

A P R I L 2 0 1 5

# Mount Joy Public School

**Website:** [www.mountjoy.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.mountjoy.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

**Email:** [mount.joy.ps@yrdsb.ca](mailto:mount.joy.ps@yrdsb.ca)

**Phone:** (905) 202-1684



## *News from the Office*

April will be a very busy month at Mount Joy. Many exciting events are taking place and we are happy to share with you a few of these wonderful happenings! To begin with, this month Mount Joy is proud to announce their first ever Film Festival. Students from grades 5 to 8 have been working very hard over the last few weeks in planning, writing and producing various artistic pieces captured on our wide range of technological resources. Students have been utilizing either digital cameras, video recorders, iPads, MAC book computers and/or other technology that they have been introduced to and working on within their classrooms. Their efforts will be showcased both within their classrooms, as well as on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the **MJIFF**. This is sure to be an exciting 'red carpet' event for Mount Joy families!

April is also **Autism Awareness Month**. In our goal to bring attention to this pervasive disorder that affects tens of millions globally, Mount Joy is encouraging all staff, students and parents to **wear blue on April 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Please help us raise awareness for this growing health concern.

Along with the increasing temperatures this month we expect that the melting snow will create some muddy and wet conditions outside on our field and tarmac areas. We encourage students to dress appropriately, attire such as rain boots and layers of light clothing, will allow them to enjoy the outdoors while staying warm and dry. An extra change of clothes is advisable to pack along in students' backpacks as there have been several slips in the wet and muddy field and the office has been inundated with children wanting to call home for a change of clothes.

Please Join Us For  
**MJIFF**

Mount Joy's International Film Festival  
For Families with Students in Grades 5-8

Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-7:30 pm

Mount Joy Public School rolls out  
the red carpet in honour of their  
first ever Film Festival!

Come and view the wonderful  
products created on film by the  
Junior and Intermediate students  
of Mount Joy Public School! From  
exciting movie trailers to short  
instructional films and even  
French productions, there will be  
a wide variety of film  
genres to enjoy!

We look forward to seeing you!

**Principal:** Mr. Ken Pettigrew

**Vice Principal:** Mrs. Christina Di Stefano

**EOAA:** Ms. Alison Meechan

**Secretary:** Ms. Nuria Costa

**Trustee:** Mr. Allan Tam

**Superintendent of Schools:** Mr. Dan Wu

**School Council Chairs:** Ms. Anita Jarchow  
Ms. Karen Ngai



# Literacy Corner

**How you can help at home: Support your child with these writing strategies...**

By Wendy Miller, Consulting Educator ([www.greatschools.org](http://www.greatschools.org))

## Read, read, read!

The best activity to improve writing is reading. If your child reads good books, they will be a better writer. Reading exposes students to general vocabulary, word study and content-specific vocabulary. Through reading, students see a variety of authors' techniques that they can use in their own writing.



## Encourage your child to keep a reflective journal.

This is excellent writing practice, as well as a good outlet for venting feelings. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school. This reflective journal can be used to develop the "senses" of writing. Have your child write about what they saw, heard or felt on a trip or adventure. Provide experiences in your community that will interest your child and spark their writing. Especially encourage your child to write about personal feelings — pleasures as well as disappointments. When reading your child's journal (only if your child invites you to, of course), share your own feelings and ideas paired with positive feedback about your child's writing.



## Provide authentic writing opportunities for your child.

Have your child write their own thank-you notes, party invitations and letters to family. Let your child make the grocery list. Finding a pen pal for your child would make writing "real." Helping children make the connection between writing and the "real" world will increase an interest in writing.



## Be a writing role model.

Make sure your child sees you as a writer. Point out times that you use writing to communicate with others. Discuss authentic writing in the community such as articles and letters in the newspaper, on billboards or in written advertisements. Discuss the purpose of the writing and the target audience. When your child writes, you should write. You can schedule a day of the week that you will turn off the television and share your writing.

## Ask questions.

Always ask your child questions when they write. Ask specific questions about your child's writing such as: "How did that happen?" "How did that make you feel?" "Can you tell me more about that...?" "What are some other words you could use to describe...?"



## Help your child publish her writing.

Share their writing with others, place it on the refrigerator or encourage them to write for kids' magazines. When your child's writing is published in a children's book, they will be on their way to becoming a lifelong writer and author.

# Mount Joy Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is returning to Mount Joy. This exciting event will be running from **April 27th-May 1st**. Students can visit the fair during school hours all week long as well as during the evening of the Mount Joy Film Festival (Thursday, April 30th). There are many great reasons to visit the book fair.

The following are the **TOP 5** reasons that students are encouraged to shop at the Scholastic Book Fair:

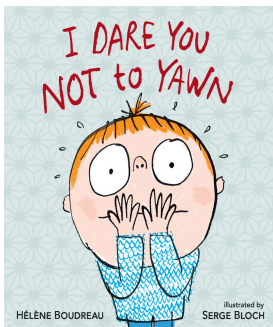
- 1) Kids can buy amazing new fiction and non-fiction books.
- 2) All children can help choose new books for their school library and classroom.
- 3) Helps to raise money for the school and buy new books for the library and each class.
- 4) Students can buy books for home that support their classroom learning.
- 5) Visiting the sale encourages students to develop their love of books and reading.



Come and visit us at the book fair! Stay tuned for more details.

## *I Dare You Not to Yawn – Author Visit*

A famous author is coming to Mount Joy! On **Tuesday, April 21st**, H el ene Boudreau will be visiting our k-2 classes to share her picture books and talk about her journey and her love of writing. Her picture book, *I Dare You Not to Yawn*, is a 2013 Parents' Choice Award winner and a 2014 OLA Blue Spruce Award nominee. It is a student favourite at Mount Joy and we are all very excited for her visit.



We also have two other famous visitors coming this spring. Author Michael Wade will be visiting our grade 3-5 classes and author Wesley King is coming to visit our grade 6-8 classes.

A special thank you to the Mount Joy Parent Council for their generous contributions, which have made these visits possible. The teachers and students are very grateful!



## Community Tea

Join us in the Library for some coffee/tea and treats on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 am and find out what's happening at Mount Joy!







Our School Council has a monthly Family Tea inviting all parents, grandparents, and guardians. This is an opportunity for families to meet and mingle, to share ideas, to ask questions, and to find out more about the role of School Council in the life of Mount Joy.



Reminder that the **Fundscrip** campaign is still active and it's an easy way to support our students at Mount Joy. You can register at [www.fundscrip.com](http://www.fundscrip.com) using our invitation code **JXK336**.

For more information on school council or to be added to our distribution list, please email [mountjoyvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:mountjoyvolunteers@gmail.com).

# April 2015

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
March 30	March 31 <i>Sushi Day</i>	1 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	2	3 <i>Good Friday</i> NO SCHOOL
6 <i>Easter Monday</i> NO SCHOOL	7 <i>Sushi Day</i>	8 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	9	10 <i>Sushi Day</i>
13	14 <i>Sushi Day</i>	15 <i>Grad Retakes</i> <i>Pizza Day</i> 	16	17 <i>Sushi Day</i>
20	21 <i>Sushi Day</i>	22 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	23	24 <i>Sushi Day</i> <i>Community Tea</i> 8:00 am in the Library

# Looking ahead to May

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
April 27	April 28 <i>Sushi Day</i>	April 29 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	April 30 <i>Gr. 7-8 Immunizations</i> <i>Film Festival</i> <i>Grades 5-8</i>	1 <i>Sushi Day</i>
4 <i>School Council Meeting 6:30 pm</i>	5 <i>Sushi Day</i>	6 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	7	8 <i>Sushi Day</i>



For the complete newsletter please visit the  
Mount Joy Public School website:  
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