



Nellie McClung P.S.



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

Administrator's Message

It is with great excitement that we begin the inaugural 2011-2012 school year at Nellie McClung P.S. We hope that everyone has had a relaxing summer break and are focused on the many exciting learning opportunities that the new school year will bring. A special thank you to the care-taking staff, office staff and teaching staff for the many additional hours they put into preparing for a successful September start-up.

We are certainly privileged to be named after Nellie McClung one of the Famous Five who fought for women to get the right to vote in Canada. It was Ms. McClung's early work and dedication as a women's rights leader that has laid the foundation for equitable and inclusionary practices in Canada. Ms. McClung was indeed a woman of character who became involved in social reform challenging social problems facing women and children from different backgrounds. Character education will be the foundation on which we base many of the initiatives that we embrace at our school. Initiatives such as Restorative Practices and Tribes as well as our commitment to the environment are just a few examples of how we will blend academic excellence with good citizenship.

As you are aware, each year schools are organized following very stringent parameters for class size and enrolment, particularly in the primary grades. In grades JK to 3 there is a cap of 20 students per class (with the exception of Full Day Early Learning Programs and 23 for new schools). In all schools this necessitates the creation of several split grade classrooms throughout all divisions. As we process new registrations and determine those students who have moved away, our organization may shift in order to maintain the Ministry requirements. During the next week and a half we will meet as a staff to discuss any reorganization that may need to occur. Parents will be informed during the week of September 26th about any changes that will occur that may or may not impact their child. Changes to student placements will not be reviewed before this date.

In closing, we would like to remind you that we can not be successful in our mission to "inspire and prepare learners for life in our changing world community" without YOU! We welcome your participation in your child's learning and look forward to partnering with you to ensure that every student is a literate graduate prepared to embrace all that life has to offer. We look forward to working with you throughout the coming year.

Your partners in education,
W. Thompson
Principal

C. Schlosser
Vice Principal

Sept. 14, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 3

Superintendent: Sharon List

Trustee: Joel Hertz

School Hours:

9:10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Supervision Begins at 8:55 a.m.

First Bell at 9:05 a.m.

Instruction Begins at 9:10 a.m.

Recess 10:50 a.m.-11:10 a.m.

Lunch 12:50 p.m. –1:50 p.m.

School Colours & Team Name

**What do you think our school colours should be?
What should be our team name?**

**Please vote online before
September 21.**

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5B6RZSD>

Upcoming Dates

Sept. 23.....PA Day

Sept. 29 & 30 Rosh Hashanah

Oct. 4.....Meet the Teacher

Oct. 10.....Thanksgiving

Oct. 24.....PA Day

**Respect
Responsibility**

**Honesty
Empathy**

**Fairness
Initiative**

**Perseverance
Integrity**

**Courage
Optimism**

Nellie McClung Public School Staff 2011 - 2012		
Staff Name	Position	Room /Ext
Abballe, Melissa	GR 1/2D	122
Ackles-Dold, Shannon	GR 3/4C	226
Batko, Barbara	Community Class	123
Bow, Brian	Music	117
Caplan, Lauren	JK/SK	105
Derakshandeh, Farshad	GR 6/7A	206
Di Cristofaro, Amy	DECE	106 / 400
Direito, Christina	EA	/413
Feldman, Tracy	GR 5/6A	208
Ferreira, Elana	DECE	111 / 404
Fortis, Trisha	JK/SK	101
Fraser, Shara-Lynn	JK/SK	106
Gauer, Adina	GR 3/4B	225
Gordon-Rak, Rose	Library/Lit. Teacher	116 / 186
Guerriero, Lina (Michela)	JK/SK	110
Holmeshaw, Donna	SSC/Prep	222
Kelly(Dunn), Janet	CYW	123
Knopman, Jason	GR 1/2C	120
Kurtz, Tina	GR 7/8B	209
Lam, Penny	GR 4/5B	202
Macri, Daniela	ADH	/411
Mateo-Adegbaju, Jesica	DECE	110 / 401
Mirahmadi, Samareh	DECE	114 / 410
Morra, Karey	ADH	/412
Okell, Jen	GR 2/3A	131
Pachkina, Elena	DECE	105 / 402
Pimentel, Kathleen	DECE	101 / 403
Pollishuke, Kim	GR 7/8A	210
Rotman, Adriana	French	204
Sanders, Nichole	Spec. Ed. Asst.	/ 414
Scott, Tiffany	JK/SK	111
Sevel, Steven	GR 3/4A	224
Sherwin, Kelli	SERT/ELL	223
Short, Kim	GR 4/5	203
Sieger, Marnie	GR 1/2A	119
Sobel, Bonnie	JK/SK	114
Tranter, Katie	GR 1/2B	121
Urback, Cheryl	ELL	219
Vien, Lisa	Reading Recovery	127
Williams, Diana	CYW	/409

Office/Caretaking Staff		
Shatz, Traci	Head Secretary	
Schlosser, Candice	VP	
Thompson, Wendy	Principal	
Fraser, Zabrina	Secretary	
Chorley, Maja	Lead Caretaker	
Johnson, Chris	Caretaker	
Weeks, Jason	Caretaker	

Office Hours:

8:30-4:30

If your child will be absent or late please use our 24 hour voicemail system. CALL THE SCHOOL AT 905-303-8113 AND PRESS 6 TO LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ATTENDANCE LINE.

Crosswalk

We have been in touch with the Town of Vaughan, who have made changes to the crossing guard supervision. In approximately 4 weeks a 2nd stop sign will be installed.

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Kindergarten Q & A

Can I come into the fenced in area to drop off my JK child?

Now that routines have begun, it is expected that all JK and SK students say their good-byes at their designated gates. Staff will assist your child. This will reduce congestion and aid in our focus on students and their safe entry.

What can parents do to get more toys and equipment for the Kindergarten students?

As a new school, we are still receiving and unpacking supplies for our students. We were fortunate to have games painted on our pavement as well as having access to the field as this is not usually the case with new schools. We ask that you be patient.

When I ask my child what he /she did at school he/she said he played. Will my child be ready for grade one and what is he/she learning?

As discussed at the Kindergarten Orientation in May 2011, your child will participate in a play-based learning program. Please visit the Ministry of Education website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/whatwillmychildlearnanddo.html> or send a note in your child's message bag to have his/her teacher contact you.

Transportation

Students in **Grades JK-3** must live more than **1.2 km.** from the school to qualify for bussing.



Students in **Grades 4 – 8** must live more than **1.6 km.** from the school to qualify for bussing.

Please check the website www.schoolbuscity.com

School Organization

We have organized classrooms based on the most recent enrolment and following Ministry/ Board regulations and guidelines. There may be further changes in the next few weeks depending on actual numbers of students in the building. We will keep you informed as we move ahead.

A word about combined classes:

Your children are in combined classes. This is a result of there being a cumbersome number of students at particular grade levels. Sometimes, there are too many students to form one class, but not enough students to form two classes. In these situations, students from two different grade levels are grouped together to form a combined class.

Educational literature shows that children in combined grade groupings function at a level that is comparable to children in a straight grade. Student achievement is not compromised. In addition, the research suggests that multi-age grouping is associated with a more positive self-concept and an enhanced attitude towards learning.

When we consider students for a combined class, the following criteria is considered:

- a balance according to gender
- work habits, maturity, co-operation
- a balance of ability, interests, and talents
- social or behavioral considerations
- ESL or Special Education needs
- Learning styles of the students

The placement of your child in the higher grade of a split class does not mean that your child has not met curriculum requirements. If your child is in the lower grade, they are not necessarily ahead of their peers in a straight grade.

Educational research supports many benefits for students in combined classes, including:

- the development of independent learning skills
- students learn from each other
- the enhancement of social/emotional development
- leadership opportunities for students

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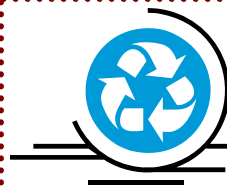
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Allergies

There are children and staff who have life threatening **allergies**. In order to ensure the health and well-being of these individuals, we have a **Scent and Peanut/Nut Sensitive Policy in our school**. We need the understanding and commitment of everyone in our community. **Please take the time to read ingredient labels carefully**. This will help to ensure that our students, staff and visitors remain free from exposure to nut products, perfumes and scented sprays and help avoid the possibility of a medical emergency.

Equity Alert!

Due to students with extreme food allergies and in fostering an equitable learning environment, **no food products for birthdays as well as fast food purchases for lunch (i.e., McDonald's etc.) will be allowed into the school**. Thank you for your cooperation and efforts at inspiring healthy eating habits for our children.



NMPS is beginning the process to becoming an Eco Certified School. Our mandate is to work together as a school and a community to reduce, reuse and recycle to create a safe and eco- friendly environment for our children and the children of the future. We continue to think of innovative ways to reduce the amount of waste and energy consumed at our school. We continue to support **litterless lunches**, and the school recycling program. As part of our initiative to create an eco-friendly school the office will be reducing the amount of paper that is sent out to the community. In our conscious effort to reduce the amount of garbage that enters our landfills on a yearly basis we will be doing our part in conservation by emailing our monthly newsletter to parents and posting it on the Nellie McClung P.S. website. To help us with this, **please register your family's email address by going to**

<http://www.nelliemcclung.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/>

and clicking on

Parents & Guardians

Send us your email address to receive school updates

[\(Click to fill in form\)](#)

and then enter your email address.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Child Care

Before and after school child care is provided by **Fun on the Run**. For more information: funontherun.nelliemcclung@rogers.com or call Fun on the Run at (905)265-7458.

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Safety Awareness Week September 19 to 23, 2011



The York Region District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students. To support that endeavour, the week of September 19 to 23, 2011 has been designated as Safety Awareness Week. All public and secondary schools across the region will be featuring activities and events that highlight various facets of safety at school and in the community. Students will be participating in a wide variety of activities intended to increase awareness of safety hazards and how to avoid them.

Safety Awareness Week will also include emergency preparedness exercises. To ensure that all members of the school community are familiar with the emergency procedure, we will be conducting a practice Lockdown drill. In advance of the drill we will review protocols and expectations during an emergency with all students, staff and affected partners. If you have any questions about Safety Awareness Week or about student safety please contact your child's teacher.



KARATE KIDS CLUB

We are excited to announce that the *Karate Kids* program will be coming to Nellie McClung P.S! This 40 minute class will run during the lunch hour recess in the school gymnasium. It combines fun fitness activity, character education lessons and non-contact basic martial arts movements. The class is designed to build self confidence, self discipline and fitness levels in a non competitive environment. Offered to grades 1 to 4, the program will run once a week on every Tuesday starting October 18th until February 28th. Enrolment flyers containing full details will be distributed to the students in October This is a popular program that is currently running in over 85 schools across Ontario. You are invited to visit their website for more detailed information at www.karatekids.ca or call 416 482-8198.

LUNCH AND HOMEWORK DROP OFFS

For your convenience, lunches and homework may be placed on the table in the front foyer. Please ensure that they are clearly labelled with your child's name and teacher's name. Please be aware that students will not be interrupted during class time, and office staff will notify students at morning recess (10:50 a.m.) and at the beginning of lunch (12:50 p.m.)

Absence and Significant Religious Holidays

Students are expected to be in school each day of the school year. On rare occasions, when your child is withdrawn for reasons other than illness, please notify the school by writing a note in your child's agenda in advance of the absence. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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.

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September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Student Bully Assembly	20 SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK	21 RCMP Presentation	22	23 P.A. DAY (no school)	24
25	26	27	28	29 Rosh Hasha- nah	30 Rosh Hasha- nah Lunch Lady begins	

NELLIE MCLLUNG PUBLIC SCHOOL.

October Upcoming events
4th - Meet the Teacher
6:30 pm

24th - P.A. Day

27th - School Photos

York Region
District School
Board

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York Region District School Board's Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee invites parents and community members to attend an evening of learning and frank discussion about social media's impact on kids of all ages.

How do I protect my kids from cyberbullying?

What is "sexting"?

What's the deal with social networking?

Are Facebook, Twitter and YouTube here to stay?

How much is too much screen time?

How can I learn about the social-media world my children are growing up in?

Social Media and the Internet do NOT have to be scary!

Led by Kiwi Seminars, a group that specializes in speaking to parents and students alike, this session will empower parents through knowledge and teach the real risks on the Internet while not indulging in media hype.

Topics covered will include tips on how to protect ourselves, teaching our children how to be safe and how to use the World Wide Web responsibly and more.

Please join us

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

7:00 pm

Vaughan Secondary School Cafetorium

1401 Clark Avenue West

Thornhill, L4J 7R4

Cost: FREE!

For more information contact:
Janet.atkinson@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

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