



# Nellie McClung P.S.



## Administrator's Message

Principal Mrs. W. Thompson Vice Principal Mrs. C. Schlosser

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

We welcome you back to our 2012 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 collecting donations of canned goods and other items. The spirit of giving and the care demonstrated for our families have been appreciated. Your generosity has made a difference.

Over the last few months, staff were engaged in reviewing student assessment data, including EQAO and reading assessment data, as we begin the development of our School Improvement Plan. Our School Improvement Plan will be aligned to the Board Improvement Plan and the work of our network of schools. As a staff, we will work together in a professional learning community focused on the area of assessment and critical thinking. We are committed to providing rich learning

opportunities for our students to develop their critical thinking skills across the curriculum. It is our goal that students will be engaged in their learning and will be able to articulate goals for academic achievement.

As the weather begins to get colder, it is our hope that students will continue to walk to school. This keeps children active, helps the environment and alleviates traffic congestion around the school. Our Eco-Schools and Healthy Schools teams appreciate your support with this endeavour.

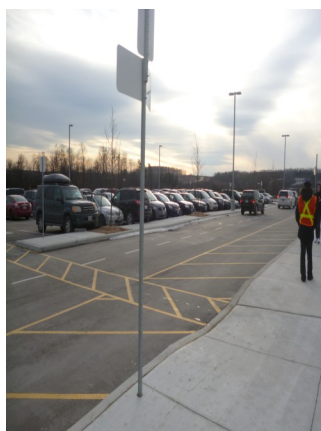
I want to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of regular and on-time attendance at school and it's impact on student success and achievement. As a school community, we are asking for your help and support in ensuring our students achieve their personal best. Please make every effort to plan vacations during the designated breaks in the school year calendar. Whenever possible, try to make appointments and commitments outside of the instructional day.



Please endeavour to support your children in arriving on time each day for school. We need to work together to reduce the number of students who arrive late in the morning.

### School Grounds Safety

Please use ONLY the designated pathways to enter from the parking lot to the school. The landing in front of the first row of cars maybe an easier access to the school but is can be icy and was intended only as a divider. For your safety you are required to ONLY use the yellow path in the photo below (next to the handicap



spaces) as access to the school. The caretakers continually clear and salt sidewalks and entryways around the school. If you should come across an icy patch or any deficiencies we encourage you to report this to the office. Thanks for your cooperation.

## Jan. 9, 2012

Volume 1, Issue 6

Superintendent: Sharon List

Trustee: Joel Hertz



### Kindergarten Registration 2012

Registration begins on February 3rd, 2012 at Nellie McClung Public School. Documents required for registration include:

- Proof of child's birth (birth certificate/passport)
- Proof of residency (for child and parent/guardian) Tax bill, legal lease agreement or purchase agreement and a utility bill
- Citizenship and immigration status (where applicable)
- Direction of school support form (renters only)

Children born in 2008 are eligible for junior kindergarten this September. Children born in 2007 and are not currently attending public school are eligible for senior kindergarten in September.

### Upcoming Dates

Jan.9, 2012.....Back to School  
Jan.9-13th.....last week of Self Defence  
Jan.16.....School Council Meeting  
Jan.19...Gr.8 Career Cruising Workshop  
Jan.20.....P.A. Day  
Jan.25...Triple P Parenting Workshop  
Jan.27...Character Assembly "Optimism"  
Nov.30-Mar.7(Wed's only).....Pizza Day

**Respect  
Responsibility**

**Honesty  
Empathy**

**Fairness  
Initiative**

**Perseverance  
Integrity**

**Courage  
Optimism**

## ***Character Matters!***

**Respect  
Responsibility  
Courage  
Understanding  
Optimism  
Initiative  
Honesty  
Fairness  
Integrity  
Perseverance**

## **Important Information for Parent Volunteers**

York Region District School Board procedure requires that all parent volunteers who come to help out in the classroom complete and submit an Offence Declaration form. This is in compliance with YRDSB procedure NP 280-Volunteers in our Schools. The Offence Declaration forms will be maintained in the office.

### **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 the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope or confidence.”*

*~Helen Keller~*

## **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.”

## ***Girls on the Run® is coming to your school this spring!***

Girls on the Run is a program that recognizes that every girl is special, that every girl is strong, and that every girl is a winner! It involves running (or walking), but it also teaches girls in grades 3 through 5 about health, friendship, body image, self-esteem and community service.

The 20 lesson curriculum, run twice a week after school, combines training for a 5k run/walk event on Sunday June 17, 2012 with lessons that promote physical, emotional, and social development. At Girls on the Run, girls will learn about standing up to peer pressure, values, cooperation, healthy decisions, and more! The program will run at Nellie McClung P.S on Tuesdays and Thursdays



## **Inside Shoes**

Please consider 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. Wheely shoes are not permitted at school.



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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.***

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## ***THINK RECYCLE***

Nellie McClung has just 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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## ***Snack Program (REVISED)***

Due to grants from Breakfast for Learning(BFL) and School Nutrition Program (SNP) we have been able to begin a snack program for students. Snacks are made available to all students in each class. Mrs. Ber is our school council representative who leads this initiative along with our educational assistants Mrs. Kelly, Ms. Macri and Mrs. Direito and two student volunteers, Cole and Kymani.

Grocery shopping and the preparation of snack each day has been quite labour intensive. After consultation with a few other schools we will move to have only an open fruit basket snack program. Fresh fruit (i.e., oranges, bananas etc.) will be delivered weekly. Bins will be replenished to classes once emptied, on a need by need basis.



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**Dear School Administrators,**

As you may be aware, the York Region District School Board is undertaking a review of its French as a Second Language programs. This review will include comprehensive community input and analysis to ensure we continue to deliver high quality, sustainable programs.

While the review is underway, the French Immersion delivery model, including enrolment procedures, will continue as status quo for the 2012-2013 school-year.

The following dates can be shared with your communities:

French Immersion Information Session Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

FI online Pre-registration opens

Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 (8:00am)

FI online Pre-registration closes

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (5:00pm)

FI in person registration deadline

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (end of school day)



Included with this email is a suggested excerpt that you may choose to use for your December/January newsletters.

Should you have any questions, please contact [Ross Virgo](#) or [Licinio Miguelo](#).

### **French as a Second Language Program Review Online Survey– We want to hear from you!**



The York Region District School Board is conducting a comprehensive review of its French as a Second Language (FSL) Program. The goal of the review is to ensure that the Board can continue to provide high quality and sustainable FSL instruction. York Region offers French as a Second Language instruction through two delivery models, Core and Immersion. Core French is what most students experience.

It begins in Grade 4 and is offered as a subject, as part of the regular Ontario Curriculum. French Immersion is a specialized optional program which begins in Grade 1. In French Immersion subjects in the Ontario Curriculum are predominantly taught in French.

As part of this review, the Board has engaged Ipsos Reid to assist with gathering public input. We are asking all parents to fill out an online survey to tell us what they think about FSL. **The survey will be available on the Board's website: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca), starting Friday, December 16, 2011 at 9:00 a.m., and will close on Monday, January 16, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.** All answers to the survey will be kept strictly confidential; survey answers will be limited to one per household. The review includes a public input process and an examination of best practices from other public education jurisdictions.

### **French Immersion Registration Moves Online**

The York Region District School Board continues to offer quality French Immersion for those who wish it. The French Immersion program begins at grade one and is based on the curriculum prescribed by the Ontario Ministry of Education.

To ensure accessibility and equity for all families wishing to register their children for Grade One French Immersion, the Board is introducing a new **online registration** process for the 2012-2013 school year. Online registration will take place from February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 until February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012. This replaces the "first-come, first-served" model previously in place. Registrations will be accepted online only, if you require assistance or do not have access to the internet, please contact your child's current school. Staff members at any York Region District School Board site can assist you with the online registration process.

Please note that where demand exceeds capacity, students for the designated attendance area school will be selected using a computerized random ranking process. French Immersion may take place in a single track (French only) or dual track school environment. Students may begin the French Immersion program in one location/track, but may be required to continue in a different location/track as the program evolves.

Parents looking for more information can visit the Board's website at [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

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## THE EDUCATION CENTRE

60 Wellington Street West  
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Fax: 905.727.1931  
Website: [www.yrbe.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrbe.edu.on.ca)

January 1, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am writing to clarify some misinformation which has been circulating concerning the Baythorn Arts Program.

York Region District School Board trustees are currently considering a draft policy intended to ensure equity, inclusiveness and consistency in the delivery of elementary school programs prescribed under the Ontario Curriculum.

The effect of the policy, if adopted, would be to ensure that all elementary schools are fully accessible to students living within their attendance boundary. An additional effect would be to curtail elementary school programs that restrict attendance to those students who meet certain admission criteria.

If the policy is adopted, Baythorn Public School would return to being a community school, without exclusive programming and restricted admissions.

There is no reason why all Baythorn Public School students could not continue to enjoy a vibrant arts program within its new context as a community school. Staff would be encouraged to showcase Baythorn arts programs as a model for other elementary schools to emulate.

Students already enrolled or to be enrolled in the Baythorn Arts Program for the 2012-13 school year would be permitted to remain at Baythorn PS for the balance of their elementary school education.

The Board will review the revised draft Elementary Programs policy at its monthly meeting on December 15, 2011. Following the meeting, the revised draft will be available for comment by all stakeholders. Once all stakeholders have had an opportunity to comment, the policy will be considered for final approval in March 2012.

The Board will keep parents apprised of the outcome of its policy decision and its implications for the future of Baythorn Public School.

Dr. Denese Belchetz  
Associate Director of Education  
Student Achievement and Well-being

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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
4. 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:

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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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A gift of a magazine subscription is like giving a gift every month for an entire year!

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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*

*QSP Customer Service at*

*1-800-667-2536.*

*They offer a 100% satisfaction guarantee.*

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