



MacKillop Monthly

School Website:
www.ommackillop.edu.on.ca
School Email:
o.m.mackillop.ps@yrdsb.edu.
on.ca

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Principal's Message

Principal
Arlene Potashner

Superintendent of
Schools
Karen Friedman
905-884-4477

Trustee
Diane Giangrande
905-770-0826

School Council Chair
Cecilia Correia

Administrative Assts.
Bessie Papadopoulos
Mary Anne Bernardinis

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Our students and families once again demonstrated their generosity during the holiday season as we collected food for the Richmond Hill Food Bank and toys for the York Regional Police for their Holidays for Heroes campaign. Another special project saw some of our students visiting area seniors to share music, stories and conversation. Our students were so proud of their outreach to the community and we thank our families for thinking of others during this time.

Our eco team, led by Mr. Potyok and Mrs. Fairy, has been transforming the way we manage our waste products. All classrooms now have small recycling bins, green bins and even smaller garbage cans. Student leaders are checking these daily and monitoring lights and screens. According to our caretakers we have been doing a far better job of reducing our garbage. Did you know that you can bring batteries in to the school for safe disposal? Containers are available at the front of the school.

Term One Report Cards will be issued on **February 12th**. As always teachers are available to discuss student progress prior to this date. Our teachers communicate to parents in a variety of ways - student agendas, monthly calendars, class newsletters and websites are some examples. If you are not receiving these communications please contact your child's teacher.

With some families leaving early for holidays at this time of year, or any other time, we are often asked the question: "What about work my child is missing?" We suggest your child read for pleasure, keep a journal of their activities and contact a classmate for due dates. In addition you can refer to curriculum documents on the Ministry of Education website <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/>

for curriculum expectations and parent resources if a lengthy absence is being planned. Since much learning that takes place in the classroom is interactive and collaborative, it is not always possible to provide written materials to make up for classes missed due to extended vacation.

We are excited to announce our newly constructed school website will be up and running in the middle of January. You can access it using our current website address. One great feature is the calendar on the homepage – use it to keep track of pizza days, upcoming events and more.

You may have heard that the YRDSB has undertaken a renewal of its mission, vision and values' statements. They are now available to the public and I encourage you to take a look by connecting to Director Ken Thurston's blog at <http://www.yrdsb.ca/directorsblog/Pages/default.aspx>. A formal launch will be held in January.

Another change coming in February will be the locking of the front doors in elementary schools fifteen minutes after the entry bell. See the notice from the board on page 2 of this newsletter. As we already have structures in place for visitors to sign in upon entry, few changes to our existing practices will be required. We will communicate more details in January.

Finally, with the winter break ahead of us it is my sincere hope that you will take time with your families to enjoy the holiday season, reconnect with loved ones, and share the traditions and rituals that are special to your family.

Watch For Our New School Website!

We are excited to be launching our new School website on January 8, 2014. Be sure to visit the site and have a look at what is going on at MacKillop. You can access the website at our current address or at: <http://ommackillop.ps.yrdsb.ca>

Winter Tips for Parents

With winter definitely upon us here are a few tips for comfort and safety:

- 1) Make sure your children are dressed for the weather and that they have indoor shoes at school. We go outside most days and on those days when the conditions are deemed too cold, we try and have students outside for a part of recess.
- 2) If your child is well enough to attend school the expectation is they are to be outside at recess.
- 3) Please use the walkways that are cleared as your path to walk to the doors. Parents and caregivers should ensure they are wearing proper footwear, along with the children. Slips and falls can occur very easily at this time of year and we want everyone to remain safe!
- 4) If buses are cancelled in the morning due to weather conditions it means they will not run in the afternoon so if you bring your child(ren) to school you will need to make arrangements for them to be picked up in the afternoon.

MacKillop Students Spread Holiday Cheer

On Thursday, December 12th, Mrs. Sarro's Grade 5 class and our school choir led by Ms. Caesar had the wonderful opportunity of sharing holiday cheer with the residents of Brookside Manor and Hilltop Senior Residences. The children shared stories, holiday songs and delicious treats. It was a heartwarming experience for both our children and the seniors alike. On our return to school our students shared their experiences, some very emotional, and all of them said they would like to visit again. We would like to thank all the parents for baking all the wonderful treats. We would also like to thank CEC Central (YRDSB) for providing the bussing to and from the residence. We are hoping that in the future we will be able to provide more intergenerational experiences for our students. It was a true demonstration of empathy and compassion. As one of the lines in our Touchstone says, "We are the smallest of the small with the biggest heart of all."
Mrs. Bowden



Food and Toy Drive

Over the last couple weeks our school has been donating food and toys. We had seven boxes of food and two overflowing boxes of toys. We had a successful food and toy drive so that all kids will have a happy holiday. Thank you to the families, staff, and students who brought in food and toys, because you helped our community.

Jake
Grade 6



Locked School Doors

Beginning February 3, all school doors, including the front doors and doors to portables, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the day. Anyone arriving at the school after that time must buzz in and sign in at the main office.

Measures will also be put in place for parents/guardians to buzz in and pick up students participating in before and after school programs. More detailed information will be available in January.

Our school continues to be a safe place where parent and community member involvement is welcomed and encouraged. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office upon arrival.

Mayor Barrow Visits MacKillop P.S.

On December 3rd, 2013 Mayor Dave Barrow came to our school and talked about the history of Richmond Hill. Maggie MacKenzie from the Heritage Centre also came and showed the grade 5 and 6's pictures of early Richmond Hill. One of the things that she talked about was the radio car. The radio car runs on a track and has different routes.

The mayor has been in charge of Richmond Hill for seven years and has been voted in by the citizens of Richmond Hill. He has a necklace with medals on it. He calls it a 'bling.' The mayor is a very humorous man and a lot of teachers were laughing. The mayor's visit was very historical and interesting and we are thankful that he took time off of his busy schedule to come and visit us.

Faith and Tom

Secondary School Closed to Transfers

Please note that we have been informed that Bayview S.S. will be closed to student transfers for the 2014/15 school year. Additional information about secondary schools can be obtained by speaking with Mrs. Painter in regards to course selection, or the office in regards to transfers to other schools in the our area.



A Note From Macklin House

Happy New Year... wishing you our best for the new year! We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Ms. Potashner and the entire O.M.Mackillop team for their continued support!

We look forward to providing a safe and quality program before and after-school to the families at O.M.Mackillop PS. We say goodbye to Ms. Nisha, we extend our best wishes to her as she continues her career with the York Region School Board. At the same time, we would like to introduce and welcome Ms. Gina Silva RECE as the pro-

gram Supervisor. Ms. Gina graduated from the Early Childhood Education Program at Sheridan College in 1989 and brings with her the expertise and experience of twenty four years. We would also like to introduce and welcome Ms. Ghazaleh Mokhtari RECE as the assistant Supervisor. Ms. Mokhtari who graduated from the Early Childhood Education Program from Seneca College in 2007. Ms. Mokhtari also brings with her the experience of six years. For further information please visit us at www.macklinhousedaycare.com

Eco News

At O.M. MacKillop this past month we have been working hard to create an environment that supports a healthy, sustainable environment. If you have been in the hallways recently, you probably have noticed that our blue recycle bins have been removed. We have moved the recycling into the classrooms so we can manage it better. Since we have moved the bins, we have noticed less contamination in our recycling and almost all of our recycling is making it to the depot!

In January we would like to see lunches that are using reusable containers. Boomerang lunches are great for reducing the garbage at school, but our ECO team would like to see less garbage going to the dump. If we use reusable containers, we will eliminate the plastic sandwich bags from sitting in our dumps.

A reminder that we have battery recycling set up at the school by the front doors!



The ECO team wishes you a happy holiday and a happy New Year!

Mr. Potyok and Mrs. Fairy

School Bus Cancellation Information

On occasion service cancellation due to inclement weather and/or poor road conditions may be required. All cancellation decisions will be made by 6:00 a.m. to ensure the safety of the students. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate. **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather may not be affecting all municipalities in York Region.** Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following

radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO
680 AM 92.5 FM 1010 AM 1050 AM
1540 AM 107.1 FM 88.5 FM 590 AM 98.1
FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM
97.3 FM

TELEVISION
CITY TV, THE A-CHANNEL, CFTO TV,
THE WEATHER NETWORK
GLOBAL NEWS



School Council Meetings

School Council will be meeting on the following dates for the remainder of the school year. Meetings take place at the school at 7:00 p.m. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend:

January 13, 2014
 February 3, 2014
 April 7, 2014
 May 5, 2014
 June 9, 2014



The O.M. MacKillop Touchstone

At O.M. MacKillop, we care about our learning because we
 care about our future
 Everyone deserves the support they need; we value everyone
 as equals

Whether on the playground, sports fields or in the class-
 room we show sportsmanship--
 no matter what the outcome

We are global citizens; the world is our best friend
 We are one
 Using the right words at the right time, we know that words
 are powerful

We understand that a little change today can lead to a big
 change
 tomorrow

Taking a stand for what is right, we stop what is wrong
 We reflect on our actions
 We are the smallest of the small with the biggest heart of all
 We are

The MacKillop Mustangs

Arts at Baythorn

arts@baythorn

Would your child enjoy learning the Ontario curriculum through the Arts?

If so, the York Region District School Board offers an Elementary integrated Arts program at Baythorn Public School. Students currently in grades four and five may apply for the arts@baythorn program, where they will have the opportunity to explore the disciplines of Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, and Music while meeting the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum for grades five, six, seven, and eight.



To learn more about the arts@baythorn program, students and their families are invited to attend an information evening at **Baythorn Public School on Thursday, January 16, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Applications will be on line via the school website and available after January 16, 2014.

www.baythorn.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca





Please call us at Baythorn Public School (905) 889-7992, if you require further information.

Jacqueline Linton
 Principal

Jennifer Rosenberg
 Vice-Principal

January 2014

York Region District School Board

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|-----|---|--|
| 29  | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4  |
| Winter Break | | | | | | |
| 5 | 6 First Day Back to School after the Winter Break | 7 Pizza Day  <i>Christmas (Eastern)</i> | 8 Frozen Yogurt  | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 School Council Meeting 7:00 pm | 14  Sub Lunch Guidance staff from AMHS presentation for Gr. 8's | 15 Frozen Yogurt  | 16 | 17 PA Day- No school for students 2014-2015 Kindergarten Registration Starts-9:00 am | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 Pizza Day  | 22 Frozen Yogurt  | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 Jr. Co-ed Volleyball Area Tournament  Sub Lunch | 29 Frozen Yogurt  | 30 | 31 <i>Lunar New Year</i> | |