



MacKillop Monthly

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December, 2013

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Principal's Message

November has proven to be another busy month at MacKillop! A highlight for me was the Remembrance Day assembly featuring music, dance and words of peace, ending with the tying of yellow ribbons around our trees while the entire school sang the national anthem. I am always gratified to see the way the students understand and appreciate the solemnity of the Remembrance Day assembly and I know how hard staff work to make it significant for our students.

Athletics continued with our senior volleyball teams enthusiastically participating in games and the area tournaments. Our boys' and girls' basketball teams will be up and running soon along with our junior mixed volleyball team. We are fortunate to have dedicated staff members who take on these activities for our students. Our touchstone assembly now has the added feature of our choir, and the DPA crew debuted their new routine. Our winners for the month were recognized for their sportsmanship and positive character attributes. Our Character Council quickly came together and organized a fundraiser for the victims of the typhoon in the Philippines and \$500 was sent to the Red Cross on behalf of our generous families.

Recently you had the opportunity to visit your child's teacher and have a conversation about progress to date, specifically around the learning skills as well as progress towards first term curriculum expectations. Many of you brought your children and the turnout for these conferences was excellent! Thank you for taking the time and interest in your child's education! **If you haven't returned your signed envelope please do so as it will**

be used to send home the Term One report cards.

This month our students enjoyed their Scientists in the School day. This was an opportunity for hands on learning and experimenting around a variety of science topics. It is always an exciting day and our thanks to School Council for funding it, and to the many volunteers who assisted.

With the holiday season upon us we are thinking of those in need as we run our annual Holiday Food and Toy Drive. Please support this worthwhile initiative, lead by Mrs. Kleiner and her students, by sending in non perishable food items and toys. At MacKillop, we feel that it is important for our students to recognize and value the importance of giving.

Our grade 8 students are planning for their transition to secondary school and to support that our school council has arranged for an evening program on December 3 to meet the new principal of Alexander MacKenzie High School to learn about what to expect and how to plan for this all important transition. Parent and students in grades 6, 7 & 8 are invited. Call the school for more information or to RSVP.

To those celebrating or have recently celebrated Diwali, Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanza may these be joyful times with family and friends.



School Happenings...

- Evening for Gr. 6, 7 and 8 students and parents with Alexander Mackenzie H.S. Principal to take place on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. at O.M. MacKillop P.S.
- Gr. 8 Info night at AMHS on Dec. 9th, 7:00 p.m.
- Intermediates classes to Kiss Me Kate at AMHS on Dec. 13th
- Food Bank and Toy Drive taking place during December up until Dec. 16th
- Gr. 8's selling cookies on Fri. Dec. 6 and 13th and Thurs. Dec. 19th to raise funds for their graduation

Search and Seizure

As per the protocol between the York Region District School Board and the York Regional Police, please be aware of the right of school administration to search school property, such as lockers, desks and backpacks, without notice to or permission of any person. Also, from time to time, police may be invited onto any school premises to conduct their own searches without notice to or permission of any member of the school community other than the school principal.

Kindergarten Registration to Commence Jan. 17, 2014

Kindergarten Registration to Commence January 17, 2014
Kindergarten registration will commence on January 17, 2014 for the 2014-15 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2014, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school.



School Bus Cancellation Information

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following: 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.** Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **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. Please access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

590 AM 640 AM 680 AM 860 AM 1010 AM
1050 AM 1540 AM 1580 AM
88.5 FM 89.9 FM 92.5 FM 93.1 FM 94.9 FM
95.9 FM 97.3 FM 98.1 FM 99.1 FM 99.9 FM
101.1 FM 102.1 FM 104.5 FM 100.7 FM 107.1 FM

TELEVISION

CITY TV CTV Barrie CFTO TV CP24
GLOBAL NEWS

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YRDSB on twitter.

Please note that school bus charters will not operate when home to school bus service is cancelled.

Food Bank and Toy

During the month of December Mrs. Kleiner's class is holding a food and toy drive for the families and children in York Region. We will start our collection on December 2nd and run through to the 16th of December. The donated toys should be unwrapped, new toys. The food items are non-perishable. The food will be donated to the Richmond Hill Food Bank and the toys will be donated to our community through the York Regional Police. Thank you for your continued support.



Jake 5/6K

Dressing for the Cold Weather

Students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses (hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, boots, etc.) It is advisable for children to bring extra pants and socks in case they get wet. Please ensure that your children have indoor shoes at school that they can change into when they come inside. Being physically active during 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 he/she will be expected to go outside for recess.**

Parents are also reminded to wear proper outdoor footwear when coming to school with your children to avoid slips and falls.



Important Transportation Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: Student Busing Eligibility

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit www.schoolbuscity.com.



Library News

Roaring with activity, the library is excited to prepare and use Social Justice books to teach O.M. MacKillop children how to become model citizens. Hand in hand with our Touchtone, character traits on empathy, honesty, respect for others and diversity are just a few traits the library embraces with books! We are always looking for new titles to serve as supporting references for our teachers and children. If you are interested in obtaining these book titles please don't hesitate in asking me and I can forward you an electric copy to you.

We are always looking for volunteers in the library. Please feel free to come into the library and support your child's learning by volunteering.

Keep Reading,
Mrs. A Keimel

Healthy Schools

It is hard to believe that it is December already! Our Healthy Schools Team has done a very good job of tracking the healthy eating habits of the various classes, and it will be interesting to see who is in the lead at this point.

However, as much as we would love to continue our school-wide Healthy Snack program, we have an obstacle to overcome. The funding we anticipated for this year's Snack Program has not fully materialized, and we are not certain it will be available in the new year. Because of this we are initiating a fund raiser where we will be selling Ontario apples. Details will be sent home shortly.

If you would like to participate by purchasing a bag of apples for your family for the holidays, there is a percentage which will return to O.M. MacKillop, and that will be used to enable us to continue to provide a healthy snack for the students every day. If you do not wish to purchase apples but would like to donate either grocery store cereal coupons or money to support our snack program we welcome all donations.

We would certainly appreciate your help!

And from all of us on the Healthy Schools Committee and Team, we wish you a wonderful "healthy" Holiday season!



Thank you!

The following companies have donated to various programs and activities this past month:

Aviv EatRite	Donation of apples to support our snack program
Lunch Lady	Donation of baked good for our Red Cross fundraiser
Longos	Donation of gift card for snack program
No Frills-Yonge	Donation of gift card for snack program and Levendale

We thank our community partners for their support!

Typhoon Haiyan Fundraiser

I would like to extend a very big thank you to the MacKillop community for their very generous donations during our hot chocolate/coffee and snack time at Parent Teacher interviews. You raised \$566 which as you know will translate into \$1,066.00 with the Canadian government dollar to dollar matching. The money has been sent to the Canadian Red Cross who is very active in the Philippines! A very special thank you goes out to Lori, the Lunch Lady for donating all the banana and chocolate chip muffins. I would also like to thank Mrs. Ussher for her help preparing everything, as well as her donation of all the hot chocolate. Last but not least, a big shout out to Daniel S. and Sarni R. who worked tirelessly the entire evening preparing and serving! MacKillop is very proud of you.

Mrs. Bowden

School Council News

Please note that there will be no December meeting. Council meetings will resume again in January.

There will be a presentation at MacKillop by the principal of Alexander Mackenzie high school for grade 6, 7, & 8 parents. Come and learn about everything you always wanted to know about high school and more. Find out about course selections, various pathways, life at high school and more. It is never to early to start planning for the next stage of your child's education.

The grade 8's will be selling cookies on Friday, Dec. 6 and 13, and Thursday, Dec. 19 for \$2 each to raise funds for their graduation.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday, and best wishes to everyone in the MacKillop community celebrating significant faith days.

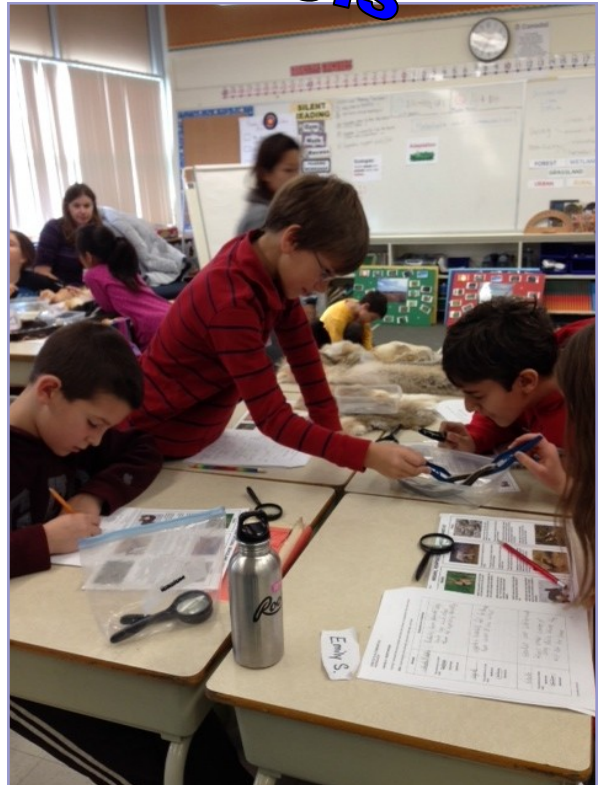


200 Minute Club

Congratulations to the 200 Minute Club in Mrs. Sarro's class for their incredible amount of reading! Well done!!



Scientists in Schools



French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Michaelle Jean P.S. on January 16, 2014 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 17, 2014. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of Senior Kindergarten students entering Grade 1 in 2014, and wishing to enrol in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to Michaelle Jean P.S. to register between January 17 and February 14, 2014. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to all students in York Region and will enable YRDSB

to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enrol. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize available space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education.

This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Girls Senior Volleyball Team

The Senior Girls' volleyball season came to a close on Monday, November 25th. The team played four hard fought games against some tough competition at the Area tournament.

Friday mornings won't be the same for Ms. Painter as she will not be in the gym for practice with 12 eager girls. Ms Painter was very impressed with the tremendous improvement in the skill level of all of the girls. She wishes the grade 8 girls, Camryn L., Camryn W., Kamryn, Michelle, Alina, Julia and Sheyda all the best in their future athletic endeavors. To the grade 7's, Andreea, Sarni, Kaitlyn, Sara and Atoosa she hopes to see them next year at tryouts!



Eco Club News

Thanks to our committed members of the ECO Club, the "What's in? What's out?" program is off to a great start! The Eco Club has been continuing to support the students in making good choices about where they sort their garbage. To support our school's endeavors to reduce, re-use and recycle, please consider doing some of the following activities:

- Dispose of your old batteries/ cell phones in the labeled bin located at the front door of the school by the staff room.
- Use public transit when possible
- Walk or bike to school/ work



Thank you for your ongoing support!

Mr. Potyok and Mrs. Fairy



Boys' Senior Basketball

MacKillop's Senior boy's basketball has begun. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting season. Try out practices are still in progress so if your son would like to participate please have him speak to Mr. Potyok for the information. Next try out will be on Tuesday, December 3, 2013. Thank you, Mr. Poyok



Character Council News

November has been a busy month for the Character Council. The Council spearheaded a fundraiser in support of the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. The council members sold coffee, hot chocolate and treats during teacher interviews and raised over \$500 for the Red Cross. November and December is a busy time for many people marking celebrations. The council created an iMovie with a number of students from MacKillop talking about their holiday celebrations and traditions. The Character Council is looking forward to the month of December and all the exciting things happening at MacKillop.

Arts @ Baythorn P.S.

Does your child enjoy learning through the Arts? An information evening will be held at Baythorn P.S. on January 16, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
For more information please call:
Baythorn P.S. 905-889-8554

Merry Christmas to our families celebrating Christmas and a peaceful and restful winter break to our entire O.M. MacKillop community.

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 classroom 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

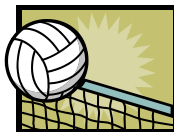
The MacKillop Mustangs

Boy's Senior Volleyball

The Senior Boy's Volleyball team has had a great season. All of the boys on the team have worked hard all season and through practices and games improved their skills dramatically. In our Area tournament the boys performed well winning one out of the four games. All of the games were very close in score. Congratulations boys! Great work!

Thank you for a great season,

Mr. Potyok



December 2013 York Region District School Board

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>We are Global Citizens; the world is our best friend!</i>	2	3 Evening for Gr. 6,7,8 and parents with AMHS Principal 7:00-9:00 pm	4 Frozen Yogurt 	5	6	7
8	9 Gr. 8 Info night at AMHS	10  Pizza Lunch	11 12 Fire Safety Life Presentations 		13 Intermediate classes to "Kiss me Kate" at AMHS 	14
15	16	17  Sub Lunch	18 Today is a Friday Schedule	19 Holiday Sing-a-long 	20 21 P.A. Day No school for students	
22	23 24 25 26 27 Winter Holidays - Schools are Closed					28
			Christmas Day 	Kwanzaa 		
29	30 31 1 2 3 Winter Holidays—Schools are Closed—Return to School on Mon. Jan. 6, 2014					
			Happy New Year 			