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Dear Families,

May is here and with it comes warm weather, flowers blooming and students developing to their full potential. Although it seems that summer is just around the corner, we still have 2 full months of curriculum, character development and school spirit!

This month at Michael Cranny students in grades 4-8 will participate in a positive climates initiative called We Are United. Students will hear a keynote speaker, Johnny Henderson, and reflect on how kindness can change everything! They will also have an opportunity to participate in 4 workshops to develop awareness and empathy (page 6).

This month the grade 3's and 6's will participate in the EQAO provincial assessment. The dates of the assessment fall between May 25th and June 4th - so it is important that all students in grades 3 and 6 are present during these two weeks.

On May 8th, our newest registered JK students (beginning September 2015) will join us at our Welcome to Kindergarten morning. Parents and students will participate in a variety of Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) activities with our Kindergarten teachers and DECEs.

As always, we welcome your comments and inquiries.

Mr. D. Rossi  
Principal

Mrs. O. Soroka  
Vice-Principal



## Student Achievement and Well-Being

### Supporting Your Child's Math Development at Home

#### Thinking Tools for Mathematics (EduGAINS)

Mathematicians create models with objects and drawings as they are exploring patterns and thinking their way through problems. In the same way, students of all ages (and their educators) model mathematical concepts to not only share their thinking, but to help them to do the actual problem-solving. In school, we often call the objects used 'manipulatives' or 'thinking tools.' Classrooms have some very specific manipulatives for use, but a 'thinking tool' can be any object that helps to share or clarify a mathematical idea. These visual models of mathematical ideas allow us to organize our thinking, solve problems, and make connections from the concrete to the abstract. They also support and enhance our ability to solve problems with others, talk about, write and demonstrate our thinking. As students are exploring and investigating through models and drawings, they are building their knowledge and solving problems, moving towards a deeper understanding. They are making connections between what they know in all areas of mathematics and how they see mathematics in their world. Math becomes understandable, engaging and relevant. You can support your child to use objects and sketches as 'thinking tools' to problem-solve when they do math at home.

#### Mathematics and Literature: Ways to Make Connections

*(The Guides to Effective Instruction (Volume 4): Assessment and Home School Connections)*

##### Look at the pictures in the book.

- Play I Spy: "I spy something that is round."
- Ask questions that describe size, quantity, and shape.
- Describe the various geometric shapes.
- Make comparisons that involve measurement, sorting, or looking at different attributes. Compare people with other people, objects with other objects, or symbols with other symbols.
- Look for numbers; count objects in a picture.

##### Read the text.

- Use the number concepts in the story to count in various ways (backwards, forward, by 2's, by 5's, by 10's).
- Connect mathematical concepts with your child's daily life.
- Count similar or different objects or pictures.
- Ask problem-solving questions – for example, "How many times do you think the sun rose from the beginning of the story to the end? Explain how you calculated."
- Sequence the appearance of characters and events in time, using mathematical language – for example, "Which character appeared first?" "What happened before \_\_\_ and after \_\_\_?"
- When words like *over*, *under*, *below*, *above*, *backwards*, or *forward* arise, you may have an opportunity to discuss temperature, time, number lines, or patterns.
- Extend the story to your child's world.
- Look for opportunities to estimate or predict.

##### Look at the book itself.

- Estimate the number of pages in the book.
- Describe the shape of the book.
- Measure the perimeter and area of the book using standard or non-standard units.
- Turn the story into a word problem.

## Student Achievement and Well-Being

### Spring into Helmet Safety

Head injuries are the leading cause of serious injury and death to kids on wheels. Wearing a properly fitted, certified helmet can reduce the risk of serious head injury by 85 per cent. Children and youth (under 18) are *required by law* to wear a helmet when bicycling. The helmet must fit properly in order to protect your child in the event of a crash.

#### **Remember the 2V1 Shake, Shake, Shake Rule!**

**2:** The helmet should cover the top of your child's head and sit **2 finger widths above their eyebrows**

**V:** Adjust the side straps so that they form a **V-shape under their ears**

**1:** Only **1 finger** should fit between their chin and the fastened straps

**Shake, Shake, Shake:** Have them shake their head up and down and side to side to make sure the helmet is snug



Make sure that the helmet has a safety standard label on it (CSA, ASTM, and CPSC) and check it regularly for cracks, dents and broken or frayed straps. Do not purchase a helmet that is too big in the hopes that your child will grow into it – it will not provide proper protection. Adults are also encouraged to wear a helmet to be a good role model for children.

### Staying Hydrated, Staying Healthy



High sugar drinks are loaded with empty calories that can cause children to ignore nutritious foods. This can lead to malnutrition during critical growth periods, especially if their diet lacks essential minerals like calcium and vitamin D. Some drinks, such as Coke, Pepsi, Root Beer and, Dr. Pepper, have a large amount of caffeine in them which can cause irritability, nervousness, sleeping problems and caffeine dependency. Sugar adds extra calories to the diet and can lead to obesity. Sugar can also cause cavities. You may think that drinking sugar-free pop is a better choice; however, diet pop contains phosphoric acid which has also been proven to cause cavities.

#### **What can you do?**

Be an advocate for change...

- encourage your family to drink water between meals
- have water, milk and 100% fruit juice available during meals
- limit sweet drinks and pop consumption to special occasions only

-Adapted from: *Rethink your drink* ([www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/programs/dental/rtyd.html](http://www.calgaryhealthregion.ca/programs/dental/rtyd.html))

For health-related information call York Region Health Connection  
at 1-800-361-5653 or visit [www.york.ca](http://www.york.ca).



## Parent Information and School Council

Our final school council meeting of this school year will be held on **May 27th at 7pm**. School council is made up of parents. Along with school staff, our council works towards planning and implementing programs, activities and fundraisers to support the academic and social/emotional growth of our students.

Consider joining our school council for this final meeting and for the 2015-16 school year!



### Triple P Positive Parenting For parents of children birth to 12 years of age

#### Managing Behaviour with Assertive Discipline

Assertive discipline helps children understand that their behavior always has consequences and that those consequences are carried out in a predictable, loving environment. Assertive discipline helps children learn to accept responsibility for their behavior, develop self control and helps them learn to consider the feelings and needs of others.

This free workshop will help parents learn about:

- ✓ Five Positive Principles to encourage building positive relationships
- ✓ Building a Positive Bank Account
- ✓ Importance of being emotionally available to children
- ✓ Possible causes of misbehavior
- ✓ Identifying "Parenting Traps" and escalation cycles
- ✓ Establishing Family Rules
- ✓ How and when to give instructions and requests
- ✓ Strategies for managing misbehavior and guiding/teaching appropriate behavior

**Location:** Westminster Public School  
366 Mullen Drive, Thornhill L4J 2P3

**Date:** Wednesday May 27, 2015

**Time:** 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**To register and for further information contact:**  
Oksana Majaski, Community Resource Facilitator, Inclusive School & Community Services  
Email: [Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca](mailto:Oksana.majaski@yrdsb.ca)

*This presentation is brought to you by Westminster P.S. in partnership with Blue Hills Child and Family Centre and York Region District School Board.*



## Positive Climates for Learning

### Earth Week Update

On April 22nd, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. On this day and during the week, we were involved in a school-wide clean up and provided students and staff with many eco-friendly tips. Here is our review of the week's waste and electricity use.

Congratulations to the primary classes for doing the best on our daily earth week check-ins! Their garbage sorting was excellent. They have definitely provided our junior and intermediate students with some very high standards to aim for in the future!

In terms of electricity use, well let's just say, this was a very ironic Earth Day. We used more KwHs of electricity on Earth Day than on the Wednesday the week before! On Earth Day, we used 1074 kwhs and on the other Wednesday we used 1041 kwhs. That's about a 30 Kwhs difference. WOW! Our school needs to change. We noticed that one of the biggest problems is computer monitors. Students need to make sure they turn off their monitors when they're not using them. Also, remembering to turn off the lights when you don't need them. Overall, we didn't do that well, but we can always change. The Eco club will make sure of it!

### Junior Basketball a Blast! By Emily D.

On Friday April 17, the junior girls basketball team attended the Area West Basketball Tournament at Discovery Public School, and came out with second place! This allowed them to proceed to Area Finals the following Thursday, April 23rd at Pierre Berton Public School. They played well, but were not able to place in finals. However, their efforts were greatly appreciated and they came back to school with their heads held high. The boys, who also competed in these two tournaments, displayed just as much determination. On April 20, they attended the Area West Tournament at Discovery Public School, and finished with an astounding first place! When Friday came along, at the Area Finals at Pierre Berton, they finished at a respectable second, but unfortunately were not invited to the regional tournament. Overall, the two teams played astoundingly and represented Michael Cranny with great pride and esteem.



### Together We're Better Conference

By Harith, Shante and Andres

On April 24, 2015, the Michael Cranny Elementary School's Positive Climates for Learning (PC4L) Team traveled to Bill Crothers Secondary School to participate in the 2015 Together We're Better Conference. To kick off the conference, two speakers from UNITY Charity explained, through a skit, that you should attempt to achieve your goals even when you think you don't have a chance. We then went our separate ways to different workshops where we learned about making a positive change to the community by learning how to be everyday heroes, how to cope with bullying by knowing how to deal with it, and how to practice equity and inclusivity by not relying on first impressions. Our day ended off when we listened to a motivational rapper named Shaun Boothe who rapped biographies, titling it "The Unauthorized Biography Series". His rhymes were about influential bodies, including Muhammad Ali, Malala Yousafzai, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, who have fought for what they believed in. We will practice and pass on what we learned at the Together We're Better Conference on May 4th and 11th during our We Are United awareness workshops.




## Positive Climates for Learning

### Coming to Michael Cranny Elementary School...

## We Are United

*in our goal to build an environment that is equitable, inclusive, safe, supportive, respectful and caring!*





#### Ability Awareness

I can use my abilities and persevere to achieve my goals.

#### Cultural Awareness

I value what makes each person unique as a contributing member of our world community.



#### Environmental Awareness

I understand the impact of human activities on the environment and can discover ways to reverse them.

#### Well-being Awareness

I can identify and access the things that contribute to my physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being.



**We Are United** is a positive climate initiative to help build an environment that is equitable, inclusive, safe, supportive, respectful and caring!

We will launch our learning with a **Keynote Speaker: Johnny Henderson**. Johnny works for an organization called Live Different. On May 1st, Johnny will be speaking to our grades 4-8 students. The title of his presentation is **It Starts Here - Kindness Changes Everything**, and the session is about getting students to see how one simple act of kindness can change someone's life.

On May 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, students will participate in four hands-on workshops led by our student leadership teams. Students will reflect upon their uniqueness and well-being, will develop an awareness and acceptance of individuals with different cultural backgrounds and abilities, and will explore their role in caring for our environment. Students will have an opportunity to reflect upon the underlying themes of respect, responsibility, empathy, courage and the impact they can make on another person, their community and the world!

**We look forward to learning and making a difference together!**

# MAY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 We Are United Keynote Speaker Gr 4-8	2
<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>May's Eco - theme: Water Conservation</b></p> <p>Rethink your use of water and treat water as an essential resource that shouldn't be wasted!</p>  </div>						
3	4 We Are United Workshops Gr 4-8	5 Pioneer Village Gr 3	6 Caribou Math	7	8 Welcome to Kindergarten 8:45am for new JKs starting in September 2015 Frozen Yogurt Sale	9
10	11 We Are United Workshops Gr 4-8	12 Red Maple to Harbourfront	13 Silver Birch to Harbourfront Badminton Areas Gauss Math	14	15 Frozen Yogurt Sale	16
17	18	19	20 Track and Field @ Cranny	21	22 Track and Field Rain Date @ Cranny Frozen Yogurt Sale	23
24	25 Scientist in the School Gr 5	26	27 School Council 7pm - Join Us!	28	29 Zoo Trip Gr 1 & 2 Fruit Kebabs Sale	30 EQAO Gr 3
31	EQAO Gr 6	EQAO Gr 6	EQAO Gr 6	EQAO Gr 3	EQAO Gr3	EQAO Gr 3 June 1 & 2

## Coming up ...

- June 5 - PA Day No School
- June 8-11 - Book Fair
- June 16 - SK Graduation ( a m )
- June 23 - Gr 8 Graduation ( evening )
- June 24 - Report Cards go home
- June 25 - Last Day of School for Students ( am only )

## 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.