

The Mount Joy Messenger March 2019



Principal—Leeanne Hughes-Fernandes

Vice Principal—Lily Leung

Superintendent—Paul Valle

Trustee—Allan Tam

From the Principal's Desk

It is hard to believe that we are more than half way through the school year. By now, you have received your child's Term 1 Report Card and have reviewed his/her strengths and next steps with them. If not, it is extremely important to do so and that there continues to be a strong relationship and communication between home and school. Should parents have any questions about their child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's homeroom teacher. Staying informed as to how to help your children at home is a key component to academic success.

February was a very busy month once again with students being involved in a wide variety of activities. We recognized Lunar New Year, Black History Month and our Gr. 4-8 students enjoyed the Winter Carnival Week focusing on French culture and fun at school. Our Valentine's Day Dance-a-thon was a huge success and we raised over \$750 to support our Grade 8 Graduation. We also recognized Pink Shirt day and our Healthy Schools Team prepared a presentation at our Spirit Assembly about anti-bullying. We also launched a student initiative called High Five, where students will recognize positive actions from their peers. We had a fun day with Winter Electives for our Grades 6-8 students and our Grade 1 - 5 students enjoyed an Earth Rangers Presentation. We have been busy at Mount Joy!

In a few days, we will be heading off for a week of rest and relaxation before embarking on the final few months of this school year. When reflecting on the first half of the year, this is a very appropriate time to thank the Mount Joy Staff for the hard work and dedication that they show on a daily basis at our school. Thank you also, to the many Parent Volunteers who support our staff and students on a regular basis in a variety of ways. The commitment of all staff and our parent community is a large part of what makes Mount Joy a special place to be!

Have a safe, restful and enjoyable March Break!

Leeanne Hughes-Fernandes & Lily Leung

March at a Glance

March 1 — Mr. Henderson's Class at Vivian Outdoor Center

March 4 — Ms. Wood's & Ms. Court's Class at Vivian Outdoor Center

March 5 — Ms. Pereira-McKenzie's Class at Vivian Outdoor Center

March 7 — Ms. Schmidt & Mr. Graham's Class at Vivian Outdoor Center

March 8 — Ms. Gennings & Ms. Malden's Class at Vivian Outdoor Center

March 9 - March 17 — **March Break (No Classes)**

March 21 — World Down Syndrome Day; Spirit Assembly 8:45 am - 9:30 am

April 2 — Parent Council Meeting 6:30 pm

April 5 — Dental Screening Gr. JK, SK, 2, 7 & 8

Kindergarten Registration Continues at Mount Joy

Kindergarten registration commenced on January 18, 2019 for the 2019-20 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2019, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.

Grade 1 French Immersion Registrations

Please visit YRDSB's website

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx>) to find the FI program location for your elementary school location.

FI registration began on January 18, 2019. Parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2019, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call their home school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. *This 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 the designated FI program location to register, between January 18 and February 8, 2019. Registration during this period is not first come, first served.

Mount Joy staff and students enjoyed Carnival festivities last week. Thank you to all the staff who took the time to coordinate and make this a fun learning experience for all!



MARCH 2019 – ACTIVE SCHOOL TRAVEL NEWSLETTER

“The wheels on the bus go round and round...” Walking to the school bus stop and riding the bus to school are considered important forms of active school travel. Students who live outside of the Non-Transportation Zone for their home school qualify for school bus service.

Walking to the bus stop and riding the bus provides a number of benefits including:

Teaching children the value of time and being organized

Keeping children active, which leads to strong physical and mental health
 Encouraging social interaction and improving and building social skills
 Keeping communities safe and reducing private automobile traffic congestion
 Reducing environmental air pollution
 Making school more accessible for all children

Ministry of Transportation School Bus Safety Tips

When you board or leave the bus	While on the bus
<p>Wait in a safe place away from the edge of the road Stay out of the DANGER ZONE. If you can touch the bus, you're too close. Use 10 giant steps to take you out of the DANGER ZONE, and make sure you and the bus driver can see each other. Always cross the road in front of the bus, never behind. Look all ways and wait for the driver to signal before you cross in front of a bus</p>	<p>Stay seated, facing forward at all times Don't put things in the aisle Never distract the bus driver Don't eat or drink while on the bus Don't yell, push people or throw things Keep your arms and head inside the bus</p>

If your child does not qualify for the school bus, we encourage walking/cycling/scootering or parking a block away and walking the rest of the way. For those who can't walk/cycle/scooter every day, choosing active travel once, twice, or a few days a week can still provide benefits.

Ontario Crossing Guard Recognition Day March 20, 2019

The Ontario Traffic Council has chosen **Wednesday, March 20th, 2019** as Crossing Guard Recognition Day. If your child passes by a crossing guard on their travel to school, take some time to THANK your local crossing guard to show your appreciation! Crossing guards play an important role in keeping children and neighborhood's safe!

Sincerely,
 YRDSB Active School Travel Team

KIDS KITCHEN

Highlights for March:

March Specials

- **Chicken shawarma in a whole wheat pita** (*Halal option available*)
- **Falafel in a whole wheat pita**
- **Greek Chicken with steamed rice. (Gluten-friendly)**

We appreciate your assistance in helping us reach your school community with our updates.

Please help us spread the word & stay GREEN!

We kindly request you to send out the February Update attachment via email to your parent community.

Staff can order too!

Remember that our meals are available for the school staff too! Please also share our updates with your staff. Have a hot, healthy lunch delivered to you on the days we service your school!

For everyday inquiries about the Kid's Kitchen program at your school, please feel free to contact our Customer Service Team at: 905-944-0210 or information@kidskitchen.ca .

We're here to help!

Sincerely,

Kid's Kitchen

Leave the lunches to us!

905.944.0210

www.kidskitchen.ca

March 2019 – Trustee Greetings for School Newsletters

Message From Our Trustee

I hope everyone has had a great start to the second half of the school year. Over the past few months, I have had an opportunity to connect with families, students, staff members and with our broader community. I have seen a lot of exciting opportunities for students to explore their interests, celebrate their identities, and develop skills and knowledge that will benefit them in the future.

Many students are participating in [skills competitions](#) or other events where they problem-solve, innovate, collaborate and further develop their technical skills. Students compete in robotics, construction, hairdressing, transportation, 3D animation and much more. These events are among the many options available to help students explore different careers and [pathways](#), and gain valuable experience. We are grateful for the support of community partners in helping to provide these great learning opportunities to our students.

I also want to express my appreciation to our broader school community. One of the priorities in our [Multi-Year Strategic Plan](#) is to build collaborative relationships. The relationships that our schools have with families is so important. There are many different ways you can be involved - talking to your child's teacher, asking your child about homework, or volunteering on a field trip or the school council. Your contributions make a difference to your child's success and to the success of our schools.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable March Break.

Allan Tam
Trustee