of strategies to help develop confidence in your child.

Confidence Building Toolbox

1. **Start talking**—create open channels of communication between yourself and your child—sit down at least once a week and talk.
2. **Affirm effort, not outcome**—we can control our effort, but we cant control the outcomes.
3. **Share responsibility**—be aware of when you are over-functioning for your child and when they are under-functioning. Children are capable of a lot more than we allow them to do or to be responsible for. Having your child assume responsibilities develops confidence.
4. **Be self-aware**—parents must model the behaviour we want for our children—if the parent is confident, the child has a role model.
5. **Seek Feedback**—ask your child for feedback about your parenting style and use the feedback to inform you're the way you parent.

Student Council Updates

The Student Council has had a great start to the year and are continuing to plan fun events for the school. We had many spirit days and activities so far in the first 5 months of school, and are looking forward to having more. Some of the spirit days we have had already are Pajama Day, Moustache Day, Wear Blue Day to prevent bullying, and Twin Day. In October, we also had a pumpkin carving/ decorating contest that each class participated in. We concluded 2013 by having a Holiday Mingle and Jingle where students got into the holiday season by playing holiday games and enjoying holiday treats. We also hosted the Winter Dance for students in grade 6, 7, and 8.

To kick off 2014, we decided to go bright and have Neon Day as our first spirit day of the new year. We are also selling candy grams for Valentine's Day, and look forward to helping out with Winter Activity Day coming up at the end of February. Thank you to all of the students and staff for showing their school spirit. We look forward to a stupendous rest of the year!

Junior/Intermediate Winter Activity Day

Our students told us that one of the events they missed most last year was the Winter Activity Day. We heard their voices and have organized the second annual Winter Activity Day for Thursday, February 27th. The idea for the day is to provide students with an opportunity to experience a winter activity that they might not normally participate in on a regular basis. We are offering skiing, tubing, skating and for those who can't go outdoors, bowling. Students are excited and look forward to this fun and active day. A list of the planned outdoor activities are as follows;

Downhill Skiing—enjoy a one hour skiing lesson and equipment rental at Lakeridge Ski Resort. Afterwards, enjoy some free time skiing on a hill appropriate for your assigned level. Helmets are provided as a part of the cost.

Winter Tubing—enjoy a day of tubing at Lakeridge Ski Resort. This fun activity promises lots of laughs and good times with friends. Helmets are provided as a part of the cost.

Skating—Enjoy a day at Harbourfront's Natrel Skating Rink with friends. Skates rental and helmet are included in the cost.



Grade 3s Swim To Survive

The Grade 3s were given an opportunity to go to Milliken Mills Community Center to learn how to swim to survive in the water. We learned lots of moves. There were lots of teachers that were so nice. They taught us front crawl, back crawl, and how to dive. We had lots of fun.

-Written by the students in Mrs. Kurien's Grade 3 class



Community Class Visits Science Centre

I went to the Science Centre with my class on Friday, January 24, 2014. Our teacher Mrs. Koumarelas and Mr. Morgado went there with us. I went to the rain forest, space room, and also the science arcade. I felt surprised and overwhelmed—I felt I was in real space! I played inside a cave with my friends like a cave-man. I also played in the ball factory. I had lots of fun and I am looking forward to visiting the science centre again.

-Written by Zahin C., student in Mrs. Koumarelas' class



Parent Talk—Winter/Spring 2014 Workshop & Webinar Schedule – York Region

| Workshop # | Location | Address | Room | Day | Dates | Time |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------|----------------|
| All prices include HST | | | | | | |
| Raising Cooperative, Respectful Children & Parenting Without Anger (condensed) Sat. Workshop \$65/person \$115/couple | | | | | | |
| Woodbridge | | | | | | |
| 1Y | Pierre Berton Resource Library | 4921 Rutherford Rd (at Islington) | Boardroom | Saturday | Feb. 15 | 12:00 – 4:00pm |
| Markham | | | | | | |
| 2Y | Markham Centennial C.C. | 8600 McCowan Rd (N of Hwy 7) | Pool Training Rm. | Saturday | Apr. 5 | 1:00 – 5:00pm |
| Aurora | | | | | | |
| 3Y | Aurora Public Library | 15145 Yonge St. (at Church) | Lebovic Rm | Saturday | Apr. 12 | 12:00 – 4:00pm |
| Richmond Hill | | | | | | |
| 4Y | Loyal True Blue & Orange Home | 11181 Yonge St (N of Elgin Mills) | Room B13 | Saturday | May 31 | 12:00 – 4:00pm |
| Parenting Without Anger & Building Your Child's Self-Esteem (both condensed) Sat. Workshop \$65/pers. \$115/couple | | | | | | |
| Markham | | | | | | |
| 5Y | Markham Centennial C.C. | 8600 McCowan Rd. (N of Hwy 7) | Pool Training Rm | Saturday | Feb. 22 | 1:00 – 5:00pm |
| Aurora | | | | | | |
| 6Y | Aurora Public Library | 15145 Yonge St. (at Church) | Lebovic Rm | Saturday | Mar. 1 | 12:00 – 4:00pm |
| Woodbridge | | | | | | |
| 7Y | Pierre Berton Resource Library | 4921 Rutherford Rd. (at Islington) | Boardroom | Saturday | Apr. 26 | 12:00 – 4:00pm |
| Raising Cooperative Respectful Children (cnds) & Building Your Child's Self-Esteem Sat. Workshop \$65/pers.\$115/couple | | | | | | |
| Richmond Hill | | | | | | |
| 8Y | Loyal True Blue & Orange Home | 11181 Yonge St. (N of Elgin Mills) | Room B13 | Saturday | Mar. 29 | 12:00 – 4:00pm |
| Woodbridge | | | | | | |
| 9Y | Pierre Berton Resource Library | 4921 Rutherford Rd. (at Islington) | Boardroom | Saturday | May 10 | 12:00 – 4:00pm |
| Markham | | | | | | |
| 10Y | Markham Centennial C.C. | 8600 McCowan Rd. (N of Hwy 7) | Pool Training Rm | Saturday | May 24 | 1:00 – 5:00pm |
| Raising Cooperative Respectful Children Saturday Workshop - \$65/person \$115/couple | | | | | | |
| Aurora | | | | | | |
| 11Y | Aurora Public Library | 15145 Yonge St. (at Church) | Lebovic Rm | Saturday | Feb. 8 | 12:00 – 4:00pm |
| Markham | | | | | | |
| 12Y | Markham Centennial C.C. | 8600 McCowan Rd. (N of Hwy 7) | Pool Training Rm. | Saturday | Mar. 22 | 1:00 – 5:00pm |
| Parenting Without Anger Saturday Workshop - \$65/person \$115/couple | | | | | | |
| Richmond Hill | | | | | | |
| 13Y | Loyal True Blue & Orange Home | 11181 Yonge St. (N of Elgin Mills) | Room B13 | Saturday | Feb. 1 | 12:00 - 4:00pm |
| Richmond Hill | | | | | | |
| 14Y | Loyal True Blue & Orange Home | 11181 Yonge St. (N of Elgin Mills) | Room B13 | Saturday | Jun. 7 | 12:00-4:00pm |
| Building Your Child's Self Esteem One evening workshop - \$40/person \$70/couple | | | | | | |
| Richmond Hill | | | | | | |
| 15Y | Loyal True Blue & Orange Home | 11181 Yonge St. (N of Elgin Mills) | Room B13 | Thursday | Feb. 27 | 6:30 -- |

8:30pm Register Online at www.practicalparenting.ca

For other payment options, please call 905-508-5240 or e-mail parenttalk.ca@gmail.com

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