



MacKillop Monthly

Principal
Arlene Potashner

Superintendent of
Schools
Karen Friedman
905-884-4477

Trustee
Diane Giangrande
905-770-0826

School Council
Co-Chairs
Sandra McClelland
Dawn Knowles
Carol Phillips

Secretaries
Bessie Papadopoulos
Mary Anne Bernardinis

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September, 2013

Principal's Message

Welcome back to another school year! It is my sincere hope that each of our families has had an enjoyable and fun-filled summer with just the right combination of relaxation and activity. Welcome to those families who are joining us for the first time. I feel confident that you will enjoy the warm and inclusive atmosphere in our "little school with the big heart".

I would like to thank all of our staff for their preparations at this time of the year. Thanks to Mr. Brouwer and Mr. Grenier, our dedicated caretaking team who worked tirelessly throughout the summer to ensure that our school building is clean and well-tuned for another school year. Appreciations to Mrs. Papadopoulos and Mrs. Bernardinis, our superb office administrators who worked hard to organize and prepare all of the necessary paper work for the start of the school year. Lastly, our committed Teachers and Educational Assistants have also been working hard to prepare for the coming academic year and their classrooms are

ready and welcoming for your children. In addition to our returning staff I would like to welcome Ms. Caesar who is filling in while Ms. Abel is caring for her new baby and Ms. Low who is back from leave.

A new school year brings about a range of emotions. Excitement, optimism, some anxiety perhaps and, hopefully, positive feelings about the new opportunities and experiences that lie ahead. We are dedicated to ensuring that each child and each family feels welcomed and supported at our school. Please don't hesitate to contact me or your child's teacher at any time throughout the year. It is my greatest privilege to serve the MacKillop community and I look forward to a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Arlene Potashner



Coming Soon

Watch for information on our upcoming pizza lunches, milk program and lunch lady program which will begin over the next few weeks.



Help Us To Keep Our Students Safe: Some Reminders

Recess Playground Expectations

Each School's code of conduct outlines acceptable behaviours for students. During playground time, the code of conduct applies and includes the following:

1. Harmful behaviours toward others is not acceptable (e.g. play fighting, piggybacks, pushing, rock/stone/sand/snowball throwing, etc.).
2. Show respect for fellow students, teachers, school assistants and administrations.
3. Swearing is not permitted.
4. Spitting is not acceptable, whether playing sports or not.
5. All students are responsible for keeping school property clean and tidy.
6. All students should stay out of the swales (gullies) and away from the trees.

Report to the Office Please

Please remember that the first place to visit at school is the office. The only way that we can assure the safety of all students is with your full participation!

A "Sign-In" sheet is located in the office, and requires all visitors or volunteers to sign in when entering the building. Please sign in at the office and obtain a "Visitor" badge so that you can quickly be identified by staff in the halls. Going directly to your child's classroom only causes clutter and confusion in the hallways.

Make arrangements to meet your children outside a specific door. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated as it makes it easier to identify anyone who should not be in the school.

No Peanuts or Nut Products at School

Due to the severe allergy to peanuts and/or nuts of several of our students, we are asking that no peanuts or nut products be brought into the school for snacks or lunches. Thank you for your support in maintaining a safe school environment for all of our students.



Traffic Safety

Here are a few reminders of our safety measures:

1. The parking lot will be blocked off as of 8:50 in the morning.
2. Parents are asked to drop students off either on Parkston or Driscoll. Both of these streets have walkways into the school
3. If you chose to drop your child off on Lucas, please do so just beyond the exit of the school
4. Please remember that our Bus Loop is a no parking zone at all times.



Student Absent or Late?

If your child is going to be away from school for any reason, please give the office a call at **905 884-5711** and leave a message. On a busy day with many absences, confirming the whereabouts of every absent child can take quite a while and could result in a child missing for some time.

The York Region District School Board has been advised by the police that if a student has not arrived at school, and after all steps have been taken to contact the parents, emergency contact etc., they wish to be informed immediately. Please make sure that the school office has been provided with emergency contacts that can be easily reached.

905-884-5711
Option 2



Safety After School Hours

Parents are reminded that there is **no** teacher supervision in the yard after school hours and so student safety, at that time, is the parent's responsibility.

Parents should ensure students are picked up promptly at 3:35.

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.

P.A. Day

Please note that the first Professional Activity (PA) Day of the school year is on **Monday, September 23rd**. Teachers will be involved in professional activities at the school on this day, and students do not attend school.

Attention Bussing Parents Important Transportation Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Re: Student Busing Eligibility

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? **Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school.** Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit www.schoolbuscity.com.

Our School Is a Healthy School!

The Lunch Lady provides a hot lunch service to our school every Monday and Thursday.

Order Online within 3 days of any lunch date at:

www.thelunchlady.ca
Offering families healthy lunch choices in our school!!!



Parents: We want your email address!

We are continuing our efforts this year to be an environmentally responsible school. Part of this involves sending out the monthly school newsletter electronically.

If you are new to the school or have not previously given us your email, please send an email to our school account, requesting that you be placed on the email distribution list:

o.m.mackillop.ps@yrdsb.edu.on.ca

Please note that this will be the only newsletter sent home in hard copy unless you specifically let the office know you require one. We thank you for your support as we continue our efforts to go greener.

Request from the Office

With the increasing number of students bringing personal devices to school this is a reminder that these devices must not be used during the school day unless they are being used for instructional purposes with permission from the teacher. If you need to contact your child please call the office. We appreciate your support with this.

**Mark your calendars:
BBQ & Meet the Teacher/
Curriculum Night
Thursday, October 3**

School Organization

The classes have been tentatively organized based on the enrolment as of June 30, 2013. During September we monitor our enrolment very closely. Should our student enrolment change significantly up or down, our class organization may need to be changed. The reorganization of classes occurs when the number of students in

classes is too high or small at a particular grade. Should changes occur, it will be important for parents to keep a positive outlook as we work through this process. We appreciate your patience as we finalize the school organization. Thanks for your support.



Celebrating Diversity at MacKillop

Some members of our community will be observing faith days this month or did last month. We would like to wish members of our Muslim community "Eid Mubarek" for those that celebrated last month. We would also like to wish members of our Jewish community a "Shana Tova" (Happy New Year) beginning September 4th at sundown. To others celebrating this month



we wish you and your families joyous and peaceful holidays. If you have artifacts that you would like to loan us that highlight your culture we would love to create displays that will teach our children about the various cultures that make up our school community.



General Interest Courses

YRDSB General Interest Courses have experienced a steady decline in client registrations for the past six years. As a result, YRDSB General Interest Courses have operated at a financial loss in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This information was brought forward and discussed at the Board Standing Committee Meeting on May 21. At the June 4, 2013 Board Meeting, the decision was made to discontinue General Interest Courses.

Thank you for your past support of YRDSB General Interest Courses,
Continuing Education Services

Self Identification of students with First Nation, Métis and Inuit Ancestry

PROMOTING SUCCESS FOR STUDENTS OF FIRST NATION, MÉTIS AND INUIT ANCESTRY

The York Region District School Board provides an opportunity for students with First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry to self-identify. The process is voluntary and the information gathered will be kept confidential.

The self-identification process is the first step in providing:

Culturally specific learning opportunities or activities;

Additional support for academic achievement and well-being, including designated support staff;

Communication between schools, First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education staff, Aboriginal students and their families;

Connections to post-secondary institutions, community groups, service providers and other partners;

More learning opportunities for all members of the school community to develop a greater understanding of Aboriginal perspectives, cultures and histories.

New students can self-identify when they register with the Board. Current students can complete an Aboriginal Self-Identification Form which can be obtained from their school.

For further information, please see the Information for Parents and Students with First Nation, Métis and Inuit Ancestry brochure available from the school or speak with the school principal.

School Council News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to a new school year at O.M. MacKillop. We hope you enjoyed your summer vacation.

Our first school council meeting is scheduled for **Monday, September 9** at **7pm** in the staff room. School council is made up of dedicated parents who not only fundraise, but also plan and organize special events for students at the school. Such events include Activity Day, School Dances and Fun Fair. Funds raised also enhance students' learning through technology purchases, supporting Scientist in the School, the Art Club and other programs. Attending meetings is also an opportunity to find out what is happening at the school from Mrs. Potashner and our teacher representatives. Please join us and find out what we're all about. We provide babysitting.

Coming Soon! – Bag2School

Think of us as you are cleaning out your closets in preparation for the Fall/Winter season. Bag2School is an organization that collects gently used clothing, shoes, handbags and soft toys, and in return the school is paid per ton as part of our grade 8 fundraising.

QSP - Magazine Fundraiser

Save your magazine renewal subscriptions for our QSP magazine fundraiser, coming at the end of this month.

Upcoming School Council Meetings: September 9th, October 7th, and November 4th

Sandra, Dawn and Carol will be stepping down as Co-Chairs. We will be electing a new chair and/or co-chair(s).

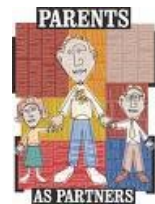
Please consider joining school council to be a voice for our school community.

Should you have any comments or questions, please leave us a message at 905-884-5711, ext. 502.

Sandra McClelland, School Council Co-Chair

Dawn Knowles, School Council Co-Chair

Carol Phillips, School Council C-Chair



The FAMILY READING MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER IS RETURNING SOON!

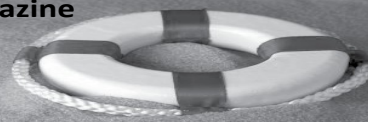
Each year, we hold our QSP magazine subscription fundraiser to raise money to benefit our students while also encouraging more at home reading. The success of the program depends on your participation. **Please save your magazine subscription renewals for our sale.** It is only when you renew directly through our program that our school receives any profit from your order. QSP will honour publisher price discount coupons, so save them too.

If you are anxious to renew before the official campaign begins, you can support us today by shopping online! It's easy...visit www.QSP.ca! All early orders will count toward your child's rewards.

Please help us by saving your
magazine orders and
renewals for our QSP Magazine
Fundraising Program

S.O.S.!

(SAVE OUR SUBSCRIPTIONS)



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

School zone safety



The rush of cars, buses and children arriving at school can create many dangers. Help keep kids safe on the way to and from school.

Drivers:

- Slow down and be ready to stop for school buses and pedestrians
- Respect the crossing guard's instructions
- Be aware of children running in front or behind buses or other obstructions (snow banks)
- Arrive early to avoid traffic congestion
- Make sure your child gets out from the passenger side of your vehicle
- Park away from the school and walk your child onto school property

Teach your children to:

- Stop, look and listen before stepping out of a car or bus
- Walk only on the sidewalk and follow the crossing guard's instructions
- Be seen by the drivers (make eye contact) before crossing.
- Not run or cycle across the road
- Not use cell phones or ear phones when walking



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

September 2013

York Region District School Board

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labour Day	3 back to School 	4	5 Rosh Hashanah	6 Rosh Hashanah	7
8	9 School Council Meeting 7:00 pm	10 Grade 7's to Swan Lake Outdoor Ed. Centre	11	12	13	14 Yom Kippur
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 P.A. Day (no school for students)	24 Hep B and HPV Immunization for Gr. 7 students and Gr. 8 girls respectively 	25	26	27	28
29	30	1 QSP Magazine Fundraiser Kick off assembly 	2	3 BBQ/Meet the Teacher Curriculum Night 	4 Picture Day 	5