



# Poplar Bank News

We are a Respectful and Caring School

March 2014

Issue 7

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Vice Principal: Steve Helston  
Admin Assistant: Ruth Ann Grant  
Secretary: Ginette Pallett

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Superintendent: Dianne Hawkins  
Trustee: Martin Van Beek

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR FAMILIES A  
SAFE AND ENJOYABLE MARCH BREAK!



**Don't let the below-freezing temperatures fool you: At 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 9, 2014, our clocks will move an hour ahead to begin Daylight Savings Time!**

### **Lunch Assistant Positions Available**

We are in need of lunchtime school assistants for Monday to Friday from 11:55 a.m. – 12:55 p.m. as well as occasional help. This is a paid position and we are accepting applications now in the office.

### **Grade 1 French Immersion Registration**

Registrations are still being accepted daily on a first come first serve basis in the school office from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. If you have a child you would like to enroll, please call the school office at 905-953-8995 for more information.

### **UPCOMING DATES**

Thurs. Mar 6	Elective Day Junior/Intermediate
Fri. Mar. 7	PA Day, no classes
Mar. 10 – Mar 14	March Break
Mon Mar. 17	Pita Day
Mon. Mar 24	Pizza Day
Wed. Mar. 26	Grade 8 Grad Photo Day
Tue. Apr. 8	School Council Meeting 6:45 p.m.

# R E S P E C T

During this academic year, the school-wide theme of respect has continued to be reinforced through morning announcements, classroom activities, assemblies, and presentations. The Respect bulletin board in the foyer, displays student work related to respect, and each month a different grade has been taking responsibility for decorating it and sharing their learning. In February, it was Grade 1's turn.

Since February's theme was love and friendship (le mois d'amitié), the children linked friendship and respect by writing about ways that friends show respect on a daily basis, such as by sharing, including others in games, or helping to clean up.

## UPOWER Presentation for Grades 4 – 8

On February 12, 2014, our students in Grade 4 had a U Power presentation in the gym. The focus of the presentation was on how students can respect themselves and others. Students in the Primary grades will have their presentation in the near future. Here are some responses from our students when they were asked to write about the UPOWER presentation:

*I like the fact that she shared her life stories with us. I find things are much easier to relate to if you know exactly how they felt. I also love to sing and she was...AMAZING!!!! Another great thing about the performance is that she interacted with us. She didn't just stand and talk she made us feel like we were her family(the dancing was pretty funny to)!She was so encouraging that I think she should of put on the same concert for team Canada just before they went to Sochi for the Olympics.*

*Thank you Sara for raising our spirits.*

Kaylah Gr5

*I loved the UPower concert because (Unlike all of the other people that come to our school to talk about bullying) it made you just want to BE a better person. It made you think, "Well, I love the way that they think about this, and I want to be as respectful as her!" It was inspiring, and it made you think about what you could do to be nicer and more respectful. And when she explained it, she gave us a whole new perspective, made us think of it in a different way. I loved the concert, and I hope that they come to talk to us next year!*

Samantha Gr5

*I learned in Sarah's performance that if you have a problem it's better to speak up than just keep it to yourself. I thought that the stories that she said had a really good message. I thought that the message was really good for the people that were having trouble socially and being bullied in the same way that she was talking about. I thought the message was to respect yourself/myself others and your /my dreams and just to keep your head up no matter what.*

Jacob Gr5

*At school we participated in a concert called "U-Power" It was a really fun experience! The host, Sarah, taught us to respect myself and others, by explaining story's that she experienced in her life that helped us realize that bullying gets you no place. I liked how Sarah told us to respect ourselves too, because nobody has ever explained a subject like that before. When I was young I would always give up on myself because of what I thought I heard, now she made me realize that giving up will not make the situation any better, I just have to get back up and try! I appreciated that Sarah helped us all to see that we should be kind to one another, she was and skilled and excellent singer, and song writer, and she helped me to understand that no matter what gets in my way of my dream, never stop. The concert was amazing and will be remembered for my life, and I hope it happens again.*

Keira Gr5

Throughout the assembly, Sara Westbrook taught us about respecting ourselves and respecting others through songs and storytelling circumstances, but there is always a choice and consequences to follow, whether positive or negative. She told us about how she had been faced with harsh criticism about her dreams and abilities. She also told us about how she chose to react to the criticism. She explained how that although the initial impact hurt, she chose to move on, and to not stop chasing her dream. She chose to respect herself, respect others and their choices, and to move on. In the end, Sara made us understand that in the end, we all have U-power. She believed that it is our choices that define us, not our circumstances. Sara taught us about how people are met with difficult

Ethan Gr8

What does respect look like?

Respect involves self-respect and respecting others. When you respect yourself and others, it is accepting their opinions, being nice to them and especially being nice about yourself. When you respect others, you are listening to their opinions and acting nice towards them. If their opinions are insulting in a way to you, like if they say your favorite book isn't good, don't let it get to you. It's just how they feel and they're free to feel that way. It's only what they think, not what you think. Don't let people's opinions put you down or change your own opinion. Everybody is somebody, nobody is a nobody.

An important subject on respect is for yourself. Some people look in a mirror and say "I'm so ugly" when really, they aren't. They punish themselves for something that isn't true. Even if they really believe that they aren't perfect, so what? It's how they were born, it's how you were born. Nobody is born perfect. Don't look at superstars in magazines and say that they're better than you, because they're not. They're not you. Being yourself is the greatest thing anybody could have and use it wisely.

Last week, Poplar Bank had an assembly on respect where a singer, Sara Westbrook, came in and spoke about respect. Sarah introduced her system called "UPower." The meaning of UPower is that you have the power to respect others and yourself. She told stories of herself when she was younger and sang about respect. I say she was 100% right in everything she said. The songs were wonderful and had great meaning. After all, it's my opinion.

Hannah Gr7

The U Power assembly was intriguing and fun. I think the idea of anti-bullying was very well presented and from what I saw, the school appreciated and enjoyed it. I hope that we have more anti-bullying/respect assemblies soon, so our school can keep bring reminded to respect yourself and others.

Gabrielle Gr6

I really liked the U Power presentation because Sarah told us her personal stories, instead of making some up. I also really liked how she sang her own songs to go with the topic. She also interacted with the students, and her presentation was very interesting.

Robyn Gr6

I really enjoyed the U Power presentation. It was really inspirational. Special thanks to Sarah Westbrook for sharing with us her incredible story.

Madison Gr6

The U Power presentation was really great and inspirational because Sarah really interacted with everyone in the audience. It was awesome how she told her own stories and she sang a bunch of motivating songs. I think, and others would probably agree, it was the best respect assembly we have had so far!

Talia Gr 6

## February Family Friendship Dance

Our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual February Friendship Dance was held on Thursday February 6. We had a tremendous turnout! Parents, students and friends of Poplar Bank had a great time. They enjoyed the DJ, spot dance prizes and the food. Thank you to all the families who were able to join in the dancing. All monies raised will go towards sponsoring special year end events and activities. A special thank you to Petra Turco for organizing this event and to the School Council for their support.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may be aware, our current director of education will be retiring as of July 31, 2014. The important responsibility of selecting his successor now becomes the task of the Board of Trustees.

We have engaged the services of Laverne Smith & Associates, a leading Canadian firm that has worked extensively with school boards and other public sector organizations across the country. Dr. Laverne Smith, our consultant, will be assisting us by gathering input from you, the educational community.

Your input into the qualities and characteristics that you would like to see in the new director of education is critical. Please take a few minutes to complete the [linked](#) online survey which comprises four questions. The survey results will be submitted electronically directly to Laverne Smith & Associates. All responses will be held in strict confidence by the consultant.

Please submit your response by **Tuesday March 18, 2014**. If you require more time to complete the survey, responses will continue to be accepted after this deadline.

Thank you in advance for your time and input.

Yours truly,  
Anna DeBartolo  
Diane Giangrande

Co-Chairs of the Search Committee for Director of Education  
York Region District School Board

## Primary Class Size for 2014-2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Board continues to respond to the Ministry of education's mandated requirements related to primary class size. In doing so, this has allowed us to make great gains in creating primary classes that maximize teacher time with students in support of their learning. As principal, I am working with my Superintendent and Board staff to plan for the upcoming school year. Each school board in the province will have to meet Ministry expectations. In general, on a board-wide basis, 90% of primary classes must have 20 or fewer students, and only 10% may have up to 23. In addition, while classes in grades 4-8 will not have a hard cap, each school board will be required to demonstrate a regional average of approximately 26 students to one teacher. As we proceed through the planning process, I will be sure to keep you informed as to how our school will be meeting with Ministry requirements. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely, Mme Baage, Principal



## **Spring Provincial Testing Update: EQAO**

In a few short months, our grade 3 and grade 6 students will take part in the provincial EQAO testing. Students in grade 3 French Immersion write only the Mathematics subtest, which is given in French. Students in grade 6 complete three subsets, namely reading, writing and Math in English. For parents interested in finding out more about the EQAO tests, please visit the website at <http://www.eqao.com> **Our Grade 3 and 6 students will take part in the testing between May 26- and June 6. If possible, please avoid taking vacations or booking appointments for your child during this time frame. More information will follow soon.**

# Library News



**Forest of Reading®:** The Forest of Reading® program is continuing at Poplar Bank! Please encourage your child to be reading the wonderful Canadian literature that has been nominated. Voting takes place in April and students need to read a **total of 8 books** in their category. Happy Reading!

## Research at and Online Access at Home:

To access our Library Collection Search Computer from home:

- Go to our school website: [www.poplarbacnk.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca](http://www.poplarbacnk.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca)
- Click on: Library
- Click on: Library Collection LI NK or go directly to [www.poplarbacnk.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/Library](http://www.poplarbacnk.ps.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/Library)

## Eco Team News

The February Eco theme is "Reduce the use of Paper Towels". There have been announcements during the month making the students aware of the importance of reducing the amount of paper towels used after washing hands. The theme is also displayed on the Eco Bulletin Board.

On February 13, we celebrated "Sweater Day". The heating system was turned down by a few degrees and the students wore a sweater to keep warm. Once again students from the Energy Conservation Team check all classrooms at lunch time to see if the lights are turned off when the room is not in use. We are hoping to see an improvement of "lights out" during lunch time from the month of October, when we also did a daily survey. We will post the results in the hall way on each floor by way of a bar graph during the first week of March. The locations for the results are on the wall beside the Eco Bulletin Board near the office. On the second floor the bar graph will be posted beside Mme McDonald's classroom. It is our hope that the students' awareness of conservation practices will be heightened and lead to life long habits of being good stewards of the earth's resources.

## School Council

Many of our school council activities are made possible through volunteers.

Due to a shortage of volunteers some of our Healthy Schools initiatives were delayed or cancelled for the 2013/2014 school year. **Crunchy Munchy** has just recently returned thanks to some new volunteers. Several parents are meeting every Monday at 8 a.m. to clean out snack bins and replenish them with fresh fruit and small bags of dry cereal. These are distributed to each classroom and available for students who forgot a snack or are still hungry.

The **You're-the-Chef** program previously organized for intermediate students will not happen this year.

Volunteers are also responsible for helping run our school **Pizza Days**, processing forms and payment twice a year.

Volunteers are always needed for 45 minutes at lunch time on Pizza Days to help distribute pizza to students. This is an important fundraiser, and helps fund many of our initiatives like new technology, library books, and special activities.

To help with setting up Crunchy Munchy bins or distribute pizza please e-mail [NinaDoiron69@gmail.com](mailto:NinaDoiron69@gmail.com). Even 45 minutes of your time once between now and the end of the school year would be a great help!

**Thank you to everyone contributing their time and energy to our school community.**

Our next school council meeting is **Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup>** at 6:45 in the school library. For updates on council activities, links to education resources, and community news please check out our Twitter account @PoplarBankSC



The senior boys basketball team had a great season. They practiced well in several exhibition games, and showed great Pride during the Area Basketball tournament on Feb 25th. Congratulations to the boys for a job well done!

Team Members- Bilal Amir, Kuros Nejad, Nicolas Bobadilla, Liukkor Johnson, Ethan Chisamore-Johnston, Kaden Marret-Cardenas, Daniel Amos, Seif Amer, and Arsheeya. Coach- Mme Sampson

The Area Basketball tournament for the Senior Girls is scheduled to take place on Thursday, February 27th. We wish team members Crystal, Jade W, Maya, Megan, Rayden, Sara, Slava, Stephanie and Tamara the best of luck! Hannah will be there to cheer the team on, despite a broken ankle suffered during an exhibition game. All of the girls have played hard and they continue to be very supportive of each other. Bonne chance!



## Music News!

**Music festival season has already begun!** On February 11<sup>th</sup>, the Advanced Band participated in the OBA (Ontario Band Festival) and played wonderfully! They were awarded with a **SILVER!** Congratulations! They were also awarded "Spirit of the Festival", for demonstrating respect and fine musicianship.

Below you will find a schedule of the Music Alive festival dates, times and locations.

<u>ENSEMBLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Beginner Band	Tues. March 18	Newmarket Theatre	9:30am
Advanced Band	Mon. March 24	Newmarket Theatre	9:30am
Primary Choir	Wed. April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cosmo Music Hall	9:30am
Junior Choir	Mon. April 7	Cosmo Music Hall	9:30am
Intermediate Choir	Mon. April 7	Cosmo Music Hall	9:30am
Calixa Lavallee	Wed. April 9	Cosmo Music Hall	9:30am
Glee Choir	Sat. April 12	Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts	10:00am
Junior Band	Mon. May 12	Newmarket Theatre	9:30am
Stage Band	Wed. May 14	Newmarket Theatre	9:30am

**Cosmo (Cosmopolitan Music Hall) is located at: 10 Via Renzo Dr, Richmond Hill**

**Newmarket Theatre is located at: 505 Pickering Crescent in Newmarket**

Parents/Guardians are welcome to watch the performances. **Come out and support Poplar Bank!!!**

***For all performances, students are required to wear their Poplar Bank black t-shirt, black/dark pants and black/dark shoes and socks. If your child does not have a Poplar Bank t-shirt, then a plain black t-shirt must be worn.***

Musically yours,

Mme Smith

### Winter Electives Update



The grade 4-8 students enjoyed skiing, snowboarding and tubing at Snow Valley. Some students engaged in several activities at the school, including an outdoor scavenger hunt in the forest and cool art projects.

Primary grades 1-3 enjoyed their day skating at Magna Centre.

We would like to thank all the parents and friends of Poplar Bank who have volunteered to be chaperones and take part in the winter elective activities! Such a day is not possible without the helping hands of many school staff! Special thank you to Mme Sampson, Mrs. Middleton, Mme Hampton, Mme Hazlewood and Mme Hodge and school staff who took part in leading and supervising the activities for these special days!





## **Student Safety is our #1 priority!**

It has come to our attention that the school bus companies, that provide before and after school transportation to our eligible bus students, experience difficulty addressing direct parental queries and concerns unless parents are able to provide them with the child's bus Route Number. When needed, parents may visit the Board transportation website at [www.schoolbuscity.com](http://www.schoolbuscity.com) to locate their child's bus Route # so that the school bus companies can respond to parent inquiries and concerns in a timely manner.

It is important for students to use the crosswalks at Woodspring and Spruce Grove, and Bonshaw and Woodspring. In order to increase student safety, we would like to ask you to review the following with your child(ren):



### **PROCEDURE FOR CROSSING WITH THE CROSSING GUARDS - 3 WHISTLE SYSTEM:**

#### **1st Whistle: CHILDREN REMAIN ON THE CURB.**

The Guard only proceeds to the center of the roadway to stop traffic.

**2nd Whistle:** When traffic has stopped, the Guard will blow a second whistle to advise the children to cross the road. **NO RUNNING OR BIKE RIDING PERMITTED IN THE CROSSWALK.**

**3rd Whistle:** After the children have been safely crossed and the Guard is out of harm's way, a third whistle will be blown to indicate to the drivers it is now safe to proceed.

## **Arriving to School on Time is Key!**

We would like to thank all students who arrive to school on time and thank their parents/guardians for their effort and support. Getting to school on time and into the classroom with all other students significantly contributes to academic and social success and allows students to be part of the group. Teachers' lesson plans even at the beginning of the day or session are carefully constructed to introduce new concepts or routines that are vital to student learning. Late arrivers interrupt precious instructional time and make it difficult for those arriving as well as those already seated to attend and stay focused at the task at hand. Missing even a few minutes can cause children to fall behind or feel left out. Most importantly, however, arriving on time impresses upon your child the importance of school and helps develop valuable habits and responsibilities that in the future will help them succeed both in school and the work place. Please note that these important times:

**7:50 Outdoor supervision begins**

**7:55-8:05 Students enter the school**

**8:05 School Begins**

**11:55 am - 12:55 pm Lunch Hour**

**2:35 pm Dismissal**

### **Some other things to consider**

If children are late arriving to school, they miss important social time with their peers before school begins. Students who are late often feel embarrassed or self-conscious. The beginning of class is the time when important announcements are made and instructions provided. Students arriving late to class not only miss announcements but late arrivals disrupt the routine of the classroom. A last-minute rush can be stressful for the child, and get him/her in the wrong frame of mind. Missing even five or ten minutes of the day can make it harder for a student to understand the material being taught.

### **Tips for being on time**

The morning can be a very hectic time. Here are some effective tips for getting your child up and out the door on time. Get your child to bed at a reasonable hour.

Set realistic and consistent schedules and rules at home. Getting ready for school should be a part of the child's overall routine; something that is expected of him/her every day. Do whatever is necessary the night before to save time in the morning, such as setting out clothes, packing lunches and setting backpacks at the door. Avoid distractions that can slow your child down, like TV or games. Set your alarm to get up earlier if you're running late regularly. Unfortunately, we often hear, "But I'm only 5 minutes late." If a student is a mere 5 minutes late each day, the accumulated number of minutes over time is shocking.

**-Five minutes late each day for 188 instructional days in**

**one school year is a total of 940 minutes.**

**-940 minutes =15.67 hours, a lot of learning can happen in 15 hours.**

**Reminder: Safe and Supportive Schools: Search & Seizure Protocol Between the York Region Police and the York Region District School Board:**

No Board employee shall conduct a search of a person or the belongings (for example, purse or knapsack) of a person except where there would otherwise be an imminent risk of death or bodily harm. The school principal has the right to search school property such as lockers and desks, without notice to or permission of any person. When necessary, the Police may be called to the school to conduct a search. These searches may be conducted without notice to or permission of any member of the school community other than the school principal. By observing these all these safety guidelines, we thank you in advance for helping us establish clear routines and better control the safety conditions in our school.

**Upcoming Health Education Units**

In the spring, Health Education Teachers will be teaching the Human Growth & Development units to Grade 1-8 students based on the topics and expectations outlined in the Ministry of Education curriculum documents. Topics range from life cycle, major body parts, reproductive system, family relationships, menstruation to name a few. Please see [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca) and look under "curriculum" for more information. Permission forms were sent home in mid-February for Parents/Guardians to review and sign. Please be sure to read through the topics to be covered for your child's grade level and sign the permission form if you want your child to take part in the Health Education units on Human Growth & Development. If you have any questions, please call the school office.

**Immunization Information:** If you have recently updated your child's immunization, please inform the York Regional Health Services. The York Region Health Services is required by law to keep and check immunization information for all children attending school in York Region. As of May 2003, York Region Health Services collects immunization information directly from parents/guardians of all York Region students. All communications regarding immunization should be directed to: York Region Health Services at 1-877-464-9675.

**Reminder: Poplar Bank is a "Nut-Aware" School**

We have a number of students and staff who have life threatening allergies to nuts and nut products. The most important thing you can do to help keep everyone safe is to avoid sending any foods from home that contain peanuts, nuts or nut products in student lunches and for snacks. Please read the labels to see if peanuts/nut products are present in the foods you are packing for school lunches and snacks. Students who accidentally bring food containing nuts will be asked to take it to the

office and a replacement snack will be provided and the food item will be sent home.

**Reminder: Ministry of Education Food and Beverage Policy PPM 150: Setting the Standard for Healthy Eating in School:**

It's a fact: a healthy mind depends on a healthy body. Students who eat healthy food are better prepared to learn and are more likely to succeed in school. In 2011, The Ministry of Education has released a new School Food and Beverage Policy that includes comprehensive nutrition standards. The policy outlines that all food and beverages sold in schools on a regular basis must comply with healthy food and beverage nutritional standards. In a school year, schools do however have the ability to identify up to ten events at which foods/beverages that do not comply fully with the Healthy Food standards may be sold to students and parents. Good health is a prerequisite for good learning. The School Food and Beverage Policy offers a way to encourage healthy eating in schools, and brighter futures for students. For more information about Ontario's healthy schools initiatives, visit: [www.ontario.ca/healthyschools](http://www.ontario.ca/healthyschools)

**Food and Beverages At Poplar Bank:** We do have celebrations for occasions such as: Halloween, Holiday Break, and Valentine's Day where we do have foods that do not all comply with the Food and Beverage nutritional standards. For these special classroom occasions, we do invite parents to send in healthy nut-free snacks and treats (for example: fruits, vegetables, popcorn, licorice, juice). Prior to sending in these foods/beverages for the class for these class occasions, we ask that parents always contact their child's teacher to discuss what food/beverage would be needed for these class celebrations prior to sending in the food and beverages into school. Through the year, we only invite parents to send in nut-free foods and beverage donations for the above-noted class occasions. Please note that due to several reasons (anaphylactic, nutritional, equity and class time preservation), we do not celebrate individual student birthdays with food and beverages during the school day. Please do not send in any food or beverages to school to celebrate your child's birthday. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

any  
please call  
office.



Should you have  
questions,  
the school  
office.



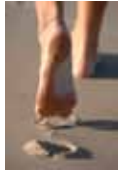


'Tis the time to order your yearbook. Order forms have been sent home. Please return the golden order form with payment before April 25<sup>th</sup>. You may wish to use one form for two or more siblings. The cost of one yearbook is \$25.00.

If you have any photos of fieldtrips or teams please submit them to Mme McDonald on a memory stick



Poplar Bank Public School  
Yearbook Cover Contest



Our annual Yearbook Cover Contest is about to begin! We want YOU to win a free FULL-COLOURED yearbook, worth \$25 dollars. We are taking our next steps into becoming a entirely French Immersion school from our roots as a dual-track community. Your drawing needs to reflect our NEXT STEPS.

*What you need to do...*

To enter our contest, you need to have the following on a white sheet (8 ½ X 11) of paper (portrait side only):

- The French logo (first): **Nos prochains pas!**
- The English logo (second): **Our Next Steps!**
- P.B.P.S. or Poplar Bank P.S. or Poplar Bank Public School
- 2013-2014
- Symbols / drawings reflecting growth / next steps (i.e., stairs, steps, footprints, etc. into the future)
- IN COLOUR, no pencil
- Use dark, VIBRANT colours, instead of *pale, light colours*
- Clear, LARGE, thick lettering
- School mascot (optional) - **lion or lion's paw**
- Name (first and last) & grade in bottom right corner (in black pen)

*Due date is no later than **Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>** (before Easter Break).*

**Please, only ONE colourful masterpiece per STUDENT!**

*Order Forms available on our website*



Newmarket Cares for Kids is a local non-profit organization whose aim is to promote and facilitate the participation of children ages 3-18 in physical and cultural activities, regardless of their ability to pay for services.

Opportunities with local groups featuring drama/musical theatre, karate, music and dance are offered (subject to availability). In some cases, transportation through a local taxi company may be available.

Call (905) 716-1447 for more information.



Operation Sparrow is a local non-profit organization whose aim is to promote and facilitate the participation of children ages 3-18 in physical and cultural activities, regardless of their ability to pay for services.

Opportunities with local groups, including karate and art, are being offered (subject to availability).

Call (905) 716-1447 now for information.

**Have You Changed Your Address or Phone Number? Are You Moving?**

If you have changed your address or phone number, or plan on moving, please call the school office. It is very important that we have your up-to date information in the event that we have to contact you for any reason. Please call the school office @ 905-953-8995 with any updates to your contact information.



The Snack Shack will continue selling goodies until March Break.