



MacKillop Monthly

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February, 2014

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Principal's Message

The month of February is upon us and it is a very busy time in our school office with the planning for the 2014/15 school year underway. In order for us to have an accurate picture of our student body it is important that we account for all students expected to be with us next year. Kindergarten registration is underway we ask that if you have not already done so please come in and register. **If your child(ren) will NOT be returning to MacKillop this coming September please notify the office with a note, phone call or email.** Your timely attention is greatly appreciated.

Report cards for term one will be going home on February 12th. These report cards are based on work completed during the first term and will include strengths and next steps. Although no formal interview day is set for these reports cards feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or would like more information. Assessment is based on three kinds of information – observations, conversations, and products. I know that our teachers work hard to provide students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate their learning and are always seeking ways to engage students and meet the diverse needs of the learners in their classrooms. During my walkabouts I see many examples of authentic rich tasks which promote higher thinking skills and lots of opportunities for collaboration – all designed to nurture our 21st century learners .

We have experienced very cold weather conditions this winter including extreme cold weather alerts. Some days we make the decision to have an indoor recess or a shortened outdoor recess

due to the extreme cold. Other days we alter the play areas if the pavement is slippery. All of these decisions are made to ensure the safety of our students while balancing the benefits of fresh air and exercise. Your ongoing support in reminding your children to “dress for the weather” is most appreciated. It has been an exceptionally challenging time for our caretakers and I want to thank them for their dedication and hard work to keep us all safe.

Our newest technology purchased with the support of School Council and the board's cost-sharing program has arrived and our students are enjoying MacBooks and Ipads to collaborate, create and share. No doubt technology engages our students and we are teaching them to be responsible digital citizens.

Congratulations to Mr. Rochweg and his wife who are the proud parents of their second daughter! Mr. Rochweg will return at the end of the month and we thank Ms. Sarro for filling in so capably in his absence. We will miss you! In addition we welcome Ms. Lowry, our newest educational assistant, who is a wonderful addition to our staff.

Finally, thanks to School Council members Mrs. McLelland and Mrs. Lovegrove, who are working very hard to plan activity day this month. Make sure you receive all letters and permission forms – we are excited about some very fun activities for our students!



School Happenings...

- School Council meeting Monday, Feb. 3 at 7:00 p.m.
- Smile...Grad Photos on Thursday, Feb. 6
- Les Jeux Olympiques taking place the week of Feb. 10-14th (details on pg. 2)
- Primary activity day will take place Wednesday, February 19th in the morning
- Jr./Int. ski and tube day will take place Wed., Feb. 26th

Don't Delay - Register for Sept. 2014 Kindergarten

Kindergarten Registration for Sept., 2014 is underway. Registrations forms are available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca or in the school office.

Children who turn four or five years old during 2014, live within the school boundary and whose parents are Public School Tax Supporters are eligible to register for kindergarten.

A Kindergarten Information session for parents is being planned for May 22nd.



save the Date!

Plans are underway for our Spring production which will be held on April 3, 2014. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details.



NEXT YEAR Is Just Around The Corner!

While we are only at the beginning of February, we have already begun our plans for the 2014/2015 school year. **If you are planning to move out of the school, or are planning to send your child to French Immersion or another optional program, please let our office staff know.**

Kindergarten registration is now underway for all families in the MacKillop community. Please bring the appropriate documentation when you come to register.

Search & 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.

Eco News

Our ecological team has been working hard to ensure our school is being eco-friendly. They are leaders in their classrooms by making sure our waste is being disposed of properly. As a result we have decreased the amount of waste going to our refuse dumps. Our team has also been working hard to make sure resources such as paper and containers are being reused and not unnecessarily recycled through our "good on one side" and "litter-less lunch" programs. We would like to encourage parents to discuss ways to minimize waste in your household. Some ideas would be to keep a "GOOS" box near the printer and make a list of "what goes where" to keep near your garbage and recycling containers. It is important to remember that the recycling process uses fresh water and other resources in production that are also becoming scarce. Our February eco theme and focus will be on litter-less lunches so let's make sure we are using reusable containers in our lunches! Happy Recycling!

Sincerely,
O.M. MacKillop's Eco-Team



Les Jeux Olympiques

The Grade 8 class is busy preparing for the Olympic Winter games to be hosted at O.M. MacKillop next month. Beginning with the Opening Ceremonies at a school assembly on February 7th, the students are planning the following events throughout the week of Feb 10-14th:

Monday Feb. 10 – Olympic Bingo begins, Wear one or more of the Olympic colours and earn spirit points.

Tuesday Feb. 11 – Olympic Athlete Day (Dress up as your favourite Olympic athlete/sports team)

Wednesday Feb. 12 - Winter Wellness Walk, Olympic Door Decoration contest

Thursday Feb. 13- Les Jeux Olympiques (Dress warmly for outdoor activities)

Friday Feb. 14- MacKillop has got Heart! (Jump rope for Heart & Stroke Foundation & Candygram delivery program)

The hallways of MacKillop will definitely be filled with Olympic spirit and pride in February thanks to the efforts of the Grade 8 class!



Library News

Wow, what a January in the Library! Early literacy with the Kindergartens are well underway. Using "Sight Word Poems", small groups are learning strategies to read and write high frequency words. Once learned, these strategies can be practiced at school and home. Using chunks in the word, connecting the picture to what is being read, and sounding out letter sounds to create words.

We have new novels in the school! The library supports the students in the classroom as well as the library collection. We ordered "Chasing Vermeer" to support the grade 5/6 class in their literacy centers. Roald Dahl novels were purchased to support the junior grades with their language program. The new Eric Walters books, "Sketches" and "Tagged" are now in the library for all to browse! For our intermediate science program, "States of Matter" and "Solids, Liquids and Gases" were bought.

We are always looking for volunteers in the library. If you can spare some time and energy please don't hesitate to come and support the O.M. MacKillop Library. Keep warm while reading,

Mrs. Keimel, Teacher Librarian



Grade 8 Course Selection Timelines

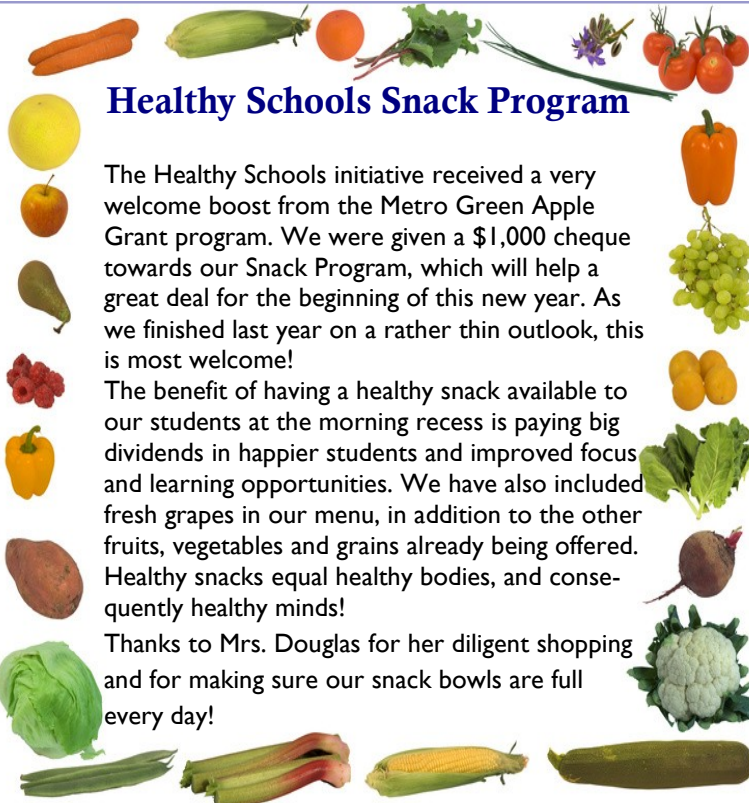
It is an exciting time of the year for the grade 8 students as they pick their courses for grade 9. Please note the following deadlines:

- **Feb. 1st** - Career Cruising is open for grade 8's to start Course Selection
- **Feb. 6th** - Grad Picture Day
- **Feb. 7th** - Course selection should be completed online by this date.
- **Feb. 10th** - Course Request Sign off Forms - printed from Career Cruising and signed by parents to be submitted to Mrs. Painter.

Reminder to Parents

The next P.A. Day is on Friday March 7, 2014. No school for students on this day.

Family Day is on Mon., Feb. 17th, 2014 – schools are closed on this day



Healthy Schools Snack Program

The Healthy Schools initiative received a very welcome boost from the Metro Green Apple Grant program. We were given a \$1,000 cheque towards our Snack Program, which will help a great deal for the beginning of this new year. As we finished last year on a rather thin outlook, this is most welcome!

The benefit of having a healthy snack available to our students at the morning recess is paying big dividends in happier students and improved focus and learning opportunities. We have also included fresh grapes in our menu, in addition to the other fruits, vegetables and grains already being offered. Healthy snacks equal healthy bodies, and consequently healthy minds!

Thanks to Mrs. Douglas for her diligent shopping and for making sure our snack bowls are full every day!

Jump Rope for Heart

MacKillop students will be taking part in Jump Rope for Heart on Friday, February 14, 2014.

Classes will be jumping for 30 minutes in the gym to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Donations will be collected by home room teachers.

Notes will come home at the beginning of February.

Candygrams will be sold the week of Feb. 10th, 2 for \$1.00 with proceeds going to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Thank you for your support!
MacKillop staff



The next School Council meeting will take place on:
Monday, February 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Safe Welcome Starting Mon. Feb. 3rd

This is a reminder that beginning Monday, February 3, elementary school doors including the front door, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning bell rings. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the school day. All visitors, including Board staff, parents and guardians, will be required to buzz in and sign in at the main office.

Our school continues to be a safe place where we welcome and encourage parent and community member involvement. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place for student and staff safety, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office.

If you have any questions, please contact our main office.



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 busses 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.

If busses are cancelled and your children will not be coming to school, please call the school and leave a message on the attendance line at 905-884-5711, Option 2 to ensure the school is aware of your child's absence. Thank you for your assistance.

Bus Cancellation information can be accessed on: www.schoolbuscity.com or on local radio and television stations.

Television: CITY TV, CFTO, THE WEATHER NETWORK, GLOBAL

Radio: 680 AM, 92.5 FM, 1010 AM, 1050 AM, 99.1 FM, 104.5 FM, 98.1 FM



Mrs. Brown's Class Supports The Community

Dear Families,
Mrs. Brown's class recently heard about a program called "Out Of The Cold Foundation". "Out Of The Cold" helps people stay warm in the cold winter months. You can help by donating blankets, hats, mitts, socks, carrying bags, boots, toiletries, sleeping bags and winter clothing. The donations must be clean or new. All donations can be brought in to school and placed in the boxes in front of the office until February 4th. Thank you for donating. Your donations will be given to people throughout York Region.

We have already received many donations. Thank you to those who have already contributed to this very worthy cause.

From
Mrs. Brown's Class,
Gr. 5/6



Mixed Junior Volleyball Team

Congratulations to our mixed Jr. Volleyball Team who played with MacKillop spirit at the area tournament on Tuesday, January 28. The team displayed wonderful sportsmanship and made us proud.

Thank you to Mr. Potyok and Mrs. Kleiner for volunteering their time and talents and coaching the team. Thank you to all of our parent volunteer drivers.
Go Mustangs!



School Council News

Currently we are in the process of giving prizes to our QSP winners.

The primary students will have a sock puppet workshop on February 19th. The letter has been sent home and we are waiting to have parents volunteers. The senior grades will have an outing with ski and tubing options on February 26th

On April 30th we will have an event with Joe Rich speaking at Silver Pines PS. This will be an event for MacKillop, Pleasantville and Silver Pines PS.

The Bags2 School fundraiser will not take place this spring but we will be planning another Spring Fundraiser, stay tuned for updates.

Save the date for the Fun Fair which will take place on June 10th. We have already several things in place and it promises to be memorable.

Our next meeting is Monday, February 3rd at 7pm in the school staff room. All are welcome to attend.



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

New Fundraiser at MacKillop

Do you have a child with food allergies or does your family enjoy organic foods? Donate Naturally is an on-line retailer of healthy and organic foods, environmentally-friendly personal and household products, and natural supplements.

Buy their products on-line and they deliver them to your door. When you shop at Donate Naturally (The Everyday Fundraising Group), 10% of your sales is donated to our school. You are not charged an additional 10% on your order. For more information, visit their website at www.donatenaturally.com.

Just choose O.M. MacKillop P.S. as your charity of choice when you place your order. Thank you for supporting our school.

Concussions - not just a bump on the head!

A concussion is a brain injury that cannot be seen on routine x-rays, CT scans or MRI's. It is caused by any blow to the head, face, neck or any sudden jarring of the head (i.e. a ball to the head, playground fall or being checked into the boards in hockey). Children do not need to be knocked out (lose consciousness) to have had a concussion.

Children that may have a concussion should:

- Stop playing the sport or activity right away
- Not be left alone
- Be seen by a doctor as soon as possible








Anyone with a concussion should not go back to play that day, even if they say they are feeling better. Problems caused by a head injury can get worse later that day or night. The signs and symptoms of a concussion often last for seven to 10 days but may last much longer. In some cases, children may take many weeks or months to heal!

For more concussion information visit www.thinkfirst.ca

For health-related information call York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653, TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca/healthyschools

February 2014

York Region District School Board

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
<i>Using the right words at the right time, we know that words are powerful</i>						Lunar New Year
2	3 School Council at 7:00 p.m.	4  Pizza Lunch	5	6 Grad Photos 	7 Character Assembly	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Valentine Candy Grams can be purchased for delivery on Feb. 14th, 2014						
		Dress up as your favorite Athlete Day Sub Lunch	Winter Well- ness Walk Report Cards Go Home	Les Jeux Olym- piques (Dress warm) 	Jump Rope for Heart 	
16	17 Family Day Schools are closed	18 Today is a Monday Schedule  Pizza Day	19 Primary Activity Day Gr. 6 Scientists in Schools	20 Girls Int. B-ball Areas 	21 Boys Int. B-ball Areas Black History Month Dance Assembly	22 
23	24 Scientist in the Classroom - Gr. 8 	25 Scientists in Schools-Gr. 4  Sub Lunch	26 Jr./Int. Ski/Tube Day  Scientists in Schools - K-3	27 Scientist in the Classroom - Gr. 7 	28	