



MacKillop Monthly

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Volume 1, Issue 2

October, 2013

Principal's Message

Fall has arrived and staff and students have been busy settling into the routines at school. You may be aware that we reorganized a few of our classes in order to comply with the Ministry of Education class size reduction. My thanks for your patience and understanding. An updated staff list is on page 2.

Routines for students both at school and at home are so important. Being on time for school, using an agenda planner, arriving with homework completed and all necessary materials will set students up for success. Children require support with these routines and having consistent expectations between home and school will assist in preparing students to be organized and ready for learning.

This is a good opportunity to remind you that we appreciate when you are able to inform the office in advance of any changes to your pick up routines, appointments or pre-planned absences. Notifying the office each day your child will be late or absent is essential. If we are unable to determine where a student is we are obligated to notify the police. Please ensure that your contact information is up to date. We do permit students to call home due to illness and we will call you in the event of an injury. We know that students bring cell phones to schools and we remind them that they are not to be used during school hours unless with teacher permission as part of the instructional program. Please support us with this and do not contact your child on their cell phone during the school day.

Our school continues to reinforce positive behavior and character through our "caught in the act" weekly draws and our monthly touchstone assemblies. Our touchstone was created several years ago and it signifies the attributes that we feel make good citizens and good learners. Our staff refer to the language of the

touchstone when speaking with students and it gives us a monthly focus. Our student leadership group, the Character Council, will lead the monthly assemblies and provide a student perspective when we are planning activities this year. We strive to be an inclusive school where every voice is valued and diversity is celebrated. Our hope is that all families feel welcomed and we want you to share with us your background, customs and traditions.

With student achievement and well-being at the heart of what we do our staff continues to look at how are students are performing, using a variety of measures, including EQAO, report card data and system data. Next month we will take a closer look at these measures and refine the goals and strategies in our school improvement plan. A support that we have for our students to promote well-being is our school social worker/attendance counsellor Mr. Langhorne. Referrals can come from staff or parents.

Please also read in our newsletter about our healthy schools approaches, the activities that students and staff are engaged in, library news, character council and what is coming up this month. Our photos will try and capture some of the events around our school each month. Each teacher will be communicating with parents in a variety of ways. Don't hesitate to call if you require more information or ideas for supporting the learning at home. Our partnership is vital to your child's success.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meet the teacher BBQ on October 3 and consider joining us at this month's School Council Meeting on October 7th. And best wishes to our families celebrating Thanksgiving and to those observing Eid-ul-Adha. We hope you spend quality time with your loved ones enjoying your special traditions.

School Happenings...

Our successful Terry Fox Fundraiser on Fri. Sept. 27th was organized by Mrs. Leesti. Meet the Teacher Night and BBQ is taking place on Thursday, Oct. 3 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Our Cross Country team is training for the Area Meet on October 9th, under the direction of Mrs. Painter, Mrs. Kleiner, Ms. Keimel, Ms. Leesti and Mr. Rochweg. Safety Week will take place the week of Sept. 30 which will include a fire drill and a lockdown.

Reporting Timelines—2013– 2014 School Year

There are three reporting periods for this school year. They are as follows:

Progress Report - Sent home: November, 13, 2013 → Parent/Teacher/Student Conference - Evening November 14th
 Term 1 Report Card - Sent home: February, 12, 2014 and on November 15th, (PA Day).
 Term 2 Report Card - Sent home: June 25, 2014

Please note that the progress report will report on progress towards achievement of the first term's expectations. It will give you a good idea of how likely it is that your child will meet expectations or if they are struggling to do so. It is an excellent opportunity to dialogue about what support may need to be in place at home and at school if your child is having difficulty.

O.M. MacKillop Teaching Staff - Revised Organization

Name	Assignment	Extension	Name	Assignment	Extension
S. Tenenbaum	JK/SK	126	C. Brown	Gr. 5/6	118
C. Caesar	JK/SK	130	C. Kleiner	Gr. 5/6	119
V. Bremner	Gr. 1/2	109	C. Potyok	Gr. 7	120
A. Daneman	Gr. 1/2/R.R.	108	J. Painter	Gr. 8	114
B. Fairy	Gr 1/2/Prep Coverage	111	M. Leesti	SSC/SERT	115
P. Cassels	Gr. 3	123	M. Bowden	SERT/Gr. 4 French	124
J. Low	Gr. 4	122	D. Kimmerly	French/ELL	112
N. Rochweg	Gr. 5	121	A. Keimel	Library/ELL/Int. Sci	127
Non Teaching Staff			E. Baker	DECE	
A. Potashner	Principal		L. Jewitt	DECE	
B. Papadopoulos	EOAA		A. Montgomery	CYW	
M. Bernardinis	Secretary		V. Douglas	EA	
B. Brouwer	Lead Caretaker		K. Soper	EA	
D. Grenier	Caretaker				

EQAO Results

The school's EQAO results are posted on the school's website at www.ommackillop.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca and can also be found on the EQAO website at www.eqao.com.

Individual student reports have been sent home with students who participated in the assessments. If you have questions about your child's results feel free to contact Mrs. Potashner.

Our reading and writing scores continue to show growth over time. Our math scores are also showing modest improvement and we will continue to examine our instruction in mathematics and increase our

understanding of research based assessment practices.

In reviewing the results, it is important to remember that the EQAO assessment is but one measure of student achievement and the results do not reflect the context of each school (e.g. sample size, number of students who did not participate, etc.). Please join us at this month's School Council for an EQAO presentation.



Healthy Schools

Healthy Bodies equals Healthy Minds!

This year has started off well for the Healthy Schools Initiative. We are again putting out healthy snacks (apples, oranges, carrot sticks, granola bars, etc.,) for the students everyday, at morning recess.

We will be organizing a student committee to assist with the many activities planned for this year: Winter Walk Day, The Big Crunch, Pause to Play, and other special school-wide events. We are looking forward to a healthy, active year involving all students, and focusing on the importance of an all-round health awareness.

The Healthy Schools Committee



Thanksgiving Food Drive

MacKillop is collecting non-perishable food items until October 8, 2013. The items will be given to the Richmond Hill Food bank in time for Thanksgiving. As always, thank you to our students, staff and community members for their support.



Please Note:
There is no school on the following days in October:
Fri. Oct. 11 - P.A. Day
Mon. Oct. 12 - Thanksgiving Day

Toonie for Terry

On September 27, 2013 the students at O.M. MacKillop P.S. raised money for Cancer! On this day all students did their part by walking and running for Terry Fox.

They remembered Terry Fox, who was determined to find a way to beat cancer!

All monies raised through our event will be forwarded to The Terry Fox Foundation to further the fight against cancer. If you didn't get a chance to donate, feel free to send donations to the school (by Oct.4th) or donate on line at:

www.terryfoxrun.org



Library News

School is starting and the library is 'roaring' to go! Books, old and new are on the shelf ready to be taken out and read. Students, junior kindergarten to grade eight have the opportunity to borrow books from the O.M. MacKillop Library. Each student has a patron card that records what books they have taken out. Students are responsible for the books. We are very proud at O.M. MacKillop of the library collection and we would like to keep the books in fine condition. Please share your love for books by reading them and keeping the books in good condition.

This year, my role is divided into three. I am the Teacher- Librarian, English As A Second Language teacher and the Intermediate Science teacher. I look forward in sharing my talents throughout the school. We are always looking for adult volunteers in the library. Please feel to contact me if you can spare some time to help in the library!

Keep on reading,
 Anna Keimel
 905 884- 5711 Ext.127



Parking Lot Safety

This is just a reminder that cars **must** stay out of the bus loop during morning drop off and evening pick up. This loop is for the use of buses only. Please make arrangements to drop your children off and pick them up at either of the two streets adjacent to the school, Driscoll and Parkston. When using these streets, please attend to the no-parking signs on one side of the street and be aware of students who are walking. Thanks to the parents who are making every effort to support us with this request and, thus, are helping us to keep all our students safe.



Bags2School Fundraiser

This fundraiser for the Gr. 8 Graduation will take place on the following dates. Watch for further details to come:
 The drop off times for Bags2School are:
 Wed. Oct. 16 , 8:30-9:05 a.m., 3:35-4:00 p.m.
 Thurs., Oct. 17, 8:30-9:05 a.m., 3:35-4:00 p.m.
 Fri. Oct. 18, 8:30-9:05 a.m.



Please note: We cannot accept donations after 9:05 on Friday, Oct. 18, 9:05 a.m. Thank you very much for your contributions.

Important Reminder

Meet the Teacher Night and BBQ
 Is taking place this week on
Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 We look forward to seeing you there!

Smile...School Pictures

School Pictures will be taken on:

Friday Oct. 4, 2013.

We will be using Edge Imaging this year for our school pictures.



QSP Magazine Campaign

Our Annual magazine fundraiser will be starting again this month. Magazines make wonderful gifts for family and friends. Watch for details coming home soon with your children.



Fundraising Support is Appreciated

We gratefully appreciate your support with our various fundraisers including the QSP magazine sales from School Council and our Terry Fox Walk. A reminder that students are encouraged to seek support from family and friends and door-to-door canvassing is not recommended.

Cross Country Team

The cross country team has been practicing hard for the past few weeks. The team is made up of about 70 runners from grades 4 to 8. We also have a number of grade 3 participants this year! The athletes are working hard to improve their fitness through distance and speed training. The team is training in preparation for the Area Cross Country meet to be held at Richmond Green on **Wednesday October 9, 2013**. The runners

will compete against age and gender appropriate competitors at this meet. Runners who place 1-15th will compete at the York Region regional meet on: **Thursday October 17th** Our thanks to the following Staff Members involved with the Cross Country Team this year: **Mrs. Painter, Mrs. Kleiner, Ms Keimel, Mrs. Leesti, and Mr. Rochweg**

Safety Week-Sept. 30-Oct. 4

The York Region District School Board has designated this week Safety Week. At O.M. MacKillop students will be participating in a lockdown drill and each class will be discussing various aspects of safety. Last week our staff and students participating in our first fire drill of the year and evacuated the school in a timely and calm manner. Our staff spend time preparing students for these drills and explaining their purpose to the children in a reassuring manner. Please support us by discussing these safety procedures at home.



Safety after School Hours

Parents are reminded that there is **no** teacher supervision in the yard after school hours. Parents are responsible for their children after this time. Parents should ensure students are picked up promptly at 3:35.

Pedestrian Safety Tips from York Region Police

This is a good time for parents to remind their children about pedestrian safety. York Regional Police has provided the following safety tips on their website to help keep students safe on their way to and from school:

- Walk on available sidewalks
- Always cross at intersections
- Obey crossing guards
- Stop before stepping into roadway
- Be visible and indicate crossing intentions
- Look and listen for traffic in all directions
- Make eye contact with drivers
- Cross safely when the roadway is clear
- Walk. Do not run or cycle across roads
- If possible use the buddy system



For more information, visit www.yrp.ca.

Character Council

The O.M. MacKillop Character Council Executive has just been chosen and is already hard at work. They have been helping to get things underway by preparing our first Touchstone Assembly on September 27th. We would like to welcome Ryan F., Sarni R., Ben H., Kaitlyn R. and Jacob T. to the team!

In the month of September MacKillop staff and students will be focusing on the first Touchstone line...."At O.M. MacKillop, we care about our learning because we care about our future."

The October Touchstone focus is..."Everyone deserves the support they need; we value everyone as equals."

Keep an eye out for our very first spirit day, black and orange day, on October 31st and Character Community week at the end of October.

*Character
Matters!*

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 big-
gest heart of all
We are
The MacKillop Mustangs

It's time to remind children about being safe in our community.

With the start of another school year, it's a good time for parents to remind children about personal safety.

Here's what children need to know:

- Their name, age, telephone number, address, city and province. This can be done through rhyme or song.
- How to contact their parents at any time, by memorizing cell or work numbers.
- How and under what circumstances to call 911.
- To never approach or enter a stranger's vehicle. A responsible adult would never ask a child for directions or any other question for that matter.
- Make sure they know they have a right to say "no" to an adult, especially when the adult is asking them to do something they have been taught is wrong or feels uncomfortable. Reminding children of this right is important because children are taught from a young age to respect adults.
- To always tell parents where they will be and to never enter someone's home without their parent's permission.
- If home alone, never admit it when answering the phone. Never answer a knock at the door or speak through it. Adults can be very persuasive. Teach your child to call you if there is a knock at the door and if they fear for their safety, teach them to call 911. Make sure they know that police officers are there to help them and would not get mad if it were a false alarm.
- If they think they are being followed or are in danger they should run home or to a public place. If someone grabs them, they should try to get away, yelling and screaming while doing so.

It is important to play in safe areas, never take shortcuts and stick with a buddy whenever possible.

It is never too early or too late to teach children the importance of personal safety. Common sense, communication and consistency are the keys. Remind children to alert a responsible adult if something strange happens that makes them feel uncomfortable. Remember, crime prevention is everyone's responsibility.

For more information on this subject, visit www.yrp.ca.

School Council

Bags 2 School is back! This is a great fundraiser to help offset the costs for the grade 8's graduation. Please drop off your donations of gently used clothes, linens, stuffed toys, shoes (tied together please), belts, handbags and handbags of on the following dates:

Wed., Oct. 16 from 8:30am-9:05am, 3:35-4:00pm
Thurs., Oct. 17 from 8:30am-9:05am, 3:35-4:00pm
Fri., Oct. 18 from 8:30am-9:05am

Please note: We can't accept donations after 9:05 on Friday.

QSP is starting this month. If you want a new magazine subscription, or just want to renew an old one, ordering through QSP is a great way to help the school raise money for technology, and great in-school programming such as scientist in the school and prologue arts performances.

Pizza and sub lunch orders are already due. Pizza lunches start Tuesday, Oct. 1 and alternate with sub lunches every other Tuesday.

Spirit wear clothing pre-orders are now being taken. Orders are due by Monday, October 7. Check out the sample sizes at the school council booth during the Meet the Teacher BBQ on Thursday, October 3.

We encourage all parents/guardians of MacKillop students to attend at least one school council meeting. Not only is it a great way to meet other parents, but it provides such an opportunity to learn more about the school, it's teachers, goals and values, and how we all manage to keep the great community feeling at our school that everyone has come to know and love. We are the small school with a big heart. We welcome suggestions and comments, and appreciate any amount of time that you can be involved in enhancing education for students here at MacKillop.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, October 7, at 7pm in the school staff room. Topics include executive elections (nomination forms were sent out at the beginning of September), budget items for the fall, and EQAO results. Please join us!



Cross Country Practice



Terry Fox Run/Walk



October 2013

York Region District School Board

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30	1	2	3	4	5
	Safety Week					
		QSP Magazine Drive Kick off Assembly Pizza Lunch		Meet the Teacher/BBQ Night 5:30-7:30 p.m. 	Picture Day 	
6	7 Grade 2's to Swan Lake	8  Sub Lunch	9 Area Cross Country Meet  Frozen Yogurt	10	11 PA Day No school for students	12
13	14 Thanksgiving (Schools are closed) 	15  Pizza Lunch	16 Frozen Yogurt	17 Grade 1 Health Program– Hands up for Health Regional Cross Country Meet	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Grade 6 VIP Program					
		 Sub Lunch	Frozen Yogurt			
27	28	29 	30 Frozen Yogurt	31		

Everyone deserves the support they need, we value everyone as equals