

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 6

Mount Joy Public School

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News from the Office

We would like to take this opportunity to express a heartfelt thanks to all the families who supported our recent Family Literacy Night on Thursday, January 28th. It was certainly a fun-filled evening where primary students and their families were able to enjoy a wide range of literacy activities that promoted reading, writing, oral and media literacy development. From read alouds heard around the fire at Mount Joy's very own campgrounds to word games and story re-writes, the evening had many unique literacy opportunities for our younger readers and writers and their families to enjoy. We hope that families also got the chance to take part in our parent workshops that focused on early reading and comprehension strategies that can be used with their children, as well as peruse the dual language texts. The evening also included our first ever "Speaker's Corner" and photo booth capturing young readers enjoying their favourite narratives. Beloved stories like "The Dot" and "Shape Art" were the focus of beautiful creations produced by our students in the storybook craft stations, as well as teddy bear portraits painted in our art studio! Exploring iPad apps were another fun way to engage with literacy. Our 'book swap' of both new and gently used books could not have been so successful without all the families and staff who were more than generous with their donations. The enthusiasm demonstrated by staff, students and their families is a true symbol of the strong commitment to literacy that we all share as a school community.

Sincerely,

Mr. Pettigrew & Mrs. Di Stefano

Term 1 Report Cards

**will be going home on
Thursday, February 18th**

This month your child will be receiving their 1st Term Provincial Report Card outlining their progress from the beginning of the school year until the end of the term. Areas of focus will be their learning skills and their strengths and next steps with Ministry expectations with respect to their grade level.

We encourage you to continue to have conversations with your child and their teacher to help support their success at school. Thank you for your continued partnership with the school.



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

Thank you to all of the families of Kindergarten to Grade Two students who came out to celebrate our annual Literacy Night here at Mount Joy. It was a great success!

Now that Term One Report Cards are ready to go home, we know that you may still have some questions about your child's progress or are wondering how to help them to reach the next level. Here are some questions to ask yourself in order to prepare next steps for your child.

- ***Are you or your student reading daily?***

We want to continue to foster the love of reading at home. Although children come home with books they can read themselves, reading more difficult texts (e.g., library books) to your children is an important way to build comprehension. Some books may be difficult for children to read on their own, however, rich discussions can often be had before, during and after reading.

- ***Are you fostering a writing environment at home?***

Often the focus is placed to heavily on developing reading skills; however, students need to the opportunity to write. For the younger grades, it could be as simple as a retell of their day or the book they are reading with you. For the junior grades, it could be promoting the use of a journal or diary so that students are able to express themselves through writing. For the older grades, summarizing and paragraph writing is essential in high school; therefore, it could be beneficial for students to practice these skills using newspaper articles. It is extremely important to work with your child not only on their writing but on the most beneficial skill, proofreading. After your child has written a piece, make sure they put it away for a bit and come back to it later. By taking sometime and reading the piece out loud can give each student a new perspective on what they wrote.



- ***Are you having meaningful discussions with your child?***

You may want to prompt your child to make connections to stories such as asking if the book reminds them of something (e.g., another book, a personal experience, something they know, something they have seen before). This will help your child better understand what it is they have read. Moreover, asking them complex questions that can have more than one answer will cause them to look at one issue from multiple perspectives. (i.e. *How could the story have ended differently? How might the story be different if told from the other character's perspective? Which part of the story did you feel could be improved?*)



ELL Tips

When reading unfamiliar words, remind your child to chunk the word by finding smaller sounds or smaller words within a word. For example, with the word 'standing': have your child use his/her finger to cover up all the letters except 'st'; sound that out and then cover 'st' with one finger and 'ing' with the other and read 'and'; then read 'ing'; then read all three sounds together: 'st/and/ing'. Focus on the positive and what your child can do. Try not to worry about what they can't do yet. It takes practice and time. Remember to encourage and praise.

When praising:

Instead of saying:

Good girl.

You're so smart!

Try saying:

You tried really hard.

I see how you remembered to read to the end of each word.

Great reading!

I can see you are working very hard on trying to understand what it is about.

You're so good at this.

You did it!



Studies have shown that when praising a child's traits like their intelligence, it reduces motivation, focuses students on their performance and encourages them to compare themselves with others. When students are praised for their effort and behavior, it encourages them to develop a flexible mindset, work towards next steps and take on challenges.

ELL தகவல்

பரிச்சயமற்ற சொற்களை வாசிக்கும் போது, சிறிய ஒலிகளை அல்லது சொல்லொன்றினுள் சிறிய சொற்களைப் பார்ப்பதன் மூலம் சொல்லை அரைக்குமாறு உங்கள் குழந்தைக்கு நினைவுட்டுங்கள். உதாரணமாக, 'standing' என்ற சொல்லைப் பொறுத்தளவில் 'st' என்ற எழுத்தைத் தவிர சகல எழுத்துக்களையும் அவரது விரல்களினால் பிள்ளையை மூடச் செய்யுங்கள்; அதை உச்சரிக்கச் செய்துவிட்டு பின் 'st' என்ற எழுத்துக்களை ஒரு விரலினாலும், 'ing' என்ற எழுத்துக்களை மற்றைய விரலினாலும் மூடிவிட்டு, 'and' என்ற எழுத்துக்களை வாசித்துவிட்டு, பின் 'ing' என்ற எழுத்துக்களை வாசிக்கச் செய்யுங்கள்; அதன் பின்னர் 'standing' என சகல மூன்று ஒலிகளையும் ஒன்றுசேர வாசிக்கச்செய்யுங்கள். உடன்பாடானதும், உங்கள் குழந்தையால் என்ன செய்யமுடியும் என்பதினதும் மீது நோக்கினைக் கொண்டிருங்கள். இன்னுமே அவர்களால் செய்ய முடியாததைப் பற்றி கவலைப்படாமல் இருப்பதற்கு முயற்சியுங்கள். அது பயிற்சியையும், நேரத்தையும் எடுக்கும். ஊக்கமளிப்பதையும், பாராட்டுவதையும் இட்டு நினைவில் வைத்திருங்கள்.

பாராட்டும் போது:

நல்ல பிள்ளை எனக் கூறுவதற்குப் பதிலாக:

நீங்கள் உண்மையாக கடுமையாக முயற்சித்தீர்கள் என கூறுவதற்கு முயலுங்கள்.

நீங்கள் மிகவும் சுறுசுறுப்பானவர் எனக் கூறுவதற்குப் பதிலாக:

ஒவ்வொரு சொல்லின் இறுதி வரை வாசிப்பதற்கு நீங்கள் எவ்வாறு நினைவில் வைத்திருந்தீர்கள் என்பதை என்னால் பார்க்கக்கூடியதாக இருக்கிறது எனக் கூறுவதற்கு முயலுங்கள்.

நன்றாக வாசித்துவிட்டீர்கள் எனக் கூறுவதற்குப் பதிலாக:

புரிந்துகொள்வதை முயற்சிப்பதில் நீங்கள் கடுமையாக உழைக்கிறீர்கள் என்பதை என்னால் பார்க்க முடிகின்றது எனக் கூறுவதற்கு முயலுங்கள்.

நீங்கள் இதில் பெரிதுமே நன்றாக இருக்கிறீர்கள் எனக் கூறுவதற்குப் பதிலாக: இது எதைப் பற்றியது, நீங்கள் இதைச் செய்துவிட்டீர்கள் எனக் கூறுவதற்கு முயலுங்கள். ஒரு பிள்ளையின் நுண்ணறிவு போன்ற அவர்களது சிறப்பானதன்மைகளைப் பாராட்டும் போது, அது செயல்நோக்கத்தைக் குறைக்கின்றது, அவர்களது செயல்நிறைவேற்றம் மீது மாணவர்களைக் குவியப்படுத்துகின்றது அத்துடன் ஏனையோருடன் தம்மை ஒப்பிடுவதற்கு அவர்களை ஊக்குவிக்கின்றது என ஆய்வுகள் காட்டியுள்ளன. அவர்களது முயற்சிக்காகவும், நடத்தைக்காகவும் மாணவர்கள் பாராட்டப்படும் போது, வளைந்துகொடுக்கக்கூடிய மனோநிலையை விருத்திசெய்வதற்கும், அடுத்த நடவடிக்கைகளை நோக்கி பணியாற்றுவதற்கும் அத்துடன் சவால்களை எடுப்பதற்கும் அவர்களை அது ஊக்குவிக்கின்றது.

· 當口讀不熟悉的單詞時, 提提孩子們去認出細小的單字或單字的英語拼音. 例如, 英文單詞 _ 'standing' . 可以教孩子們 _ 'st' , 'and' 和 _ 'ing' 的拼音. 然後依次序把拼音讀一次, 越讀越快直到發音自然地連成standing這個字.

這個過程會在孩子學習過程中不斷重 不常用:

複. 若孩子們有困難, 不要太擔心. 集中在他們可以做的. 口讀單詞需要練習和時間. 記得使用鼓勵和稱讚的口話較好.

稱讚時, 嘗試使用:

你真用工去嘗試.

你記得口讀整個單詞.

你很用工去理解.

你做到了. 你成工了.

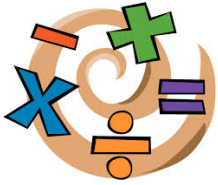
乖孩子.

你這麼聰明.

讀得好.

對你實在易如翻掌.



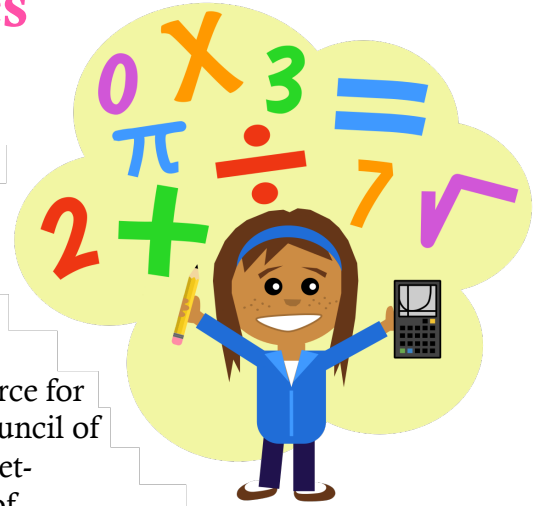


Math Messages

Illuminate the World of Math

Do you want your children to be successful and engaged in mathematics?

Give **Illuminations** a try. It can be found at <https://illuminations.nctm.org/>. It is an engaging, online resource for teachers, parents and students. **Illuminations** is the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) collection of desktop and tablet-friendly interactive activities designed to “illuminate” the world of mathematics. NCTM is a mathematics education organization with affiliates in Canada and the United States. There is an abundance of activities for children from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 found on this site.



For example, *Interactives* offers numerous games and resources for building math skills, such as *Coin Box* (pre-kindergarten – grade 5), which helps children “learn how to count, collect, exchange, and make change for coins by manipulating coins using an array representation.” *Deep Sea Dual*, is another interactive (grades 3 - 8) found here. “This strategy game requires you to select cards with a specified sum before your opponent.” Many of these games come as downloadable apps for your mobile devices.

Another feature of this site is *Calculation Nation*®, which offers online math strategy games with a twist. “Calculation Nation® uses the power of the Web to let students challenge opponents from anywhere in the world. At the same time, students are able to challenge themselves by investigating significant mathematical content and practicing fundamental skills.”

One more aspect of this website is the Brain Teaser section. “Brain Teasers challenge students and mathematics enthusiasts to test their skills with puzzles”.

Who says learning math can't be fun?





Healthy Bits and Bites



Thank you to all the families who celebrated in January's "Healthy Lunch Challenge". The objective of this activity was for students to bring three of the four food groups in their snacks and lunches for the week of January 25th. Students then tracked what food groups they brought each day. The winning class(es) who had the most participants in the school will be announced the first week of February!

In celebration of our two new water bottle filling stations purchased by our Parent Council, Mount Joy P.S. is going to launch a "Re-Think your Drink" campaign. This campaign will bring awareness to the health benefits of drinking water and the reduced impact on the environment from using refillable water bottles. Public Health recommends that children aged 7-18 years limit juice to 1-1 1/2 cups per day. Don't be fooled. The words "made with real juice" do not mean the drink is 100 per cent fruit juice. Read the label, if sugar, fructose or glucose is on the list the drink has sugar added and is NOT a healthy choice. We will be setting goals as a school and challenging students to drink more water on a daily basis. Mount Joy's personalized logo water bottles will be going on sale later this month. Please watch for more information to follow.

As Valentine's Day approaches, we would like to remind families that if you would like to send "treats" for your child's class, we encourage non-food items. As Mount Joy P.S. is designated as a Healthy School, sugary sweets are discouraged. Ideas for other class "treats" may include; pencils, erasers, loot bags or healthy snacks. Please check with your child's teacher to ensure there are no allergies in the classroom before sending snacks.

Remember that every Wednesday is i-Walk to school day. We are encouraging families and students to walk to and from school every Wednesday to promote a healthy, active lifestyle. Not only are there health benefits from walking, but it also helps our environment by leaving our cars parked at home. So bundle up, enjoy the winter season and get walking!

Community Tea



Join us in the Library for some coffee/tea and treats on Friday, February 26th at 8:15 am in the Library 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 using our invitation code **JXK336**.

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



Spot Light on Student Voice Joining the Healthy Schools Team

The following Healthy Schools Team Members share their reasons for taking a risk this year to join this team.

“By being involved with the Healthy Schools Team, I have learned how to be healthy. I know that if the team can be healthy, we can show everyone else how to be healthy too. Learning about how eating too many sweets is not good for you was important for me. I want to encourage people to make healthy choices and exercise. Walking your dog or playing sports are easy ways to get healthy!”

~Jenna M. Grade 4



“Our team is trying to get everyone to be healthy and make healthy choices. We want everyone at Mount Joy to exercise by walking to and from school.”





~Thusani S, Grade 4

“I want help people to be healthy and exercise to stay in shape. I learned eating too much fat is not good for your body or health. These are important tips I have learned by being on the team.”


~Kripa B. Grade 4



February 2015

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1 <i>PA DAY</i>	2 <i>School Council Meeting 6:30 pm</i>	3 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	4	5
8	9 <i>Sushi Day</i>	10 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	11	12 Spirit Day & Valentine's Dance-A-Thon
15 Family Day (No School)	16 <i>Sushi Day</i>	17 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	18 <i>Reports go home</i>	19
22	23 <i>Sushi Day</i>	24 <i>Pizza Day</i>  Spirit Day Anti-Bullying Wear Pink	25	26 <i>Community Tea at 8:00 am</i> House Colour Day

Looking ahead to March

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1 <i>Sushi Day</i> <i>School Council Meeting 6:30 pm</i>	2 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	3	4
7	8 <i>Sushi Day</i>	9 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	10	11



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