



MacKillop Monthly

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November, 2013

Principal
Arlene Potashner

Superintendent of
Schools
Karen Friedman
905-884-4477

Trustee
Diane Giangrande
905-770-0826

School Council Chair
Cecilia Correia

Secretaries
Bessie Papadopoulou
Mary Anne Bernardinis

Principal's Message

The halls, classrooms, gym and library continue to be busy places at MacKillop! Our senior boys and girls volleyball teams have begun, cross country wrapped up with some excellent results from our students, our Character Council facilitated "Light Up The World Purple" as an anti-bullying initiative, Learning Disabilities Awareness Month was observed and now we look ahead to our annual Remembrance Day assembly this month.

Did you know that we have two lunchtime sports programs for our junior and intermediate students free of charge? For information about these programs please call the office. In addition Mr. Potyok has begun an intermediate band, and Ms. Caesar and Mrs. Tenenbaum have begun a Junior/Intermediate choir. Mr. Potyok is coordinating an eco-club for students from all grades and Mrs. Douglas has a number of students engaged in our healthy snack program. For a small school we sure have a lot of things happening!

The arrival of November signifies the onset of the unpredictable weather. We can anticipate the season's first snowfall along with cooler temperatures. Please ensure that your children are dressed warmly and prepared for outdoor recess each day. We also know that those first 'snow days' can take us by surprise. If you suspect that busses may be cancelled due to the weather, please confirm this by checking local television stations, City TV, CFTO or radio stations, 640AM, 1010AM, 98.1FM, 99.9 FM. Remember that if busses are cancelled for their morning run, they will be automatically cancelled for their afternoon run, even if the weather im-

proves throughout the day.

You should already have received an invitation to meet with your child's teacher for the first reporting period. The Progress Report will be coming home on November 13 with interviews being scheduled for November 14th and 15th. The purpose of this report is two-fold: 1) To share information about your child's learning skills and work habits 2) To communicate information about your child's progress towards the learning expectations for the first term. The conference will be an important opportunity for you and your child to meet with the teacher to discuss some goals and next steps.

Volunteers play an integral role supporting our school initiatives. This past month saw the popular QSP magazine sales campaign achieve higher than last year's goal thanks to the enthusiasm and organization of Mrs. McClelland and Mrs. Knowles. We thank the many volunteers that join school trips, support the primary reading program and deliver pizza each week, and these are just a few examples of how volunteers support our school. Volunteers who work directly with students are required to complete volunteer packages in the office before they begin. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. For those families celebrating Chanukah and Diwali this month we wish you joyful celebrations. If you have any artefacts or resources to share about your traditions please contact the office. In our efforts to celebrate the richness of our diversity we welcome the opportunity to learn about each other.



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Parenting and Counselling Support-Family Services York Region

Looking for tips on parenting? Have questions around routines, managing stress at home or seeking individual or family counselling? Family Services of York Region offers a variety of counselling options and support is available in different languages. Check out their website <http://www.fsyrc.ca/> or call 905-780-9927.

School Happenings

- Picture Retake Day will take place on November 5th
- Grade 8 visit to Alexander Mackenzie H.S. the morning of November 6th
- Kindergarten trip to the farm on November 6th
- Remembrance Day Assembly on November 11th at 10:15 a.m.
- York Public Health administering HPV vaccinations to Gr. 8 girls November 12th
- Progress Reports go home November 13th
- Parent/Teacher interviews to take place the evening of Nov. 14th and morning of Nov. 15th
- P.A. day on November 15th-no school for students on this day
- Grades 5 and 6 to Kortright Centre on November 20th
- Area Volleyball Tournaments taking place Nov. 25th (girl's) and Nov. 26th (boy's)
- Scientists in Schools on Nov. 25th, Kdg.-Gr. 6
- Grade 7/8 Science in the Classroom on Nov. 27th

School Plan for Continuous Improvement- Focus on Student Achievement

Every year at this time we review our EQAO and other data sets to plan a focus for improvement for this school year. Among other things this year we will focus on supporting our exceptional students through assistive technology, nurturing their self advocacy skills, we are renewing our commitment to eco friendly practices and we continue to seek ways to improve our students' application of math skills across the strands. We have increased the number of minutes our students spend learning math each week, we have purchased new math manipulatives and teachers are using authentic problems to engage our students. Finally we continue to increase the technology throughout the school and we are teaching our students to use it to collaborate, create and share. Staff professional development will support these goals.

Scientists in School returning to MacKillop

Thanks to School Council for funding a day of Scientists in the School. Each class will have the opportunity to work with a scientist experiencing hands on activities directly connected to the science curriculum. This is always an exciting day for our students and many volunteers join in the fun. The primary and junior day is November 25th and the Intermediate day is November 27th.



Reminder to Parents

**The next PA day is on
Friday,
November 15th
No school for
students on this day**

School Council 2013-2014

At last month's School Council Meeting the following people agreed to be voting members on School Council for the 2013-14 school year: Cecilia Correia – Chair; Brian Crew – Treasurer, Carol Phillips – Secretary, Dawn Knowles, Jasna Duric, Lisa Johnson, Peter Davison, Ramin Alipour, Sandra McClelland, Sophie Zhang, Community Representatives Rachel Ussher, Penny Cummings. Thank you to all members of School Council for your time and commitment.

Important Information for Grade 8 Students

Bill Crothers Secondary School Sports Program

Information Session: November 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
 Application made available online: November 8, 2013
 Application due at the school (not online): Nov. 29th

Bill Crothers is in Markham and students are required to provide their own transportation. This program is best suited to those students who have a passion for athletics and an interest in healthy living.

Alexander Mackenzie Arts Program

Applications available online and at information session

Information Evening: Nov. 12/13 7:00 -9:00 p.m. Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts.

Applications Due: Fri. Nov. 29, 2013

Assessments occur: January 24-29, 2014
 The Arts Program is best suited to those students with a passion for one of the arts areas (drama, dance, music and visual arts).

International Baccalaureate Diploma

Bayview S.S.: International Baccalaureate Program

Registration Opens: Nov. 4, 2013
 Registration Closes: Nov. 22, 2013

Test Date (register through online application): November 30th

The International Baccalaureate program is best suited for those students who are highly motivated learners with strong academic standing.



Library News

We are well underway in borrowing great books from the library. Students can take out two library books every week. If they don't finish reading their books, they can renew their books. It is highly recommended that books are returned every week, even if they would like to renew the books.

Students get into a routine of returning their books on time! If they can not find a book and it is lost, a fee to cover the cost of the book is charged. This fee helps in paying for another copy of the same title.

The responsibility belongs to the student. Please help with preparing your

child with the strategies needed to keep their library books clean and treat the books with respect. We are always looking for Volunteers in the library. If you can spare some energy and time, feel free to come to the library. Your child will love you for it!

Mrs. Keimel
 Teacher-Librarian



Remembrance Day

O.M. MacKillop P.S. will be having their Remembrance Day service on Monday, November 11th, 2013 at 10:15 a.m. There will be a short assembly in the gym with a few classes performing a song or poem followed by our tying yellow ribbons around our trees in our front yard. Parents are welcome to attend. Morning recess will take place following the service.



Healthy Schools In Action...!

A very enthusiastic Healthy Schools Student Action Team is coming to a classroom near you! They have developed an exciting Healthy Snack Challenge and are eager to explain the goal. Each classroom will have a chart listing four categories of snack possibilities: fruits, vegetables, grains and dairy. A tally will be taken every day, by class, of students who have something healthy in their morning snack during the months of November and December, and posted for all to see. The class with the highest score will win special gym time! Good luck to all!

Mrs. Douglas



Secondary School Information Nights for Grade 8's

Alexander Mackenzie H.S. December 9, 2013

Bayview S.S. January 16, 2014

Richmond Green S.S. December 10, 2013

Richmond Hill S.S. January 9, 2014

Start time for the info nights is 7:00 p.m. For information on Gr. 8 Information Nights for other York Region

Schools visit: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca



Cross Country Team

Since the second week of September the school cross country team has been preparing for the Area Meet. The team, made up of about 60 students from grades 3-8 participated at the Area Meet on Wednesday, October 9th at Richmond Green. The weather was fine as the MacKillop athletes competed in races against age and gender appropriate teams for other schools in the Richmond Hill area. Our team posted some fine results and 6 of our students qualified to participate at the Regional Meet that was held on October 17th. Sara, Thomas V, Tom O. Kevin K., Eric. K and Callum represented MacKillop at the regional meet.

Mr. Rochweg,
Mrs. Painter,
Mrs. Keimel,
Mrs. Kleiner and
Mrs. Kimmerly
would like to
thank all of the ath-
letes who partici-
pated and we look
forward to next
season!!



Thank You For Your Generosity

Thanks to your donations our school was able to send \$645.00 to the Terry Fox Foundation following the walk/run held in September. And earlier this month Mrs. Kleiner's car was filled with non-perishable items donated by our generous families so that the Richmond Hill Food Bank could provide for those who benefit from their service.

Also, our grade 8 students collected used clothing and household items for the Bags2School drive. Thanks for all of your support!



Well Done MacKillop Community!

Due to the great success of our QSP Magazine Fundraiser, Mrs. Potashner agreed to wear a costume for the day. The students had great fun voting to determine if she was to wear a monkey or a banana costume. The banana costume won! Thank you to all of our families for your participation in this fundraiser.



Volunteers Needed

We are still looking for volunteers for our Primary Reading Program and the Library. If you can spare even 1 day or 1/2 day a week please call the office at 905-884-5711 or email at: o.m.mackillop.ps@yr.dsb.edu.on.ca

Eco News

The Eco Club is off to a good start towards our certification as an eco-school of Ontario for another year. We have many students involved this year and have many ideas on how to improve our eco sense. November's eco theme is "What's in, What's out." This is specifically about what should go in our garbage and what should go in the recycling. Throughout the month of November we are going to be working on improving our practices around this theme, as it is very important that our recycling does not end up in the garbage. You can support us by making sure your recycling is untainted by garbage at home, and that your garbage does not contain recyclables. Thank you for your support in our quest for gold!

Mr. Potyok and Mrs. Fairy



School Council News

QSP was a great success, with over 260 magazine subscriptions sold. Stay tuned for the amount of funds raised. Thank you to all students and their families and friends who supported us with this great fundraiser. Happy reading!

Spirit wear clothing items will be arriving at the end of November.

Bags 2 School brought in \$138 for the grade 8 grad fundraiser. The items are being sent to South America or the Middle East. 135 bags were collected, weighing in at 690 Kg.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, November 4, at 7pm in the school staff room.



Character Assembly



Character News

October has been an exciting month for our newly formed Character Council. The council took the initiative to plan a special day for "Light The World Purple" and presented a moving assembly about children's mental health and bullying. They will be hosting the character assembly for the first time this month and introducing the new DPA routine to the whole school.



As well the council is helping the Eco Team and preparing the diversity board at the front of the school. Council is looking forward to the month of November and all the new initiatives at MacKillop.

Ms Leesti, Mme Kimmerly,
Mrs. Bowden

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

Halloween candy... a sticky topic for parents!



At Halloween, children bring home candy after a spooky night of entertainment. Letting children include these goodies as part of a healthy diet will help them control the amount of candy they eat. The key is to provide structure:

1. After trick or treating, let your children empty their candy bag, sort it and eat as much of it as they want. Let them do the same the next day.
2. On the third day, have them put the candy away and only allow them to eat it during meals and snacks: a couple of small pieces for dessert and as much as they want for snack time.
3. If children can follow these rules, they get to keep control of the candy. Otherwise, parents take control.
4. Offer milk, fruit or vegetables with the candy to offer some nutrition.

Schedule meals and snacks at regular times and keep the routine of letting your child have Halloween candy only at these times. This way candy will not spoil a child's diet.

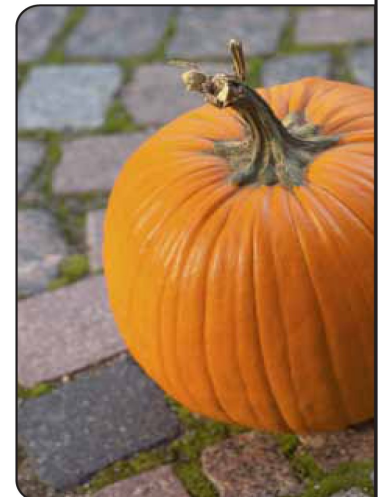
Remind children to brush their teeth after eating the candy and if this isn't possible, at least rinse their mouth.

Adapted from Your Child's Weight Helping without Harming Birth through Adolescence. Elyn Satter, 2005

For more information about creating a healthy school nutrition environment, visit 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

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November, 2013

York Region District School Board

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 <i>Whether on the playground, sports field or in the class- room, we show sportsmanship</i>	28	29  Pizza Lunch	30 Frozen Yogurt	31 October Character Assembly	1	2
3 <i>Diwali</i>	4	5 Picture Retake Day   Sub Lunch	6 Gr. 8 Visit to AMHS Kdg. Trip to Round the Bend Farm Frozen Yogurt	7	8	9
10	11 Remembrance Day Assembly 10:15 a.m. 	12 HPV Vaccine for Gr. 8 girls  Pizza Lunch	13 Progress Reports go home  Frozen Yogurt	14 Today is a Friday Schedule Parent/Teacher Interviews— evening	15 P.A. Day (no school for students) Parent/Teacher Interviews - during the day	16
17	18	19  Sub Lunch	20 Gr. 5 and 6 to Kortright Cen- tre 	21	22	23
24	25 Girl's Int. Area Volleyball Tournament Scientists in Schools-Kdg.- Gr. 6	26 Boy's Int. Area Volleyball Tournament Pizza Lunch	27 Gr. 7 and 8 Science in the Classroom-am Frozen Yogurt	28	29 Character Assembly	30