

The Mount Joy Messenger January 2019

Principal—Leeanne Hughes-Fernandes

Vice Principal—Lily Leung

Superintendent—Paul Valle

Trustee—Allan Tam

From the Principal's Desk

Happy New Year to all of our families! We hope that you had a wonderful winter break filled with the love of family and friends. Thank you to all the families who came out to our Winter Wishes Concerts on December 13. Our gym was filled with holiday spirit for both the Kindergarten afternoon concert and the evening SK/1 – 4 concert. Our staff and students worked very hard to make it special.

Our Mount Joy school community shared their generosity with our larger Markham community this December. Our Food Drive was a huge success and our students enjoyed the staff vs student volleyball afternoon on December 19! Thank you for your generous donations to the Markham Food Bank. We also appreciated your generous donations to the annual coat drive organized by Ms. Harding's Grade 5 class. You helped to make winter warmer for children in our community. As we enter the New Year, we look forward to continued messages of peace and acts of goodwill. Our Santa's Workshop extra curricular raised money for Sick Kids Hospital and our book drive raised money for 360 Kids. Our school community raised over \$600 to support children! We are very proud of our students and staff!

As we approach the end of Term one, we remain committed to our learning goals for the year. We remind all parents of the importance of being involved in your child's school life and to support them in setting goals that are achievable and attainable. We look forward to working together on these goals in partnership over the next few months. Both teachers and the administration look forward to your continued support.

Leeanne Hughes-Fernandes & Lily Leung

January at a Glance

January 7— Welcome Back!

January 16— Grade 2s Firefighter Visit

January 18— PA Day (No Classes); Kindergarten Registration begins

January 29— Spirit Assembly 10:30 am

Start of School Winter holidays!

Spending time with Family and Friends!

It is also a great time to get outside, have fun in the snow and discover the great outdoors! .

When the temperature drops, it is common for many parents to want their kids to spend time indoors. However, there are many benefits for kids to be active outside in the winter, including:

- Building different muscle groups and improving physical health
- Engaging in creative play
- Being messy and having fun
- Fresh air and sunlight
- Learning first-hand about nature, the weather and the seasons

When children are outside they move more, sit less, play longer and sleep more soundly at night. Being active also helps to improve your self-esteem, social skills and mental health. Here are some winter challenges we invite your children to try:

1. Walk to and from school or the bus stop everyday
2. Wish the crossing guard or a classmate on your walk to school a great day
3. On your walk to school make a snow angel
4. On your walk to school complete 10 star jumps and 10 jumping jacks
5. Make someone laugh today
6. Check your local recreation center for fun activities that you and your family can do over the holidays
7. Say something positive to one of your classmates

Active School Travel is a simple way to fit physical activity into your daily routine!

If you live far, consider parking a block away and walking. If active school travel every day is a challenge, choose one, two or three times a week to make a change.

Sincerely,

YRDSB Active Travel Team and York Region Public Health

Dressing for winter

Now that the colder temperatures have arrived please make sure your children come to school dressed for the weather. We monitor weather conditions daily and will keep students inside during severe weather. The rest of the time the students will play outside during morning and lunch recesses. It is helpful if you label these items so they can be returned if lost.

Would you enjoy Collaboratively learning the Ontario curriculum through the Arts?

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an Elementary Integrated Arts Program at Baythorn Public School. If you are currently in grades four or five, you may apply for the arts@baythorn program, where you will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music in a cooperative learning environment.

To learn more about the arts@baythorn program, you and your family are invited to attend an information evening at Baythorn Public School on:

Thursday, January 17, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

Applications will be available at bit.ly/arts_application2019 online after the January 17th, 2019 info night.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 9TH, 2019 AT 4:00 PM

If you require further information, please call us at Baythorn Public School

(905) 889-7992.

Kate Kurek Principal

Aileen Matrakoukas Vice Principal

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 18, 2019

Kindergarten registration will commence 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 Information Sessions and Registrations

Information Sessions

Information sessions for Grade 1 entry into the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at French Immersion schools that have a Grade 1 program on January 17, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Please visit YRDSB's website in January 2019 <http://www.yrdsb.ca/Programs/fi/Pages/Program-Locations.aspx> to find the FI program location for your elementary school location.

Registration

FI registration will begin 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.*

Late Registrations

Late registrations are those submitted after February 8, 2019. Late registrations will be treated on a first- come, first-served basis and will be considered subsequent to registrations received during the registration period should overflow be necessary.

Accommodation Plan

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. Space requirements at some schools may mean that siblings are in different schools for primary dual track French Immersion programs due to differing grade structures. Like any of our schools across the Board, changes to school boundaries, and/or the accommodation model for the French Immersion program may need to be considered when new schools open, a school experiences enrolment growth, and program changes occur. 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.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.

Student Allergies

Due to the severe allergy to peanuts / nuts and shellfish of several of our students, we are asking that NO peanuts / nut products or shellfish be brought into the school for snacks or lunches.

Please don't send fast food from McDonald's, Tim Horton's as these restaurants are not peanut free. If you would like a list of nut free snack and lunch ideas please visit:

<http://snacksafely.com/>

Please **DO NOT** send any food items to school to celebrate your child's birthday or other holidays. Mount Joy is a Healthy School and we do have students who are allergic to certain food items. Thank you for your understanding.

City of Markham

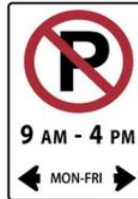
Please be aware of these common school zone violations. It is crucial for parents dropping and picking up students to follow and abide by these signs to ensure safety for all. In addition, if your child rides their bike/scooter to school, ensure they are wearing a helmet and that they are walking their bike/school on school property.



Drivers must observe signage and watch for reduced speed limits. Fines may be doubled.



Supervised Crossing. Cross the street here. Obey the crossing guard.



No Parking allowed at the specified times.



School Zone - observe speed limit.



No Parking in Fire Routes. These need to be clear for emergency vehicles. Fines are \$200.



No Stopping sign means no stopping at all the times specified; except to obey police or danger on the road.



Prepare to stop for a school bus at any time. Fines range from \$400 to \$2,000 with six demerit points for a first offence.