



Nellie McClung P.S.



Administrator's Message

Principal Mrs. W. Thompson

Vice Principal Mr. B. Stone

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October has certainly been a busy month! Thank you to all the families that participated in our Curriculum Night.

Congratulations to the School Council Executive. Our School Council is already underway in organizing fundraising initiatives. We look forward and welcome parents and community members at any future meetings.

Our students will be leading the discussion about their learning through the process of Student Led Conferencing. The staff will be working with your child to develop their self assessment skills to encourage students to become responsible for and engaged in the learning process. Students will be able to identify and articulate their strengths, needs and goals for improvement. Please find more information regarding Student Led Conferencing in this newsletter.

Progress Reports will be sent home on November 11th. Our Student Led Conferencing will take place the evening of November 13th and during the morning of November 14th. You have an opportunity to book a time for your child's conference through our online booking system which is available until November 8th. Please remember to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions regarding their progress and how you might support their learning at home.



As a staff, we will continue to work together in a professional learning community focused on the areas of assessment and critical thinking as well as in creating an equitable learning environment where all students can learn. It is our goal that all students will become more engaged in their learning and will be able to articulate goals and next steps for academic achievement.

Finally, Recognition Assemblies, where specific students will be awarded character certificates, will take place once a term. If your child will be receiving an award you will be invited to attend. The upcoming Recognition Assemblies will take place on November 28th at 2pm in the gym. We hope to see you then!

W. Thompson
Principal

B. Stone
Vice Principal

Nov. 1, 2014

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Superintendent: C. LaTouche

Trustee: Linda Aversa



Scholastic Book Fair November 10-13

We are very excited to inform you about our up coming Scholastic Book Fair! The profits from the book fair go directly to our school library.

Book Fair Hours:

Mon. Nov.10
Tues., Nov. 11 9:10AM-4:00PM
Wed., Nov. 12 9:10AM-4:00PM
Thurs., Nov. 13 9:10AM-8:00 PM

We are looking forward to seeing you

Upcoming Dates

Oct.2.....QSP Fundraiser Begins
Nov. 6.....School Council Meeting
Nov. 3.....Picture Retake
Nov.11.....Remembrance Day
Nov. 12.....Report Cards go home
Nov. 13/14..Student Led Conference
Nov. 14.....PA Day

**"Education is like a baseball game, it needs all its players:
- Parent
- Teacher
- Community
- Student."**

-author unknown

Student-Led Conferencing

The Student-Led Conference may be a new experience for some parents. In this type of conference, shared responsibility between student-parent-teacher takes on a new meaning. The student conducts the conference and is accountable for the following:

- preparation for the conference, which includes evidence to support his/her self-evaluation;
- attendance with the parents on time and in the right place; presentation of progress at the conference, using samples of work and tests.

The benefits of Student-Led Conferencing are to develop student leadership, increase student self confidence, allow the students to share their personal growth plan, provide parents with a significant role in their child's learning, and put the ownership for learning where it belongs – with the student!

The student growth plan involved the collaboration of your child and his/her teacher. Students have analyzed their work and looked for areas which require improvements. Your child will stress areas in which he/she needs improvement or areas of personal growth. Your child, with collaboration, has been involved in decision-making and has demonstrated a commitment to improve his/her own personal growth plan.

We are encouraging the parents to write a brief response to the report card in the space provided on page three of the provincial report card. In this space, your child will direct you to respond to their successes and comment on strategies that **both parent and student** will commit to improve on the three or four areas mentioned in the growth plan.

The Student-Led Conference will be 15 minutes long. **Please arrive on time** since there will be conferences scheduled immediately after your child's.

Character Matters!

Respect
Responsibility
Courage
Understanding
Optimism
Initiative
Honesty
Fairness
Integrity
Perseverance

Courage

is our Character



theme for the month of November.

Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount.

-Clare Booth Luce

Creativity requires the courage to let go of certainties.

-Erich Fromm

Peanut Free Halloween Treats

We realize that while children and treats are a reality for this time of year, we are requesting that moderation be the practice in what students are allowed to bring to school for snacks. As always, our first priority is the emotional, intellectual and physical well-being of our students and staff. With this in mind, we work to reinforce healthy eating practices all year round.



Also, please choose products which are safe for children who are allergic to peanuts/nuts. We continue to be diligent about airborne allergens and our sensitive students.



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 Vulnerable Sector Screening Test through your local Police Station. This is in compliance with YRDSB procedure NP 280-Volunteers in our Schools. The Vulnerable Sector Screening forms will be maintained in the office.

School Safety Zone

The rush of cars, buses and children arriving at school can create many dangers. Both children and drivers play a vital role in ensuring the safety of children coming and going to school. We encourage our families to practice safety while around vehicles and children.



School Safety Board's Right to Search and Seizure

In accordance with the Principal's responsibilities under the Education Act to ensure a safe and orderly learning environment, the school has the right to search school property, such as lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person. From time to time, the police may be invited onto school property to conduct their own searches and these searches may be conducted without notice or permission of any member of the school community as per our Joint Board and Police Protocol. When conducting a search of school property, the police are responsible for conforming to all legal requirements with respect to searches. Staff of the York Region District School Board take the matter of student safety very seriously. Conscientious staff vigilance combined with appropriate security features have contributed to a very positive safety record in York Region Schools.

Parent, Family & Community Engagement Advisory Committee (PEAC) Newsletter

<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/pdfs/w/peac/newsletter/yrdsb-peac-Newsletter-Fall2013.pdf>

Safe and Caring Schools

ECO TIP

Support us towards achieving GOLD status for our

Eco-Schools certification! Order your very own *Nellie McClung* stainless steel water bottle today for just **\$10.00!**

Order forms have been sent home and they are posted on our website.

*Proceeds to go towards funding recess play equipment

Did you know?

- Plastic bottles take 700 years to begin composting
- 90% of the cost of bottled water is due to the bottle itself
- 80% of plastic bottles are not recycle
- Use a refillable bottle for drinks—it's cheaper and children can save drinks for later



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.

No Child Without

There is a free medical identification service for elementary school children called No Child Without. This program is funded by the Canadian MedicalAlert Foundation. With the rise in childhood diabetes, asthma and allergies, thousands of children have a medical condition that should be communicated to school staff, friends, and medical personnel in an emergency.

For more information please visit:
www.medicalert.ca/nochildwithout

Tribes Assemblies

On November 13 & 21st we will hold our monthly Tribes/Character Assembly. Students in grades 1-3 and 4-8 come together to form eight tribes. Tribe members participate in “getting to know you” activities and worked cooperatively to discuss their Tribe name based on Endangered Animals as well as learn the new school song. Each month students will continue to meet with their tribe members and take part in collaborative activities connected to the monthly character traits. Assemblies where parents attend our called Recognition Assemblies where deserving students will be awarded character certificates. The assemblies have been scheduled for November 28th, March 4th and May 26th. If your child will be receiving an award your child’s teacher will contact you.

Reports Go Home:



Tuesday, November 11th
Most interviews will be the evening of Thursday, November 13th and in the morning of Friday, November 14th.

Teaching Kids to Love School

Some kids love school, while others seem to dread every minute of the school year.

What can parents do to help their children develop a love of learning and really enjoy their school experience? Parents can do a lot to help their children feel good about school and about themselves. Here are some helpful suggestions:



- Avoid being a source of pressure.
- Share how proud you are on a regular basis.
- Keep the lines of communication open.
- Work with them to find solutions to their difficulties.
- Keep the lines of communication with the teacher open.
- Encourage their independence.
- Show your enthusiasm in what they are learning

(Borrowed in part from the September edition of "The Month Ahead.")

Healthy Schools – Healthy Kids

We all need to ask ourselves some important questions with respect to maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Are you:

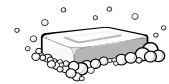
- 1) Getting enough sleep (7-9 hours/night);
- 2) Eating breakfast (pop tarts don't count – the wrapper has more nutrition);
- 3) Eating 3 reasonable-sized meals a day, encompassing all of the essential food groups, with intermittent nutritious, healthy snacks;
- 4) Enjoying "sometimes" foods (sweets, treats, etc.), only occasionally – hence the "treat" and "sometimes";
- 5) Exercising daily with an increased heart rate (making your bed is only a start);
- 6) Gauging your emotional health, taking care of your emotional needs – spending time with family, friends, and participating in recreational activities?



"Wash Your Hands" Campaign

With the flu season around the corner, the York Region District School Board is launching its first ever hand washing campaign.

We want to ensure that all of our students understand how important it is to properly wash their hands in order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.



Washing your hands thoroughly and often may reduce your chances of getting sick.

- Use soap and warm running water.
- Wash hands at least five times a day.

There are other precautions you can take to help prevent getting the flu and spreading it to others:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you sneeze or cough.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve - not into your hands.
- Put used tissues in the wastebasket immediately.
- Avoid sharing food, eating utensils, towels or handkerchiefs.

Source: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care