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FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Winter has arrived early this year! Thank you to parents for ensuring that your children are coming dressed warmly for the winter weather - including boots, snow-pants, hats, gloves and scarves. Dressing in layers is always best as students can remove a layer if they are too warm. Also, please ensure your child has an extra set of pants and socks in his/her backpack in case of wet weather.

We were so pleased to meet with so many parents during our scheduled progress report card interviews last month. Parents, students, and teachers had the opportunity to meet to discuss student progress and identify next steps for learning. It is important to revisit these learning goals with your child(ren) in order to monitor progress and set new academic and learning skills goals as the year progresses. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. Term one report cards will go home with all children in February.

During the month of November, students had numerous opportunities to positively engage in our school. Students participated in a very impactful Remembrance Day assembly, students and families had an opportunity to visit our book fair, and our student leadership groups began our spirit days with "Pyjama Day" and "Hat Day", along with selling cookies to help support our community during the holiday season. We look forward to seeing the K to 3 families on December 4th for our Math Night. If you have not registered and would like to attend, please contact the school by December 3rd.

As the winter break approaches (Dec 23 - Jan 2), we wish to thank our school community for your commitment to our students' learning and well-being. Wishing each of you a joyful and safe holiday season and a happy new year! The first day back is Monday, January 5, 2015.

Mr. D. Rossi
Principal

Mrs. O. Soroka
Vice-Principal

Did you know...?

Implementation of the new Social Studies curriculum document began this September 2014. A copy of the document can be found at www.edu.gov.on.ca - The Ministry of Education website.

What's new in the Revised Social Studies, History and Geography curriculum ?

- extended front matter to explain the pedagogical foundations of the new document
- using the disciplinary thinking concepts to help students approach learning as social scientists, historians and geographers;
- the Citizenship Education Framework
- the inquiry process for social studies, history and geography;
- a focus on **doing** the work of social scientists, historians and geographers

Student Achievement

Mathematics - Beginning the Journey in Kindergarten

Building the foundational skills in mathematics begins with exploration and concept development. As students develop their math concepts, we provide opportunities for them to explore and apply their learning in authentic contexts.

What does a play-based approach to mathematics learning look like in Full Day Kindergarten?

Math can be integrated and woven into a variety of learning opportunities throughout the day if the FDK environment is intentionally filled with materials readily available to promote mathematical inquiry. As some mathematics experiences are unplanned and incidental, the role of the Kindergarten educator team is to "conscientiously connect children's natural play experiences to the more formal language and symbolism of mathematics." This occurs as children play, when children interact, and when the teacher recognizes a 'teachable' moment.

In addition, the Kindergarten educator team must plan experiences that would include a variety of strategies, approaches, and materials to meet the needs of the diverse group of learners. These experiences would include: lessons or demonstrations with an educator, open-ended activities, games or challenges to be done in small groups or individually, and opportunities for children to share and reflect.

Through active participation in mathematical investigations, children will wonder, will ask why and what if, and will use and talk about the math as a way of making sense out of their daily experiences — they make meaning in their world mathematically!



Mathematics - What does math look like in the Primary grades?

The Ontario math curriculum promotes a balanced approach that includes problem solving and skill development. It reflects current thinking and continued research in mathematics education. As in any profession, as we learn more from research and practice, our practice evolves and improves with time.

Here are two questions parents often wonder about in the primary grades.

Are students still learning math facts?

Yes, students need to learn their math facts. There has been a shift in *how* students learn these facts: from a focus on memorization to a focus on understanding. Computational fluency develops from instruction that helps students understand number relationships and how to reason strategically. For example, a student who knows that $10 \times 12 = 120$ could reason that 12×12 is two more groups of 12, so $120 + 24 = 144$. Practising the facts is only one way to promote automaticity. Games, puzzles or mini-lessons are examples of other ways students learn their math facts.



What does it mean to show your thinking in math?

Communication is an essential part of the learning process. Students should be communicating their thinking in a variety of ways and for different audiences. When students use writing to articulate their mathematical thinking, the focus should be on efficiency, justification, and reasoning, rather than describing step-by-step processes. This means that students are not always required to provide solutions to problems that include pictures, numbers, words and symbols. Rather, we need to support students to strategically select from among these and other representations to show their thinking.

Parent Information

Attention SK parents:

French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at

J.A. Gibson Public School on January 15, 2015 at 7 p.m.

FI registration will begin January 16, 2015. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2015, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to J.A. Gibson Public School to register between January 16 and February 13, 2015. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Kindergarten Registration for 2015-16

Kindergarten registration for the 2015-16 school year will begin on January 16, 2015. Students born in 2011 will be entering Junior Kindergarten in September of 2015. Registration packages will be available at the school beginning on this date, or parents can download the registration package using the following links:

Documents for Registration:

- [Elementary School Registration Form](#)
- [Junior/Senior Kindergarten Questionnaire](#)

When registering, please also bring the following required documents:

- Proof of child's age (Birth Certificate/Passport)
- Any legal documents related to custody arrangements if applicable
- Proof of Residency of the student - 2 documents, one from each of the categories below showing the home address;

Category A - notice of tax assessment, current rental/lease agreement, agreement to purchase including proof of purchase provided before the pupil attends the school, or property tax bill, and

Category B - utility bill, bank statement or other official document

Parent Information

Baythorn Arts Program

Is your child in grade 4 or 5 and interested in learning through the arts?

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an Elementary integrated Arts program at Baythorn Public School. York Region students have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music while meeting the necessary curricular requirements for the grades five, six, seven and eight programs. Students in grade 4 or 5 may apply.

January 15, 2015 @ 6:30pm - Information Evening for Arts @ Baythorn Public School
February 21 & March 1, 2015 - Workshops for acceptance to the Arts@Baythorn program

School Bus Cancellation Notice

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

- A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- When bus service is cancelled all school tests and/or examinations will be cancelled and rescheduled.
- Student trips involving the use of school buses will also be cancelled.
- **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be affecting all municipalities in York Region.** Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.

Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM	640 AM	680 AM	860 AM	1010 AM	1050 AM
1540 AM	1580 AM	88.5 FM	89.9 FM	92.5 FM	93.1 FM
94.9 FM	95.9 FM	97.3 FM	98.1 FM	99.1 FM	99.9 FM
101.1 FM	102.1 FM	104.5 FM	100.7 FM	107.1 FM	



TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CTV Toronto CP24 GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YRDSB and YCDSB on twitter.

School Council

School Council

In November our council discussed

- Progress Reports/Interviews
- School Improvement Planning
- School Updates
- Upcoming Fundraising Ideas

**Join Us for our next meeting on
January 29, 2015
7:00pm!**

Did you know that valuable information can be found on the [parents page](#) of the [YRDSB website](#)?

You can learn more about early years, student support, school operations, school priorities and curriculum and classroom information.

As well, a variety of parent tools are available. Check it out!

Positive Climates for Learning

Cranny Cobras Strike Again!

Congratulations Cranny! This year's volleyball season has been a great success! From weekly practices to significant tournaments, the students have put their heart and lots of dedication to truly represent Cranny's athleticism. This mindset has brought the teams far and without a doubt, both the girls and boys teams have shown off their skills to fellow schools while maintaining positive sportsmanship. As a result, both the Girls and the Boys Intermediate volleyball teams made it to area finals! Each member of volleyball teams should be recognized for dedicating their time and effort to make this season a success. As a school, we would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Nemirov for coaching and mentoring each and every player on the teams, while encouraging them to reach their greatest potential.



-The Student Athletic Council

Le Chef à L'école December 10-12 Gr 4-8



Le Chef à L'école is a program that uses cooking as a hands-on activity to provide students with an opportunity to use French in a fun and practical way. Students will be preparing a French pastry by following a recipe and will watch a short story-board presentation on French Canadian culture. Students will also enjoy eating their pastry as they listen to Acadian music.



Michael Cranny Remembers

Remembrance Day

Every year, the staff and students at Michael Cranny gather to remember the many soldiers who fought and continue to fight for peace. Everyday around the world, soldiers continue to demonstrate bravery to keep their countries safe. So every year on November 11th, we honour them by having an assembly and reflecting during a moment of silence.

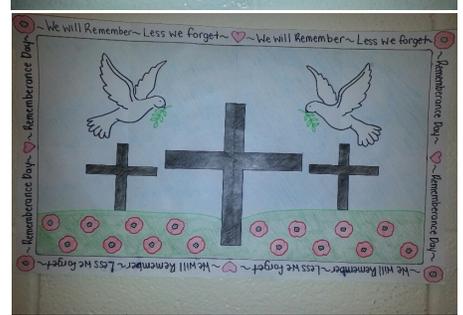
This year, the intermediate students creatively represented Remembrance Day and our soldiers. Each intermediate student was asked to create an art piece and a poem to display throughout the school. There were many interesting and original art pieces, as well as some very intriguing and thought-provoking poems. They were very effective in helping students at Michael Cranny better reflect on the important role our veterans have played in our history.

The following 2 pages are samples of the outstanding work of our intermediate students...



A Single Poppy By: Noam

The sky is charcoal grey tonight,
A single poppy shines,
As we head on into battle,
To fight for all who we love.
Perhaps our time has come to go,
Perhaps we'll stay alive,
But there's no knowing what
will happen,
When the enemies arrive.
The sky is charcoal grey tonight,
A single poppy shines,
And to it I make my prayer,
Please just let us all survive.



Intermediate Artwork and Poetry



The Soldiers, They Fought

The poppies' red
represents the blood that he shed.
As we slept in the night,
he died in the fight.

He put his life on the line,
So that I could have mine.
I wish that I could've thanked him,
For aiding our country when times were grim

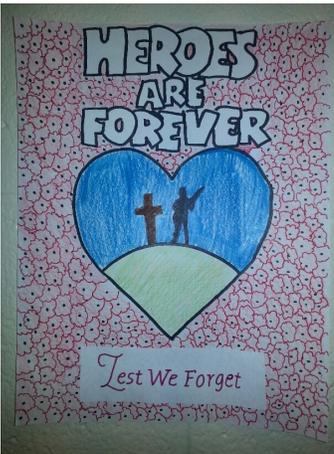
He fought with pride,
for his great nation.
In the war he died,
so we show appreciation.

They ended his life, to get what they wanted,
And now, his son, eternally haunted
Because he knows he will never see his father again
All of these soldiers, they were regular men.

They all had families, like you and I,
Except they never got the chance to say goodbye.
We salute them with grace and peace in our minds,
Lest we forget those soldiers on the front lines.

So every 11th month, on every 11th day,
We take a moment of silence, and hope and pray.

-Anish



Positive Climates for Learning

Anti Bullying Week @ Michael Cranny December 15-19, 2014

Anti Bullying Newsletter

In an effort to thwart bullying in our school and community, Michael Cranny is proud to introduce our Anti Bullying Week. Taking place during the week of December 15, 2014, each day will focus on a certain aspect of bullying, and how to prevent it. Our goal is to educate students on identifying various types of bullying situations, in order for them to protect themselves and others. Each day, during our anti-bullying week, student council will broadcast announcements that include quotes and statistics about bullying, as well as how to recognize the act and safely advocate for the victim. Another great aspect to our anti-bullying week are the educational activities that students will participate in within each of their classrooms. These activities are a fun and inclusive way of incorporating bullying awareness, so that students can become more knowledgeable about this topic. Finally, guest speakers will be speaking with Cranny students about anti-bullying. They will become educated on how to “stand up to the bully when it is safe, reach out to targets of bullying and tell someone when another student is being hurt” . [Engage](#) will help kick off the week on December 15th! MCES’s anti-bullying week will be packed with informative and insightful knowledge to spread awareness of the severity of bullying, and encourage students to stand up as opposed to standing by.



-by Emily D.

Peer Mentoring: ABC's to Help Prevent Bullying!

New to the 2014 2015 school year, Michael Cranny's intermediate student council members have come together and created a peer mentoring group, referred to as ABC (Anti-Bullying Crew). Each day 2 students are assigned a specific division that they would have to look over during lunch recess. It would be either Primary, Junior or Intermediate. Each division will be provided with a bin of possible activities the students would like to play at recess. Some outdoor equipments include soccer balls, basketballs, skipping ropes etc. ABC is responsible for bringing out the bins when lunch recess begins and bringing them back into the office when lunch recess ends. This helps the bullying stop at our school. No one is alone at recess anymore and it demonstrates good sportsmanship, communication skills and it models what it means to be a good friend. If any of the students are having trouble, the peer mentors can be noticed by the bright yellow band they are wearing. This is all to prevent bullying and create a safe and positive outdoor environment for everyone!



-The Peer Mentors

Positive Climates for Learning

We can tell you how it's done!

The Grade Two's and Three's in Ms. Amedeo and Mrs. Viterbo's classes have been learning about procedural writing. They co-created success criteria and used it to judge if the procedures they were following were effective. The first procedure involved creating recycled paper, where students realized that some details were missing in the steps of the procedure. They were able to ask thoughtful questions about the missing parts and re-write the procedure to make it stronger. The Grade Three's also judged the effectiveness of a procedure, when they built an igloo out of sugar cubes, as part of their science unit on Structures. The students realized that having clear and specific instructions are what make a procedure effective and easy to follow.

- Grade 2 and 3 Students



Engineering Club @ Cranny Gr. 6-8

Beginning Thursday, December 4th, and continuing weekly, Michael Cranny will have its first ever Engineering Club!

We will investigate a variety of machines. We will pull apart, put together, fix, change, break, edit, and basically delve into the world of engineering in a hands-on way. In order to build and play as young engineers, we will be looking at and working with old computers, printers, monitors, other machines and a variety of devices. We will also be investigating the field of robotics and the mechanics behind it, through several Lego Mindstorms kits that our school has purchased.



If you wish to donate any materials/old devices for students to investigate/explore, please contact Mr. Milette @ 905-832-4922 Ext. 210

Message from our Trustee

As we near the end of 2014, I hope everyone has had a great school year so far and found opportunities to get involved with the life of the school. Partnerships with families are essential to student achievement and well-being, and to creating a caring and supportive learning environment in which students can thrive.

There are many ways for families to get involved – from volunteering with the school and getting involved with the school council to attending school events, communicating with your child's teacher and supporting learning at home. However you choose to get involved, know that you are making a difference.

Earlier this year, the Board of Trustees reviewed and revised our Multi-Year Plan, the plan which guides system direction. The plan continues to have a sharp focus on student achievement and well-being, the delivery of effective and sustainable educational programs and the stewardship of Board resources.

Thanks to your support and the hard work and commitment of our staff, students, families and community partners, we continue to move forward in achieving our goals. As an elected trustee and an advocate for high quality public education, I am committed to ensuring the highest quality public education possible for our students and their families.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season and a wonderful start to the new year. I hope you are able to enjoy time with family and friends.

Anna DeBartolo

Trustee

DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Gr 7 & Gr 8 Girls Shots Maun-agiyaras	3 Dental Screening 	4 Grade K -3 Math Night 6:30pm	5 Spirit Day: Cultural Attire (Your cultural attire or country colours)	6
7	8	9	10 Dec 10, 11, 12 -Chef a L'ecole Presentations 	11	12 Spirit Day: Fandom (I'm a fan of...) 	13
14	15 I Engage Presentation Gr 1-8	Anti-Bullying Week at Michael Cranny Elementary			19 Spirit Day: Cranny Day (Black&Turquoise/ Cranny clothing) 	20
21	22	23	24 Chanukah begins 	25 Winter Storm Talent Show	26 Kwanza Death of Prophet Zarathustra	27
28	29	30	31	December's Eco - theme: Reduce your footprint!		

Coming up in ...

Jan 5	Back to School
Jan 6	Grade 8 's to Maple High Drama Day
Jan 15/21	Grades 4-8 - Ski Days
Jan 23	Grade 5 's to Queens Park
Jan 29	School Council 7pm—Join us!

Will your child be late or absent?

Be sure to call the school before 8:15am to let us know.

You can also leave a message anytime at (905) 832-4922 in the attendance mailbox.

