



Nellie McClung P.S.



360 Thomas Cook Ave
Vaughan, Ontario
L6A 4M1
(905)303-8113

Administrator's Message

Principal Mrs. W. Thompson Vice Principal Mrs. C. Diamond

NMPS Literacy

Reading is more than sounding out the words. Understanding what is read involves making connections between print and the reader's experiences. Good readers use a variety of strategies to make meaning from print. Sounding out words may be difficult for some readers.

Throughout the year, students will engage in reading fiction and non-fiction materials where inferencing skills are practiced and reinforced. Children are asked to explain both explicit and implicit understanding of what they've read. Inferencing can be a challenging reading strategy to master. As you read with your child at home, have discussions about hidden information. Also make realistic predictions to help build your child's inferring skills.

Math Resources

Print Resource

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/brochure/earlymath/index.html#how>

Video Resource

http://www.ted.com/talks/dan_meyer_math_curriculum_makeover.html

NMPS Mathematics

Instruction in mathematics must emphasize conceptual understanding and not just procedural knowledge. Students who are assigned activities that emphasize only the rote acquisition of procedures (procedural knowledge) without promoting an active understanding of the concepts underlying such procedures are at a disadvantage, especially in the later grades, when they encounter more abstract concepts. If mathematics becomes nothing but procedures, students attain only a superficial understanding—one that, over time, may disappear completely.

Communicating with Children Using Math Language

Sorting, Matching and Making Patterns – Video Podcast

Just by looking at everyday objects around the house, children can learn about the similarities, the differences and the relationships between them. This helps them build their vocabulary and math abilities. Watch Tobias explore a variety of objects by sorting, classifying and creating patterns. Describing what he sees and does with the objects helps him to build a richer vocabulary. <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/abc123/eng/podcast/sortingMatchingPod.html>

Growth Mindset in Math

In general, a growth mindset is the belief that intelligence and 'smartness' can also be learned and that the brain grows from experience and effort. The opposite, a fixed mindset, is the idea that you are smart, or you are not. In math, that translates into "some people are good at math, and some are not." Did you know that praising efforts rather than intelligence or results can impact your child's ability to persevere in challenges?! The goal is to have children thrive on challenges and see failures, not as a sign of low intelligence, but as a learning opportunity. Brain research tells us that making mistakes actually wires more connections into the brain! When a person has a growth mindset, they accept challenges, see their efforts as worthwhile, and are open to learning from mistakes. Students with a growth mindset achieve at higher levels than those with fixed mindsets. How can you help? Some simple ways:

- Adding "yet" when they claim they are "not good at this" (Respond: "You are not good at this yet.")
- Ask questions that focus on their effort and choices and get them to reflect on satisfaction of that effort (e.g. *What did you learn today? What mistake did you make that taught you something? What did you try hard at today?*)

Feb 2, 2015

Volume 4, Issue 7

Superintendent: C. LaTouche

Trustee: L. Aversa

Nellie McClung Eco News

Our Eco Club has been meeting every other Thursday to discuss how we can work together at Nellie McClung and in our community to be environmentally responsible. Each class has two representatives that share information that was discussed at our meetings with their class. Our focus for January, was remembering to sort our garbage, recycling and compost in the correct bins. Students are asked to continue bringing a boomerang lunch. You can help reduce waste by sending containers and reusable bags in your child's lunch. Check out the following link if you would like to know more about reusable bags to use instead of plastic sandwich bags.

<http://colibricanada.com>

Cookie Sales are back March 4th, 5th & 6th



Upcoming Dates

Feb 2.....P.A. Day
 Feb 13 School Dance
 Feb 16.....Family Day (No School)
 Feb 17Report Cards go home
 Mar 4, 5 & 6 .. Cookie Sales
 March 12 ... Crazy Hat Day



**Respect
Responsibility**

**Honesty
Empathy**

**Fairness
Initiative**

**Perseverance
Integrity**

**Courage
Optimism**

Fairness

is our Character theme for the month of February

Through our eyes we appear different, but deep down we're all the same.



Scent Free Environment

Children and staff work in a close environment all day at school and when someone walks into the school with perfume, cologne or even scented hand sanitizers, this lingers in the hallways and causes allergen reactions. As the older children start wearing scented deodorant this also causes such reactions. Please be **scent aware** to help us work in a scent free environment.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Illness and Appointments

Thank you to all parents who call in or send in a note if their child is to be away ill or at an appointment. It is also important that parents with ill children keep them home to avoid spreading any contagious germs. Thank you for your cooperation

A Greeting from our Trustee:

The arrival of February is an exciting and busy time in our schools. It marks the mid-point of the school year, the end of secondary exams and the arrival of mid-year report cards. February also brings us longer daylight hours, the beginning of the end to winter and of course, the excitement of the approaching spring break! It is my hope that at this point, parents have seen signs of academic growth and development in their children. I encourage all parents to carefully review their child's report card and reflect on the learning that has taken place since September. Now is a good time to celebrate your child's accomplishments and set goals for the rest of the school year. February may be the shortest of the 12 months, but it is a busy time. There is still lots of learning, and opportunities for growth, ahead. With that in mind, I wish you all an enjoyable and successful second term.

Sincerely,

Ms L. Aversa

Indoor Shoes

Students must have footwear that can be reserved for indoor wear only (usually running shoes). This will help keep feet dry and warm and the classrooms clean as we approach the winter season.



**Respect
Responsibility**

**Honesty
Empathy**

**Fairness
Initiative**

**Perseverance
Integrity**

**Courage
Optimism**

Dear Parents/Guardians,



Re: Student Busing Eligibility

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

All YRDSB students in Grade JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation

All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation

All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit www.schoolbuscity.com

Weather Watch

All students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 are expected to go out for every recess unless the principal or vice-principal decides that weather conditions are so poor that it would be detrimental for them to be outdoors. Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 40 minutes after lunch. **We always monitor the weather and, in extreme conditions e.g. wind chill; we keep the students indoors or shorten the recess breaks.**

We often receive requests from parents asking us to keep their children indoors during recess times because they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or facilities to supervise students who are sick or still recovering from an illness. Students with heavy colds, etc., which are serious enough to prevent them from participating in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will likely benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of this illness to others.

Please make sure that your children are dressed properly for our invigorating winter days. It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found, please be sure to label all articles of clothing. Boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants for the younger children will help make recess an enjoyable time.

Exceptions are made on an individual basis for children who may need to remain indoors for an extended period of time because of a physical condition or recovery from a serious illness or accident. In such cases, a letter from the doctor is required.

SAFE ARRIVAL FOR STUDENTS

It is important that students arrive on time before the bell in order to be in class for attendance. Attendance is taken at 9:10 a.m. and students who are not present will be marked absent and a phone call is made home. If your child is going to be late or absent from school, please **CALL THE SCHOOL AT 905-303-8113 AND PRESS 6 TO LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ATTENDANCE LINE**. Please include the student's full name, teacher name, and the reason for the absence. Parents and visitors must report to the office when entering the school. Every visitor is asked to sign-in and wear a visitor's badge. If your child is being picked up by someone else other than parents/guardians, the office requires a note or a phone call with the name of the person coming into the school.

**Respect
Responsibility**

**Honesty
Empathy**

**Fairness
Initiative**

**Perseverance
Integrity**

**Courage
Optimism**



Cold Weather Guidelines as the Temperatures Drop

Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses (i.e., hats, scarf, gloves/mittens, boots, etc.). It is advisable for children to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet. Being physically active during late fall and winter is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle.

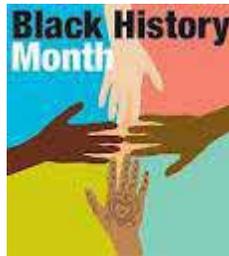
The school administration keeps a close eye on weather conditions, including wind chill. When conditions necessitate, students will remain inside for recess. When conditions allow, reduced outdoor recesses may take place.

If a student is well enough to attend school, then they will be expected to go outside for recess.

We would ask that parents be sensitive to the demands placed on our secretary and not call the school to inquire about indoor recess, but rather that parents send their children dressed for outdoor winter play.

February is African Heritage Month

Celebration of Black History/African Heritage Month has been a part of Canadian society since the 1950's. Lieutenant Governor Hal Jacman declared February as Black History month in Ontario in 1993 and the same declaration was made in the House of Parliament in Ottawa in 1995. It is an opportunity for Canadians to understand the role that the Black community has played in our history, a role that has been too often forgotten in our history books.



African Heritage Writing and Spoken Word Contest

Inclusvie School & Community Services is hosting the annual **Writing Contest** in Celebration of **African Heritage Month**. This year's theme; Celebrating the ideas and art of Maya Angelou

Choosing any of her works or her biography as a starting point, develop a piece of writing which reflects any of Maya Angelou's key messages.

For more information, please visit the Board's website. **Contest deadline for entries is Saturday, February 28, 2015**

**Respect
Responsibility**

**Honesty
Empathy**

**Fairness
Initiative**

**Perseverance
Integrity**

**Courage
Optimism**