

# Markham Gateway

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Home of the Titans



**PRINCIPAL**  
**GARY YOUNG**

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**VICE PRINCIPAL**  
**KURT CHIN**

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**SUPERINTENDENT**  
**OF SCHOOLS**

**ERIK KHILJI**

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**SCHOOL TRUSTEE**  
**JUANITA NATHAN**

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## Important Dates

- Feb 11- School Council Meeting @ 6 pm.
- Feb 12 & Feb 25 Pizza Lunch
- Feb 16 - Gr. 8 Graduations Photo day
- Feb 18 - Report Cards go home
- Feb 26 - Spirit and Character Assembly @ 11.10 am.

**Courtesy**

**Cooperation**

**Consideration**

**Commitment**

**February 2015**

## **Message from the Administration**

It is hard to believe that we have reached the halfway point of the school year. As we transition to Semester Two of our school year, teachers will be providing an assessment update to students and parents through the distribution of the First Provincial Report Card which will be sent home on February 18. These reports, as outlined in the Ministry of Education's **Growing Success** Policy, reflect student learning to date. Please note that student achievement of curriculum expectations, as well as learning skills, will be included on the report card. Teachers will also be sharing next steps for learning for each student to assist students, parents and teachers in working collaboratively to improve student achievement. We ask that you take the time to discuss the report card with your child(ren) in order to plan effectively for the second semester of the school year. Please do not hesitate to contact your child(ren)'s teacher for any further clarification or guidance.

The staffs at Markham Gateway Public School continues to work with students and community to provide a rich and engaging school experience. We have many extra-curricular activities and events planned for students.

It is important to encourage our students to participate in activities that extend their school experience beyond the classroom. We also invite parents and community members to participate in the life of our school community wherever possible. A reminder that our next School Council Meeting takes place Thursday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 104. This will be followed by the second in a series of parent engagement sessions planned for this school year. The presentation, based on the input from a survey conducted earlier in the year, will provide information related to the assessment and reporting process. This information session will begin immediately after the School Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in our school library.

Our winter weather this year has been unusual and unpredictable. Although we have had very little snow, this may change at any time. We ask for parent support by ensuring students have appropriate and sufficient clothing to keep them warm and dry when we are outside during recess and lunch. Unless it is extremely cold or dangerous due to icy conditions, we will be outside during recess and lunch. In addition, please partner with us by reminding your children that snow cannot be thrown at other people and to respect the snow creations of other students. It is important that everyone recognize and

accept that, in order to ensure everyone's safety, we cannot allow snowball throwing at school.

We realize that traffic and pedestrian safety is an often repeated message in our newsletter but it is critical that EVERYONE follow the rules of the road and parking lot. It is important that everyone drives SLOWLY when entering and exiting our parking lot or drop off area. Please remember to observe and follow signs and the direction of staff on duty. Drivers should always pull forward as far as possible when dropping off or picking up and this should only be done in the curb lane. Safety is a shared responsibility and we need everyone's help in this matter.

## Next School Council

Thursday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

6:00—7:00 pm in the Library

## Council Executive 2015-2016

Lisa Volpe-Brehaspatt—Chair

Ratna Muralitharan—Treasurer

Hema Alageson—Secretary



**Inspire Learning!**



## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration has begun for the 2016-17 school year. Children born in 2012 are eligible for junior kindergarten this September 2016. Children born in 2011 and are currently attending public school are eligible for senior kindergarten in September 2016.

### Documents that are required for registration are as follows:

Proof of child's age - Birth Certificate, if born in Canada.

- Passport, Permanent Resident Card of the child and parents if child is born outside of Canada.

### **Proof of Residency :**

If you own:

- ♦ Purchase Agreement
- ♦ Town of Markham Tax Bill/Utility Bill

If you rent:

- ♦ Landlord/Tenant Lease Agreement



Applications cannot be accepted without these documents . For further information please call the school.

\*\*\*\*\* Please note that hand written letters will not be accepted \*\*\*\*\*



## Pizza Lunch Dates



**Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> , 2016**

**Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> , 2016**

## ECO NEWS!

Guess what? We have saved over 16,000 plastic water bottles since we started using our water bottle refilling station! We will begin 'Wasteless Wednesdays' again, starting in February. All waste will be taken back home on Wednesdays, so that we can become more aware of the waste we create. Please pack all food and drinks in reusable containers. This will help our school become more eco friendly! Students will be encouraged to take home organic scraps so that they can be put into home green bins. Stay tuned for more information about how you can buy your own reusable water bottles and snack bags. Together we can make a difference!





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Message from our trustee

Although winter still feels far from over some days, we are now halfway through the school year. With report cards coming home, this is a good time to review progress and celebrate what your children have learned both inside and outside of the classroom. This is also a good time to set goals for the months ahead.

One of our goals set out in the Board of Trustees' [Multi-Year Plan](#) is to "continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning." Developing this supportive culture includes engaging parents/guardians and other members of the school community in public education and working together to create safe and supportive school environments that enable students to thrive.

As parents/guardians, there are many ways you can get engaged in your child's education and support their learning, including talking with them about school, communicating with teachers, attending school events or school council meetings, and volunteering in the school. However you get involved, know that you are making a difference.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish you all the best an enjoyable and successful second term.

### **Fast Family Program**



# News from the Markham Gateway Parenting and Family Literacy Centre



## Start School Today!

Children who are going to Kindergarten in September can start school today by coming with an adult to the Markham Gateway Parenting and Family Literacy Centre. This program is designed to help children and their families gain a sense of comfort with school by:

Seeing what a Kindergarten classroom looks like

Learning with Kindergarten materials and equipment

Playing with other children

Participating in story, music and gym times

Chatting with a Kindergarten educator on Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.



## Positive Parenting TIP

### A Winter Wonderland of After School Activity

“Canadian winters offer a host of play opportunities for kids. When properly dressed and sufficiently hydrated, kids can enjoy hours of outdoor playtime” according to Kelly Murumets, former CEO of ParticipACTION.

In a 2013 article entitled, *Keeping Kids Active Through a Long Winter*, Kelly writes that “Kids naturally play more during daylight hours – time which is often spent in the classroom or finishing schoolwork at home.” To maximize the shorter amount of daylight available during the winter months, Kelly recommends getting outside and taking advantage of the sunlight for playtime right after school while saving homework for the darker hours after dinner.



To read this article, please go to [http://www.participaction.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ActiveKids\\_FHwinter2013.pdf](http://www.participaction.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/ActiveKids_FHwinter2013.pdf)

## **Additional Elementary and Secondary P.A. Days**

As a result of provincial labour negotiations, a P.A. Day has been added for all York Region District School Board **elementary** schools on **Friday, May 6, 2016** and secondary schools on **Friday, June 3, 2016**. You can see the full updated school year calendars on YRDSB's [website](#).

These additional P.A. Days are mandated by the Ministry of Education. On these dates, teachers will be taking part in professional development on provincial education priorities identified by the Ministry of Education.

## **ATTENDANCE—SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM**

Ensuring the safety of our students is our priority. Our Safe Arrival Program is in place so that we can account for the whereabouts of absent students. It is for this reason that we ask all parents to inform us their child's absence. Where it is possible, we ask that this is done in advance. Call the school at 905-472-3303 and leave a message on the answering machine or with the school secretary. If you have not informed the school of your child's absence in advance, the following steps, in this order, will be executed by the school to ensure your child is safe:

### **PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE SCHOOL HAS YOUR CORRECT PHONE NUMBERS**

1. We will call your home.
2. If we do not reach you at home, we will call your work and/or cell phone.
3. If we cannot reach you at work, we will call your emergency contact number.
4. If we are not able to obtain information from your emergency contact regarding your child's whereabouts, we will speak to a sibling if one is in the school or check with a friend of your child.
5. Should we still not be able to obtain information on your child's whereabouts, we will consider your child **MISSING** and we contact **York Regional Police**.

