October 2014

Markham Gateway News

30 Fonda Road, Markham, Ontario L3S 3X3
Ph: (905) 472-3303  Fax: (905) 472-5536

"On Common Ground"

Message from the Administration

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In the few short weeks we have been back at school, Markham Gateway students have been busy with wonderful learning both inside and outside the school!

~ Our school held our Annual Terry Fox Walk on September 24th. Students showed their spirit by wearing blue and silver and walking for Terry through the community. Many of our students have also raised money to continue Terry's quest to find a cure for cancer. Well done!

~ Student Council Elections took place last week and our students ran terrific campaigns, replete with posters and speeches. Each of the candidates showed tremendous initiative, school spirit as well as a willingness to take a risk going by through the election process. We are proud of all the candidates and we send our sincere congratulations to the successful candidates! We are looking forward to working with the students to ensure that the voice of our students is heard and honoured.

~ Students in Grade 2, 4 and 7 have attended YRDSB’s Milne Outdoor Education Centre students where they explored a 120 hectare urban wilderness that contains a remarkable diversity of plants and animals. Milne's hands-on educational programs are connected to expectations of the Ontario Curriculum and provide students with the opportunity to learn in outdoor settings.

~ Students have also begun participating in many extra-curricular activities such as Slapshot Hockey, Cross-Country Running, Volleyball, ECO Team, Peace Club, Me2We Team and more! All of the opportunities are made possible by our dedicated and committed staff who provide enriched experiences for our students that enhance their academic learning as well as support their social and emotional growth and development.

We are looking forward to the months ahead and are eager for all of our students to experience academic success this school year. One of the key factors that influence student achievement is the amount of time students spend reading. We encourage students to read every day. Family members play an important role in developing literacy skills for students of all ages. Young students acquire reading skills when an adult helps them understand the reading process through daily practise. When young children are read to, they learn much about how reading works. Older students benefit from hearing more difficult texts when an adult reads to them. All students develop the ability to understand what they have read by discussing text and making connections between what they have read and their own personal worlds. Oral conversation about a variety of topics increases our students’ abilities to make sense of the reading that they do. Using a first language or second language such as English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil and Urdu can also enrich the learning. Research also shows that when students see their parents reading on a regular basis they develop a positive attitude towards literacy. We can never underestimate the power we all have to advance the skills of the children in our lives!

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.

---

**Morning traffic**

Parents familiar with morning traffic know just how congested it can be in the morning in front of the school and in the drop off loops in the parking lot. Thank you to all our families for their diligence and care in observing safety guidelines, driving slowly in our parking lot and extending courtesy to other drivers.

We strongly encourage students to walk to school. This supports both our Healthy Schools focus and our ECO/environmental focus. If you are driving and have a young child that you are walking to their door, please park your car in the parking lot. If you are using the designated driveway loops to pick up or drop off your child, please do not leave the car or wait in the loop at any time. **PLEASE DRIVE ENTIRELY THROUGH THE LOOP. Do not stop your car in the middle of the loop as this causes traffic to block up.**

There are three lanes of traffic in the front loop. The Kiss N’ Ride lane is the one CLOSEST to the school. Vehicles should use the lane directly next to the curb, to drop off students. This will be the ONLY drop off lane. Children should not be exiting the vehicle on the driver’s side between the two lanes of traffic as this is very dangerous. Your child should be exiting in the lane closest to the school and exiting out the passenger side of the vehicle so that he/she is stepping on to the sidewalk. If you are using the kindergarten loop, please drop off your child using the Kiss N’ Ride lane ONLY and ensure children are exiting on the passenger side of the vehicle.

Thank you for your support in ensuring student safety is first!
News from the Markham Gateway
Parenting and Family Literacy Centre
Special Things Are Happening in the Markham Gateway PFLC!

Thank you to all the families who came to visit the PFLC in the month of September. We hope you will continue to come and have fun playing, singing, and learning together with Carlene, the Markham Gateway Parent Worker. Special events this month include:

Visit from Public Health Nurse – Thursday October 30th
Costume Party and Parade – Friday October 31st

The Parenting and Family Literacy Centre is a place where you can bring your children (0-6 years of age) to play, learn, sing, read and explore together every morning from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. that school is open. Everyone is welcome!

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
To get ready for winter, we often do extra cleaning around the house. Special caution is needed when cleaning products are in use and possibly in reach of our children.

Your child can be poisoned by common items found in the home such as prescriptions, over the counter medicines, vitamins, plants, alcohol, makeup, cleaning supplies, batteries and magnets.

Always keep these items locked up and out of reach. In case of an emergency, Ontario Poison Center’s number is 1-800-268-9017.

Source: www.preventchildinjury.ca

Conversation Café (1:45 pm to 2:45 pm)
At Markham Gateway P.S. we are delighted to build partnerships with our families to help their children be successful in school. We have two sessions planned for parents for the months of October and November.

Thursday, October 16th: We will be answering many of your questions about our school: homework policy, diagnostic testing, and how to set up your child to be successful!
Thursday, November 13th: We will have a session on Healthy Lunches and how to make sure your child gets the proper nutrition on a vegetarian diet.

At all Conversation Café events, you have opportunity to sign out resources including, books, games and literacy kits. Sign out is for one month. All parents, grandparents and guardians are welcome. Please feel free to bring younger children and babies. Child care is available. If you have questions or require further information, please contact: Mrs. H. Lowry, or Ms. S. Kolar or speak with our MGPS Parent Ambassadors.
Students of the Month

Character Awards for September - Respect

The following students were recognized for their positive contributions to school life and for “Living the Touchstone”.

JK/SKA Ms. Khan Sheza, Muhammad.
JK/SKB Ms. Callahan Aleema, Anas.
JK/SC Ms. Azar Muawiz, Saaru.
SK/Gr.1A Ms. Bourne Rida, Sahar.
Gr.1A Mr. Sumit Elackia, Jacob.
Gr.1/2A Ms. Foryszewski Zainab, Haajirah.
Gr.2A Ms. Cheung Ibrahim, Meerab.
Gr.2/3A Ms. Luke Vinusha, Rishika.
Gr.3 AMs. Ranta Muneeba, Sumaiya.
Gr.3/4A Ms. Skilling Mahdi, Eshal.
Gr.4A Ms. Kurien Sahil, Aiman.
Gr.4/5A Mr. Lovatsis Saad, Joyce.
Gr.5A Ms. Chowdhury Shivangie, Harshit.
Gr.5/6A Ms.Gowans Sufya, Joel.
Gr. 6A Ms. Venamalla Joshua, Jasleen.
Gr.6/7A Ms. Sanders Renee, Affan.
Gr. 7A Mr. Armoogam Rameesah, Ajanthan.
Gr.8A Mr. Witetstone Agetha, Gurveer.
Gr.8B Mr. Hasan Hasan, Srilekha.
Ms. Koumarelas Callum

Congratulations to all! Keep showing that Titans spirit!
Student Council

On Friday September 26th our new student council was elected. Our new executive are:

Prime Minister – Raiq.
Deputy Prime Minister - Hasan.
Minister of Communication – Saada.
Minister of Leisure – Amavi.
Minister of Health – Parmeet.
Minister of Culture – Joey.
Minister of Environment – Srilekha.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fall photos KG - Gr.8.</td>
<td>Me To We Slapshot Hockey School Council Meeting. (6 pm. in Library)</td>
<td>Day of Hajj</td>
<td>Eid-ul-Adha Yom Kippur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gr. 8 Seneca Trip</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gr. 6 VIP</td>
<td>Slapshot Hockey Bus Evacuation</td>
<td>Gr. 8 Seneca Trip Bus Evacuation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td>Gr. 7 &amp; 8 Immunization</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gr. 6 VIP</td>
<td>Slapshot Hockey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peace Tree Conference</td>
<td></td>
<td>Slapshot Hockey Diwali</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PA DAY (No School)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dental Screening</td>
<td>Slapshot Hockey Pizza Lunch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>