

MAZOVILLE NEWS

March 2015

Principal: Michael O'Reilly

Vice-Principal: Linda Taglieri

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Phone:

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Superintendent:

Dianne Hawkins

Trustee:

Martin Van Beek

Administrators' Message

Looking back on the month of February, we realize how many wonderful accomplishments our students have achieved. From the Poetry Slam / Spoken Word competition to the Intermediate Girls Basketball pennant, our students have much to be proud of. March is gearing up to be another busy month at Mazo. We are looking forward to our "Carnaval", and the week-long activities planned by Student Council. There will even be an appearance or two by le Bonhomme Carnaval himself. Our Junior Choir will participate in the Voices for Africa concert, while our Intermediate Band will perform at the Music Alive competition.

We are also very excited to announce that you can follow all of this excitement on our Twitter feed @MDLRPS. We will be posting events and everyday activities on Twitter for parents and students to see the learning that is happening at school on a daily basis. This will give you a glimpse into a day in the life of our Mazo students and all of the wonderful academic and extra-curricular activities that occur.

Our character focus for the month of March is perseverance. It is important as parents, that we remember that our children need to struggle and learn from their mistakes. While it is natural to want to protect them, it is equally essential to their growth and development that they learn how to keep trying when a task becomes difficult. As well, fostering this attitude among our students will help them to develop their growth mind-set, a belief that skills and abilities can be developed over time, as a result of hard work. Perseverance and growth mind-set go hand-in-hand, since students need to develop resiliency and recognize that they will achieve their goals if they keep trying. Here are some tips:

- When your child says, "I can't do this!" you can respond with "You can't do it, yet. Keep trying, you'll get there!"
- Don't express your perceived inability to your child (e.g., "I was never good at math."), instead phrase it in a way that shows your own determination to figure it out (e.g., "Math is difficult, but I figured it out.")
- Talk to your child about their own accomplishments or those of specific athletes, musicians, authors, etc., that they admire. For example, Michael Jordan didn't quit when he was cut from his grade 11 basketball team. He persevered and the rest is history. We can achieve these great accomplishments by practising, over and over again.

We are looking forward to another month of learning and growing.

M. O'Reilly et Mme Taglieri

P.A. DAY MARCH 13

MARCH BREAK

March 16-20



Mazo is now on
Twitter! Please follow
us for updates
[@mdlrps](https://twitter.com/mdlrps)

RAINBOWS PROGRAM

Based on interest, we are looking to implement a *Rainbows Program* at Mazo during lunch recess. The program helps children to deal with grief, loss or separation. Children will be part of small groups that are designed to help participants express their feelings in a safe environment. The groups will be led by a trained adult facilitator who guides each discussion as a loving listener. Topics such as: self, belonging, feelings, family changes, coping, and transitions will be addressed. For more information please visit www.rainbows.ca.

Voices for Africa

Our Junior Choir is excited about performing at York Region Board's fundraiser in support of The Stephen Lewis foundation on March 4.

Enjoy the experience, choir members!

EARTH HOUR

On Saturday, March 28 from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm join with communities from across the world and celebrate a commitment to the planet by switching off non-essential lights for this one designated hour. We will participate Earth Hour at Mazo on Friday, March 27.



Mazo Carnival

We will be celebrating the Mazo Carnival during the week of Monday, March 2nd to Friday, March 6th. We will have Spirit Days every day during this week, and on Friday, March 6th all Mazo students will participate in outdoor winter activities. We hope the weather will cooperate! Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for cold weather on this day as he/she will be spending about an hour and a half outside. We are looking forward to a fun-filled day!

Area Basketball

The Intermediate Girls Basketball team played in their Area tournament on Friday, February 20th at Sir William Mulock Secondary School. With outstanding talent, tremendous team work and powerful determination, they were victorious in every game they played! Undefeated, the girls brought home another pennant to decorate our gym walls. Felicitations les filles! Quel accomplissement merveilleux! Way to go Girls! On to Regionals!

Regionals will be held Tuesday, March 10 at Bill Crothers S.S. with a start time of 9:00 am.

Spirit Days

Monday, March 2nd- Tuque and Scarf Day

Tuesday, March 3rd- Pajama Day

Wednesday, March 4th- Red & White Day

Thursday, March 5th- Jersey or Sports T-Shirt Day

Friday, March 6th- Crazy Hat Day and Outdoor Winter Activities

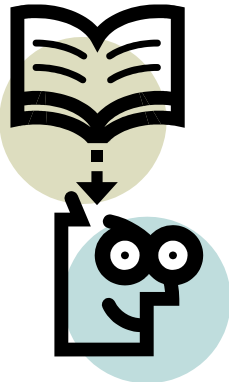


A Parent's Guide To Good School Attendance

School can be a wonderful time in the life of a child. It is a time for learning and for developing friendships. Children begin to develop lifelong habits and skills. Getting to class on time and avoiding absences are critical, if your child is to get the most out of school.

What can you, as a parent, do to help ensure your child's regular attendance?

Getting to school – every day and on time – is very important. Learning occurs daily, right from the start of class at 8:00 am (remember our announcements begin around 9:53 am). By establishing routines early on (i.e. by being punctual and responsible) children acquire positive habits about school attendance. Some other things to consider:

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- If children are late arriving to school, they miss important social time with their peers before school begins.
 - Students who are late often feel embarrassed or self-conscious.
 - Late arrivals disrupt the routine of the classroom.
 - A last-minute rush can be stressful for the child, and get him/her to school in the wrong frame of mind.
 - Missing even five or ten minutes of the day can make it harder for a student to understand the material being taught.
 - Frequent absenteeism leads to gaps in a child's skills and knowledge base and can cause the child to fall behind peers and decrease self-esteem.

FOSTERING RESPONSIBILITY AND INDEPENDENCE IN OUR CHILDREN

As we teach our students to be independent and responsible we need to ensure that they are included, and for older students, responsible, for the preparation of:

- The preparation of their lunches,
- pre-arranging transportation for after school,
- making sure all their homework is accounted for,
- ensuring you have looked at/signed their agenda,
- putting their musical instrument with their backpack,
- gathering all other items necessary to bring to school the next day

If they have forgotten something at home please ask yourself "will they still learn without that item". This helps create a more independent child allowing them to remember items necessary for the day ahead. If it is absolutely vital to the learning environment they are allowed to call home and ask for it.

Let's work together!

Just a Reminder...

Please ensure an extra set of plastic utensils are packed with your son/ daughter's lunch. We are quickly running out of plastic forks/ spoons in the office. If you have a spare package you would like to donate, we would be very grateful!

Library Corner

News from the Library

Mark your calendars as Mazo's English book fair is coming up! We will have Scholastic visit us with the newest and greatest titles the week of Monday May 4th until Friday May 8th, 2015. Stay tuned for more details.

On Friday March 6th, 2015 our grade four and five students will have the privilege of an author talk from the one and only Michael Wade. He's the author of the famous "And Then It Happened" series. We are VERY excited for his arrival and to find out what his inspirations were behind his books. This presentation will take place in the library, during two different time intervals in the morning.

NJacko Backo Presentation

During the cold days of February, we were lucky to warm up to the African beats from NJacko Backo. Here is what our students had to say:

Le 17 et 18 février, toutes les classes de Mazo sont venues au gymnase pour regarder un spectacle de NJacko Backo. Il nous a montré comment utiliser les maracas, le piano africain et les tambours. Aussi, nous avons eu la chance de jouer la cloche à vache et les tam tam. Ses instruments sont intéressants. Il portait des vêtements culturels et pleines de différents couleurs. NJacko était très très drôle! Vers la fin il nous a invité à jouer ses instruments et à danser. C'était très amusant! NJacko nous a raconté une histoire à propos de la justice. On a appris qu'on doit toujours être juste. Cette présentation était très amusante. On espère qu'il puisse revenir à Mazo!

Par Audrey F. et Sylvia H.

On February 17th and 18th, all of the classes got to watch a presentation done by NJacko Backo. The presentation was done in French and he explained some of the many instruments made and used in his home town of Bazou, Cameroon. This spontaneous music lover explained to us how in his home town, he and other children had to create toys for themselves from scratch, since they had no Toys R Us. He presented to us the different drums he had and the different ways he could play them. He also taught students from the crowd how to play them. This was an amazing experience with all of the music and dancing. Some students got to go up and learn how to use his instruments and learn an African dance as well. At the end of the presentation he told us a story and the lesson of the story was don't lie, nothing will be better if you do. We really enjoyed having NJacko come to our school.

By: Tamara K. & Oriel W.



Poetry Slam Competition 2015

"Everyone has a voice. Spoken word gives us the opportunity to have our voice heard. Their voice will fill the room with their excitement and passion for their topic. This is the opportunity to be heard, here and now." – Mille Breedon

On February 20th, five of our grade 8 students (Brandon A., Emily E., Marlee H., Ryan K. and Daija P.) travelled to CEC North where they competed in the Slam Poetry event hosted by our Equity and Inclusive Schools Department. They did a phenomenal job representing Mazo with the strong messages their poems portrayed. We have now made it into the Semi Finals which will take place later this month on March 27th, 2015. Here is a poem that 3 Mazo students wrote and recited during the competition titled "We are Girls" – to help celebrate International Women's Day on March 8th, 2015.

We Are Girls

Written By: Daija, Marlee, and Emily

We are girls
We were put into this world to do
Anything boys can do.
We will not be affected by the
Housewife stereotype
Or let boys portray us as their prize – I don't want the label as a beauty queen

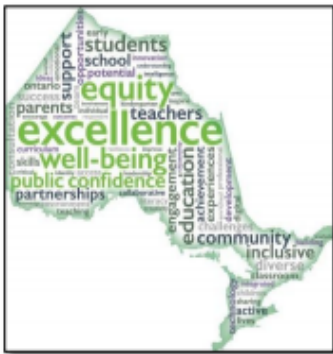
We are girls
We don't let anyone affect the way
We look or the way we dress – think of how Ruby Bridges was treated in the 60's
We will not be jealous of another girl if
They have more money or better looks
Because to us everyone is the same
And no one is better or worse

We are girls
We are not afraid to get hurt
Or break nail
We can do any sport that boys can do
Equally as well as them
Look at Hayley Wickenheiser – a five time Olympic medalist in hockey!

We are girls
We know how hard it can be to be
A girl in today's world
We know how hard it is for girls
To feel free to speak their mind
And to be heard –Malala Yousafzai has made huge steps in girls' rights to an education
We know the struggle with feeling comfortable
In our own skin – skinny, average, plus size,
We should be admired at for our thoughts and actions – not our looks

We are girls
No one will tell us how to act
Or how we look
We do not live off appearances
Because
We are girls
We are strong
We are smart
We are kind
And we are beautiful in every possible way
We are girls no one can
Take that away from us
Because we are girls!

A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario



Based on the input and advice of thousands of Ontarians the government released, [Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario](#) in April 2014.

The renewed vision builds on the system's

past achievements and sets out four renewed goals for education:

- Achieving Excellence
- Ensuring Equity
- **Promoting Well-Being**, and
- Enhancing Public Confidence.

These four renewed goals are interconnected; success in one contributes to success in the others.

For everyone working on healthy schools, elevating well-being to one of four goals for our education system is recognition of its fundamental importance to our learners and their futures. This goal emphasizes the need to focus on the whole child – their cognitive, emotional, social and physical development.

We know that achieving success in this goal will require continued collaboration among all partners in education, from educators, students, parents and guardians to community organizations, service providers and many others.

For more information on the renewed vision, visit www.ontario.ca/eduvision.

SNOW DAYS

BUSES

If you think York Region school buses have been cancelled due to weather please check these sources:

- www.schoolbuscity.com
- www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca
- CP 24
- 640 AM
- Twitter: @YRDSB

PIZZA/PASTA LUNCHES

If Pizza/Pasta Lunches are scheduled on a Snow Day they will be cancelled and rescheduled. Parents will need to check the Mazo website for the rescheduled date.

DROP OFF/PICK UP

Students who come to school on a Snow Day may be dropped off and picked up in the gym. Please pick up students at the end of the day between 2:15p.m. and 2:30p.m.

ABSENCES

[ALL PARENTS NEED TO NOTIFY MAZO, PREFERABLY BY EMAIL, IF THEIR CHILD\(REN\) ARE NOT COMING TO SCHOOL ON A SNOW DAY.](#)

Please email the school at mazo.de.la.roche.ps@yrdsb.ca, or call the school at 905-836-1032 to report your child's absence.

Parent Volunteer Wanted



Lead Parent Volunteer Pizza and Pasta Program **Job Description**

Time requirements

- 2-3 hours weekly
- 4 – 5 times a year, 12 – 15 hours (new order form, count and data entry)

Computer Knowledge

- a general working knowledge of Microsoft word and Excel would be helpful

Job Description

- Plan hot lunches for the year in accordance with PPM 150
- Write and distribute order forms 4x a year
- Process orders (including money count, data entry and cookie collating) 4x a year
- Be physically present every Friday to ensure a smooth delivery of food
- Liaise with pizza, pasta and cookie suppliers
- Be the main contact for all Mazo parents, teachers and administration
- Manage a team of parent volunteers who help run the program

Position available as of September 2015

The interested person will/should "shadow" Dyann (2-3 times) during her Friday routine this year, as well as attending the last pizza/pasta form count to get a feel of how the program works.

This is an ongoing, successful fundraiser for the school and we require dedicated, parent support to keep it going. Two people sharing the position is an option.

If interested, please contact Dyann Fenwick at dyann.fenwick@gmail.com

We sincerely thank Dyann for all her years of service, hard work and her dedication ensuring this program runs smoothly for our children.