



# Nellie McClung P.S.



## Administrator's Message

Principal Mrs. W. Thompson

Co Principal Mr. Berman

October has certainly been a busy month! Thank you to all the families that participated in our Curriculum Night. Students were able to impress their parents with their work while showing off their classrooms.

We invite you to attend the EQAO Information session on November 6th, space is limited so register now.

Congratulations to the School Council Executive. Our School Council is already underway in organizing initiatives to support the School's Improvement Plan (SIP). We look forward and welcome parents and community members at any future meetings.

The traditional parent-teacher interview night will look differently as our students take on a greater role in the process. Our students will be leading the discussion through the process of Student Led Conferencing on November 22nd and 23rd. The staff will be working with our students 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 for Grades SK to 8 will be sent home on November 21st. Our Student Led Conferencing for these grades will take place the evening of November 22<sup>nd</sup> and during the day on November 23rd. A letter will be sent home shortly so that you have an opportunity to book a time for your child's conference. Please remember to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions regarding their progress and how you might support their learning in the 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.

W. Thompson  
Principal

B. Berman  
Co Principal

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

## Nov. 1, 2012

Volume 2, Issue 4

Superintendent: Sharon List

Trustee: Joel Hertz



On Nov. 8, 2012, Down to Earth Conservation Education will visit our school to present **SAVING PLANET EARTH** to our students. Students may bring money to buy items. See page 7 for details.

## Week of Nov. 19th

1. QSP Magazine Fundraiser
2. Scholastic Book Fair
3. Anti-Bullying Week
4. Reports Go Home

### Upcoming Dates

Nov. 11.....Remembrance Day  
Nov. 15.....Picture Retakes  
Nov. 19.....School Council  
Nov. 19-22..Anti-Bullying Wk  
Nov. 19-22.....Book Fair  
Nov. 23.....PA Day

Respect  
Responsibility

Honesty  
Empathy

Fairness  
Initiative

Perseverance  
Integrity

Courage  
Optimism

## 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 approximately 15 minutes long. In November your invitation from your child will confirm the time and date of your conference. **Please arrive on time** since there will be conferences scheduled immediately after your child's.

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## ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORT CARD:

The Elementary Progress Report Card will support teachers in using assessment for learning in the first 4-6 weeks of the school year. The primary purpose of assessment is to improve student learning. The Progress Report will show a student's development of the learning skills and work habits as well as general progress in working toward the achievement of the curriculum expectations in all subjects. The Progress Report is intended to provide information for rich conversations with students and parents at the November conferences (November 22 and 23rd) and to establish a positive tone for open communication throughout the school year.

**Learning Skills and Work Habits:** The first page of the Progress Report highlights the following six skills that are consistent from grade 1 – 12:

Responsibility  
Organization  
Independent Work  
Collaboration  
Initiative  
Self-Regulation

A comment will be provided by the homeroom teacher and each Learning Skill/Work Habit will be assessed and reported using:

**E** = Excellent **G** = Good **S** = Satisfactory **N** = Needs Improvement

**Achievement of Curriculum Expectations for Each Subject:** The second page of the Progress Report informs parents/guardians of the progress students are making in each subject area. Teachers will indicate progress by checking one of the following:

- ☐ Progressing With Difficulty
- ☐ Progressing Well
- ☐ Progressing Very Well

Teachers may use parent-friendly language to provide anecdotal comments that will focus on what students have learned, describe strengths and identify next steps for improvement.

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## 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.



### Passing Messages to Students

We understand that sometimes you need us to pass along messages to your children, but to cut down on interruptions in the classroom, please make arrangements ahead of time. **Messages will only be passed along when it is an emergency.** Thanks - we appreciate your cooperation in assisting us in preserving the quality of instruction for your children, our 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.



### Just a Reminder

Students need to go directly home at dismissal time. Since there is no supervision of the play area or in the field at the end of the day, the staff cannot be responsible for individual student's actions or safety.

It is important, therefore, that students on the yard after school be supervised by their parent(s)/nanny. Students who are picked up by parents/nanny, should wait at the office if they do not see their parents/nanny immediately following the dismissal bell.

### 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.



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# 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 recycled
- Use a refillable bottle for drinks—it's cheaper and children can save drinks for later



## **Reports Go Home:**

Wednesday, November 22nd.  
Most interviews will be the evening of Thursday, November 23rd and in the morning of Friday, November 24th.



## **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 new free medical identification service for elementary school children called No Child Without. This program is funded by the Canadian Medical Alert 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](http://www.medicalert.ca/nochildwithout)

## **Remembrance Day**

Nellie McClung P.S. will be having a Remembrance Day assembly in the gymnasium at 10:45 a.m. on Friday, November 9, 2012. Space is very limited. If you are planning on attending, please let your child's teacher know so that we can ensure sufficient seating for visitors.



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## 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:

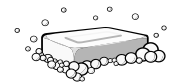
- 1) Getting enough sleep (7-9 hours/night);
- 2) Eating breakfast (pop tarts don't count – the wrapper has more nutrition);
- 3) Eating 3 reasonable-sized meals a day, encompassing all of the essential food groups, with intermittent nutritious, healthy snacks;
- 4) Enjoying "sometimes" foods (sweets, 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

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On October 18th, students in grades 3 to 8 were fortunate to have a visit from Marcia McClung who is the granddaughter of Nellie McClung. Marcia talked about Nellie McClung's life and specifically about Nellie's role in person's day. We were grateful to have the opportunity to hear first-hand what a remarkable lady our school was named after.



Mark your calendars now, so that you don't miss our Scholastic Book Fair. The dates are Nov. 19-22, 2012. The hours will be from 9am to 3:30pm. Hope to see you there!

### 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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# THE GLOBAL VILLAGE GIFT SHOP

## SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

On Nov. 8, 2012, Down to Earth Conservation Education will visit our school to present **SAVING PLANET EARTH** to our students. Following the show everyone will have an opportunity to visit the **THE GLOBAL VILLAGE GIFT SHOP!**

These affordable, fair-trade items will benefit artisans locally & globally - as well as two Canadian charities:

Grand Manan Whale & Seabird Research Station (New Brunswick)

The Good Neighbours Club (Homeless Shelter in Toronto)

And **OUR SCHOOL: (10% of ALL SALES FOR OUR SCHOOL)**

**ITEMS FOR SALE** (All taxes included) \* While supplies last!

**\$ 1.00** Rocks/Minerals/Gems, Healing Stones, Necklaces, Cell Phone/Back Pack Ties, Hemp Bracelets, Gem Cards, Rings

**\$ 2.00** Gemstones, Bamboo Flutes, Mood Rings, Jewellery, Strongest Magnets (\$2.00 pr), Energy Bracelets, The Ugliers, Hacky Sacs, Moonstone Eggs

**\$3.00** Fossilized Shark Tooth Necklaces (millions of years old!), Elephant Poo Books, MulberryBooks, Gemstone Bracelets, Jewellery, Frog Rasps, Bark Pencils with carved animals, Duck Quackers

**\$5.00** Jewellery, Water Bird Flutes, Mini Rainsticks, Hemp Bags, Books (by guest speaker Loretta Penny), Shaker Drums, Scarves, India Keychains

**\$10.00 & up** Jewellery, Scarves, Natural Photo Albums, Shell Coasters, Musical Instruments, Placemat sets & more!

Thank you for supporting our school! **Cash Only!**

**WWW.DOWNTOEARTH.TO**

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## ***GRADE 8 NEWS***

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You and your children are likely beginning to explore secondary school options and may have an interest in applying for a specialized secondary program. Below is some information, available on the York Region District School Board public website that will help you navigate the process and gain information about specialized secondary programs available in our board.

Go to [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca) > Programs and Initiatives > Pathways Programs

The following is some information on specialized secondary programs.

### **Bill Crothers Secondary School**

For students interested in a specialized athletics program there is Bill Crothers Secondary School:

Open House Information Sessions: 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. In the school cafeteria  
November 6th – West and North Schools  
November 8th – East Schools  
November 12th – Central Schools

Applications available online November 13th, 2011.

For more information, visit the Bill Crothers Secondary School Website:

<http://www.billcrothers.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/default.htm>

### **High Performance Athlete (HPA)**

High Performance Athlete (HPA) is a cooperative education program, for students who are competing at the provincial, national and international level. The focus is on long term career objectives while accommodating competitive needs with individually tailored Co-operative Education Courses.

Gr. 9-12 criteria for acceptance:

# of hours committed to the training needs of the student  
level of competition  
training season

.....*GRADE 8 NEWS continued*

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For more information and to obtain an application, contact the Co-operative Education departments of the following participating schools:

Thornhill S.S.

[<http://www.thornhill.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/Links/co-operative-dept-intro.htm>](http://www.thornhill.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/Links/co-operative-dept-intro.htm)

Stouffville District S.S.

[<http://www.stouffvilledistrict.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/cgi-bin/sdss\\_index2005.pl>](http://www.stouffvilledistrict.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/cgi-bin/sdss_index2005.pl)

Newmarket H.S.

[<http://www.newmarket-highschool.com/athletics.htm>](http://www.newmarket-highschool.com/athletics.htm)

Markham District H.S.

[<http://www.markhamdistrict.hs.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/links/coop-dept-intro.htm>](http://www.markhamdistrict.hs.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/links/coop-dept-intro.htm)

Richmond Green S.S.

[<http://www.richmondgreen.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/dept-guidance-career%20ed/hpa.html>](http://www.richmondgreen.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/dept-guidance-career%20ed/hpa.html)

Sir William Mulock S.S.

[<http://mulock.sharpschool.com/departments/co\\_op/>](http://mulock.sharpschool.com/departments/co_op/)

King City S.S.

[<http://www.kingcity.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/links/athletics.htm>](http://www.kingcity.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/links/athletics.htm)

Bill Crothers S.S.

[<http://www.billcrothers.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/default.htm>](http://www.billcrothers.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/default.htm)

## **The Secondary Arts Program**

The Secondary Arts Program is a four-year intensive arts program for artistically talented students in York Region.

Specialized Arts programming is available at four sites throughout the Region:

Alexander Mackenzie High School, Richmond Hill

Huron Heights Secondary School, Newmarket

Unionville High School, Markham

Westmount Collegiate, Vaughan

Program details, attendance boundaries, audition requirements contact information and applications are posted at respective school websites.

Admission to Grade 9 through an audition and/or portfolio presentation process in January each year  
Applications for all Secondary Arts Programs due in early December each year – see information below

Arts programs include: Dance, Drama, Music (vocal, band) and Visual Arts

Students applying for Piano apply at Unionville H.S. only.

Students applying for Strings can apply at Alexander Mackenzie and Unionville H.S. only.

.....*GRADE 8 NEWS continued*

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Arts Alexander Mackenzie Program <<http://www.alexandermackenzie.hs.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/index.html>>

- Information Evening: Thursday, October 18, 2012
- Arts Applications Due: Friday, November 30, 2012
- Auditions January 24-28

Huron Heights

<<http://www.huronheights.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/artsHuron/main.htm>>

Information Evening: Sat. Dec. 1st at Huron Heights S.S. Auditorium at 1:30 p.m.

- Applications due 4:00 p.m., December 21, 2012

Auditions January 28-30

The ARTS UNIONVILLE program

<http://www.artsunionville.com/>

Information Evening: Monday, October 29, 2012, Tuesday, October 30, 2012. Tickets must be reserved by calling Markham Theatre Box Office at: 905-305-7469 (after October 1)

Application Deadline: Friday, November 30, 2012 (guaranteed audition)

**Please note: applications will continue to be accepted until auditions begin, however an audition cannot be guaranteed after the application deadline.**

Auditions: January 24-30, 2013

Arts Westmount

<[http://web.me.com/artswestmount/Arts\\_Westmount/Info.html](http://web.me.com/artswestmount/Arts_Westmount/Info.html)>

Information Evening: October 25; 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Vaughan City Playhouse.

Application Deadline: November 20, 2012

Auditions: January 2013

For General Program Enquiries Please Contact: Mrs. Di Pasquale at 905-882-0277 Ext: 283

If you have specific questions about the various specialty programs available across the region, please contact your area secondary school Guidance Department, Arts Department, or Co-op Heads.

The Intermediate Team of Nellie McClung P.S.

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# Host a student visiting from abroad

Can you offer ...

- a caring and secure environment
- an English speaking home
- a private room
- three meals (and snacks) daily
- a home within reasonable distance to a YRSDB school

*Families are compensated \$800/month to cover the cost of hosting.  
School year and summer placements are available.*



[homestay@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:homestay@yrdsb.edu.on.ca) | 905 884 2046 ext 254  
[www.yrdsb-international.ca](http://www.yrdsb-international.ca)



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