

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 4

Mount Joy Public School

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News from the Office

Mount Joy is proud to share that our very own Principal, Mr. Pettigrew, and Grade 1 teacher, Mrs. Liu, were presenters at this year's International Quest Leadership Conference held in November. Mr. Pettigrew and Mrs. Liu provided a workshop highlighting Mount Joy's journey in Math over the last year and provided specific structures, conditions and resources that contributed to Mount Joy's success and how they have assisted our school in leading the way for other York Region schools. In addition to the intentional factors carefully put in place to move Mount Joy ahead in the pursuit for excellence in student achievement in Mathematics, Mr. Pettigrew and Mrs. Liu emphasized the unwavering commitment of staff members involved in this journey. The positive responses and interest from participants both from within our Board and internationally was overwhelming. We are so very proud of our staff, students and community who continue to support the work we do at the school in our mission for increased student achievement and well being.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the families in the Mount Joy community who have been most helpful in abiding by our new safety measures we have put in place with regards to the parking lot. Your cooperation has helped make our school premises safer for all our students, staff and community members. We appreciate your continued assistance with these new changes as the colder weather and inclement driving conditions are upon us.


Please Join Us For **Family Math Night**

For Families with Children in Grades 3-5
Thursday, December 11th
6:30-8:00 pm

Come and enjoy the wonders of math with your children and partake in an exciting evening of hands-on learning activities and games!

Learn about EQAO, visit our storytelling station in the library, discover some engaging math apps, and find out if you and your family have what it takes to hunt for math clues around our Escape-It rooms using teamwork and logic to free yourselves in a race against the clock.

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

What Does Literacy Look Like in the Classroom?

Our grade 1-8 students all have 100 minute literacy blocks in their schedules every day. It is during this time that they learn and develop their reading, writing, oral language and media skills. Below are some definitions of terms you may hear your child mentioning when they are talking about their day.

Modelled Reading – The first stage of teaching Reading Comprehension Strategies to the class. During this stage, the teacher “models” his/her thinking to the class. The goal of this activity is to demonstrate the kind of thinking the teacher would like the students to have during future reading tasks.

Mentor Text – A writing/media/oral piece that exceeds expectations and can be used by the class as a guide for being successful. The Mentor Text is often deconstructed for the class to illustrate the areas in which it excels.

Success Criteria – A list of expectations based on the Ontario Curriculum that has been generated by students and the teacher to help guide the learning of a specific unit or skill. This criteria often becomes the list by which students are being assessed.

Independent Reading - This is a 15-20 minute time period where students are able to read quietly at their desk. The goal of this time is not only to allow students the opportunity to read for enjoyment but also to challenge them to put into action the lessons from class (i.e. making connections, word work, etc). Some classes may use Independent Reading time to work on Response Journals related to the novel they are reading.



ELL Tip For The Month:

ELL students should practice reading aloud often. This is a great way to blend listening, oral and reading skills. It will also help them become more comfortable speaking English in front of their peers. Students should read aloud both at home with family and in the classroom.





Community Tea

Join us in the Library for some coffee/tea and treats on Friday, December 12th at 8 am and find out what's happening at 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 using our invitation code **JXK336**.

For more information on school council or to be added to our distribution list, please email mountjoyvolunteers@gmail.com.

From the Equity and Engagement Team

This month the focus of our Equity and Engagement Team is on our ECO-schools initiative. Currently, each class has identified two students who will be acting as the class ECO-reps. The job of the ECO rep is to ensure that their class is properly using the Three Bin System (Garbage, Recycling and Compost). Moreover, the ECO rep will be meeting with the ECO team monthly to discuss new plans for the school and how they can help out their peers.



The Eco Team



The ECO team will be beginning a "Boomerang Lunch Program" that will begin in November and carry on into December. The goal of a Boomerang Lunch is to reduce the amount of waste created from each students' lunch. The ECO team is asking parents to prepare lunches weekly that do not use such wasteful materials such as plastic bags and instead use items like reusable containers and bottles that can be returned home. This year we also have green compost bins for every classroom, so while we are suggesting students take garbage home, they can continue to compost and recycle at school. Thank you for supporting our children and their initiatives to help the environment. The ECO reps will be tabulating points based on which is the **BEST BOOMERANG LUNCH CLASS**.
Good Luck Mount Joy!



KICK IT CAPES

Are you good with a needle and thread? Do you like to create works of art and have fun all while helping out someone in need? The *Happy Soul Project* is doing just that and they are looking for YOUR help!

The *Happy Soul Project* is a not for profit initiative that spends it's time helping to create happy souls :) One of their initiatives is to create and hand out capes (yes, capes like superheroes wear!) for kids who are sick and in need of a pick me up. For kids who are fighting something horrible and are already showing their unique abilities to fight disease like the little superheroes they are! These children may be facing any type of serious illness or disease that needs an extra dose of super-hero strength. Not only does *Happy Soul Project* hand out capes to children who are sick, but they have also been giving them to siblings who are going through their own struggles having a brother or sister who is sick.

What started out as a few kids, turned into hundreds! They have now given out more **than 400+** *Kick-it-Capes* around the world! Since the need is so great, there are constantly children on a waiting list. So we are looking for your help, and it's easy! All we are asking is for you to make a cape!

The capes, like *Happy Soul Project* and our community, should reflect and celebrate differences...So just like every kid is different, so then should the capes...There is no set pattern, this is your chance to get creative. Make a cape that you love and know that someone receiving it will love it too.

If you would like any more information, you can look on the *Happy Soul Project* Facebook page, or you can contact **Ms. Leon here at Mount Joy** at brooke.leon@yrdsb.ca.

The following is a little news segment about what Tara from *Happy Soul Project* does. Check it out to see how awesome this initiative is! <http://www.happysoulproject.com/2014/10/inspiration-thanks-to-kick-it-cape.html>

Thank you for helping out!



Help Make a Kid Feel like a Super Hero!

Library News

Over the past few months we have been purchasing many new books for the library, thanks to the recommendations from staff, students and parents. We have many exciting additions to our library, including chapter books, non-fiction books, graphic novels and dual language books (books in two languages). We encourage students to come and ask about our new books and try reading something different; something out of their comfort zone. In order to encourage students to try something new and continue reading over the winter break, children will be allowed to take home four books over the break. Happy Reading Mount Joy!

Recess Club

Every recess, the library is open to Mount Joy students from grades 1-8. Several students join us to read, research, complete homework, collaborate on projects, search for books and relax. We welcome all students to join us for this time of socializing, studying and relaxing.



Spot Light on Student Voice




The Power of Music

By Addy Lagunju, Grade 7

As William S. Burroughs once said, "There is no intensity of love or feeling that does not involve the risk of crippling hurt. It is a duty to take this risk, to love and feel without defense or reserve." When I decided to take the risk in music by changing my instrument I first thought all the efforts I had put into my previous instrument and my advancement had gone to waste, but then I realized that I would not be going backwards, but I would be moving forward in my knowledge of music. In my opinion, it is impossible for a person to know all there is to know about music; this is because music is always being inspired and created. I had the opportunity to grow as a musician because now not only am I able to play the saxophone, but I am able to play the clarinet as well. Music has always been a part of me, but now it is a part of me that has a bigger part of my heart.





December 2014

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
|-----|--|---|--|---|
| 1 | 2 <i>Sushi Day</i> | 3 <i>Pizza Day</i>  | 4 | 5 <i>Gr. 7/8 Immunizations</i> |
| 8 | 9 <i>Sushi Day</i> <i>Mathletes Grades 3-6</i> | 10 <i>Pizza Day</i>  <i>Mathletes Grades 3-6</i> | 11 Family Math Night (Gr. 3-5) | 12 <i>Community Tea</i> <i>8:00 am in the Library</i> |
| 15 | 16 <i>Sushi Day</i> | 17 <i>Pizza Day</i>  | 18 | 19 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

WINTER BREAK

Looking ahead to January

| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
|--|---|--|-------|-----------------------|
| 5 First Day Back from Winter Break | 6 | 7 <i>Pizza Day</i>  | 8 | 9 |
| 12 | 13 <i>School Council Meeting</i> <i>6:30 pm</i> | 14 <i>Pizza Day</i>  | 15 | 16 <i>P.A. Day</i> |



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

