



News from the Office

At Mount Joy, we continually invite our staff and students to be reflective and to feel free to share their thinking and ideas. In recent months, one idea that has been shared by a great number of people-staff and students alike-is an interest in re-branding Mount Joy. When the school opened in 2006, we opened as the Mount Joy Magic. Students, staff, and members of the community have voiced a desire to re-consider what it means to be part of the Mount Joy community. The following are two prevalent comments that have been shared:

- the concept of MAGIC is at odds with the religious and cultural values of some members of our community
- it is hard for some students to understand how MAGIC bolsters pride and spirit

Students have expressed an interest in changing our logo and mascot. They have had a chance to share their thoughts and ideas regarding possible alternatives. The topic has been brought up at School Council, which has also expressed an interest in responding to the opinions of our students. Now, we are reaching out to the parent community to hear your voice as well. Before any final decision is made, we will weigh the many voices of our school community.

Right now, there are two choices that stand out (aside from keeping MAGIC), based on the opinions of students:

MOUNT JOY MUSTANGS



MOUNT JOY JAGUARS



NOTE: These are NOT the proposed logos, but are merely samples that might influence our final choices. We would like to hear from you. What are your thoughts about re-branding Mount Joy? Please share your thoughts by sending us an email (see below).

Also, remember, the full version of the newsletter is available online on our school website.

Mr. Pettigrew & Ms. Brndiar

Principal: Mr. Ken Pettigrew
Vice Principal: Ms. Carolyn Brndiar
SOAA: Ms. Alison Fenson
Secretary: Mrs. Shenaz Sunderani



Superintendent of Schools: Mr. Dan Wu
Trustee: Mr. Allan Tam
School Council Chair: Mr. Kevin Martin



Literacy Corner

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island." — Walt Disney

This month we will continue on our path to create 'life –long readers'. We are working hard to teach our students how to choose books that are personally interesting, how to evaluate what they are reading, and how to talk about books in general. The Forest of Readers in the library, along with all of the classroom talk surrounding books, both contribute to this greater goal of instilling a love for reading in the students here at Mount Joy.

You can further this message at home. The following are some tips for reinforcing the joy of reading at home.

5 Things You Can Do To Encourage A Love Of Reading

(Adapted from *10 Things You Can Do To Encourage A Love Of Reading- ETFO Voice, Spring 2014*)

1. **Don't judge your child's reading choices.** Leave attitudes about what makes a "good book" at the door. The best way to encourage diverse reading choices is through praise and recommendations.
2. **Visit the school library and public library often.** Use the school library and public library staff to help you find reading treasures that will appeal to different readers.
3. **Let your child(ren) see you reading for fun.** Never underestimate the power of modelling a love of reading.
4. **Read daily with your child(ren).** Read for pleasure with your child(ren) in your own language. Keep the focus on the story and the enjoyment of reading, not the mechanics.
5. **Use technology where possible to share the joy of reading.** Use book review sights, watch book trailers on-line, and check out author websites. It's fun to explore books and reading on-line!



It's time to pause to PLAY April 28th – May 2nd, 2014!

Get ready to get active, eat healthy and stay safe! Children and youth are encouraged to put televisions, videogames and computers on **pause** for one full week. Instead try physically active, safe **PLAY**, eating healthy foods and other fun family or community activities. Take the challenge and see how much fun it can be!

We need to get more active. Did you know that:

- Only seven per cent of elementary school aged children get at least 60 minutes of heart pumping exercise at least 6 days a week
- Boys and girls are inactive at least eight hours a day
- Inactive lifestyles put children at risk for preventable health problems including Type 2 diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease

For health-related information call York Region

Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools



Library News

Forest of Reading

The library has been buzzing with talk about the Forest of Reading books. Students in Ontario are reading several pre-selected books and voting for their favourite. We have been working hard creating criteria for 'What Makes a Good Book', so we can make a thoughtful vote. Some of the criteria created by our students is...

The book is appropriate for kids my age.

The book has bright, colourful, interesting pictures.

The book makes me feel something (happy, sad, afraid, curious).

I can connect to the characters, events or big ideas.

I learn from the story's events, information or message.

The book's character, setting and plot are interesting.



We encourage you to talk to your children at home about books that they enjoy reading and WHY they enjoy them.

Dual Language Books

Our Dual Language book section is becoming increasingly popular. These picture and chapter books are stories written in both English and one other language. Reading these books at home with your children can be beneficial in many ways.

What are some benefits of reading Dual-Language Books?

It expands your child's knowledge of the first language, which helps the learning of English. It enhances your child's self-esteem as they demonstrate their skills and show their talents. By helping your child create his/her own dual-language stories, you are able to take an active role in your child's education. Children may be able to show their understanding of an age appropriate story more clearly than if he/she were limited to English only books.

How do I use Dual-Language books with my child?

Together with your child, choose books that are high interest, and that reflect your cultural values. If your child cannot yet read then you can read both versions of the story to promote both languages. If your child cannot fluently read in their first language, then he/she can read the English version and you read the first language version. Ensure they are understanding the story by asking questions and discussing the story in English or your first language during and after you read.

Informational Items

EQAO Assessment

The grade 3 and 6 students will be taking part in the provincial Assessment of Reading, Writing and Math during the weeks of May 27—June 7, 2012. The grade 6 students will be writing from May 26-28 and the grade 3 students will be writing from June 3-5. Please do not book any appointments for your child during these two weeks as students must complete the entire assessment. Thank you.



September Registration

Registration for our Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) program and grades 1-8 is underway. Please come in as soon as possible to register your child. If you know of friends or new neighbours who have children who are planning to attend Mount Joy P.S. in September, please urge them to come in and register.



When registering, please bring with you:

- Your child's Birth Certificate, proof of citizenship or Landed Immigrant Card
- Proof of residency (tax bill or lease agreement)

Are you Moving?



Plans are underway for our classroom organization for September 2014. If you are planning on moving over the summer and will not be returning to Mount Joy Public School in September, please let the school office know as soon as possible.

Support Our Mabel's Labels Fundraiser!

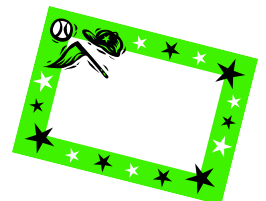
We are one step closer to eliminating our lost and found! Mount Joy Public School is fundraising with Mabel's Labels, the leading provider of cute, durable personalized labels that are as tough as they are cute.

Sticky Labels, Peel and Stick Clothing Labels, Bag Tags, Allergy Alert labels & more... there's a label for everything your kiddo brings for the day.

Personalize your labels with names, initials, phone numbers - whatever you choose. Cool icons help even little ones identify their own belongings.

Dishwasher, microwave, laundry safe and kid tested! Easy, online ordering gets your labels dispatched within one business day to your door.

Visit <http://www.mountjoy.mabelslabels.com/> to place your order while helping us raise funds.





Autism Awareness Month

April is Autism Awareness Month

This year, April 2nd was World Autism Awareness Day and to show our support, Mount Joy staff and students wore BLUE!!

Light it Up Blue is a global campaign, launched by Autism Speaks in 2010, in support of World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD), which takes place on April 2. Iconic landmarks around the world Light It Up Blue in celebration of World Autism Awareness Day to show their support!



Grade 8 Graduation

Grade 8 Graduation will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014. Please save the date in your calendar. Further details regarding time and place will follow.

You're the Chef



Beginning at the end of April, Mount Joy will be starting its first ever after-school cooking program. "You're the Chef" is a York Region program that teaches students in Grade 5-7 the importance of preparing healthy meals. The program will be run by Mr. Berger on Wednesdays from 3:00p.m. – 4:30p.m. in the Staff Room. The focus will be on creating a healthy breakfast, lunch and snacks that only include fruits or vegetables.

Here is a sample recipe that you can try out at home with your child.

Creamy Vegetable Soup

This is a wonderful creamy soup that uses milk and can be made with all kinds of vegetables.

Ready in: 20 minutes

Servings: 8 - ½ cup (125 mL) servings

- 3 tbsp butter or margarine 45 mL
- 3 tbsp all-purpose flour 45 mL
- 2 cups chicken stock 500 mL
- 2 cups chopped cooked vegetables (e.g., broccoli, peas or carrots)
500 mL
- 1 cup 2% milk 250 mL

1. In a large saucepan or skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add flour and cook, stirring, for 2 minutes or until bubbly. Gradually whisk in broth; cook until smooth and thickened.
2. Add cooked vegetables. Remove from heat and transfer soup in batches to food processor or blender. Puree until smooth. Return to saucepan. Slowly stir in milk and heat to serving temperature
3. Bon Appétit!



WOW! (Watershed on Wheels)

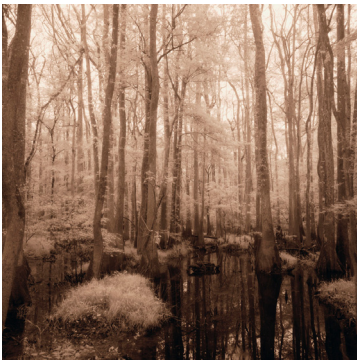
Written by: Aabisha

On March 25, 2014, a girl named Erica came to our class. She taught us about wetlands and why they are important. We learned about swamps, marshes, fens and bogs. Marshes are some wetlands that have a plant called cattail. When beavers build a dam, the trees fall in a forest which becomes a wetland for other animals and it becomes a swamp. Fens have very sharp grass which can even give you a cut. A bog is also a wetland that has picture plants. After and before recess, we played a game about wetlands outside. Before she left, she showed us dead animal's skulls and furs. We will go on a school trip to her workplace.



Written by: Sujay

Yesterday Erica came from the York Region Conservation Authority. She taught us about wetlands. Erica told us that beavers make a big lodge which floods part of the forest. We played a game with plants and she told us about different wetlands. She brought some animal furs and animal skulls and made us guess what animals' skull and fur and let us touch the furs, but the skulls were delicate.



Written by: Anshul

Yesterday, Erica came from the York Region Conservation Authority. She taught us about wetlands. Erica told us that beavers make a big lodge which floods part of the forest. She also told us that wetlands are very important lands. There are four different kinds of wetlands, swamps, fen, bogs and marsh. We played alien invasion! It was very fun. We also got to touch animal skin. They were really soft and cozy, but, I had to wash my hands again.

MEDIEVAL MAN AT MOUNT JOY!

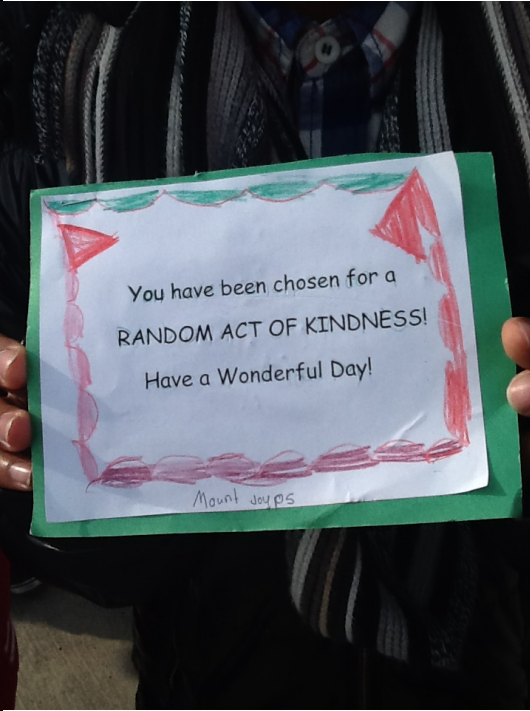
Guess who came to Mount Joy? Medieval Man! Right now the grades 4's are learning about Medieval Times and our class was able to watch a presentation on it. Medieval man taught us about: kings, queens, nobles, knights, craftsmen and servants. He showed us lots of dangerous weapons and cool armor that they used in wars. We learned that in medieval times that most kids did not even get to go to school! Can you believe that? So that means they never learned how to read and write, they were not educated! In medieval times things were really hard. They didn't have any of the cool things we have now. At the end of the medieval times presentation we got to try out lots of the cool weapons, armor and clothing. Medieval Man was so fun!

Written by Aleena & Ranudi





Feed the Deed



On March 25th, Ms. Jasaraj's class participated in an activity called **Feed the Deed**. We thought it would be a great idea to brighten someone's day and pay it forward by purchasing 12, \$2 dollar Tim Horton's gift cards and hand them out to deserving people on our journey to Markville Mall. Our class travelled by public transit to the mall. Our transit training included learning about planning an appropriate route, where the bus stops are, proper bus etiquette and safety in the community.

Upon arrival at Markville Mall we set out to find deserving people to whom we could add a smile to their day. We were looking for individuals who may have appeared to need an act of kindness. We could sense from their body language and other clues that they were feeling overwhelmed or perhaps sad and we wanted to make their day a bit happier.

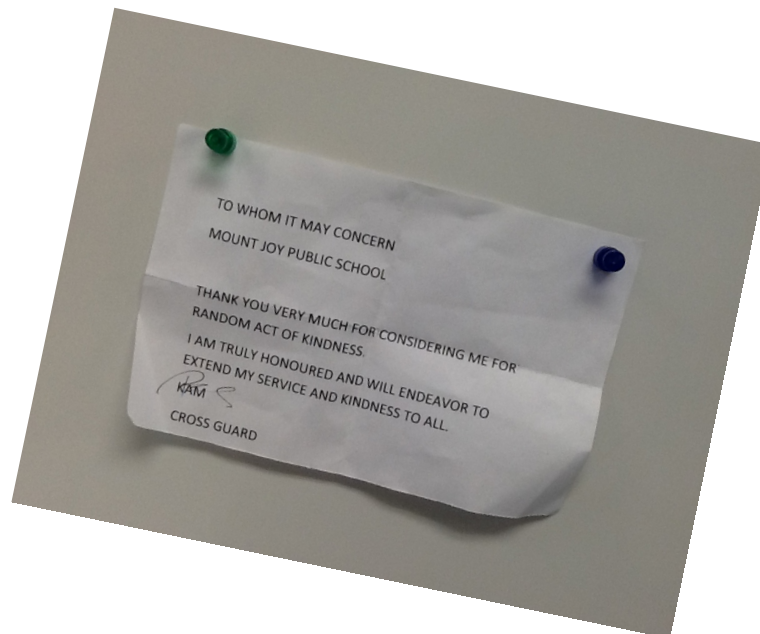
We had both positive and negative experiences. For example, some people wanted their privacy and did not appreciate being approached by a stranger. Even so we carried on. Eventually we found individuals who were extremely grateful for our kindness. Our bus driver was truly touched that we were so kind and gave her a card. An elderly woman hugged one of our students and said that we made her day! Our crossing guard Kam wrote a touching note thanking us for what we have done and promising to "pay it forward" in his day to day work.

We learned a great lesson that day. One very small act of kindness goes a very long way. Hopefully, we have inspired others to spread kindness to complete strangers without any expectations. There is a famous quote, "When given the choice of being right or being kind, choose *kind!*"

Sincerely,

Ms. Jasaraj

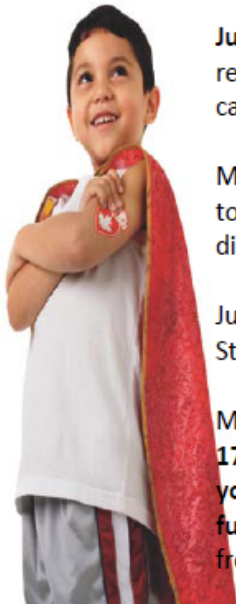
Ms. Brown





**HEART &
STROKE
FOUNDATION**

Calling all JUMPCREDIBLE™ kids and families!



Jump Rope for Heart is a great way to inspire children to embrace healthy living and social responsibility. By jumping rope and raising money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, we can build healthier hearts throughout your school and across the country!

More than 8 out of 10 Canadian children between the ages of 5 and 17 aren't active enough to support optimal health and development, putting our children at serious risk for heart disease at a young age – it doesn't have to be this way.

Jump Rope for Heart gets our kids physically active and raises vital funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation to reduce the devastating effects of heart disease and stroke.

Mount Joy Public School will be participating in the Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart on **April 17th**. This year, we are really encouraging the students at Mount Joy to register online. **Have your child register online, and they will automatically receive \$5 free to kick-start their fundraising!** The first five students to register online and raise \$50 will also receive a prize from Heart and Stroke.

Check out prizes you can earn! Get a chance to WIN AN iPad MINI! Need more information on how to register?

1. Visit: <http://jumpropeforheart.ca/kids-stuff-rewards.php>
2. Scroll to the bottom and click **Register/Login**.
3. Select Ontario and search for Mount Joy to join the school
4. Complete the registration process and you're on your way!

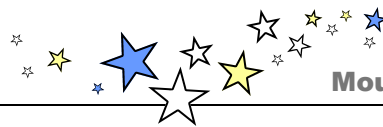
The following is some important information for you to know:

Our school's Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart **Assembly** is on: Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Our school's Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart **Event Day** is on: Thursday, April 17, 2014

Pledge forms are **due** to your teachers on: Tuesday, April 22, 2014


Again, thank you so much for your support! Heart&Stroke Jump Rope for Heart benefits us all – your child gets active and learns to be heart healthy, our school can earn valuable resources, and we all help to support vital heart disease and stroke research and health education – for the future of our children! If you have any comments or questions, please call the school for more information or visit www.jumpropeforheart.ca



April

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2 <i>Pizza Day</i> Jump Rope/Hoop for Hearts Assembly	3 <i>Toronto Symphony Orchestra (Grade 5's)</i> 	4
7 <i>School Council Meeting</i> 6:30p.m.	8	9 <i>Pizza Day</i> Area Band Performance <i>Cookies</i>	10	11
14	15	16 <i>Pizza Day</i>  Cookies	17 <i>Jump Rope/Hoop for Heart</i>  	18 <i>Good Friday</i> <i>(No School)</i>
21 <i>Easter Monday</i> <i>(No School)</i>	22	23  <i>Pizza Day</i> Cookies	24	25
28 <i>Pause to Play Begins</i>	29	30 <i>Spirit Assembly</i> Pizza Day <i>Cookies</i>		

Looking ahead to May

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2 <i>Pause to Play Ends</i>
5 <i>Music Monday</i>	6 <i>School Council Meeting</i> 6:30p.m.	7 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	8	9



For the complete newsletter
please visit the Mount Joy Public School website:
www.mountjoy.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca

