

Mount Joy Public School

Together We Are Magic!

October 2013

News from the Office

The cool crispness in the air reminds us that summer is now just a memory. At the same time, the colourful canopies lining the streets harkens autumn and its bounty. With the fall comes the excitement of fresh learning, budding friendships, and new experiences. Here at Mount Joy, our staff and students have been actively engaging in a wide variety of teams, clubs, and activities that help to enrich our school experiences. From kilometre club to cross country; from house league soccer to volleyball; and from Eco-Club to drumming group, your children have been exposed to a great number of experiences that build on their learning, strengthen their character, and challenge them to pursue their personal bests. But this is only the beginning. In the coming weeks, a number of new clubs will begin. Please remind your child to listen carefully to the announcements to find out what new opportunity awaits them.

It was such a pleasure to meet with so many of you at the Community and Curriculum Night last week. We always look forward to the opportunity to meet with the families of our students, and to engage in a mutual partnership aimed at supporting your child. We hope that you enjoyed the djembe performances by the Grade 5 classes, led so ably by our dear Mrs. Coote. Sixteen djembes were purchased last year by the Mount Joy School Council in support of our music program. It was great to see so many families trying their hands at the djembes. It was certainly a lot of fun. The School Council meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30. You are always welcome to join us.

In the October newsletter, we have dedicated a number of pages to sharing with you our approach to assessment, and to expressing how we value learning that is expressed through created products (e.g. written pieces, illustrations, films), spoken products (e.g. presentations, conversations, discussions) and observations (e.g. group work, hands-on tasks, experiments).

As well, we are proud to share our EQAO results from the 2012 - 2013 school year. What is clear from these results is that we have a lot to be proud of. Our students continue to out-perform their counterparts across York Region in almost all areas. Our results also give us some direction as to where our work lies in supporting the learning of our students. As a staff, we will use the information from EQAO to help us in making decisions about the approaches we take to teaching, and the resources we use to engage your children. Of course, EQAO is an exceptionally narrow assessment, and can be used as only a small piece of the overall picture. Our decisions are based on a great deal of information collected from daily assessments, observations, and conversations, as well as more formal data, such as EQAO.

We look forward to our next main opportunity to meet with you to discuss your child and his or her progress. During the week of November 11 - 15, we will share with you your child's Progress Report, and then host Student-Led Conferences. Of course, we are also available any time you wish to talk. Have a great month.

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



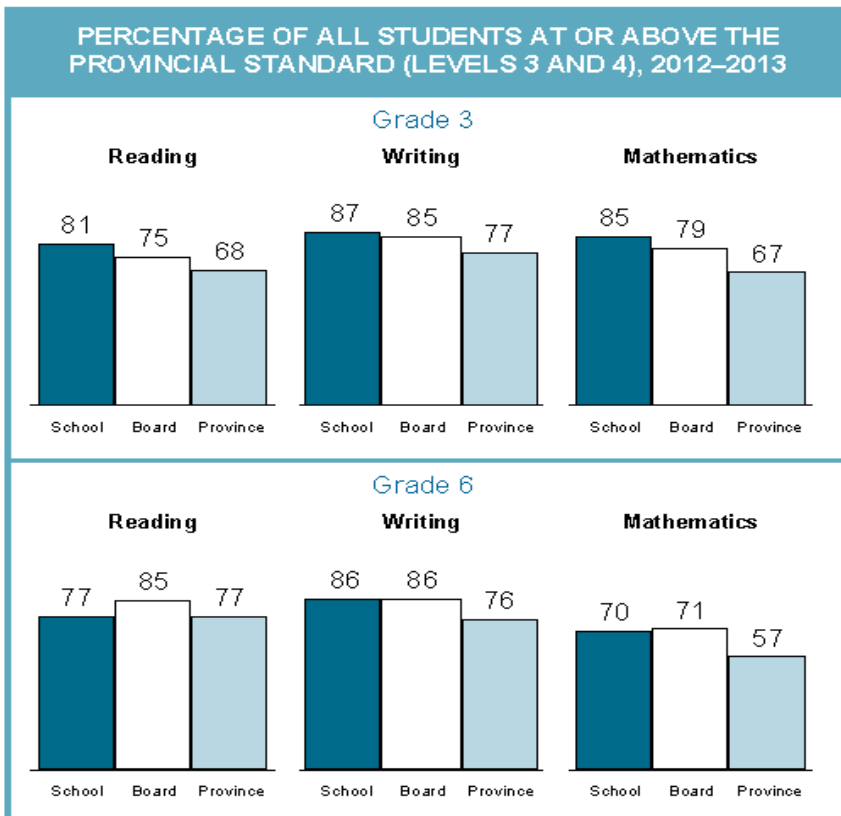
EQAO RESULTS

2013 EQAO Provincial Assessment Results

Last June, our Grade 3 and 6 students wrote assessments of reading, writing, and mathematics that were designed by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). The results shown here represent our students' performance on these assessments. There is much for us to be proud of, here at Mount Joy.

Across the province, information from EQAO has helped to inform teaching practices, and it continues to serve as a catalyst for improving student achievement. EQAO school reports are intended to help foster constructive conversations in schools about improving student achievement and assist in the planning of educational strategies.

With the guidance of Ontario educators, EQAO continues to design assessments that are directly based on curriculum expectations. These assessments not only ensure that Ontario students' achievement is measured at key stages in their education, they also assure people that all students are assessed against a common benchmark.



Tips from EQAO

Each school or board is unique. To appreciate the distinctive character of a school or board, look at the contextual information to understand the features and characteristics of the community it serves.



Every assessment captures the performance of students at **one point in time each year**. Consider the results along with other information about students' achievement in reading, writing and mathematics.



Exercise caution when interpreting results for small schools or boards. Results may vary considerably from year to year, and differences may look exaggerated. For example, in a school of 20 students, a difference of 10% represents only two students.

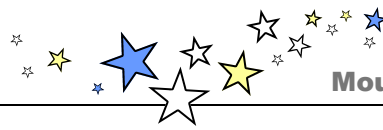


Trends may be difficult to identify or to interpret. This is especially true in small schools or boards, or in schools where there is a high turnover in the student population.



EQAO values students' privacy. Results are not reported publicly for schools where fewer than 15 students participated, because it might be possible to identify individual students.

To see the complete report, visit www.eqao.com or the report on the [YRDSB site](#)



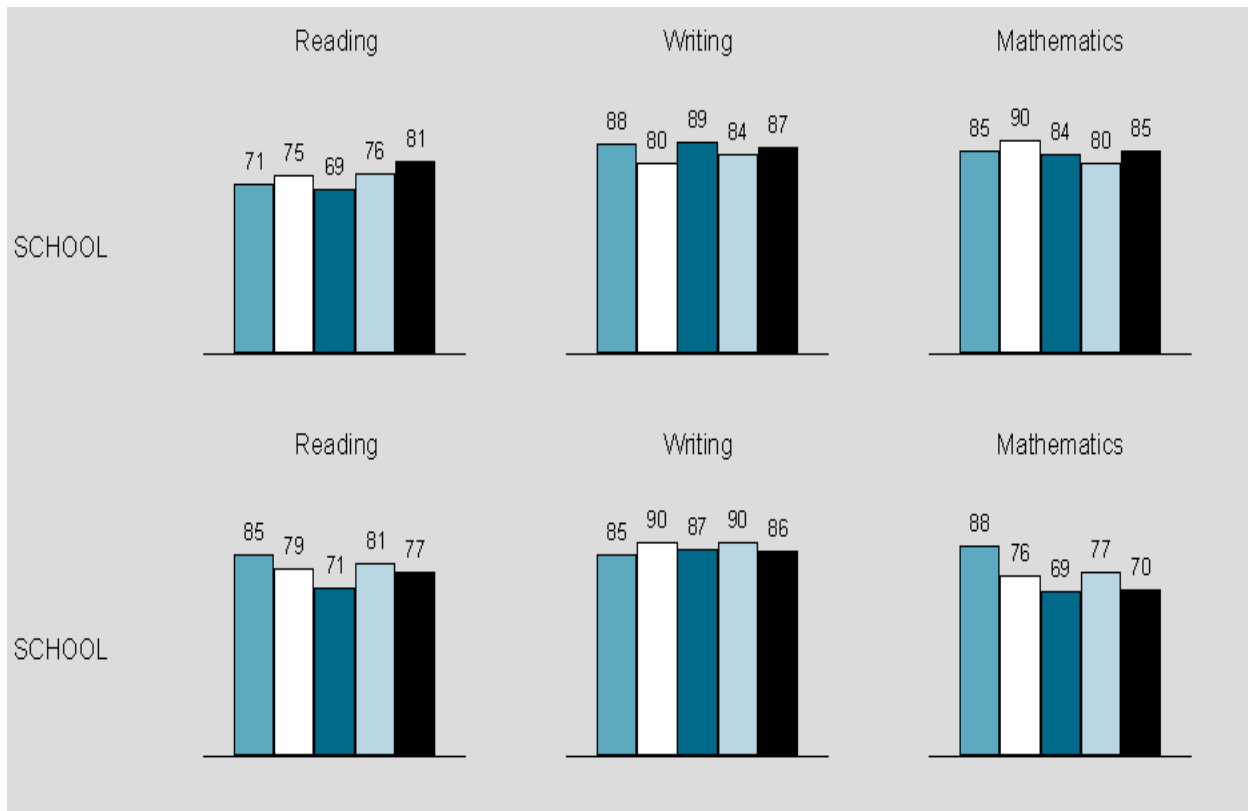
Large-scale testing results are just one of the many tools that support student learning. These results are a snapshot of achievement and should be considered alongside school-based information. **Regular assessments conducted in the classroom remain the fundamental method of assessing and supporting students throughout their education.** At Mount Joy P.S., we are proud of the results of both Primary and Junior EQAO assessments, and we continue to look at all classroom assessment data, both formal and informal, as our basis for instructional interventions for all of our students. We also look at trends over time and use that information to analyze what we are doing well, and what we can improve upon.

We trust that this report will help parents/ guardians, educators, and all who are committed to a strong public education system work together so that all students achieve to the best of their abilities. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Pettigrew or Ms. Brndiar at the school.

KEY MESSAGES

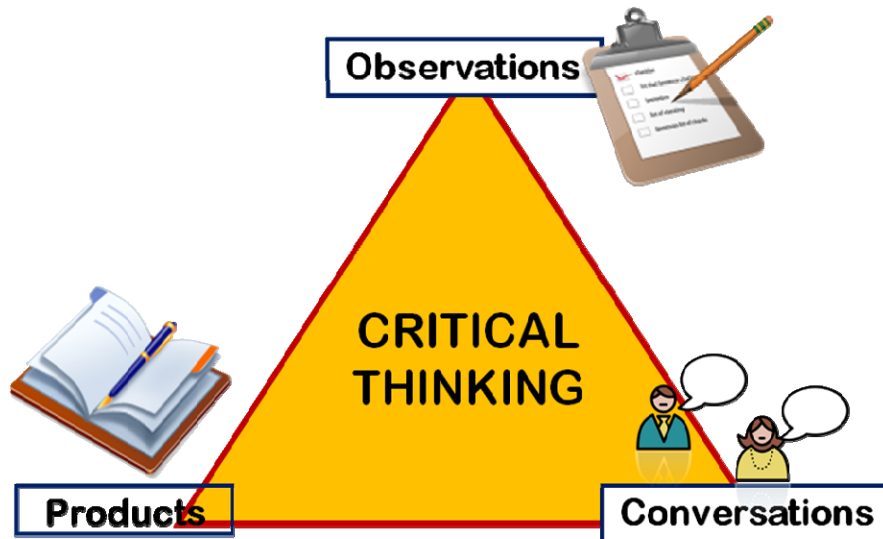
- EQAO assessment data will be used as an **additional** source of information to support the improvement of student learning.
- Improving student learning is a slow, gradual process. We need to look for sustained growth in achievement over time.
- The Board does **not** support the use of results to rank or compare schools.

RESULTS OF STUDENTS PERFORMING AT LEVELS 3 AND 4—OVER TIME





HOW WE ASSESS STUDENTS



Authentic assessment demands that we value the diverse ways through which students express their learning. Written products alone provide only part of the *learning picture*. If our goal is to assess understanding, then what we hear students saying, and what we see them doing must be valued just as equally as the work they produce.

The richness of our assessment, however, comes from when we analyze students' strengths and needs. If students communicate thinking through what they say, but their writing tells a different story, then we can conclude they understand the material, but that the breakdown is in the transfer to paper. So, our work lies in developing effective skills for organizing thinking, and communicating it effectively in written forms. Similarly, if a student communicates effectively through writing, but appears to lack understanding when talking about a topic, then our work might lie in developing effective oral language skills, such as organizing and linking ideas, or speaking with confidence.

In valuing diverse forms of how learning is expressed, we set students up for success. Each form can provide us with assessment data that we can document, analyze, and use in our planning for improvement.

For example:

PRODUCTS:

We might have a *written report* to show understanding of how to organize thinking in a coherent way on a particular topic

CONVERSATIONS:

We might meet with students to talk with them about how they have come to understand a particular topic; using a checklist, we can identify evidence of organization and coherence.

OBSERVATIONS:

We may watch as students collaborate to create a graphic organizer to organize thinking about a topic; using a checklist or by writing anecdotal notes, we can record evidence of organization, thinking, and coherence.



OBSERVATIONS: WE MIGHT SEE LEARNERS...

Working cooperatively in a community of learners

- Collaborating in small and large groups or working independently
- Effectively using technology and resources
- Engaging in hands-on tasks (e.g. building structures, creating patterns, physical movement, dramatizing a thought, etc.)

CONVERSATIONS: WE MIGHT HEAR LEARNERS...

Being accountable for their thinking

- Posing questions
- Explaining understanding
- Discussing and debating ideas
- Seeking clarification
- Planning next steps, and
- Sharing new knowledge

PRODUCTS: WE MIGHT SEE AND HEAR LEARNERS:... *Creating products of learning in the form of:*

- Written products (e.g. journals, tests, reports, essays)
- Digital products (e.g. movie, web pages, blogs, prezi)
- Formal assessments (e.g. DRA, tests, quizzes)
- Portfolios (e.g. collections of writing, illustrations, etc)
- Artwork (e.g. visual representations, illustrations, graphics)
- Audio products (e.g. lyrics, music, beat, rhythm, sounds)
- Performances (e.g. skits, tableaux, plays, recitations, etc)
- Constructions (e.g. structures, sculptures, 3D maps, etc)



HALLOWE'EN TIPS



1. Travel in groups and be accompanied by an adult
2. Go only to well lit house.
3. Never enter a home, remain on the porch.
4. Bring treats home to inspect them prior to eating
5. Avoid flowing costumes that could be ignited by a flame or pose a tripping hazard

HALLOWE'EN FUN FACTS

1. The first Jack O'Lanterns were actually made from turnips
2. Samhainophobia is the fear of Halloween
3. The largest pumpkin ever measured was grown by Norm Craven, who broke the world record in 1993 with a 836 lb. pumpkin



Curriculum Night

Written by: Barakshvi and Janosh

On September 26, 2013, Mount Joy had its annual Curriculum Night. Teachers and students both worked hard to make this curriculum night successful, productive and informative for the parents. The Grade 5's djembe drum performance started off the night, leaving everyone in an upbeat mood. Parents had described the performance as "outstanding" and a "perfect start for beginners". After a full meal of delicious pizza and samosas organized by our wonderful Parent Council, the information sessions began at 7:00 pm. Parents and students headed inside the school, prepared for the night's events.



As people headed inside we took the opportunity to ask the parents and students some questions about our school. Many students when asked "What are you looking forward to this school year?" replied that they were looking forward to the school teams and clubs such as the soccer, basketball and drama club. Most of the Grade 8's answered that Graduation was the thing they were looking forward to this year.

When we talked to the parents about what improvements they would like to see the school take into consideration, most parents were very satisfied with how the school was being run. However, some parents voiced a desire for more leadership opportunities for the primary and junior grades. Our parents also said that they were looking forward to meeting with teachers to learn about what their children would be learning this year and how they would be able to support their kids at home.



Overall, parents, students and teachers found the curriculum night a great success. Teachers found it encouraging that parents were very supportive of what they were teaching the students. Parents enjoyed the opportunity to meet the teachers and find out how well cared for their children are at Mount Joy. Finally, the students like it because they were able to share their work with their parents. We look forward to the next opportunity to meet as a community at our Parent-Teacher Interview Night in November.

Walking to School

This is a good time for parents to remind their children about pedestrian safety. York Regional Police has provided the following safety tips on their website to help keep students safe on their way to and from school:

- Walk on available sidewalks
- Always cross at intersections
- Obey crossing guards
- Stop before stepping into roadway
- Be visible and indicate crossing intentions
- Look and listen for traffic in all directions
- Make eye contact with drivers
- Cross safely when the roadway is clear
- Walk. Do not run or cycle across roads
- If possible use the buddy system

For more information, visit www.yrp.ca.





Literacy Corner

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” — Dr. Seuss, [I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!](#)

The Students and Teachers at Mount Joy have been working hard to develop their classroom literacy routines. Students have been engaged in many reading, writing and sharing opportunities. It is important for students to develop the language necessary to talk about the stories and text that they are reading and writing.

A skill that can be reinforced at home is the skill of *determining important ideas* from text and *summarizing* what has been read. It is always important for a reader to know what the main ideas are and what the author considers to be important. Some useful prompts that can be used at home to encourage dialogue in this area are:

“So far, I have learned that...”

“I noticed that...”

“The most important ideas are.....”

“These details are important/unimportant because...”

“The main idea is....”

“The story was about....”



Library News

Thank you to all of the families who supported the Mount Joy Public School Book Fair. The fair was a huge success. Over the four days of the sale, the library raised enough money to buy new fiction and non-fiction books for every grade in the school. We are looking forward to getting our new books out on the shelves.

A special congratulations to the winners of our Book Fair draw. Marcus, Vera, Si Yu and Gabriella each won \$15.00 in free books. Our grand prize winner, Izabela, won \$50.00 in books for her classroom and her home.

We are very appreciative of all the community support and hope that students are enjoying their new books!

Happy Reading,

Miss Gorman & Mrs. Horsely

Tumble Books

Listening to reading is a wonderful way to build reading skills and develop students' love of reading. You can listen to and read books on your computer at home by logging on to

www.tumblebooklibrary.com. The Mount Joy user name is mountjoy and our password is books.



Don't forget that the library is open for book exchange every Thursday night until 3:30. Students and their families are welcome to come to visit the library to read and exchange their books. We look forward to seeing you there.



Upcoming Events

Bur Oak Spookfest

Bur Oak will be hosting its 3rd annual Spookfest on Tuesday October 29th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm for children ages 3-11.

Spookfest events include games, crafts, cupcake decorating, face painting as well as a haunted house.



Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costume to the event. The event is free however we are accepting donations for Unicef.

School Photographs

Lifetouch Canada will be taking student and class photographs on October 18th at Mount Joy Public School.



Please contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

Waste-Free Lunch Challenge!!

In an effort to engage students in small environmental initiatives that can have a big impact, our school is participating in the week-long **Waste-Free Lunch Challenge** that begins October 21st 2013.

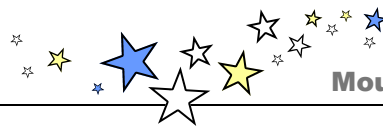
School lunches are a major source of waste in Ontario – the average student's lunch generates a total of 30 kilograms of waste per school year, or an average of 8,500 kilograms of waste per school per year. With your assistance, we can make a great contribution to reducing waste, every day.

For the purpose of this challenge, a waste-free lunch contains no throwaway packaging. Food and drinks are packed in reusable containers within a reusable lunch bag or box. All containers are resealable so that leftover food and drink can be consumed (or composted) later.

Yes please	Please avoid
REUSABLE lunch container	SINGLE-USE paper or plastic bags
REUSABLE container or thermos	DISPOSABLE plastic wrap, foil, wax, or Styrofoam
REUSABLE drink bottle or thermos	SINGLE-USE, and non-recyclable
CLOTH NAPKIN to wash and re-use	PAPER napkins
CUTLERY/SILVERWARE to wash and re-use	PLASTIC forks/spoons

Participating classrooms are eligible to win \$1,000 for their school's environmental projects. Parents and Guardians are invited to visit www.wastefreelunch.com to download various resources and to watch instructional videos about how to shop for and pack a waste-free lunch and for other resources.

We look forward to your support.



Start-Up Items

Grade 2 Soccer

Congratulations to the following students who captured the championship in primary soccer: Thusani, Eric, Joe, Kirthana, Caswell, Paul, Darius



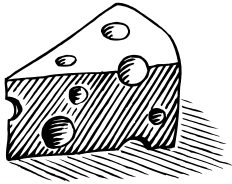
Dance-a-thon

Mount Joy will be having its first Dance-a-thon of the year, the Halloween Dance-a-thon. This event will be held on October 31, 2013. The goal of the dance is to raise money for our school and your child in a way that is active and fun for all. Students are encouraged to raise and collect money before the event. On the day of the dance, all divisions will be given a chance to dance for the money they have raised. To attend the dance, each student is encouraged to bring in a minimum donation of \$2.00. Please remind your children to start bringing in their toonies. Thank you for your on-going support.



Tuck Shop

In November, the Mount Joy school Tuck Shop will be up and running for the year. As always, the store will be run entirely by intermediate students, and all proceeds will go towards making this year a memorable one for our graduating class. The Tuck Shop will be open every Thursday at snack recess, and students will be given the opportunity to make healthy purchases that range from 0.50 to \$3.00. As always, all products sold at the store fall within the parameters of the Healthy Schools guidelines. Encourage your child to purchase snacks from the store each week and remind them that their healthy food choices are also helping to make Mount Joy a better place. Stay healthy Mount Joy!!

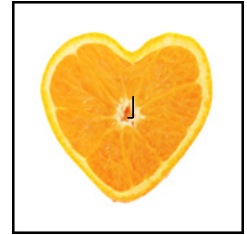


Terry Fox Run

Written by: Candy

On Monday September 30th, Mount Joy students and teachers took part in the Annual Terry Fox Run. Students were asked to collect a "Toonie for Terry" in order to raise money for cancer research. Our goal for this year was \$1000 dollars and we are extremely confident that we surpassed that. Before we left the school for our run, students were asked to think of someone that they would dedicate their run to, either someone who they knew dealt with cancer or someone they've heard of who dealt with cancer like Terry Fox or Aimee, a 13 year old cancer survivor. The run was a great success and we raised a lot of money for the Terry Fox Foundation. Already, we are looking forward to next year's Annual Terry Fox Run and together we can continue to make a difference.





FOOD BITES

October 2013

Generation X Parents

Do you ever feel like life is passing by at 1000km/hr? It's whizzing past so fast that if you blink you might miss something. Or that you've got your eye on so many balls in the air and you're trying desperately not to let one hit the ground?

It seems like almost every parent we speak to with school-age children is in a similar boat.

From the day our kids are born we are determined to give them every opportunity to be healthy, successful and happy. We often go overboard in this pursuit.

Many of us are Generation X parents. Generation Xers saw the rise in two income families and became independent at an earlier age with both parents working. Gen-Xers were also introduced to digital technology before entering the workforce and have seen more advances in technology in the last 2 decades than we've seen in the past 200 years.

With the 'go get 'em' trait of a Gen-Xer, we are prone to take it all on and are driven to do our best at everything. Here comes the supermom and superdad mentality. We want it all – a challenging career, making a difference in the world, giving the best opportunities to our kids, driving them to countless activities, taking care of our aging parents, exercising and being fit, having a de-cluttered, organized and decorated home, feeding our families fresh, hot, healthy meals, having all the latest gadgets, being updated on social media, the list goes on and on.

To top it off, we have media outlets everywhere telling us what we ought to be doing better, have we thought about this, or what we're missing out on. Have you ever pondered about being gluten-free or dairy-free, or how much TV or computer time is too much or too little, or how will you be at hockey and dance class and piano class all at the same time and what should you give up, are you getting enough fiber, are your whites white enough, or how are you going to help your child with organization or independence or listening? Feel like your head's going to explode? You get the point.

We are truly in an information age. Technology, got to love it, keeps us so updated, we have our pulse on everything every second of the day. Our children are growing up in this environment and think this is the norm.

They haven't experienced rotary dial phones, a brown cable box that sits on the TV that has to be pressed manually, they don't know what it's like to rewind and forward cassette tapes or video tapes to get to the exact point you want in a song or movie, or setting your VCR to record your favourite TV show.

So while we can enjoy the benefits of technology, we have fond memories of playing road hockey till dusk, or walking to school with our friends, or having ample time during our summers to laze around and hang out with friends, or using our imaginations to make shapes out of clouds during long road trips.

This is the world we live in and we the sandwich generation have advantages and disadvantages just like generations past. It just moves more quickly now. **Next month** we'll explore how we may navigate through this speed and information and bring some balance and joy to our lives and our families.

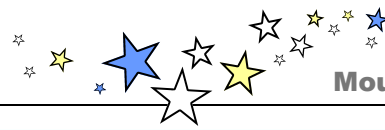
Did you know?

Kid's Kitchen serves hot lunches at your school. To find out more details visit www.kidskitchen.ca or call us at 905-944-0210.

Celebrate October with our annual Thanksgiving Lunch Special offered for 1 day only!

Leave the lunches to us! Take a break from making lunches and place your orders with Kid's Kitchen today. Lunches are delivered fresh and hot to children at the school at lunch time. Allergies? No problem, we take care of it all.

For more information visit www.kidskitchen.ca or call us at 905-944-0210.



YORK REGIONAL POLICE

Parents Academy

A program for parents and caregivers of youth between the ages of 10 and 18 designed to educate and provide strategies on the challenges facing youth today.

Information sessions are as follows:

Mental Health

Wednesday, October 9, 2013 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
#5 District Headquarters Community Room
8700 McCowan Road, Markham

Drugs, Alcohol and Other Addictions

Thursday, November 21, 2013 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
York Region Administrative Building Seminar Room
17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket

Social Media and Internet Safety

Thursday, February 6, 2014 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
#2 District Headquarters Community Room
171 Major Mackenzie Drive West, Richmond Hill

Bullying

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Vellore Village Community Centre Activity Room #1
1 Villa Royale Avenue, Vaughan

No cost to participate. Registration is required.
Participants may register for one or all of the sessions.

**Register online at yrp.ca/citizensacademy.aspx
or in person at any police district.**

For more information, call Community Services at
1-866-876-5423 ext. 6709 or email youthprogramevents@yrp.ca.





October



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 <i>School Council Meeting</i> 6:30p.m.	2 <i>Pizza Lunch</i> 	3	4 Markham Fair <i>(Grades 4-8)</i> <i>Safety Village</i> <i>(Grade 1's)</i>
7	8 <i>Area Cross Country</i>	9 <i>Pizza Lunch</i> 	10	11 <i>P.A. Day</i> <i>(No School)</i>
14 <i>Thanksgiving</i> <i>(No School)</i> 	15	16 Pizza Lunch <i>Swim to Survive</i> <i>(Grade 3 - Rai/Morris)</i>	17 <i>Whimz</i> <i>(Kindergartens)</i>	18
21 Litterless Lunch Week	22	23 Pizza Lunch <i>Swim to Survive</i> <i>(Grade 3 - Rai/Morris)</i>	24	25 <i>Swim to Survive</i> <i>(Grade 3 - Newman)</i> 
28	29	30 Pizza Lunch <i>Swim to Survive</i> <i>(Grade 3 - Rai/Morris)</i>	31 	

Looking ahead to November

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 <i>Swim to Survive</i> <i>(Grade 3 - Newman)</i> 
4 <i>HPV Immunization</i> <i>(Gr. 8 Girls—2nd shot)</i>	5 <i>School Council Meeting</i> 6:30p.m.	6 <i>Pizza Lunch</i> 	7	8 <i>Swim to Survive</i> <i>(Grade 3 - Newman)</i>



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

