

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

JUNE 2014

As the year draws to a close, it's once again time to take the opportunity to look back and reflect on the activities that have taken place at Pleasantville.

Thanks goes to all those who so generously share their time, ideas and enthusiasm to make these things possible. Sincere gratitude must also be extended to all those who have contributed to the school's various fundraising activities. The School Council raised almost \$26,000 this year – a great accomplishment! The Graduation Committee also raised over \$5,145 to support the Graduation celebrations.

We want every student to think Pleasantville is a great place to be and we recognize that means different things to different people. Accordingly, the funds raised by the School Council are utilized in a variety of ways to enhance the well-being and educational experience of all students.

Here are some of the highlights from the 2013-2014 year at Pleasantville...

School Council Fundraising	
\$8,835	Donation Drive
\$9,625	Pizza Lunches
\$7,135	Fun Fair
Graduation Committee Fundraising	
\$2,950	Popcorn Sales
\$1,335	Pasta Lunches
\$560	Cookie Sales
\$300	Halloween Maze

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

Pleasantville provides students many opportunities to embrace their creative spirit.

- Each class participated in a full-day Director's Cut workshop that allowed students to showcase their creativity using the latest in digital media hardware and applications;
- Students in Pleasantville's intermediate band (grades 7 and 8), intermediate drama club (grades 7 and 8) and the Pitch Perfect Panthers Choir (grades 1 to 6) entertained students and parents at various assemblies throughout the year. The intermediate band also played in the Richmond Hill Santa Claus Parade and performed at Music Alive, a York Region wide music festival;
- Students in all grades enjoyed several in-school presentations, including the interactive storytelling of Peter Pan (JK to grade 3) and Romeo and Juliet (grades 4 to 8) by The DuffleBag Theatre, an Afro-Caribbean Dance workshop by Ballet Creole (JK to grade 3), the Music Arsenal performing The Carnival of the Animals (JK to grade 3), Visions of Turtle Island, a high energy, engaging dance performance looking at First Nations culture by Tribal Vision Dance (grades 4 to 8), and a performance by Juno-winning children's musician Jack Grunsky (JK to grade 3);
- Students in grades 7 and 8 attended the musical production of Alice in Wonderland at Alexander Mackenzie High School and Kiss Me Kate at the Richmond Hill Centre for Performing Arts;
- Students in kindergarten and the communication class travelled to the Famous PEOPLE Players theatre to enjoy Cool Yule – a special holiday performance;
- At Pleasantville's Holiday assembly, family and friends enjoyed holiday-themed performances by the band, choir, drama club and classes from various grades;
- In Disney Delights, students in the band, choir and intermediate drama club performed a variety of artistic performances based on Disney films;
- Pleasantville joined thousands of students and teachers across Canada in celebrating Music Monday, an annual event held on the first Monday in May to support music education in our schools. The band, choir and classes from across all divisions presented songs in a special assembly;
- Junior and intermediate students entertained the school by showcasing their talents at the year-end talent show; and
- The Year Book Committee produced a 92-page book that captures memories from an action packed year at Pleasantville.

School Council Funding

\$4,000 Subsidy of Director's Cut workshops

\$3,000 Musical instrument maintenance

BACK TO BASICS

High academic achievement remains a key goal at Pleasantville.

- High-tech learning aids such as laptops and document cameras were purchased and are shared among all classrooms;
- Primary students took part in Scientists in School workshops to spark interest in science and technology through hands-on discovery;
- Junior students enjoyed Mathletes, a full day, hands-on math event where students worked together to build tangram & pentomino puzzles, solve brainteasers and break math codes;
- Students in all grades participated in the Forest of Reading Program, Canada's largest recreational reading program designed to encourage the love of reading in students of all ages;
- As part of the Welcome to Kindergarten orientation night, the students-to-be were given a Welcome to Kindergarten bag containing books, magnetic numbers and letters, Play-Doh, crayons, paper, glue and scissors – tools for parents to use to help their children be ready for school;
- Intermediate students achieved excellent results on the Gauss Math contest;
- The academic success of the graduating students was celebrated with the numerous awards, including Valedictorian and the Grandinetti Memorial Literacy Award; and
- The Homework Club provided students a quiet place to work and receive assistance with their homework after school.

Students also helped to keep the school running smoothly by volunteering as lunch room monitors, office helpers and morning announcers.

School Council Funding

\$5,500 Technology purchased under the YRDSB matching program (total purchase of \$15,200)

\$1,250 Mathletes

\$400 Kindergarten Bags

\$100 Grandinetti Memorial Literacy Award

OUTSPOKEN

Audiences were entertained and educated by various guest speakers.

- Parents from Pleasantville, Silver Pines and O.M. Mackillop enjoyed an entertaining evening as author Joe Rich took members of the audience on an unforgettable journey down the winding road of parenting.
- Shyamala Kiru, a Registered Marriage and Family Therapist, spoke to parents about strategies for helping foster confidence and reducing anxiety in our children;
- Andy Thibodeau delivered to students in grades 1 to 8 his anti-bullying "Share Your Care" presentation that teaches the importance of caring and challenges students to lead by example;
- Students in all grades enjoyed a visit from a local author - Josephine Vaccaro-Chang (JK/SK), Frieda Wishinsky (primary) and Marina Cohen (junior and intermediate);
- The York Region Police presented its Values, Influences & Peer (V.I.P.) program to grade 6 students to support students in making informed choices, inform students of their rights and responsibilities and enhance students' self-esteem; and
- Students in grade 8 attended a youth forum hosted by the York Region Police where students learned about drug use and abuse, internet safety, car safety and staying safe when entering high school.

School Council Funding

\$600 Fee for Andy Thibodeau

\$350 Fee for Josephine Vaccaro-Chang

The fees for Joe Rich and Shyamala Kiru were covered by a \$1,000 YRDSB Pro Grant

STEPPING OUT

In addition to partaking in field trips supporting the curriculum, students also received opportunities to simply celebrate and have fun.

- Graduating students celebrated their momentous occasion with a formal dinner and dance at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts;
- Pleasantville's BBQ and Family Fair was a fun family event that included great food and a variety of activities for the children.
- Students in all grades enjoyed various field trips throughout the year, including Niagara Falls (grade 8), Art Gallery of Ontario (grade 8), Fort York (grades 7 and 8), Ripley's Aquarium of Canada (grade 7), Royal Ontario Museum (grades 5 and 6), Queen's Park (grade 5), Medieval Times (grade 4), Safety Village (grades 2 and 5), Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (communication class), Swan Lake Outdoor Recreational Centre (grades 2, 4 and 7), Black Creek Pioneer Village (grade 3), CN Tower and Rogers Centre (grade 3), Community Safety Village (grade 2), Reptilia (grade 2), Toronto Zoo (grade 1), Kortright Centre for Conservation (JK and SK)
- The Lunchtime Board Games program gave students in grades 1 through 8 the opportunity to play a variety of board games at lunchtime with other students in their division. The families of these students were also invited to attend a Board Games Night to play games together as a family;
- Halloween, Holiday and Valentine's Day dances had intermediate students showing their moves on the dance floor;
- Students enjoyed incentives earned as part of the Donation Drive – a pyjama movie day and homework-free weekends;
- Primary students participated in a costume parade for Halloween, while Superhero Day gave students a chance to don the costume of their favourite superhero;
- Several primary classes enjoyed year-end visits to the Mill Pond park; and
- Pay-for-use lunchtime and after-school programs offered students a variety of activities, including Mad Science, LEGO Build, Live Art Fully, Elite Basketball, Kids on Stage and Fit Spirit.

Graduation Committee Funding

\$5,145 Graduation dinner and dance

School Council Funding

\$1,200 Graduation gift – each graduate's diploma is presented to them in a portfolio paid for with School Council funds

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Students at Pleasantville are encouraged and empowered to make the world a better place – both in their own community and around the globe.

- The entire school participated in both the Terry Fox Walk in the fall and the Autism Walk in the spring, raising over \$900 for the Terry Fox Foundation and over \$650 for Autism Speaks, respectively;
- As part of the Experiences Eco Schools Certification Cycle, the Eco Team led the school in the completion of a team building project that resulted in the school maintaining gold level certification for the seventh year in a row;
- The Eco Team lined up a number of activities celebrating both Earth Week and Earth Hour that show Pleasantville's continued commitment to environmental education and support our Eco goal of "Making a Difference";
- Students joined others around the world in taking a stand against bullying by participating in the International Day of Pink;
- Various student leaders promoted character development through the organization of character assemblies;
- Pleasantville families participated in a student-organized Holiday Toy Drive to support families in our community;
- The choir, band and select classes performed in a Remembrance Day Assembly to mark the significance of the day;
- Two classes participated in Roots of Empathy, an innovative classroom parenting program which fosters the development of empathy in elementary school children through the "adoption" of a baby (grades 2 and 5); and
- A breakfast was held to acknowledge the efforts of the parent and community volunteers who support our students in a very significant way by participating in the Reading Program, helping in classrooms, going on field trips, assisting with the Pizza Lunch and Pasta Lunch programs and much, much more; and
- Pleasantville families sent in a variety of delicious foods for the staff appreciation lunch organized by the School Council.

HEALTHY BODY, HEALTHY MIND

Research shows that healthy eating and regular physical activity contributes to improved emotional well-being, improved mental health, enhanced social skills and increased capacity for learning and productivity.

- Students competed on behalf of Pleasantville in five different sports:
 - Cross country** – Pleasantville finished second and third place in the junior and intermediate divisions, respectively, at the Area meet, with a first place finish by the grade 8 girls
 - Volleyball** – The Intermediate girls team won a tournament held at Redstone Public School
 - Basketball** – The Junior girls team won third place at the Area tournament
 - Hockey** – The Junior hockey team competed in the finals on the Mill Pond during the Winter Carnival
 - Track & Field** – Pleasantville sent three athletes to the Regional meet and all of them placed!
- Jungle Sport took over the gymnasium for an entire week, with primary students experiencing low ropes obstacle courses and junior students learning the basics of climbing on rock walls and other vertical challenges;
- Intermediate students spent a day at one of Treetop Trekking's zip line and aerial game parks, where they were able to feel the rush as they flew across zip lines, and climbed on balance logs, cable traverses, hammock nets, wooden bridges and Tarzan swings suspended high in the forest canopy.
- Fit Spirit provided girls in grades 7 and 8 a program that combined training for a 5K run with healthy living education;
- Intermediate students enjoyed a day at the slopes at Snow Valley and an afternoon of skating at the Mill Pond;
- On Junior Activity Day, students in grades 4 to 6 participated in a variety of off-site activities, including bowling, skating, gymnastics, and rock climbing;
- Olympics Day saw kindergarten students celebrating the Sochi Olympics by participating in a morning of outdoor activities;
- A group of grade 8 girls competed in the Step Out Dance Competition;
- Grade 3 students participated in the Swim to Survive program to learn about how to be safe in the water;
- A week of Fit2Dance workshops had the entire school moving and grooving;
- Play Day saw students in grades 7 and 8 run a morning full of fun, outdoor activities for children in the primary grades;
- Students in select grades received dental screening by York Region Public Health (JK, SK, grades 2 and 8);
- School-wide lice checks occurred in October, January and March; and
- The entire school celebrated The Big Crunch, a nation-wide event that promotes and celebrates healthy snacking.

School Council Funding

\$5,000 Supply teacher costs to support athletic teams

\$825 Jungle Sport

\$375 Treetop Trekking

\$1,575 Lice checks

Thank you to all who participated and volunteered. Have a safe and happy summer and see you in September!