

## News from the Office



On February 11th, students across the school celebrated the 100th day of school. It is hard to believe that we are over half-way through this school year. Students celebrated by bringing in and sharing collections of "100 things" and by singing songs along a parade. This day also gives us time to stop and think about the many exciting things that happen each and every day here at Mount Joy.



During the Olympics, staff and students were engaged in various activities to cheer on Canada's athletes, while learning about sport, culture, and current events. The Olympics have a way of pulling a nation together, just as their celebration helps to pull a school together.

One of the things we are working hard at as a school is to create opportunities for students to show leadership, express themselves, and to engage in activities that serve to strengthen well-being. One such activity is our Dance and Fitness Club. Each week, a group of student leaders selects various types of music, to which they choreograph dance and fitness routines. These students reflect the diversity of our school and have been encouraged to take on the leadership of the club. These student leaders have stepped outside of their comfort zones, and expressed themselves in creative ways. The students select a range of music, from current hits to cultural favourites. The dance routines are engaging, exciting, and focus on developing physical fitness in an atmosphere of free expression.

Every Friday, over 200 students and at least 15 staff members attend the thirty-minute Dance and Fitness Club, and engage in an enthusiastic dance regimen. The popularity of the Dance and Fitness Club has grown, with its attendance continuing to increase every week. The Dance and Fitness Club leaders also prepare a routine for the monthly spirit assemblies, where there are over 700 participants. It is an amazing workout, and a lot of fun too.

As we head into the March Break, we wish every family in the Mount Joy community a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. Whether you are headed for sunny climates, or the comforts of home, we wish you all the best, and look forward seeing you when we return. Just think, spring is only a few weeks away!

Mr. Pettigrew &  
Ms. Brndiar



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



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



## Literacy

“So please, oh PLEASE, we beg, we pray, Go throw your TV set away, And in its place you can install, A lovely bookshelf on the wall.”

— Roald Dahl, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*

It’s hard to believe that we are already in term 2 and soon we will all be enjoying March Break! We encourage all of our students to continue to read over the break. In March, we will be introducing our students to Forest of Reading; a program organized by the Ontario Library Association that introduces school aged children to a selection of nominated titles. The students will have the opportunity to vote on their favourite book selection.

In order to assist the students in the voting process, they will be investigating the criteria for what makes a ‘good’ book. We will be having discussions centered on our opinions of stories we are reading. This can be supported at home by continuing to talk about books. Discuss your favourite books and why you love them. Talk about reasons why you enjoyed a story or why you did not.

The following prompts may be useful in guiding these discussions:

- ◆ *Why might we like a story or a book?*
- ◆ *How did that story make you feel?*
- ◆ *What was your favourite moment of the story?*
- ◆ *Would you recommend that book?*
- ◆ *Who do you think might also enjoy that story?*



## Feed the Deed

Currently at Mount Joy, our students are participating in a program called "Everyday Hero" where they can nominate other students who they believe have shown heroic qualities. Starting last week, Mrs. Wood's class took another step in giving back to the community. They began the "Feed the Deed" program where a class selects a person or group of people that they believe deserve recognition for being heroes in the community. Mrs. Woods' class decided that they would like to salute the hard work of local firefighters. On Wednesday February 26, Mrs. Woods' class surprised Station 98's firefighters with coffee and doughnuts which made their day. To continue on the "Feed the Deed" campaign, Mrs. Woods' class would like to nominate Ms. Jasaraj's classroom. Good luck!



## Autism Awareness Month

April is Autism awareness month. The “Light It Up Blue” campaign kicks off the month on April 2, which is World Autism Awareness Day. Light It Up Blue is a global initiative to help raise awareness about the growing concern that is autism. The campaign, encourages people to put a blue light in or outside their house to raise Autism awareness. At school, we are encouraging all students and staff to wear blue on April 2, to show their support.



## Intermediate Girls Basketball

During the months of January and February, 16 Intermediate Girls spent their time preparing for the Basketball season. They worked very hard on improving their passing, shooting and defending all in the hopes of capturing the Area Tournament Championship. They truly formed a team and grew as individuals during this time and all three of their coaches are extremely proud of them. On Thursday, February 28th, Mount Joy's Intermediate Basketball team competed in the Area tournament bowing out in the Quarter-finals against a tough Greensborough team. Their road to the Quarterfinals was filled with ups and downs as they began the day with a loss to the heavily favoured Cornell Village team. However, after that loss, they bounced back to play an inspiring game against Ramerwood which they would go on to win. Mrs. Lukas, Mr. Hui and Mr. Berger would like to congratulate Abigail, Ahliyah, Izabela, Hooriya, Olivia, Joey, Joey, Lathu, Lucky, Alyssa, Shahena, and Lagan. We would also like to thank and congratulate our team captains Aarani, Niveetha, Iasveni, and Jasmine for the ongoing teamwork and leadership. Great season ladies!

## African Heritage Month

As a part of our African Heritage Month celebrations, a reader from Arts Express came in to the library to share the story "Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged". One day in 1946, hair salon owner Viola Desmond's car broke down in the town of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. To pass the time while it was being fixed, she went to the movies, only to be told she had to move from her main floor seat to the balcony – the theatre was racially segregated, and she, a black woman, could not sit among the white patrons. Desmond refused to move and ended up spending the night in jail.

The Grade 1's, 2's, 3's and 4's really enjoyed the story telling presentation which taught us about the meaning of racism, discrimination and bullying and also helped make our students aware of racism towards African Canadian people in the past and present in Canada. Some of the Grade 1 students were able to engage in the drama activity by role playing as the ushers in the movie theatre and also pretending to be Viola Desmond. The presentation also taught us about how we can get the courage to stand for and speak up about our rights. Thank you Ms. Rai for organizing the story telling for Mount Joy!



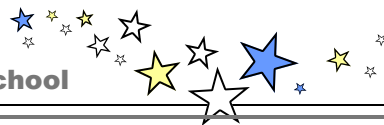
## Water Shed on Wheels Instinct for Survival

In February the grades 3's and 4's experienced Watershed on Wheels, Instinct for Survival. The grade 4's learned about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We saw and got to hold animal skulls and animal furs such as: a beaver's skull and fur, a skunk's skull and fur, a raccoon's skull and fur, a coyote's skull and fur and a fox's fur. We also learned that a mix of a coyote and a wolf is called a Hybrid Coy-wolf. We played a game outdoors where there were herbivores that had to run away from omnivores and carnivores. The omnivores had to run away from the carnivores, and the carnivores had to run away from humans and diseases. The game we played was so much fun, except a lot of herbivores were losing their lives! We also learned that not all deer have antlers, only males do. Did you know that beavers have a special thing in their teeth called iron? The iron helps the beaver's teeth stay strong and helps them chew through wood. We wouldn't want to chew through wood would we? Thanks Mr. Graham for bringing this fun presentation to Mount Joy!

*Written by Akshayaa and Aparnaa*







## The Pioneer Schoolhouse

On Friday January 10, 2014 Mrs. Newman's grade 3 students went to the Heritage Schoolhouse. In the schoolhouse students experienced what it was like to be pioneer students. It was hard. In pioneer times they learned arithmetic (math), penmanship (writing) and they did spelling bees. In pioneer times they got punishments like the strap. If you did anything with your left hand, you get the log to sit on and you had two heavy wood pins if you talked. These are some of the experiences that Mrs. Newman's grade 3 students had as pioneer students.

Written by: Maathuri Manokanthan and John Liu



## Scientist in the School

### Sound Is Music to Our Ears

On Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, Scientist in the School came to our portable! They taught us about Music and Sound and showed us many different instruments. We learned about sound waves and how sound travels in waves. Mrs. O'Brien came to our portable and brought us different amazing musical instruments that had many special pitches. Then she let us hit a tuning fork and put it in the water. A tuning fork is something that makes sound waves and when we put it in the water it SPLASHED everywhere on the desks.

We also saw how many different instruments could make many different sounds. The sound will be lower when the item is longer and thicker. When a string has a greater tension the sound will be higher because more tension is applied. If the string is looser or has less tension, the sound will be lower. We did an experiment called laughing chicken. It was a cup with a string and when you pull the string with wet fingers it will make a chicken noise.

Animals use sound too! Bats use something called echolocation. They use this by sending out sounds that are too high to hear for humans. These sounds bounce off the walls and shoot back at the bat. The bat then knows where there will be a wall. Isn't that cool?



*Article written by: Samson, Arwen, and Dillani.*

## You're The Chef



In the next couple of months, Mount Joy will be beginning its after-school "You're The Chef" program. The "You're The Chef" program will allow 8-12 students from Grades 5-8 to learn how to cook healthy meals. The program focuses on introducing vegetables and fruits into the students daily diet. Look out for the flyers and maybe you will join us to Cook Up Some Fun!

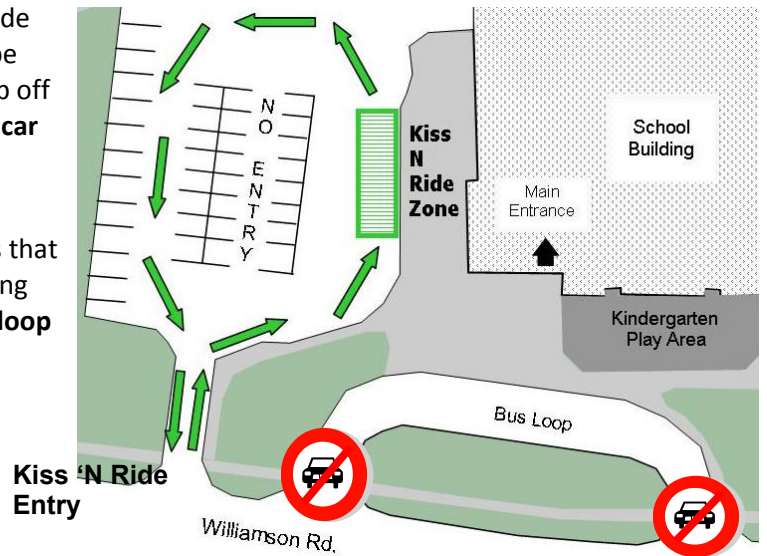


## Kiss 'n Ride

Parents familiar with morning traffic know just how congested traffic can be in the morning and afternoon 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. Do not enter the bus loop. Please be patient, drive slowly and be careful. 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.**

Please remember that there are some Mount Joy PS students that are bussed to school and we do have vans and busses accessing our bus loop to drop off students. **Please do not use the bus loop to drop off your child.**



**Please remember: the best way to get to school... is to walk!**

## Enter our contest by sharing your Cook Up Some Fun! story

For a chance to **win one of two \$200 grocery store gift cards**, families are invited to share any successes, tips or challenges they have overcome to make planning, shopping, cooking or eating together work for their family. All families who [share their story](#) with us will receive a family prize pack.

Cooking is a wonderful way for parents to spend positive time with their children and can help kids to:

- Learn new words and concepts needed for reading.
- Develop small muscle strength and coordination needed for writing.
- Learn problem solving and measuring skills needed for math.

When families have fun cooking together, they tend to eat together more frequently, and are more likely to have healthier eating habits. They also tend to have healthier weights and are less likely to develop eating disorders. Children also tend to have stronger language skills and teens are less likely to engage in risky behaviours.

The *Cook Up Some Fun! Share Your Story* contest is open for the month of March (Nutrition Month). It's a great activity for March Break!

Visit the *Cook Up Some Fun!* website at <http://www.healthyork.com/cook-up-some-fun> to learn more about this contest and enter your story. You can also sign up to receive an email twice a month with recipes and practical ideas for planning, shopping, cooking and eating together.

For information about creating a healthy school nutrition environment, visit [www.nutritiontoolsforschools.ca](http://www.nutritiontoolsforschools.ca)

For health-related information call **York Region Community and Health Services Health Connection** at 1-800-361-5653; TTY: 1-866-252-9933 or visit [www.york.ca/healthyschools](http://www.york.ca/healthyschools)



Dear Members of the York Region District School Board Community:

As you may be aware, our current director of education will be retiring as of July 31, 2014. The important responsibility of selecting his successor now becomes the task of the Board of Trustees.

We have engaged the services of Laverne Smith & Associates, a leading Canadian firm that has worked extensively with school boards and other public sector organizations across the country. Dr. Laverne Smith, our consultant, will be assisting us by gathering input from you, the educational community.

Your input into the qualities and characteristics that you would like to see in the new director of education is critical. Please take a few minutes to complete the [linked](#) online survey which comprises four questions. The survey results will be submitted electronically directly to Laverne Smith & Associates. All responses will be held in strict confidence by the consultant.

Please submit your response by **Tuesday March 18, 2014**. If you require more time to complete the survey, responses will continue to be accepted after this deadline.

Thank you in advance for your time and input.

Yours truly,

Anna DeBartolo

Diane Giangrande

Co-Chairs of the Search Committee for Director of Education  
York Region District School Board

### Are you Moving?

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.



### Kindergarten Registration

Space in our full day kindergarten program is filling up. If you know of anyone who has a child born in 2009 or 2010, who has not yet come to register for Kindergarten, please encourage them to come in as soon as possible, as spaces are filling quickly.

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)





## 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.

# Do you like to ...



**meet interesting people?**

**go on excursions?**

**have sleep-overs?**

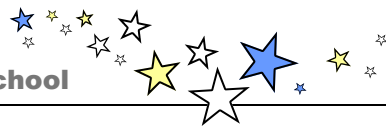
**learn about new places?**

To find out more ask your teacher for a brochure.

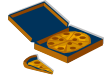

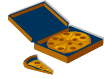




York Region District School Board  
Community & International Education Services  
36 Regatta Ave., Richmond Hill, ON L4E 4R1  
[www.yrdsb-international.ca](http://www.yrdsb-international.ca)







# March

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3 <i>School Council Meeting</i> 6:30p.m.	4	5 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	6	7 <i>P.A. Day</i> (No School)
10 <i>M</i> <i>B</i>	11 <i>A</i> <i>R</i>	12 <i>R</i> <i>E</i>	13 <i>C</i> <i>A</i>	14 <i>H</i> <i>K</i>
17 <i>Classes Resume</i> <i>Gr. 7 Hep B/Meningitis Shot</i>	18 <i>Sub Day</i> 	19 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	20 <i>Music Alive Festival</i> (Band)	21
24	25 <i>Sub Day</i> 	26 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	27	28
31				

## Looking ahead to April

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	3	4
7 <i>School Council Meeting</i> 6:30p.m.	8	9 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	10	11



For the complete newsletter  
please visit the Mount Joy Public School website:  
[www.mountjoy.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.mountjoy.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

