



Nellie McClung P.S.



Administrator's Message

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

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Superintendent: C. LaTouche

Trustee: L. Aversa

We welcome you back to our 2015 academic year after a two week break. With the start of a fresh year it makes sense that January's character trait be Optimism, a time for hope, rejuvenation and a renewed sense of commitment towards academic excellence!

Once again this year, staff, students, families and community partners worked together to support several families over the holiday season by participating in the "Kids like Me Program" collecting donations of toys and the Food Drive where food collected was donated to Humanity First. The spirit of giving and the care demonstrated for our families have been overwhelming. Thank you to everyone who helped to make these initiatives such a huge success! Your generosity has made a difference.

We look forward to a successful Term 2 and 2015.

A Message about School Safety

The York Region District School Board takes student safety very seriously. It is important to note that there are several safety measures in place at all of our schools. These include, an ongoing reciprocal relationship with York Regional Police, a well-defined and established threat assessment and intervention protocol, a safe-arrivals and attendance procedure, a lockdown procedure with regular drills for students and staff, and various other emergency preparedness protocols. The Board also has an emergency preparedness committee that regularly reviews these protocols, guidelines and procedures to ensure risk to students and staff is a top priority and minimized in every way possible. The most important security measure we have in all our buildings is the caring and supportive relationship that exists within the school community. Our schools are amongst the safest places for children to be during the day. Safety continues to be our top priority.

Kindergarten Registration 2015



Registration begins on January 16, 2015 for both Nellie McClung P S

Documents required for registration include:

1. Birth certificate or Passport
2. Proof of residency:
 - utility bill & MPAC (if you own your home)
 - legal rental agreement & child tax benefit form (if you rent your home)

Children born in 2011 are eligible for junior kindergarten this September.



Late Students

Late students are a disruption to learning, for both themselves and their class. The late student often arrives flustered to the class and this is not a conducive condition to begin a day of learning. I would request that parents attempt to aim at having their children arrive between 8:55 and 9:00 a.m. Class begins at 9:10 a.m.

Upcoming Dates

- Jan. 19.....Council Meeting
- Jan 12 & 13.....Lice Squad
- Jan.16.....P.A. Day
- Jan.20....Gr.8 Career Cruising Workshop
- Jan. 26.....African Fairytale Presentation (Gr.1-6)



**Respect
Responsibility**

**Honesty
Empathy**

**Fairness
Initiative**

**Perseverance
Integrity**

**Courage
Optimism**

Character Matters!

Respect
Responsibility
Courage
Understanding
Optimism
Initiative
Honesty
Fairness
Integrity
Perseverance

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope or confidence.”

~Helen Keller~

In honour of Family Literacy Week, Nellie McClung P.S. students in grades 1-6 will be watching The Little Red Theatre production, *Tales of Anansi The Spider*.

The West African Trickster:

Anansi is a trickster who makes things happen. Anansi is so famous he has his own body of traditional tales. These are called Anansem, "Spider Stories," a name adopted by the Akan people in the West African country of Ghana. Among many contradictory qualities, Anansi is a gluttonous schemer who enjoys making fools of others but frequently suffers the taste of his own medicine.



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 Grades 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.

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

Optimism

is our Character theme for the month of January.

What does optimism mean to you.....

“A person who is always happy.”

“When a person is open-minded.”

“You're positive.”

“Thinking bright when someone's brought you down.”

“If you have a problem you know you can work it out.”

“When there is a problem you look on the bright side of things.”

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.



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ECO TIP

As part of our initiative to be certified as an Eco School, we will be adding in an eco tip and some information about some eco things we are doing at Nellie.

We are selling reusable water bottles!

ECO TIP: When washing laundry, try using cold water & cold water detergent to save on energy and lower our carbon footprint.



THINK RECYCLE



Nellie McClung has developed a partnership with a company called Think Recycle. Think Recycle recycles unwanted electronics including cell phones and inkjet cartridges. We receive compensation for each item we recycle. As well, for every 24 qualifying items that we recycle, the company plants a tree in our school's name.

Bring in your old ink cartridges and cell phones to our school and drop them off in the box near the office. Our goal is to be an environmentally friendly school. Through this initiative, we will be saving the landfill from these items, earning money for our school and helping the environment.



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Going On a Trip?



If you and your family are going away, please be sure to inform the Principal in writing. This is important information for us to have when completing our safe arrival program. As well, if your children are going to be supervised and staying with other adults while you are away, it is important that we have that information. In the event of an emergency situation or illness we must have your permission to release your child to this caregiver. Thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.

Moving?



If you are moving, please inform the office in writing. Include the last day of attendance and the school your child(ren) will be attending. This will help to facilitate the transferring of your child's records and update our files. Also, if you know of a family who will be moving into the Nellie McClung P.S. area, please advise them to call the school as soon as possible for registration information (all grades).

Lost and Found

Please check that your child brings home his/her belongings on a daily business. Please remind your child(ren) to look periodically in the lost and found box for misplaced hats, boots, shoes, sweaters, coats etc. Labeling clothing with your child's name is always a good idea. Any small items like rings, watches and valuables are held at the office. Any items remaining in the lost and found will be sent to charity.

Weather Watch

All students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 5 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.

Snow Days

Should the weather become so severe that the Board cancels buses in the morning that information will be conveyed through the local media, TV or Radio stations.

CBC (740 AM)

CJEZ (97.3 FM)

CKFM (99.9 FM)

AM (640)

NEWS (680 AM)

CITY TV

CJCL (590 AM)

SRC (90.3 FM)

CHUM (1050 AM)

CHIN (1540 AM)

CKDX (88.5 FM)

CHAY (93.1 FM)

CHFI (98.1 FM)

CFRB (1010 AM)

CHUM (104.5 AM)



If buses are cancelled, the school will still remain open. It is at the discretion of the parents whether or not to send their children to school. If the buses do not run in the morning, they will not run in the afternoon. **AT ALL TIMES** students should be aware of an alternative place to go should bus service be cancelled or delayed or should schools be forced to close due to an emergency.

If you drive your child to school when buses are cancelled you must also pick them up.

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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.

SNOW RULES

The time has come to review some of the rules around safety involving snow.

Packed snow poses many hazards including embedded grit and loose debris which can cause injury, heavy packed snow can also result in injury.

Our expectations/rules are few and simple:

1. All snow stays on the ground (no snowballs at all)
2. Snow can be moved to create snow forts, snowmen and snow angels
3. The construction of the aforementioned structures will be respected by all and no knocking down or destruction by others.



These expectations/rules are repeatedly reviewed on the announcements, by the classroom teachers and school assistants.



Stay on Your Feet This Winter!

Now that winter is almost here, it is critical that staff be particularly vigilant on icy and snow-covered pathways and parking lots and on wet floors.

To stay on your feet during inclement weather, the following techniques are suggested to reduce your chances of slipping:

- Wear slip resistant footwear, appropriate for the weather. Leather soled shoes and high heeled shoes or boots are especially hazardous in winter.
- When getting in and out of a vehicle, always keep at least one hand on the handle or grab bar so you can catch yourself if you start to slip.
- Don't hurry when conditions are likely to be slippery (take short steps).
- Check the bottom of your feet every time you enter a building and dry them in doormats at the entrance.
- Don't carry items that will obstruct your vision.

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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 students 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.

If you have any comments or suggestions about our school, please write in the space below.

Comments:

Please print your name and your child's name in the space provided.

Parent's Name _____ Child's Name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

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 THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR FAMILY READING MAGAZINE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN!

Many magazines will begin to arrive over the next few weeks, but some subscriptions due to different publishing schedules may take longer to start. If you have any questions, please contact

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 1-800-667-2536.*

They offer a 100% satisfaction guarantee.

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