



# MacKillop Monthly

Volume 1, Issue 7

March, 2014

## Principal's Message

It is another cold winter day as I write the March newsletter message and I am reflecting on some of the things that took place in our school over the past several weeks. The Olympics were definitely the highlight for staff and students thanks to the planning and energy of Mme Kimmerly and her grade 8 class. The students experienced a day of Olympic activities and we had an entire week devoted to learning about and celebrating our athletes. It was very exciting to gather the entire student body to watch some of the hockey games and experience that feeling of togetherness and pride.

Our students also enjoyed their activity days, a collaborative effort with our staff and school council. These activities could not happen without the leadership and support from so many volunteers. Special thanks to Mrs. McClelland and Mrs. Lovegrove for all of their time and effort in planning for these days, along with Mrs. Cassels, Mrs. Daneman and Mrs. Painter.

Additional highlights from February included our third annual Winter Walk Day, Jump Rope For Heart, an assembly celebrating Black History Month featuring an interactive musical perform-

ance and Scientists in the Schools for our primary students. It was wonderful for me to see the students reflecting on their learning by asking many questions about their experiences. When our students are able to deepen their thinking about a subject by asking good questions we know they are thinking critically. Well done students!

Our sports teams were in action throughout the month including junior mixed volleyball, and intermediate boys' and girls' basketball. All teams had very successful seasons and we appreciate the coaching of Ms. Brown, Mr. Potyok, Ms. Caesar and Mrs. Kleiner. We also had a great many parent volunteers who drove to games and cheered on our teams – many thanks to all of you! And our classes are busy rehearsing for the spring production under the guidance of Glenn Marais and we look forward to sharing that with you next month.

Finally, best wishes to you and your families for a safe and enjoyable March Break.



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## Safe Welcome System

A reminder that we now have our doors locked 15 minutes after the start of the day and visitors need to buzz to gain entry and then report to the office. The doors remain locked until the next morning before school. Please let your children know that if they need to gain access to the school after dismissal for any reason they will need to press the buzzer.

## Request from the Office

Our Safe Welcome system appears to be working well and we appreciate parents and visitors following our direction to sign in at the office. If at all possible can you send lunch with your child in the morning to minimize the disruption in the office.

Thanks for your support.

## School Happenings...

- Thurs. March 6 is a Friday Schedule
- P.A. Day on Friday, March 7 (no students for students) and March Break from Mon. March 10-Fri. March 14 (inclusive), schools are closed.
- Hep B/Meningitis Vaccines-Gr. 7's, HPV Vaccines-Gr. 8 Girls on Mon. March 24
- Gr. 8 Scientist in the School on March 24
- Spring school wide Performance on Thursday, April 3

## Kindergarten Registration Underway

Kindergarten Registration for Sept., 2014 is underway. Registrations forms are available on the Board's website: [www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://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 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the school library.



## Next Year at MacKillop -Will You Be Here?

We are already planning for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year! We are in the process of projecting the number of students who will be attending MacKillop next year. We ask that families assist us with these preparations by informing the office (in writing) if you are moving out of the O.M. MacKillop P.S. area or attending a different program. Please include the last day of attendance and the school your child(ren) will be attending. This will also facilitate in the transfer of your child's records (OSR). Thank you.



## The Importance of Consistent Attendance

Being at school on time and ready to learn is an important life skill that can be taught and reinforced early on. Most of our students take that responsibility seriously and make every effort to be at school well prepared for the day with their agenda and learning materials. From time to time we know students miss school due to illness or appointments which are unavoidable. For some students, extensive absences may require support from school personnel.

Mr. Langhorne, our School Social Worker/Attendance Counsellor is able to assist in these situations. These referrals may be made by the school if absences persist or the support may be requested by the parents. Please speak with Mrs. Potashner for further information about our School Social Worker/Attendance Counsellor. Remember to notify the school each day that your child will be absent indicating the class that they are in and the reason for their absence.

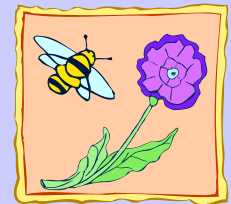


## EQAO Assessments – Primary (grade 3) and Junior (grade 6) Administration Schedule

Parents are requested to take note of the following time period during which the assessments will be scheduled – **May 26<sup>th</sup> to June 6, 2014**. More specific details will be forthcoming from your child's teacher following the March Break. Visit the EQAO website at <http://www.eqao.com/> for parent resources and information regarding these assessments.

## 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.*



## Earth Hour - Sat. March 29, 8:30 PM

What is Earth Hour?

Earth Hour is a global movement uniting people to protect the planet. Towards the end of March every year, Earth Hour brings together communities from across the world celebrating a commitment to the planet by switching off lights for one designated hour.

We will be recognizing Earth Hour at our school on Friday March 28 from 2:00-3:00 PM.

Check out the resources at the following link: <http://earthhour.org/>



## Character News

In the month of February the Character Council was hard at work! The grade 8 class, under the direction of Mme. Kimmerly with the help of the council hosted a number of Olympic events at MacKillop. The council celebrated Valentine's Day by selling Candy Grams with all proceeds going to Jump Rope for Heart. The Candy Grams raised over \$100 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We are so excited to see what March brings.

## Library News

March Break is just around the corner and we are roaring to read. The library is proud to be able to buy new books on a regular basis. For the month of February new books include fiction and non-fiction titles. Some titles are: The Grouchy Ladybug, Perfect Snow, Wherever You Are, Some Day, Whales, Exploring Countries Series, 100 Facts of Human Body, 100 Facts of World Wonders, and the fabulous Remarkable Writers series. Encourage your child to read.

We are always looking for volunteers in the library. If you can spare some time and energy the library is looking for you!!! Many thanks to all those who have donated wonderful books to the library.

Keep reading,  
Mrs. A. Keimel



## Healthy Schools Snack Program

Our current snack program added Kiwi fruit to the menu this past month - and received an enthusiastic "thumbs up" from the students. Full of potassium and healthy vitamins, Kiwi is a good nutritional boost for active, growing bodies!

On March 6th, we are looking forward to participating in "The Big Crunch", a Canada-wide Healthy Schools initiative. We are going to have a special assembly, and will all "crunch" together at 2:30 pm precisely - a "crunch" that will resound across the country!!



The next School Council meeting will take place on:  
**Monday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.**  
All are welcome to attend



## African Heritage Month

Every year Canadians are invited to participate in African Heritage Month festivities and events that honor the legacy of black Canadians, past and present. At MacKillop, we participated in various activities that celebrate and acknowledge the work of Black Canadians. Our Gr. 7 and 8 students watched the film 42 which is a biopic about the life and legacy of the late Jackie Robinson and engaged in meaningful discussion about race, character and stereotypes. Our Black History Month snack break trivia was a huge success! Finally, we had the pleasure of watching the group Carnival Spice and Everything Nice perform an educational and historical tribute to African-Caribbean music and dance.



## Eco News

The Eco team has been working hard towards educating our staff and students about the importance of conserving our resources. Throughout February our focus was to reduce the amount of paper towel used. Mrs. Fairy and the Eco team did a great job designing our Eco board in the front hallway to help remind us of our recycling and conservation efforts. It is important to remember that there are different types of resources and that some resources can not be recycled so we must try to reduce the use of resources like electricity by making sure lights are out, computers are off, adapters for chargers are unplugged when not in use. Our focus for March is "turn off your monitors" and reduce electricity usage. As always, a big thank you from the MacKillop Eco team!



## Youth Mental Health Awareness

To support the part of our school plan to address well-being, Mrs. Montgomery, our school's Child and Youth Worker, has been working with some of our student leaders to bring awareness of youth mental health issues to our older students. Our School Social Worker, Mr. Langhorne, will be supporting this work. We know that when students feel good about themselves, have positive relationships and have appropriate coping strategies, they are better able to deal with the academic expectations here at school. Mrs. Montgomery and Mr. Langhorne are valuable resources for our families and can be reached at the school if you have questions or require assistance for your child(ren).

### V.I.P Program Comes to MacKillop This Month

The Values, Influences and Peers Program (V.I.P) is a collaborative partnership between the schools and the York Regional Police. The objective of the program is to assist students with making informed choices related to values and character. Also, to inform students of their rights and responsibilities in relation to the law, as well as enhance the students' self-esteem.

The V.I.P program lessons are facilitated by Youth Education Officers from the Community Services Bureau. The lessons developed, are a result of the involvement of educators, Police, Fire Prevention Officers, parent groups and members of the community.

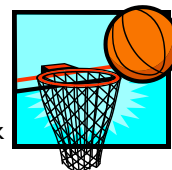
This month our grade 7 and 8 classes will be participating in this program. Contact your child's teacher for more information.

### Math Websites

Parents often ask what they can do to support their children with their math learning. Here is a link to some Ministry of Education math resources. <http://www.edugains.ca/newsite/math/homesupport.html>

### Senior Boys' Basketball

The Senior Boys' Basketball team had a great season this year. Not only did they play well, but they also represented our school with an outstanding display of team spirit and teamwork! It was my pleasure to have been lucky enough to work with this team this year! We are looking forward to another great season with the junior boys coming up in March. Mr. Potyok and Ms. Caesar



### Grade 7 & 8 Summer School

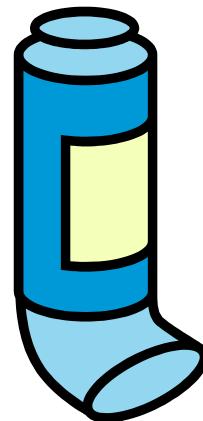
The York Region District School Board will once again be offering a Grade 7 & 8 Summer School program for current year Grade 7 and Grade 8 students. The program will run from July 2 to July 25, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

Please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Leesti if you are interested in this program. All registrations will be done on-line this year using Career Cruising. The registration deadline is May 5, 2014.

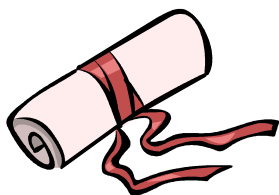
Additional Information is available from Continuing Education, Bev Osburne at 905-884-3434.

### Student Medical Information

**If there has been a change in your child's medical information or medication, please ensure that the school has been notified so that we can keep our student records up to date. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.**



### Attention Gr. 8 Parents Save The Date!



The grade 8 graduation will take place on  
**Monday June 23, 2014.**  
Details will be sent home at a later date.



## School Council News

On February 19, our students in grades JK - 3 enjoyed making sock puppets with PUPPETS COOL. It was a great primary activity day that was received well by all of the students.

On February 26, our students from grade 4 - 8 participated in junior/intermediate activity day with a trip to Snow Valley for skiing, snowboarding and tubing. Students not wishing to attend had in-school activities led by Ms. Low.

Students also participated in the Scientist In The School program.

**Save the Date** - April 30th - Joe Rich, "Parenting, The Long Journey" presentation. Details to follow.

We hope that everyone enjoys a safe and fun March break.



## 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

## Summer Institute 2014

### **WELCOME to the Summer Institute!**

**The Summer Institute** is a summer program located at several selected schools around York Region and is supervised by and run through the York Region District School Board. It is being offered to community members as a component of The Performance Plus (P+) Family of Schools.

- The "Performance" in the program's name refers to student achievement and well-being.
- The "Plus" in the program's name refers to the additional resources and leadership that can enhance learning in elementary schools in neighbourhoods affected by poverty.
- Additional resources and leadership bring school staff members, families and communities together to ensure that every child is prepared to learn.

The York Region District School Board Summer Institute for Kids Program provides a variety of academic, recreation and sports activities with intentional links to the Ontario Curriculum to reinforce skill development and curriculum expectations for students from kindergarten to grade eight. Weekly sessions are offered at eleven elementary schools throughout the region from **June 30, 2014 to August 8, 2014** from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm with extended before and aftercare programs available at all locations.





## Macklin House KidZone

### March Mania 2014

March 10 - 14, 2014

Create.Challenge.Engage



#### Ready, Set, Head for KidZone!

Join the March Break Mania 2014 and get ready to Create, Challenge and Engage!

Each day we will facilitate a variety of activities—we will explore scientific experiments, get our creative juices working and make an info commercial! Trips for this March Break include Lego Land and Bowling.

#### Activities will include:

##### Challenge the pro

Kidzone will have the opportunity to learn basketball skills. Get off that iPad and get physical!

##### Quiet on the set

A day of creativity! Kidzone will write, script and tape an info commercial.

##### Fee Schedule:

Full Week: \$240.00( Inclusive of trips, snacks and lunches)

3 Days: \$180.00

##### Science Day

Challenge your mind and engage your spirit! Discover the world of science! Activities will include creating an indoor storm, sound travel and much more!

##### So you think you can dance?

Challenge your stamina and get creative with your dance moves! Kidzone will learn a choreographed routine taught by a professional dance instructor



## Nutrition and learning...Is there a link?



The food choices children make can influence their health and learning ability. In Nova Scotia, grade 5 students who ate a healthy diet that included a variety of foods, with an increased fruit and vegetable intake and lower caloric intake of fat were more likely to pass reading and writing tests<sup>1</sup>. Today, many children are eating too much fat, sugar and salt, and not enough vegetables, fruit and whole grains. This could be affecting how well they are doing in school.

To help get your family on the road to healthy eating, try the following:

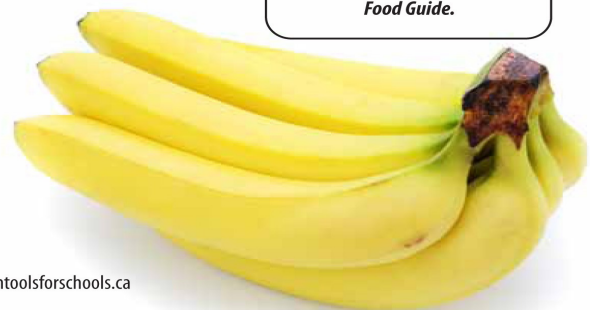
- Encourage children to choose most foods from the four food groups in Canada's Food Guide.
- Children are influenced by their parents' eating habits and attitudes towards food— if they see you eating healthy foods, they will likely follow suit.
- Keep ready-to-eat, healthy foods on hand for the times when hunger strikes (e.g., fruit cups, yogurt, cheese strings).
- Involve children in planning meals, packing lunches and selecting snacks; use this as an opportunity to talk about healthy choices.

<sup>1</sup>Veuglers PJ, et al., 2008. Diet Quality and Academic Performance. Journal of School Health, 78(4): 209-215

For more information about creating a healthy school environment, visit [www.nutritiontoolsforschools.ca](http://www.nutritiontoolsforschools.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](http://www.york.ca/healthyschools)

A healthy lunch includes at least three of the four food groups from Canada's Food Guide.

A healthy snack includes at least two of the four food groups from Canada's Food Guide.



## Director of Education Selection Process

February 21, 2014

Dear Members of the York Region District School Board Community:

As you may be aware, our current director of education will be retiring as of July 31, 2014. The important responsibility of selecting his successor now becomes the task of the Board of Trustees.

We have engaged the services of Laverne Smith & Associates, a leading Canadian firm that has worked extensively with school boards and other public sector organizations across the country. Dr. Laverne Smith, our consultant, will be assisting us by gathering input from you, the educational community.

Your input into the qualities and characteristics that you would like to see in the new director of education is critical. Please take a few minutes to complete the [linked](#) online survey which comprises four questions. The survey results will be submitted electronically directly to Laverne Smith & Associates. All responses will be held in strict confidence by the consultant.

Please submit your response by **Tuesday March 18, 2014**. If you require more time to complete the survey, responses will continue to be accepted after this deadline.

Thank you in advance for your time and input.

Yours truly,

Anna DeBartolo

Diane Giangrande

Co-Chairs of the Search Committee for Director of Education  
York Region District School Board



# March 2014

# York Region District School Board

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<i>We understand that a little change today can lead to a big change tomorrow</i>						
2	3	4  Pizza Day	5	6 Today is a FRIDAY Schedule  Character Assembly-The Big Crunch	7 P.A. Day No school for students	8
9	10 	11	12	13	14 	15
<b>March Break</b>						
16	17	18  Sub Lunch	19 Gr. 7 Science in the Classroom  	20  The First Day Of Spring	21 Youth Mental Health Awareness Kick off Assembly	22
23	24 Hep B/ Meningitis for Gr. 7's HPV for Gr. 8 Females Gr. 8 Scientist in the School	25  Pizza Lunch	26	27	28	29
30	31	1  Sub Lunch	2	3 A "Day in the Life Of..." school wide performance	4 	5