



MacKillop Monthly

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May, 2014

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Principal's Message

As we enter the month of May we begin a very busy time in the office as we essentially run two school years at the same time, planning for a smooth transition into the 2014/15 school year and continuing to operate this school year. We continue to take registrations for next year, and we also need to plan for students leaving our school. **If you know you will be moving, or going to a different school, please send a letter to the office as soon as possible.** Planning for next year includes things such as time-tabling and creating the organization of classes. Our staff will spend a great deal of time working through the placement process to create balanced classes taking into account the many factors that go into a class and school organization. I have great confidence in the collective wisdom of our staff in this important process. **If you have information regarding your child's learning needs that you feel I need to know, please send a letter in a sealed envelope, addressed to me. Please do not request specific teachers or types of classes. For this information to be considered, it must be received by May 23, 2014.**

Thank you to our families who attended our production "A Day in the Life of Cadaley". It gave me a tremendous feeling of pride to see our gym filled for the two performances and to hear the voices of our students, in song and in drama, sharing such important messages about inclusivity and acceptance. What a rewarding experience it was for our school community and our appreciation to school council for their support.

Earth Day was commemorated with a school-wide yard clean up organized by Mr. Potyok and Mrs. Fairy, along with our eco-team. When I walk through the school now I am so pleased with the amount of garage that has decreased, and the amount of recycling that has increased. Our student eco-leaders have done an amazing job of getting out the word and reminding

our students how to use our waste bins. Our students are bringing re-usable water bottles and lunch containers and it is making a huge difference. Thank you everyone for your support of our eco initiatives!

Our EQAO parent information night was well attended with our students and parents working through sample questions and learning about the upcoming assessment. Our school council has worked hard planning the parent engagement evening with author Joe Rich, organized with two of our neighbouring schools. It is most gratifying to have our parents attending these kinds of events and sharing their positive feedback. Look for the invitation to our upcoming "Wellness" Fair - one of our mental health initiatives organized by Mrs. Montgomery, our Positive Climates Committee and student leaders.

During the month of May we will say a huge "thank you" to our many, many volunteers who contribute their time and talents to our school. There are countless ways that parents support our programs and even though we recognize them at one event I cannot express strongly enough our appreciation for all that you do. Your interest and involvement not only serves as a model for volunteerism for your children, it creates a partnership that enhances the lives of our students - and for that we thank you!

Your participation in the board's School Climate Survey, which will be available this month, is most appreciated. Please look for more information about this on page 3 of this newsletter.

Let's hope the month of May brings the warmer, dryer weather we are craving for after what has been a very, very long winter!



School Happenings...

- MacKillop Wellness Fair, May 16th, from 7:00—9:00 p.m.
- Victoria Day on May 19th, schools are closed
- Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Evening , May 22, 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- MacKillop Track & Field Day on May 22nd, rain date May 23rd
- Volunteer Appreciation Tea on May 28th
- Gr. 6 EQAO Assessments from May 26th—May 29th
- Gr. 3 EQAO Assessments from June 2-5th

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

Please note the following important dates:
Grade 3– June 2, June 3, June 4, and June 5
Grade 6– May 26, May 27, May 28, and May 29

The assessment will take place in the morning on those dates. Please avoid booking appointments during this time period. Speak with your child's teacher if you have any questions about the assessment or to access resources.

Welcome to Kindergarten Orientation

We welcome all families new to kindergarten to an orientation session on **Thursday May 22, 2014 from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.** This will be an interactive session taking place in the Kindergarten rooms and Library, so please bring your children along.



If you know someone who has a child of Junior Kindergarten age (born in 2010), please have them contact the school for registration.

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 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 Osborne at 905-884-3434.



From the Office

Please be sure to notify the office regarding changes to contact information. This includes phone numbers (home, cell, or business), address (home or email), and emergency contact information. We have had situations where we have needed to reach parents only to find out that the information on file was not current.



Grade 8 Community Service (Volunteer) Hours

To graduate in Ontario, all students must complete 40 hours of Community Involvement. Students may start completing their Community Involvement Hours during the summer before Grade 9. More information can be found on the York Region District School Board website under the Student's tab:

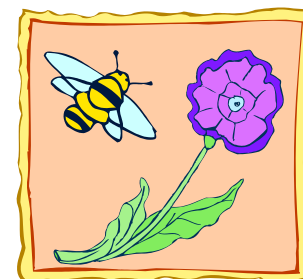
<http://www.yrdsb.ca/students/Pages/default.aspx>

Library News

Spring is finally here! The library is springing into action! The library is going to be renovated. The carpets are going to be removed and the walls will be painted. In preparation for this renovation, we will be asking students to make sure all their books are returned by the end of May.

At this time, we will need volunteers to help box all the library books. We need your support. If you can spare some time and energy, please feel free to let the school know! We need YOU at the end of MAY and for the month of JUNE. Please contact Mrs. Keimel to set up a time to come in. Until then, enjoy a great book inside and outside!

Anna Keimel
Teacher-Librarian



Healthy Schools

The month of May got off to a busy start with our annual "Pause to Play" Challenge. The students could choose to participate in healthy outdoor activities for at least 30 minutes per day for the first week of May. The choices were listed on an "activity card", and each activity had to be initialed by a parent upon completion. All the completed cards that were returned have been entered into a draw, and the winners will be announced very soon. There are some wonderful prizes to be won - flying discs, lawn dart games, a soccer ball, and other exciting sports related equipment.

As the weather improves, we are going to see many opportunities for students to get outside, leave the technology aside, get fresh air in their lungs, build up their stamina and GET HEALTHY!! Parents....get out with your children and have fun along with them! Spring is finally here!!



School Climate Survey for Parents/Guardians

Between May 20 and June 2, we will be inviting parents/guardians to participate in a school climate survey. The surveys provide the Board and our school with valuable information about how you feel about the school environment and your child's education. The results will be used to identify areas that need to be addressed, monitor progress and plan strategies to support student achievement and well-being. We value parent input and encourage you to complete the survey. The information parents provide will be anonymous, considered confidential and kept in strict accordance with all relevant legislation. Information about how to access the survey will be sent home with students later in May. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Wellness Fair at MacKillop P.S.

Our student led Mental Health Kick off Assembly was a huge success, and we are now excited to announce that we will now be continuing our journey with a student led Wellness Fair! Students from grades 5 – 8 and their families will have the opportunity to learn about topics pertaining to mental health and healthy living that are relevant to our students!

Students and their parents will be guided through 3 sessions where a keynote speaker will be addressing topics such as effective strategies to manage stress, anxiety, and depression, building self-esteem and a positive self-image, and breaking down the barriers around mental illness. Afterwards, there will also be an opportunity to gather information from organizations throughout York Region

pertaining to Mental Health and Healthy Living. These organizations will have booths set up in the gymnasium and representatives will be able to answer questions you may have.

Child minding will be provided for families who have younger children. This fair is available at no cost. Our grade 8 students will be selling healthy snacks in the gym and the money raised will be going back to our school.

MacKillop's Wellness Fair will be taking place May 14, 2014 at 7:00—9:00pm

We hope to see you there!



Helmet Safety

Cycling is the most popular outdoor activity among young Canadians; unfortunately, every year 50,000 children are seriously injured in bike related mishaps.

- Wearing a certified helmet can reduce the risk of serious head injuries by 85%
- Children and youth (under 18) are required by law to wear a helmet with the chin strap clip fastened under the chin when cycling
- Head injuries are the #1 cause of serious injury and death to kids on wheels—a helmet could save your child's life
- Kids imitate their parents, 98% of children will wear their helmets if their parents do. Wear one every time you ride
- Before age 10, most children do not have the skills to cycle safely on the road; they need help to make good choices



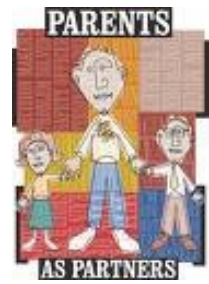
School Council News

Plans are under way for our end of year Fun Fair BBQ on Tuesday, June 10 from 5:30pm to 8:30pm, rain or shine. Back from hiatus are 2 bouncy castles. We will have the class and school council theme baskets raffle draw again. Last year's baskets were amazing and we hope you will support this year's raffle draw by donating a toonie towards your child's class theme basket. Further details of the BBQ food orders and the theme basket raffle draw will be sent home shortly. Our Fun Fair BBQ wouldn't be a success without parent volunteers, so please consider volunteering 30 minutes of your time at the BBQ.

Do you shop at Canadian Tire and receive Canadian Tire money? Please consider donating your Canadian Tire money to MacKillop's school council. We will use it to purchase

prizes for fundraisers and Fun Fair. A collection box is located in the school office. Thank you for supporting us.

New to our school this year, the Big Box of Birthday Cards is a set of 30 all ages birthday cards for the low price of \$30. Our campaign runs from Wednesday April 30th to Tuesday May 20th. We will have amazing prizes! The top selling class will win a class pizza party and the runner up class will have an extra recess. There is also an individual Grand Prize, for every three boxes of cards your family sells, their name will be placed in a draw to win a 16GB iPod touch!



Eco News

The Eco club continues to be a dedicated lively group around the school. Student members have been very busy educating their peers in the correct sorting of classroom waste i.e., "Being Bin Friendly". Each classroom from grade one through grade 8 has a green bin, blue bin, white bin (for wet liquid waste) and a garbage can. We are extremely pleased to report that the garbage cans at the end of the day are next to empty! Could there possibly be a day when no garbage can is required in each classroom? In May, grade 2 "Eco member" students will be peer teaching both of our Kindergarten classes to not only further use their green and blue bins correctly but also introduce them to the white wet bins.

Earth Hour was celebrated internationally on Saturday, March 29, 2014. At MacKillop, we celebrated it on Friday, March 28 between 2 and 3 o'clock by turning off all lights and electronics in the school. Some of our grade 7 members researched Earth Hour data and announced some of their findings to the rest of the school on this day as well. They also encouraged all MacKilloppers to celebrate International Earth Hour on Saturday, March

30th at home with their friends and families. "Earth Day" was celebrated on Tuesday, April 22 this year. All students from K-8 were involved with the annual school yard clean up. Once again our older Eco members announced to the rest of the school current and vital information about the celebration. Did you know that the "Earth Day Network" launched "The Green Cities" campaign in the fall of 2013 to help cities around the world become more sustainable and reduce their carbon footprint? For the month of May we will be focusing on "Water Conservation" because every drop counts!

Thank you for using reusable containers.

Mr. Potyok, Mrs. Fairy and
All the Eco Members



Boys' Basketball Team

Congratulations on a great season to our MacKillop Boy's Basketball Team. Go Mustangs!!!!

Mr. Potyok and Mr. Rochweg.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 10 from 5:30—8:30 p.m. School Council will once again host MacKillop's Annual Fun Fair BBQ. See School Council News above for more details.

Junior Girls' Basketball

The junior girls recently completed their basketball season. They faced several teams during exhibition games leading up to the Area Tournament which was held on April 29th. The team consisted of ten girls who had very little basketball experience prior to the team tryouts. Within a few short weeks of practice, all of the players showed incredible growth. This wonderful group of girls learned ball handling, shooting and how to play as a cohesive team. They were able to strongly compete against many larger and more experienced school teams. At all times,

this team represented MacKillop with exemplary behavior and good sportsmanship!

Congratulations go to the following team members: Lily, Elizabeth, Sarah, Olivia, Mary, Shreya, Dariya, Ninka, Nadia, and Carey.

Mrs. Brown,
Coach



Character News

This month the Character Council put on a dynamite assembly! The council was joined by the DPA Crew, the Band, the Choir and a special appearance by Veggie man and Captain Fruitastic. MacKillop celebrated their achievements and talents together. This month the Council also helped bring the Daffodil campaign to MacKillop in support of cancer research. The school raised a total of \$390.00.

Way to go MacKillop!



Healthy Schools

Be SUNSMART



One bad sunburn in childhood can double the risk of developing skin cancer (Canadian Cancer Society). Help protect you and your family:

- Reduce sun exposure between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. or when the UV index is 3 or more
- Seek shade or create your own shade
- SLIP! on lightweight clothing that covers your arms and legs
- SLAP! on a wide brimmed hat and UV protected sunglasses with wraparound frames and even shading
- SLOP! on sunscreen and lip balm with SPF 30 or higher and reapply every 2 hours
- Keep babies under one year out of the direct sun

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



**MACKLIN HOUSE KIDZONE
SUMMER CAMP 2014
CREATE.CHALLENGE.ENGAGE**



SUMMER SMILES

Our creative, engaging, challenging and age appropriate activities align with the needs and abilities of children. Every day your child will be given the opportunity to experience activities designed to get children active, broaden self-esteem, promote leadership skills and foster team work.

DAY CAMP QUICK FACTS

- Our programs are licensed by the Ministry of Education
- For children ages 4-12
- Lead by Registered Early Childhood Educators
- Transportation on Trips via chartered school bus

ALL INCLUSIVE FEES!

Early Bird Weekly Rate \$230* valid until May 16/14

Regular Weekly Rate \$250

Part time (3 Day Rate) \$195

Each week we offer an extended program from 7:00a.m - 6:00 p.m. All campers will receive nutritious am/pm snacks and a lunch everyday (packed lunch on trip days). All day trips as well as transportation costs are included.

LIMITED SPACES –REGISTER TODAY!

www.macklinhousedavcare.com

**WEEKLY FUN
TRIPS INCLUDE:**
COSMIC BOWLING
SCIENCE CENTER
KORTRIGHT-
CONSERVATION PARK
WILD WATER
KINGDOM
NEBS FUN WORLD
GREENWOOD-
CONSERVATION PARK

**MACKLIN HOUSE
KIDZONE
LOCATIONS**

ADRIENNE CLARKSON PS

COPPARD GLEN PS

SAM CHAPMAN PS

THORNHILL PS

CONTACT NUMBER

905-472-6201

Shahina.lalani@mhd.c.ca

Claire.morgan@mhd.c.ca

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

Invitation to Grade 8 Parents

The School Council of Alexander Mackenzie H.S. would like to extend an invitation to grade 8 parents/guardians and School Council members to attend the AMHS School Council meeting on May 27th. The meeting is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the AMHS library. At this meeting, parents/guardians will have an opportunity to:

Ask questions about high school in general, and AMHS specifically;

Talk to current AMHS parents; and

Receive practical tips for success in high school.

An RSVP would be appreciated by May 22 to Randy Nielsen, School Council Chair

randy@partnersemployment.com

Freezie Sales at O.M. MacKillop

The grade 8's have organized a fundraiser to support the cost of graduation. The weather is getting warmer, so that means it's time for something cool...Freezies! They will be sold every Thursday and Friday (at the junior doors) at the 1:15 bell. They will cost \$1.00. Please remember that the freezie wrappers are meant to be thrown into the garbage. We ask that you do not throw any of your garbage on the ground! Thank you for your support!



Grade 8 Graduation

The Grade 8 graduation ceremony will be held on Monday June 23rd at the Delta Markham Hotel. The ceremony will begin at 6:00 p.m. Grade 8 parents please be sure to set aside this date.

save the Date!

We are planning a Volunteer Appreciation Tea on **Wednesday, May 28th**. This will take place after school to honour the many wonderful volunteers we have in our school. Invitations will be sent home soon.



May 2014

York Region District School Board

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|-----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | <i>We reflect on our actions</i> | | | | | |
| 4 | 5 School Council Meeting 7:00 pm | 6  Pizza Lunch | 7 Frozen Yogurt Scientists in Schools Gr. 6 | 8 Scientists in Schools Gr. 5 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 Pilot visit to Gr. 6's Spoken Word Event for Gr. 7's | 13  Sub Lunch | 14 Frozen Yogurt MacKillop Wellness Fair 7:00-9:00 p.m. | 15 | 16 Scientists in Schools Gr. 2 and 5 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Victoria Day- schools are closed | 20 Today is a MONDAY Schedule  Pizza Lunch | 21 Frozen Yogurt | 22 MacKillop Track & Field Day Welcome to Kindergarten Parent Evening 6:30-8:00 p.m. | 23 Rain Date: MacKillop Track & Field Day | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Gr. 6 EQAO Assessments | | | | | | |
| | |  Sub Lunch | Frozen Yogurt Volunteer Appreciation Tea |  | | |