

# Mount Joy Public School

*Together We Are Magic!*

*September 2013*

## *News from the Office*

**W**elcome back to another exciting year here at Mount Joy Public School. We hope that you have had a wonderful summer, and that you had the opportunity to relax and rejuvenate in the company of family and friends. To those families who have just joined us, we extend our most warmest welcome to our community, and we look forward to getting to know you over the coming months.

In the lives of students, teachers, and families, September is a time for new beginnings. While the sun-soaked memories of summer still linger, we are reinvigorated with a new sense of purpose as we head into the fall. Here, at Mount Joy P.S., we are proud to be partners with you in the education of your child, and we look forward to the many opportunities we will have to further develop this partnership. In the coming weeks, you will receive information from your child's teacher regarding our annual **Community & Curriculum Night**. This is a special evening that serves as an opportunity for families to come together and to gain insight into the program that has been planned for your children, and what you can expect in regards to their learning over the course of the coming year. So, please circle **Thursday September 26** on your calendar and look for additional information in your child's backpack.

Families often ask how they might further support their child's learning at home. Some of the most supportive and effective strategies include: nightly reading of texts of all types; engaging in daily conversations about school and interests; posing questions about texts

you read together or experiences you share; keeping a journal or using sketch pad to record thoughts and ideas; and encouraging expression of learning in many forms (e.g. music, visual arts, drama, dance, technology).

We have a number of new staff members that we would like to welcome to Mount Joy. In our grade six classes, we welcome Ms. Olivia Lukas and Ms. Sarah Kenerknecht. In the office, we welcome Mrs. Sunderani. In the library, we welcome Mrs. Heather Horsley. In Kindergarten, we welcome Ms. Jaclyn Gillies Maerz. In grade two, we welcome Mr. Justin Hui. We welcome Mr. Vitella and Ms. Valkanis who have joined us in our Community Classes. We also welcome Mr. Nick Kotsopoulos who joins our caretaking staff. We are very happy to have you joining us, and look forward to your contributions to Mount Joy.

On the first day of school, we challenged our students to think about the ways in which they want to make the school year "awesome." We have asked students to take risks, to try something new, and to push themselves to do their very best. We also committed ourselves to helping them along in their journey. Our focus is on developing critical and creative thinkers who are ready for life in the twenty-first century, and to nurture your child's social and emotional well-being. In the coming weeks, there are already a number of exciting opportunities for students: Cross-Country, Kilometre Club, House league Soccer, Moviemaking Club, Scrabble Club, and much, much more.

We wish everyone all the best for a wonderful year.

*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**

WEBSITE: [www.mountjoy.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.mountjoy.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)  
Email: [mount.joy.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:mount.joy.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca) Phone: (905) 202-1684



# TIPS FOR SUCCESS

## **MAKE LEARNING A PRIORITY**

Your attitude towards attendance, education and involvement influences your child. Be positive when discussing school. It will make a lasting impression. Send your child to school ready to learn. This means having enough sleep, eating breakfast, and having all of the supplies they need for the day.

## **SHOW INTEREST IN SCHOOL WORK**

Talk about school each day and ask to see class work. Read with your child and ask him/her questions (e.g. to make predictions, discuss the storyline, question the author). Have a variety of reading materials available for our child (e.g. magazines, newspapers, fiction, non-fiction).

## **SCHEDULE STUDY-TIME AND PROVIDE A QUIET AREA FOR STUDYING**

Have supplies available so homework can be completed effectively. Use a family calendar to schedule due dates, field trips, extra-curricular activities, and other special events.

## **HELP SET ACHIEVABLE GOALS**

Determine new goals together at the beginning of each term.

## **SUPPORT 100% ATTENDANCE**

Some absences are unavoidable, but try to schedule appointments before and after school.

## **BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR PRAISE AND ENCOURAGE “PERSONAL BEST” EFFORTS**

Observe your child and comment on the things that are done well. If you see areas for improvement, find a positive way to talk about it with your child. Remember that all students learn differently. Personal best doesn't always mean high grades and perfection. Encourage your child to do his or her best. Children need opportunities to learn from mistakes.

## **GET INVOLVED AND MAKE CONTACT WITH THE SCHOOL**

Attend school functions such as Curriculum Night, student-led conferences, concerts, etc. Make early and positive contact with your child's teacher. Stay in touch through the agenda, letters, email, or phone calls.





# MOUNT JOY'S NEED TO KNOW

## School Hours

8:00a.m.	Supervision Begins
8:08a.m.	Bell rings for entry
8:15a.m.	Instructional day begins
9:55 – 10:25a.m.	Recess
12:05 – 1:05p.m.	Lunch
2:45p.m.	Dismissal



## Physical Education

Please ensure your child has indoor running shoes for gym days. Running shoes must be worn to maximize movement and safety. They should also be non-marking soles.



Primary students should wear free moving clothes on their gym days and Junior and Intermediate students are asked to wear proper gym attire (shorts, t-shirt, track pants). Junior and Intermediate students are expected to change for gym. Please send in a note if your child is physically unable to participate in vigorous activities

Visit Mount Joy Public School's website to read our monthly newsletters:

[www.mountjoy.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.mountjoy.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

## Kiss 'n Ride

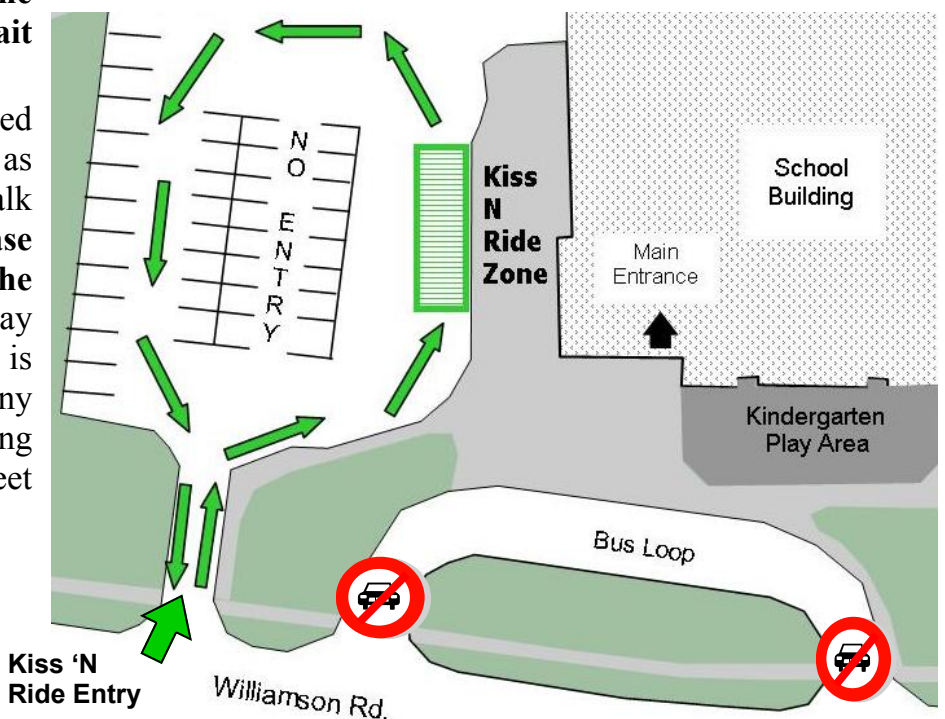
Very few Mount Joy P.S. students are bussed to school, but we still have vans and busses accessing our bus loop to drop off students.

Parents familiar with morning traffic know just how congested traffic can be in the morning in front of the school, in the drop off loop and in the parking lot. **We strongly encourage students to walk to school.**

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.**

When dropped off, students are escorted to the playground or into the school as needed. If you wish to park and walk your child into the playground, **please park on a side street and not in the school parking lot.** You need to pay close attention to street signs as there is very little parking near the school. Many drivers have been served with parking tickets for parking illegally on the street or in the loop.

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



# Start-Up Items



## Lunches (Peanut Free)

If you are bringing your child's lunch, please leave it on the table in our front lobby, labeled with your child's name. Inform your child in advance that his/her lunch will be left at the office to be picked up by the child at noon.

**Please do not go to your child's class without first checking in at the Office.**

We all have an obligation to protect the learning environment and to minimize interruptions to our students and staff at work. In addition, for everyone's safety, and in case of an emergency, we need to ensure that we know exactly who is in our school at all times.

## Entry and Dismissal

Supervision on the school yard begins at 8:00a.m. Between 8:00-8:08a.m., all grade 1-8 students are to gather on the pavement around the back of the school. Our Kindergarten children should wait in their own enclosed areas. The entry bell will be ringing at 8:08a.m. Students are to walk to their respective entry doors, proceed to class and get ready for the school day which begins at 8:15a.m.

We ask that parents **do not come into the school with their children.** The students are very capable of moving indoors, taking their outdoor clothing off, and getting their materials ready for class. Furthermore, we all understand that the development of their healthy independence and confidence is a critical life skill.

At the end of the day, teachers will be outside to assist students. Again, please do not enter the building to help your child in getting ready to go home. Please wait outside until your child is safely dismissed by his/her teacher. Thank you for your help with this!



## First Week Paperwork! Paperwork!

There have been many papers sent home to you for either signature or for information purposes. One of the forms you will receive will be your child's **Registration Verification Form.** This document displays the general information we have on file for your child, as well as any emergency contact information. It is imperative that you please check this over carefully, and verify that the information is correct. If not, please make any changes or adjustments on this page, sign it off, and return it to the Office as quickly as possible.

## Consistent Attendance at School

While it makes sense that an ill or contagious child is kept at home, there is no doubt that consistent and punctual attendance at school is extremely important for ongoing academic success. Aside from learning an important life skill, children who are on time for school start each day in a more confident frame of mind, are much calmer, and ultimately are better organized, equipped, and prepared for learning.

Attendance and punctuality will be closely monitored throughout the school year. In some situations, York Region District School Board Attendance Services may need to be called to support families.



## Safe Arrival Program



If your child is ill or will be late, please contact the school office immediately to notify them. The school phone number is (905) 202-1684. After office hours, the answering machine will pick up your calls and you can leave a message.

Every morning we contact the parents of all students who are absent from school. If we are unable to contact anyone, it is Board policy that we call the police.



## Literacy Corner



Literacy is a major focus here at Mount Joy. During the school year, students will be engaged in tasks as well as hands-on activities that concentrate on improving and strengthening their reading, writing, media literacy and oral communication skills. In the first month at Mount Joy, all of our classes will be working on developing literacy routines using “The Daily Five” and “The First 20 Days”. The goal of these two programs is to reintroduce students to the ways they can become proficient readers and writers.

For our younger readers, these programs focus on setting the students up for successful reading and writing encounters, building stamina for reading and writing and developing a strong foundation that will encourage a life-long passion in literacy.

Although students will learn a lot in school, their learning continues at home with the assistance from parents. Here are some tips from the “First 20 Days” to help get your children back in the habit of reading.

### How Readers Choose Books

It is very important that students find time at home to read. Not only does reading at home provide the students with an excellent source of information but it also helps them improve their reading strategies as well as building on their vocabulary. Here are some tips to help your children choose the proper books at the Library.

**Authors:** An author’s writing style doesn’t change too much from book to book. Therefore, if your student has enjoyed a book from a certain author, it is a safe bet that he or she will enjoy other ones. (Eric Walters is a good option for Junior/Intermediate Students)

**Genre:** Choosing a book within a genre that the student already likes often leads to success. Students know and enjoy the different parts of the genre making it a smooth transition.

**Read the First Chapter:** Many students don’t take the time to read the first chapter, but a lot can be learned in those opening pages. Students will quickly identify if they like the writing style, the characters or even if the vocabulary is too hard for them.

**Part of a Series:** A sure fire way to find a book is if it is part of a series. This way the interest has already been built in the students and there is less of a chance that they will abandon the book before completing the series.

**Recommendation:** Sometimes students will hear of a book from a friend, teacher or even in the media and this is a great way of choosing a book. However, be wary, some books that are recommended might not always match the child’s reading level so read a few pages first.



These are just some of the ways you can help your child make smart choices early in the year. Having success choosing the proper books right away can really set the tone for a great year.

Our beginner readers are also encouraged to make reading part of their daily home routine. This is a time for you to enjoy the love of books with your child in a light and stress-free way. Whether listening to your child share a “just-right-book” that he or she has been practicing at school, or reading your child the books he or she has selected from the library and then talking about the story and the characters, we encourage families to share in the joys of reading.

## The Magic Library

Ms. Gorman and Mrs. Horsley are excited to start the year as Mount Joy Public School’s new teacher librarians. We are working hard to create a place for our students to come and develop strong literacy skills and an eagerness to read.

The library will be open for book exchange beginning the week of September 16. Students will start bringing books home that week.

We look forward to meeting parents and students and hope you will pop in to say hello on curriculum night.

Just a friendly reminder to return all of the Summer Reading materials back to the library before the end of the week.





# Upcoming Events

## Curriculum Night

Our “Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night” will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2013. Please mark this date on your calendar. Look for more information to be coming home with your son or daughter closer to the date.



## Terry Fox Run at Mount Joy Public School

Friday, September 27, 2013

Our annual Terry Fox Run will take place on Friday, September 27, 2013. We will be encouraging students to donate a toonie to help raise money for cancer research. More information will be coming home closer to the date. We hope that you will be able to join us.



## School Council

A warm welcome back to everyone! We believe that strong school community partnerships are built around a common vision, common goals and nurtured through regular communication, meaningful consultation and extensive involvement of all members of the school community. We have a variety of activities and volunteer opportunities for everyone to be a part of and look forward to sharing them with you over the school year.

Everyone is invited to attend a Mount Joy School Council meeting. During these meetings, the School Council Reports on lunch programs, fundraising, financials, a principal update and any other information that is relevant to the entire school population.

We also provide free childcare for our meetings in one of our kindergarten rooms on an “if needed basis”. If you would like to attend School Council and need babysitting, please contact Carolyn Brndiar at [carolyn.brndiar@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:carolyn.brndiar@yrdsb.edu.on.ca) at least one week prior to the meeting date so arrangements can be made with our Grade 7 and 8 babysitters. Our Grade 7 and 8 babysitters have completed the St. John Ambulance Babysitting training course.

School Council meetings will be held at Mount Joy P.S. at 6:30p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month (except September). Our first meeting this year will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 at 6:30p.m. We hope to see you there!



## Mount Joy Book Fair



Mark your Calendars... The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Mount Joy Public School Tuesday September 24-Friday September 27th! Students will have an opportunity to purchase books during the school day and parents are encouraged to come visit the sale on curriculum night.

Did you know that for every \$10 we sell at the book fair, up to \$6 comes back to our school? With that money, we can buy books and other resources for our library and classrooms.

We look forward to seeing you at the Scholastic Book Fair and thank you for supporting Mount Joy!

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## Thank you Saputo Foods Limited

*Once again, we would like to thank Saputo Foods Limited for donating Pizza Boxes to our school. The boxes will be used by some of our students to create portfolios in which they will proudly display their work.*

*Saputo's generosity is greatly appreciated.*





# Mount Joy's Staff 2013-2014

Kindergarten	Ms. Jaclyn Gillies Maerz	French/Prep Coverage	Ms. Rita Judd
Kindergarten	Ms. Anna Kujaristi	Music	Mrs. Mary Lue Coote
Kindergarten	Ms. Cara Miller	ESL/ELL/Prep Coverage	Mr. Ron McWilliams
Kindergarten	Mrs. Donna Pereira-McKenzie	Kindergarten Prep Coverage	Mrs. Melissa Campbell Brock
Kindergarten	Mrs. Valerie Wang	Library/Reading Recovery	Mrs. Heather Horsley
Kindergarten	Ms. Cindy Malden	Reading Recovery	Mrs. Katie Coats
Grade 1	Mrs. Melanie Dunlop	Library/Prep Coverage	Ms. Barb Gorman
Grade 1	Ms. Taheeza Surani	Phys. Ed.	Mrs. Karen Nageleisen
Grade 1	Mrs. Lisa Liu	Health Assistant	Ms. Nancy Brown
Grade 1/2	Ms. Elena Shen	Educational Assistant	Ms. Jennette Slaney
Grade 2	Ms. Barbara Schmidt	Educational Assistant	Ms. Karen McCulloch
Grade 2	Mr. Justin Hui	Educational Assistant	Ms. Tina Peever
Grade 2/3	Ms. Manreet Rai	Educational Assistant	Ms. Jaycee Edgar
Grade 3	Ms. Kathy Newman	Educational Assistant	Ms. Nancy Nanou
Grade 3	Mr. Rob Graham	Designated Early Childhood Educator	Ms. Rita Cirignano
Grade 3/4	Mr. Robert Morris	DECE	Ms. Kitty Li
Grade 4	Ms. Leanne Yorke	DECE	Ms. Michelle O'Kopniak
Grade 4	Mrs. Meghan Grech	DECE	Ms. Elena Panina
Grade 5	Ms. Lillian Harding	DECE	Ms. Najwa Sultana
Grade 5	Mr. Alex Henderson	DECE	Ms. Dawn Vardy
Grade 6	Ms. Sarah Kenerknecht		
Grade 6	Ms. Olivia Lukas	Lead Caretaker	Mr. Shane Pegg
Grade 7	Mrs. Ruth Woods	Caretaker	Mr. Roger Pinette
Grade 7/8	Mr. Roelof Sennema	Caretaker	Mr. Rohan Robinson
Grade 8	Ms. Lisa Braiantsis	Caretaker	Mr. Nick Kotsopoulos
Grade 8/Literacy	Mr. Lorne Berger	Principal	Mr. Ken Pettigrew
Community Class	Mr. Brian Vitella	Vice Principal	Ms. Carolyn Brndiar
Community Class	Ms. Despina Valkanis	EOAA	Ms. Alison Fenson
Student Support Centre	Ms. Tara Kumabe	Secretary Support	Ms. Shenaz Sunderani
Student Support Centre	Ms. Ellie Manimanakis		
French	Mrs. Denise Walsh		




# September



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	3	4	5 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	6 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>
9	10 <i>School Council Meeting 6:30p.m.</i>	11	12	13
16 <i>Gr. 7 - Hep B Gr. 8 Girls - HPV</i>	17	18	19	20
23 <i>P.A. Day (No School)</i>	24	25 <i>Pizza Begins</i> 	26 <i>Curriculum Night</i> 	27 <i>Terry Fox Run</i> 
30				

## Looking ahead to October

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 <i>School Council Meeting 6:30p.m. Milk Program Begins</i>	2 <i>Pizza Lunch</i> 	3	4
5	6	7	8	9



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)

