

# Markham Gateway

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## Home of the Titans



### PRINCIPAL

**PAUL BATTLER**

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### VICE PRINCIPAL

**DALIA OSMAN**

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### SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

**CAMILLE LOGAN**

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### SCHOOL TRUSTEE

**JUANITA NATHAN**

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### Important Dates

- Feb 06 - Winter Walk Day
- Feb 13 - Report cards go home
- Feb. 18- Family Day - no school
- Feb 27 - Student Success Assembly - 8:30 am
- Feb 28 - Pizza Lunch.
- March 11 - 15 March Break



Happy Valentine's  
Day

Courtesy

Cooperation

Consideration

Commitment

## Message from the Administration

It is safe to say that winter has arrived! Unfortunately, extreme weather conditions have made it challenging for everyone to safely get to and from school. So much snow fell last week that the snowplow needed to pile it on the north side of the parking lot, resulting in the loss of about 12 parking spaces. This created a challenge for staff and families as we did not have enough spaces to accommodate the number of people who were looking to park. As a result, many people had to park on the road. The volume of snow has also made the roads in front of the school narrower, and snowbanks make it difficult for cars to pass each other if a vehicle is trying to turn into the school parking lot. This has led some to unsafe driving practices, as well as traffic jams during our end of day dismissal. To help with this problem, we ask vehicles to turn right (instead of left) out of the school parking lot if traffic is clearly not moving. This will allow other cars to get into the parking lot and help to keep traffic moving. While it may be inconvenient to turn right and circle back to your home, it is the only way to keep the traffic flowing.

We received a phone call from the City of Markham late last week informing us that our current pick-up procedures at the end of the day violate codes related to fire routes. The loop in front of the school is a designated fire route, meaning cars can only stop temporarily to drop people off and cannot stay stopped for any period of time. Even if you are sitting in your car with it running, you are violating the code. As a school, we have never encouraged people to show up before the end of the school day and park in the fire route. Our only goal has been to try to make sure our students get picked up safely every day. The city has asked us to inform the community that they will be ticketing anyone who is stopped in the fire route at any point during the day. We are currently reviewing our pick-up procedures, but please be aware that you could get a ticket if you choose to sit in your vehicle in front of the school. The city said we can continue to use the parking lot area for pick-up, so we are reviewing what that will look like. We will share the updated procedures once we have a clear idea of what they will look like. The city continues to recommend that families walk to school, or find legal parking nearby then walk the short distance to pick up their children.

On a final weather-related note, we consider the outdoor temperature, wind chill and footing conditions and try to get our students outside for short breaks when it is safe to do so. It is essential that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the weather. Winter boots are necessary. We highly recommend that students also wear snow pants. Hats, gloves/mittens and scarves help keep our children warm and comfortable during our outdoor times. Please make sure your child comes dressed appropriately for the weather every day.

(Admin. Message Continued)

As usual, M.G.P.S. has been busy and engaging, with many daily exciting activities and learning opportunities for our students. Since returning from winter break, we have learned about and celebrated Tamil Heritage in a variety of ways. We look forward to doing the same soon with African Heritage and the Lunar New Year. As a school and a community, these learning opportunities are important to us as we strive to promote a sense of belonging in all our students. We work to ensure they see themselves reflected in what they learn throughout the school year.

A variety of teams, clubs and activities have also run every day. Our co-ed junior volleyball team recently completed their season and placed fourth out of 12 at the Area Tournament. Our intermediate boys and girls basketball teams have been playing other schools in preparation for upcoming area tournaments. The intermediate chess team has also been preparing for their area tournament. We are sending junior and intermediate teams to the YRDSB Lego Mechanics Challenge and intermediate students will represent our school at the board's Poetry Slam. Our grade 5 and 6 students are participating in the Slapshot Program.

The Blue Spruce, Silver Birch and Red Maple Reading Clubs are meeting regularly and enjoying the many new books purchased as part of the Forest of Reading Program. Students in grades 1 through 4 have been playing house league soccer and the grade 5 and 6 students have been playing house league basketball at morning recess. The intermediate students are soon starting house league floor hockey during lunch recess. All of these wonderful opportunities happen at M.G.P.S. thanks to the dedication and commitment of our incredible staff. We deeply appreciate the time they have spent and the dedication they have shown in organizing and running these co-curricular opportunities. We are extremely fortunate at M.G.P.S. to have such an amazing staff!

The Term 1 Report Cards will be sent home on February 13th. This is an excellent opportunity to see how our students are progressing and set goals as we move into the second term. As always, please don't hesitate to communicate with your child's teacher if you have any questions related to their progress.

## **Kindergarten Registration**

**We are pleased to announce that you can register your child for [Kindergarten ONLINE](#).**

Kindergarten registration has begun for the 2019-20 school year. Children born in 2015 are eligible for Year 1 kindergarten this September 2019. Children born in 2014 and are currently attending public school are eligible for Year 2 kindergarten in September 2019.

### **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
- ◆ Bank statement/Utility Bill

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



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

# FOREST OF READING 2019



Dear Families,

We are very excited that our school is participating once again in the **Forest of Reading 2019** 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.

Here is a reminder of how the program works: for each grade group (K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8) there is a set of ten books (fiction and non-fiction) written by Canadian authors. Readers must **read a minimum of five books** to be eligible to vote for their favourite book at the conclusion of the program. Students 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 most favourite book and author will be honoured with a special award at the Festival of Trees!

The *Forest of Reading* programs that MGPS is participating in are: **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 students will be involved by having the picture books read aloud to their class by different staff members (office staff, caretaking, teachers, etc.) – and this year we have four student guest readers too! For the grades 3-8 programs, interested students have already signed up over the last couple of weeks and most have already completed their first book (and many have even read multiple books so far)! As of now, we have **over 70 student readers in grades 3 to 8** and the numbers are increasing daily! There are also many Guest Readers (staff and students) in our school for the Silver Birch and Red Maple programs.

For more information about the Forest of Reading programs as well as access to many resources [click here](#). If your child hasn't joined yet, please **encourage her/him to join – it's not too late!**

Happy reading everyone!

Ms. Kleiner



# Let's Talk Day at MGPS!

On **Wednesday, January 30th** it was **Let's Talk Day** and all the staff and students at MGPS were fortunate to take part in this important day! Everyone wore a Let's Talk sticker to show their support to end the stigma of mental illness, and we had an informative presentation in the gym that was put on by our Healthy Schools Titan Team.

Did you know that 1 in 5 Canadians will experience a form of mental illness at some point in their lives? Many people living with a mental illness report that negative stereotypes about mental illness and discrimination cause them more suffering than the illness itself. As a result, two thirds of those suffering from mental illness are too afraid to seek the help that they need. Mental illness affects people of all ages and from all walks of life. It can take many forms, including depression, anxiety and mood disorders. Most individuals find ways to live with their illnesses but how they are treated by others often proves to be more of a challenge than the illness itself.

That's why we at MGPS joined the conversation around mental health on Let's Talk Day, and as a school we were challenged to continue these conversations moving forward, at school and at home. All students and staff also had to write a positive mental health message or a message about how to end or break the stigma. These messages are posted around the school.

Families, you are encouraged to begin your own conversations about mental health at home. Please join us as we work together to break down the stigma that surrounds mental illness!



## Math Questioning

Using effective questions when talking about math supports the development of your child's mathematical reasoning. The use of questioning provides children with opportunities to share and clarify their ideas, draw conclusions, and explain and explore new strategies. With good intention, we often rush to provide our children all the information they need to solve a math problem. By giving your child this information too quickly, they may not think deeply about the problem or engage in [mathematical processes](#).

Here is a list of questions you can ask to support your child's mathematical thinking:

How did you solve the problem?

- What did you do?
- What strategy did you use?
- How did you estimate what the answer could be?
- What would happen if ...?
- Tell me what is the same? What is different?
- How do you know?
- How did you know where ...?
- How did you know which ...?
- How did you know when ...?
- How do you know your/our answer is reasonable?
- Would this work every time? Can you/we think of any examples that don't work?
- Have you/we found all the possibilities? How do you/we know?
- What have you/we discovered about \_\_\_\_\_ while solving this problem?
- What have you/we learned?

### **Activities:**

**Primary/Junior - [Math Before Bed](#)**

Show your child an image and ask them, "What do you notice? What are you wondering about?". This promotes mathematical thinking - and then you can have them investigate one of their wonderings and come up with a solution. What a great time to ask them the questions above to really uncover what they are thinking!!



What do you notice?

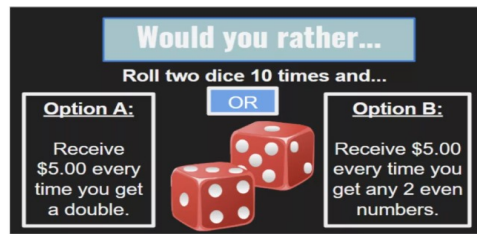
What do you wonder?

(Image and problem taken from <https://mathbeforebed.com/2018/04/26/broken-cracked/>)



### Junior/Intermediate - [Would You Rather Math](#)

On this site, there are a variety of scenarios that your child will be able to make a choice and use reasoning skills to justify their mathematical thinking.



### Would You Rather...

*Whichever option you choose, justify your reasoning with mathematics. h/t @hallumclass*

Whichever option is chosen, justify your reasoning with math!

(Image and problem taken from <http://www.wouldyourathermath.com/dice/>)

### Pizza Lunch Dates

**The pizza is available for purchase through School Cash Online ONLY.**

**It is available for purchase from Feb 6th to Feb 24th 2019.**

Thursday Feb 28, 2019

Thursday March 28, 2019

Thursday April 25, 2019

Thursday May 30, 2019

Thursday June 20, 2019



# HEALTHY EATING, HEALTHY MINDS

We know that healthy eating is good for a healthy heart, but did you know that good nutrition is also good for a healthy mind?

Choosing whole, unprocessed foods and including vegetables and fruits with every meal and snack may improve mood, alertness, concentration, performance, memory and the ability to acquire knowledge. It will also improve symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression in [adults and children](#).

Choose more of the following foods for a healthy mind:

Vegetables and fruit, particularly dark green and orange vegetables and fruit  
Whole grains like oatmeal and barley  
Milk or fortified soy beverages, yogurt or other fermented foods  
Beans and other legumes  
Fish and lean meats



Healthy eating for mental health isn't just **what** you eat; it's also about **how** you eat! Planning, cooking and enjoying meals with family and friends, and teaching your children to cook, promotes social and emotional connections, which can help build positive mental health.

## 'HOW' WE EAT CAN IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH

Eating healthy foods can contribute to positive mental health, and so can **how** you eat. Eating behaviours, such as how often you eat meals together and involving children in meal preparation builds social connectedness and valuable cooking skills. These behaviours contribute to more resilient children and improved mental health.

Boost your children's mental health:

- Slow down and take time to sit, relax and enjoy good food together
- Recognize when you are hungry or full to guide when you eat
- Trust your child to decide **which foods** and **how much** to eat
- Eat together with family and friends more often
- Involve the whole family in meal preparation
- Teach children how to cook
- Feel good about what you eat



### Public Health

1-877-464-9675

TTY 1-866-512-6228

[york.ca/healthyschools](http://york.ca/healthyschools)





## Students of the Month



At the Student Success Assembly on January 31<sup>st</sup>, the character trait of “**Fairness**” was highlighted. The following students were recognized for their positive contributions to school life.

K1A Ms. Azar	Deepthika T, Muqueet S.
K1B Ms. Jaichi	Karson P, Joanna D.
K1C Ms. Grisanth	Bilal M, Bisma A, Rattan P.
Gr.1/2A Ms. Hayat	Maheen M, Jessica C.
Gr.1A Mr. Lovatsis	Yousaf Q, Sivaprian R.
Gr.2/3A Ms. Luke	Fatima S, Vikasni T.
Gr.2A Ms. Cheung	Anam B, Aswinn K.
Gr.3A Ms. Skilling	Benny Y, Ali H.
Gr.3B Ms. Ranta	Owen P, Dilraj M.
Gr.4A Ms. Kitchen	Muawiz L, Yunis Q, Eisa A.
Gr.4/5A Ms. Kurien	Priscilla K, Mahanoor K.
Gr.5/6A Ms. Chowdhury	Nimasha N, Darren Y, Anita D.
Gr.5A Ms.Gowans/Mr. Thakur	Fareeha A, Sambavi B, Hanna K.
Gr.6A Mr.Whitestone	Haajirah T, Shafee K.
Gr.6/7A Mr. Hasan	Nithyan S, Thurka B.
Gr.7A Ms. Venamalla	Muneeba S, Jathuushaa K, Lindusan K, Wilson Y.
Gr.8A Ms. Sanders	Sahaj J, Bravin P.
Gr.8B Mr. Armoogam	Uzzam I, Linda L.
Gillespie, Sheri	Ivan C.
Koumarelas, Soula	Nika Z.

**Congratulations to all! Keep showing that  
Titan spirit!**

**The character trait of Integrity will be highlighted in the month of February .**