

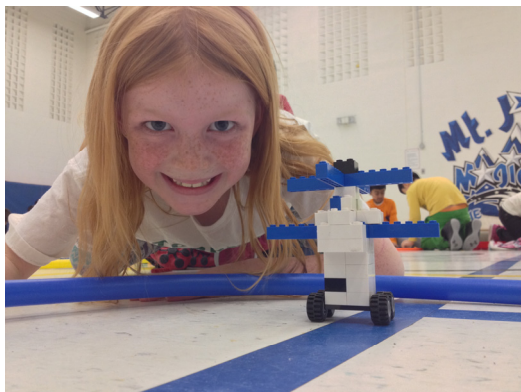
Mount Joy Public School

Together We Are Magic!

January/February 2014

Happy New Year! We hope that you all enjoyed your holiday, and that you have headed in to the new year with a refreshed enthusiasm and energy. We also hope that no one was affected too much by the ice storm that hit us just a few weeks ago. Personally, despite the destruction that hit my own neighbourhood, I was inspired by the sense of community that was so evident. People came together to help each other to clear away fallen trees, and to invite others in for warmth and hospitality while awaiting the power to return. Our strength is our community.

Now that we are back to school, there are so many opportunities for students to get involved. One of our newest clubs is our Primary Lego™ Club, which meets twice a week. Each Monday, students are given a challenge that they must complete over two days. On Tuesdays, students share their creations in a gallery walk. Below, a student shares her flying machine. Other clubs include:



band, primary singing club, basketball, volleyball, crafts club, board games club, and dance and fitness club. It is so encouraging to see so many students turn out week after week to

work together, develop new skills, and build lasting friendships. A special thank you goes to the wonderful staff members who give their time to make these opportunities possible.



It has certainly been a cold and snowy winter so far. We want to remind everyone that we will go outside for recess every day, provided that the temperature is above -20° , and the conditions of the yard are safe. Students are reminded to dress appropriately for the weather, and to always take care when walking in the snow and ice. Our students have found wonderful ways to enjoy the snow, including building snow forts, creating snow soccer games, and creating interesting snow structures.

Inside this edition of the newsletter, please take a look at the information regarding the new Ministry of Education policy regarding the locking of the front doors to the school.

We wish you a wonderful winter.

Mr. Pettigrew & Ms. Brndiar



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

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



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to remind you that beginning **Monday, February 3**, our school doors, including the front door, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning bell rings. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the school day. All visitors, including Board staff, parents and guardians, will be required to buzz in and sign in at the main office.

In addition:

- ◆ *To access before and after care programs, please use the outside door of the classroom your child is in. Knock on the door and program staff will let you into the building through the designated door.*
- ◆ *If you are dropping lunch off for your child, you will need to buzz in.*
- ◆ *If you are picking your child up during the instructional day, or for lunch, you will need to buzz in.*
- ◆ *Portable classroom doors will be locked. Students who need to access the main school will use a swipe card entry system.*

Our school continues to be a safe place where we welcome and encourage parent and community member involvement. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place for student and staff safety, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office.

If you have any questions, please contact our main office.

Sincerely,

Ken Pettigrew





Literacy Corner

“A great book should leave you with many experiences, and slightly exhausted at the end. You live several lives while reading.”

— [William Styron](#)

Looking deeper into the meaning of what we read, see and hear continues to be an important classroom focus. At school we teach students to think about what they already know about a subject/character/setting/theme/author/genre in order to help them understand a book. Having students make connections to their own experiences, to other texts, and to the things that happen in the world can provide opportunity for deeper levels of understanding and consideration while reading.

You can support this thinking and learning at home by trying out some of the following prompts when you are talking about books:

How does this story make you feel?

Have you ever had similar experiences?

How might you be able to use what you learned?

This book reminds me of _____. Can you think why?

How does this story compare to _____ (another book you've read)?

What do other sources of information say about these events, characters, and issues?

Why might learning about this topic be important?

How might you be able to use what you learned?

(Fountas & Pinnell, Prompting Guide Part 2 for Comprehension)



In the Library

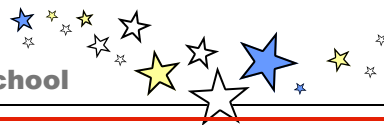
Welcome to 2014

Happy New Year. We are looking forward to an exciting year in the library.

Thank you to everyone who read and returned their Winter Break Reading. We are thrilled that students were so interested in taking books home for the holidays! If you have not yet returned the Winter Break reading, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns about outstanding books, please do not hesitate to write a note and send it with your child to the library.

Reading Resolutions

This year, we encourage students to make a resolution to try something new. We challenge you to consider reading something you wouldn't usually read. Some examples of books available in our library are; graphic novels, non-fiction texts, dual language books, chapter books and poetry. Check in with Mrs. Horsley and Ms. Gorman and we can help you find something new to read.



Kindergarten Registration

Registration for September classes (children born in 2010) began on **January 17, 2014**. We will be accepting registrations from 8:30a.m.-3:00 p.m. daily. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Follow the kindergarten link on the right hand side of the page. Children who turn four or five years old during 2014, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten.

When you come to register your child, please bring with you:

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



If you currently have a Junior Kindergarten student here at Mount Joy and you live in the Mount Joy school community, the student will automatically be placed on the Senior Kindergarten list for September.

Kiss 'n Ride

If you drive or pick up your child from Mount Joy, you know just how congested traffic can be in front of the school, in the drop off loop and in the parking lot. If you are driving your child to school, please use the Kiss'n Ride via the school parking lot.

The Kiss'n Ride is for drop off only, not parking. **Parents should not park the car, leave the car unattended or wait in that area at any time.** If you would like to walk your child to the doors or meet your child after school, please park your car on Williamson Rd or one of the side streets that allow parking.

It is extremely important that you allow extra time to drop off or pick up your child. **Please be patient, drive slowly and be careful.**

French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

FI registration began January 17, 2014. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in September 2014, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call their home school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. **The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school.** Parents or guardians then **take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Sam Chapman P.S. to register between January 17 and February 14, 2014.** This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.



Report Cards

Term One report cards will be distributed to our students on Thursday, February 13, 2014.



Holiday Drives

We would like to thank all students and families for donating coats, unwrapped toys and non perishable foods to our local charities. There were a lot of bags and boxes full of wonderful coats, toys and food that went towards helping some of our own community families. Thank you to Ms Harding, Mrs. Leon, Mr. Sennema and their classes for helping to sort and pack all of the items which were donated to the Salvation Army, the Fire Department's Toy Drive and the Markham Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity! You have all definitely made a difference!



Hey Mount Joy!

Mrs. Grech's Grade 4 class sold candy canes and made a donation to help the people in need in Africa. We raised enough money to build one well for a classroom. As well, we bought two pigs and some baby chicks. It was all thanks to the school! Thank you very much.

Written by: Darren and Ranudi



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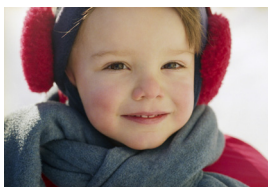


Weather Watch



All students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 are expected to go out for every recess unless we decide that weather conditions are so poor that it would be detrimental for them to be outdoors. Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outside for 40 minutes after lunch. **We always monitor the weather and, in extreme conditions e.g. wind chill; we keep the students indoors or shorten the recess breaks.**

We often receive requests from parents asking us to keep their children indoors during recess times because they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or facilities to supervise students who are sick or still recovering from an illness. **Students with heavy colds, etc., which are serious enough to prevent them from participating in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will likely benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of this illness to others.**



Please make sure that your children are dressed properly for our invigorating winter days. Boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants will help make recess an enjoyable time. It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found, please be sure to label all articles of clothing.

Charity Challenge

Written by: Izabela

In the season of giving, the intermediate teachers Mr. Berger and Ms. Braiantsis organized a charity challenge. All students from grade 7 and 8 choose a charity to represent, while working together to raise money to give to the winner. The class has earned \$67.00 and Ms. Braiantsis doubled the money, making it \$134.00! The winner was the **Curvy Girls Scoliosis Support Group of Toronto**, which was started last year by a student in Ms. Braiantsis' class along with another girl who themselves have scoliosis. Scoliosis is a disease that affects the spine, and the Curvy Girls gives support to girls of all ages, throughout the greater Toronto area. We would like to give a special thanks to those students who raised money to help out this charity!

Written by: Lathu, Imaan, Joey.W, Candy

The intermediate division decided to do something nice for the holiday season by giving back to our community! We were given a task, in which we were to choose a charity or fundraiser and to spice things up even more, we each divided into groups and had a contest! We had to research about the charity's mission, how they helped, whether or not they were a non-profit charity and if they were worthy enough for us to donate. **The Ladybug Foundation** was the charity that got the money that Mr. Sennema's class pitched in for the winning group. The Ladybug Foundation is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to put an end to homelessness. This foundation raises money to assist charitable organizations which provide food, shelter, and other needs of the homeless and near homeless in Canada. We decided to choose this charity because we strongly believed that no one should be alone in the cold with literally nothing. By donating to this charity homeless people receive more basic needs that they weren't so fortunate in receiving. Overall, \$115 was donated to this charity.

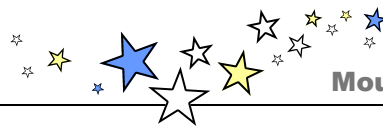
Written by: Olivia, Qadira and Lasveni

The charity we chose for the charity challenge was **Give Directly**. The charity challenge is a challenge where we pick a charity and make a presentation about it. We had to convince the class that our charity deserves the \$50.00 cheque by using the information on their website and reviews. The class had to vote for whose presentation was the best and which charity to donate to. Our Charity choice Give Directly won the charity challenge and the 50 dollar donation. We chose Give Directly as our charity because, it wasn't very popular for what it does, and we needed to give more attention to the charity. We liked the idea of giving the money directly to the charity and not taking a big portion of the money for the workers. We also thought it had good ratings and percentages. In the past their charity has helped many people and have created a method which actually works. Compared to other charities Give Directly has been the best charity donation company because it gives 90% of the income to the charity. We chose you because you are an incredible charity and we thank you for being helpful to people in need.





Written by: Joelle and Katie

The Charity Challenge was made to put our beliefs to the test. We were to choose a charity, research everything about it, present it to our class using a media presentation, and wait for the results of our own class voting. After searching through many, many, charities, we ended up being very happy with **Compassion**. We were so amazed by how many children across the world are struggling with such simple things. How we take education for granted, water and food is always there, and our homes will never go out. There are kids who are our age, younger, and older who need this more than we do and we were devastated at the thought of that. We knew for sure that this money will definitely help many children if we won these votes. Luckily, we won our class vote and we are now able to help save a child in Jesus' name.






Compassion Canada is part of their international organization of Compassion International. Their goal is to release children from poverty in Jesus' name. Serving in 26 economical countries, Compassion partners, with local churches help children and families of poverty to escape. More than 1.4 million children are being sponsored in their program. Through this, children discover lives full of promise and purpose as they grow in every way while finding God's love for them through the gospel of Jesus Christ.



January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
20	21 <i>Sub Day</i> 	22 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	23	24
27	28 <i>Sub Day</i> 	29 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	30	31

Looking ahead to February

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4 <i>School Council Meeting</i> <i>6:30p.m.</i> <i>Heritage School House</i> <i>(Gr. 3)</i>	5 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	6	7
10	11 <i>Grade 8 Graduation</i> <i>Pictures</i> 	12 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	13	14
17 <i>Family Day</i> <i>(No School)</i> 	18	19 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	20	21
24	25	26 <i>Pizza Day</i> <i>Dental Screening</i> <i>(JK, SK, Gr. 2, Gr. 8)</i>	27 <i>Dental Screening</i> <i>(JK, SK, Gr. 2, Gr. 8)</i>	28

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

