



January 2015



Markham Gateway News

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"On Common Ground"

Courtesy

Cooperation

Consideration

Commitment

Message from the Administration

Dear Markham Gateway Families,

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had a relaxing and happy break, doing the things we enjoy that promote our positive well-being! Well-being is an area of health that is gaining in attention and focus. As you are aware, we as a school are committed to increased academic achievement for each student. Research shows that academic performance relates to a student's sense of personal well-being. For optimal learning to occur for any of us, it is important that we feel understood, healthy, safe and accepted. The emotional component of learning holds potential for assisting students to improve their academic achievement. We encourage our students to speak to teachers about how they are feeling at school. All of the staff members at Markham Gateway are committed to the personal well-being of our students and are most willing to address concerns students may have. As we reflect on the past year, and set our many goals for the New Year, it is important to keep in mind goals for our physical and mental well-being. Dr. Shefali Tsabary (author of *The Conscious Parent*), reminds us to really "see" our children for who they are, which includes their strengths, their interests and their areas for growth and improvement. Your conversations with your children about their strengths and needs helps them develop the crucial aspect of self-awareness and metacognition needed to set and achieve realistic goals. As we begin 2015, many classes are setting goals and resolutions for the remaining months of school and will be doing so again when Term 2 begins on February 3rd. We encourage you to talk to your children about what their academic and social goals are, and invite them to share what plans they may be developing to reach those goals. Asking them from time to time how they are doing with their goals would be a great way to help them stay on track and support and encourage them as well.

Mr. Young, Principal

Ms. Ishtiaque, Vice-Principal

FOOD ALLERGIES and CELEBRATION TREATS

In our school community, we have students with severe and life-threatening allergies. While nut/peanut allergies are the most known allergens, other common allergies are to shellfish, seeds, berries, insect bites, dairy (milk, eggs) and others. We also have numerous students with faith-based, dietary and health related food requirements.

In order to keep all our students safe from allergens, as well as to accommodate for dietary needs, we strongly ask you to **avoid sending any food that is not for your own child.** Peanut and nut products should not be sent to school. Please ensure that you check labels carefully.

When celebrating special occasions, **please do not send food items.** Stickers, pencils, and erasers are examples of acceptable alternatives.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of our students and staff who have life-threatening allergies.

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 16, 2015

Kindergarten registration will commence on January 16, 2015 for the 2015-16 school year. Children born in 2011 are eligible for junior kindergarten this September 2015. Children born in 2010 and are currently attending public school are eligible for senior kindergarten in September 2015.

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

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 *****

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our school council meeting is January 8th from 6pm to 7pm in the school library. All community members are welcome.

Character Matters at Markham Gateway!

Every month at Markham Gateway we host our Spirit and Character Assemblies. We gather together as an entire school from Kindergarten to Grade 8, to show school spirit by singing our school song, celebrating accomplishments and recognizing good character. We also have important messages presented from our student groups such as Student Council, Me to We and our Eco-Team. Parents are always invited to attend all assemblies. The dates for the remainder of the year for Spirit and Character assemblies are as follows:

January 9th – 8:30am

February 5th – 1:00pm

March 6th – 11:00am

April 7th – 1:00pm

May 1st – 11:00am

June 11th – 8:30am

News from the Markham Gateway Parenting and Family Literacy Centre

**DANCE, READ, CREATE and LEARN
FOR 15 MINUTES OF FITNESS & FUN**

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



DANCE PARTY



To celebrate
Family Literacy Day

PLACE: Markham Gateway P.S.

DATE: Tuesday January 27th

Snow Date – January 28th

TIME: Drop in between

10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.



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

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

Outdoor sports like tobogganing and ice skating are wonderful ways to spend time together as a family on a sunny winter afternoon. To help keep our children safe, Parachute Canada, a national non-profit organization dedicated to preventing injuries and saving lives, emphasizes wearing the right gear for the right sport and having equipment that fits well and is in good condition. While helmets prevent skull fractures, brain contusions, lacerations and blood clots in and around the brain, they do not prevent concussions. For more information, please go to <http://www.parachutecanada.org>

Student Council- January Newsletter Update

Dear Families,

It's 2015! Student council wishes you a Happy New Year and hopes staff, parents and students had a fun winter break! My name is Saada Patel. As the Minister of Communication I will be writing about all of the fun activities and events student council has organized in the past month(s) in the monthly newsletter. You will also get to know about the exciting ideas we will bring to life for the school in the upcoming month!

So far... This school year started off with 4 thrilling months! After the election, we hosted our first spirit day, Fandom Friday! The school also had a great Halloween as we all got together for our Pumpkin Carving Contest and Pause and Play. On the 12th of November Titans celebrated I Woke Up Like This Wednesday! And soon, the month of November turned into *Movember* since males grew mustaches for a good cause. Mustache Day was held at the end of the month. Then came the holiday season, the time of giving. Giving... candy grams! During the course of 2 weeks, the school bought hundreds of cookies and candy grams that went to someone else in the school. To celebrate the end of 2014, student council hosted our Winter Dance in the gym. The dance included entertaining activities such as the lipsinging, hula hooping and Michael Jackson dance moves contest! Students also had the option of going to the games room, which featured a movie and fun games. Students in grade 6, 7, and 8 had a spectacular time!

Coming Up... As you can see, our school year is off to a great start, but with a new year, we have some new, fun and exciting spirit days coming soon! Our annual **Jersey Day** will take place on **Friday January 9th, 2015**. Students, feel free to wear Jerseys and clothes representing one of your favourite sports teams, or even Titans!

Know what else is coming up? Valentine's Day! Which means we are selling candy grams! Buy a candy gram for someone special this February!

Well Titans, there's a lot more coming up! Stay tuned for more updates in the newsletter, on our bulletin board, in assemblies, and during the morning announcements. If you have any ideas you would like to recommend to us, feel free to speak with any of the student council executives or advisors Ms. Lee and Ms. Kolar.

Sincerely,
Saada P
Minister of Communication



Forest of Reading is Back!

We are very excited that our school is participating again in the **Forest of Reading 2015** program, which is Canada's largest recreational reading program for children and youth! *Forest of Reading* is a voluntary reading program which is designed to promote reading for enjoyment and to increase awareness of quality Canadian literature.

This is how the program works...for each age group, there is a list of ten books by Canadian authors. Readers must read a minimum of five books to be eligible to vote for their favourite book. They may read their books independently or with a family member or friend. At the end of April, readers will vote for their favourite Canadian title. Based on voting across the country, the best book will be announced and the author will be honoured with a special award!

Here is a list of the various *Forest of Reading* programs that MGPS is participating in: **Blue Spruce** (Kindergarten to Grade 2), **Silver Birch Express** (Grades 3 and 4), **Silver Birch Fiction and Non-Fiction** (Grades 5 and 6), and **Red Maple Fiction and Non-Fiction** (Grades 7 and 8). All K-2 classes will be involved in Blue Spruce by having different staff members (guest readers) visit the classes and read the books aloud to them. For grades 3-8, interested students are invited to come to the library during scheduled meetings the **week of January 12-16** to hear about the program and choose their first book! There are also many guest readers throughout the school who have read the books in the Silver Birch and Red Maple programs. Once a book has been read, they will be asking students questions about the book and signing their tracking sheet.

Please encourage your child to join one of the *Forest of Reading* programs! Come see Ms. Kleiner in the library for more information. Happy reading everyone! J

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 School Council 6pm	9 Spirit and Character Assembly 8:30 am	10
11	12	13	14	15 MCI Parent information Night 6:30 pm - 8 pm.	16 P.A Day Kindergarten Registration to Commence	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Pizza Day 	30 Dental Screening JK/SK, Gr. 2, Gr.4 and Gr. 8	31

You're the Chef at MGPS December 2014

‘You’re the Chef’ is a cooking program through York Region Public Health. It gave us the opportunity to cook amazing multiple items and learn basic cooking skills. We had lots of fun while learning about the Canada Food Guide and making easy nutritious recipes. We learned how to sauté, chop and bake. We also learned new vocabulary!

Our favourite recipe was the “Breakfast Parfait”. Overall, in this three session time period, we learned many techniques, so that we can get cooking and preparing foods by ourselves!

Steven, Vasi, Dipansh, Mukarrama, and Umme

