



Walter Scott Public School

500 Major Mackenzie Dr. E., Richmond Hill, Ontario L4C1J2

"A Place Where Everyone Belongs"

**DECEMBER
2013**

School Administrative Team

Principal: Kim Maybury

Vice-Principal: Deanna Durfy

Administrative Assistants

Sue Reid

Jennifer Hill

Superintendent of Schools

Karen Friedman

(905) 884-4477

Trustee

Diane Giangrande

(416) 969-8131

Transportation

www.schoolbuscity.com

**P.A. Day
Friday,
December 20th**

**Winter Break
December 23rd
to
January 3rd**

No School

From Your Administrative Team!

We were so pleased to see so many families at Student Led conferences. This was a great opportunity for our school staff and families to engage in dialogue about their children's learning goals and for our students to explain their strengths and areas for growth. Our next report cards go home in February and while there is not a scheduled interview at that time, we are available to discuss your child's progress at any time.

Our first ever, WSPS "I am" Exhibition was an all around success! This was an affirming experience in which all students and staff had the opportunity to focus on their unique contribution to our school. No doubt, the images of each student and staff member lining our hallways, will be a daily reminder of the amazing community in which we learn and how our unique qualities contribute to our school environment. As well, our "Wordle" of our school community character traits, is now a permanent part of our building, and will remind us, in the years to come, of our time spent learning together at Walter Scott P.S.

School safety continues to be a top priority. Last December, the Government of Ontario announced funding to support elementary schools to lock their front doors during the school day. As part of this process, our school is being equipped with a front door camera, monitor, intercom and buzzer locking system. Starting Monday, February 3rd all elementary school doors will be locked 15 minutes after the school bell rings in the morning and will stay locked for the remainder of the school day. All visitors, including parents/guardians will be required to use the buzzer at the front door and sign in at the office. Please be patient, when you arrive. This new level of security brings with it the need for visitors to wait outside, until someone in the office is able to buzz you in.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation in partnership with the York Region District School Board are working together to install a defibrillator in every school. In preparation for the arrival of the defibrillator at Walter Scott, many of our staff members volunteered to be trained on the use of the defibrillator including introductory First Aid training. Thank you to our staff volunteers who spent last Wednesday night completing the training! We feel well prepared to respond to an emergency should the need arise.

As the Winter Break is fast approaching, on behalf of our staff, we would like to wish all our families and students a happy and enjoyable holiday together! May your time be filled with joy, peace and many wonderful memories!

We look forward to seeing you back on Monday, January 6th, 2014.

Sincerely,

Kim Maybury
Principal

Deanna Durfy
Vice-Principal



School Council

FUNDRAISING UPDATE – GO STINGERS!

To date we have **raised approximately \$3,200** dollars toward our **\$7000** fundraising goal.

A reminder that **ALL of the proceeds** from the fundraising go directly **to our students!**

If you haven't already done so, please consider donating to the school.

We have asked **for \$20/child or \$30/family**. Those families who donate will have the chance to win 2 Toronto Maple Leaf hockey tickets.

Please submit your fundraising donation to the office as soon as possible!



Kindergarten

Junior Kindergarten Registration

**Junior Kindergarten Registration begins
January 17, 2014.**

Registration forms are available at:
www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca.

JK is available to students born in 2010, who live within the school boundaries and whose parents are Public School Tax Supporters.

All required documentation must be submitted and completed before your child can be enrolled.

Documents required for registration include:

- **Proof of child's age**
(birth certificate/passport)
- **Proof of residency**
(child and parent/guardian)
- **Citizenship and immigration status**
(if applicable)
- **Direction of school support form**
(school office)

Children born in 2010 are eligible for JK in September 2014. Children born in 2009 and not currently attending public school are eligible for SK in September 2014.

Current JK students do not need to register for SK, as they are already enrolled.



Don't forget...you can renew and purchase your favourite magazine subscriptions online 24/7 and support out school.

It's easy to support our school...

Go to www.QSP.ca and support our school.

Our school Group # is 10003

**Our online QSP magazine subscription fundraiser raises money to benefit our students while also encouraging more at home reading.
Remember, children love to receive their own mail.**

**Consider giving magazine subscriptions as gifts this year!
Each issue acts as a reminder of your thoughtfulness all year long!**

**Let friends and family know about our online fundraiser.
You can easily do this using the email feature at www.QSP.ca.**



Thank you in advance for your support!

All profits from online purchases go directly to our school!

**If you ever have a question regarding your order, please call
QSP customer service at 1-800-667-2536.**

Dressing for Outdoors



With the colder weather upon us, students need to come to school dressed to play outside during recesses, including coats, hats, and mitts.

During the winter, students are expected to come to school warmly dressed to play outside. **Students need to wear a winter coat, snow pants, hat, mittens, and boots.**

As children may get wet while playing during the snowy season, rather than having your child interrupt you to bring dry clothing, we suggest children keep an extra set of clothing at school, especially pants and socks. These can be kept in a labeled bag in the classroom, coat area.

All students, Kindergarten to Grade 8, are expected to go outside at recess. If your child is not well enough to go outside at recess, they need to stay home and rest until they are feeling better.

Being physically active during our Canadian winter is an essential part of a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle.



Safe Arrival

905-884-2693

Call Us !

When you know your child is going to be absent, please send a note to the teacher in advance. When the absence/late is unplanned, please call the office. The answering machine is always on, so you can leave a message any time - day or night. Press 1 to leave a message.

By calling, you let us know that your child is safe. It saves us from interrupting your day, calling you at work, trying to locate you, or calling all the emergency contact phone numbers to ensure the child is safe.

When a student is not accounted for we will :

- Call home to see if the child is there, then
- Call the parent/guardian at work/mobile, then
- Call the emergency phone numbers, and finally (if we are unable to confirm the child's safety),
- Call the York Regional Police.

This call is a safety check; in accordance with the YRDSB Safe Arrival Policy #665.

School Visitors

ALL parents and visitors are required to sign in at the office and wear a visitor's pass. Parents may not go through the hallways or out onto the school yard.

We ask that families wait outside for their children. If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please send a note or call the office for an appointment.

Following these procedures fosters independence in our students and ensures a greater degree of safety for all. We appreciate your support in keeping our students safe!



June 26th, 2014 Early Dismissal in Elementary Schools

All students have received a copy of the *2013-14 Learning Calendar*. Please note that on **Thursday, June 26th, 2014** an early release day will take place to allow elementary teachers and support staff to participate in activities in the afternoon of that day in support of student achievement and school planning.

Students will attend school during the morning of Thursday, June 26th, 2014 only. More details will follow closer to the date.



Up Coming Dates



| | |
|-------------------|---|
| December 4 | Dental Screening—K, 2, 8 |
| December 9 | Grade 8 Course Selection, Information Evening and Open House at Alexander Mackenzie H.S. 7—9 p.m. |
| December 10 | Milk program ends Pizza Day |
| December 11 | Mr. Sub Lunch |
| December 18 | Holiday Concert 6:30 p.m. |
| December 20 | PA Day |
| Dec. 23 to Jan. 3 | Winter Break |

2014

| | |
|---------------|--|
| January 6 | School Resumes |
| January 14/15 | Grade 8 Bayview S.S. course selections |
| January 16 | French Immersion Information Evening 7 pm. at Michaëlle Jean P.S. |
| January 17 | PA day Kindergarten Registration begins French Immersion Registration begins |
| January 27 | Grade 8 Alexander Mackenzie H.S. Registration due |
| February 12 | Report Cards Go Home |
| February 13 | Grade 8 Alexander Mackenzie H.S. Course Selection due |
| February 17 | Family Day |
| March 3 | Mary Poppins Play 1:30 p.m. |
| March 4 | Mary Poppins 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. |
| March 5 | Mary Poppins 6:30 p.m. |
| March 7 | PA day |
| March 10 - 14 | Mid-Winter Break |
| March 18 | Grade 7 Hep B shots & Grade 8 Girls HPV |
| April 18 | Good Friday |
| April 21 | Easter Monday |
| April 28/30 | Grade 3A/3B Swimming |
| May 5/7 | Grade 3A/3B Swimming |
| May 12/14 | Grade 3A/3B Swimming |
| May 19 | Victoria day |
| June 6 | PA Day |
| June 24 | Grade 8 Graduation |
| June 25 | Grade 8 Luncheon |
| June 26 | Early Dismissal 1/2 Day a.m. only |
| June 27 | PA Day |

Please Be on Time

8:15—8:30 a.m.

Supervision of students begins on the school yard starting at 8:15 a.m. It is not safe to drop students off prior to 8:15 a.m. as there is no supervision on the school yard.

3:00 p.m.

Students are to be picked up promptly at 3:00 p.m. Families are asked to ensure they are on time. It is disheartening to see the long faces, when children are left waiting in the office, after all their peers have gone home. There is no supervision for students beyond 3:00 p.m. If there is an emergency preventing you from picking up your child on time, please call the office. Families are responsible for children when school ends at 3:00 p.m.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

PLEASE



**NO PEANUTS
OR
NUT PRODUCTS**

Safe and Healthy Schools for Children with Allergies

School staff and parents are responsible for creating safe and healthy environments for students and staff. This is an additional challenge for schools attended by children with allergies, especially life threatening allergies. While we take every step to create a risk-free environment, school staff and parents can take important steps to minimize potentially fatal allergic reactions as there are implications for the whole school, not just individual classrooms.

It is especially important that parents communicate a life-threatening allergy to the school as soon as they are aware of it. Please notify the office and your child's teacher so that we have accurate records and establish the protocol to follow with your child.

We appreciate your support in working towards providing a safe environment for all of our students.

Math Corner

Belief in our children's ability to learn mathematics is essential.

Before your child can learn mathematics, he or she needs to believe in his or her ability to do so. That's where families come in. You can be your child's first role model for learning. When you engage with your child in a supportive, relaxed atmosphere, your child will enjoy taking risks while having fun with math!



Understanding mathematics builds confidence and opens doors to many jobs and careers and enables us to:

- Solve problems and make sound decision
- Explain how we solved a problem and why we made a particular decision
- Use technology (such as calculators and computer application) to help solve problems
- Understand patterns and trends so that we can make predictions (for example, keep track of how much juice is consumed so we know how much to buy each week)

How high? How Low? How much? How little?

Kindergarten to Grade 3

Comparing Things Around the Home

By comparing items around the home, your child can begin to understand some basic principles of measurement:

- Sometimes, we can estimate an amount. We don't always need an exact measure.
- The same object can be measured in different ways.
- A measuring tool is used the same way each time.

Ask your child to estimate how many of a grocery item your family will need for the week. Ask, "Why do you think that amount will be needed?" At the end of the week, have your child count the number actually used.

Gather containers, boxes and packages from the cupboard. Ask your child to put them in some type of order (taller/shorter, holds more/less, empty/full, heavier/lighter)

Gather empty containers of all size and a coffee scoop, plastic cup or the scoop from laundry soap. Have your child use water/rice to measure and compare the capacity of several containers. Have your child count and compare the number of scoops or cups it takes to fill each container. Ask, "Which container held the most/least?"

Grade 4 to Grade 6

Estimation: An Important Mathematical Skill

When to round up or round down, how to keep track of a running total—soon these estimation strategies will become second nature to your child?

Friendly numbers are numbers that are easy to work with mentally, and children can use them to estimate an answer. What friendly numbers are helping your child to track the total when rounding to the nearest dime? Quarter? Dollar?

- When you are shopping, have your child keep a running total of how much you are spending by using prices that he or she rounds up or rounds down. For a challenge, set a limit on the amount of money you will spend.
- Give your child an imaginary budget to spend at his or her favourite store (flyers or online catalogues may be helpful). Without writing down the amounts, have your child choose items to purchase. He or she will have to use estimation to stay within the budget. Then, have your child add up the actual costs. Did she or he stay within the budget? For a challenge, help your child estimate any taxes.



December Eco Theme: Reduce Your Footprint !

With the onset of winter we need to be aware of our carbon footprint. Our Board's footprint increases in the winter time due to our boiler plants consuming fuel. To lessen energy consumption during the winter season and stay warm we recommend the following actions:

1. Keep heat in the building by ensuring exterior windows and doors are kept closed.
2. Ensure all weather stripping is in place around doors and windows. If it is damaged, please let our caretakers know so they can have it repaired.
3. The use of personal heaters is discouraged (e.g. the use of electric heaters in rooms that already have heating systems offsets any savings that might be achieved through energy initiatives and programs such as the "Lights Out" program).
4. Ensure that all heating and cooling vents and radiators are clear of obstructions.
5. Wear fall/winter appropriate clothing to work in layers to keep warm and comfortable.
6. Use your blinds to assist with heating and cooling classrooms and offices.



French Immersion Information and Registrations



Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at Michaëlle Jean P.S. on January 16, 2014 at 7 p.m. FI registration will begin January 17, 2014. In order to streamline the registration process, parents or guardians of SK students entering Grade 1 in 2014, and wishing to enroll in the FI Program, can visit or call the school office and request an *Office Index Card - short version*. The Office Index Card must be signed by the principal of the home school and must be up-to-date. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing

their address to Michaëlle Jean P.S. to register between January 17 and February 14, 2014. This eliminates the need to provide duplicate enrollment information or to pre-register.

YRDSB's FI Accommodation Plan provides long-term consistency and equity of access to students in York Region and will enable YRDSB to continue to offer the FI program to all who wish to enroll. The FI program will be offered in Dual Track or Single Track settings, in a variety of configurations. In order to meet community needs and optimize space in our schools, a community's Grade 1-8 FI program may be provided over more than one school during the course of a student's FI education. This will allow flexibility in addressing community needs and the opportunity to use existing space in schools. More information is available on the Board's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Please note: Some of the FI accommodation plans will require facility modifications or the development of new schools and will require short-term transition plans that might include overflow while we work toward the long-term vision. Overflow refers to situations in which the Board directs students to attend a school other than their community school or optional program for a specific period of time, as defined in Policy #108.

Empathy

The ability to understand another person's circumstances, point of view, thoughts, and feelings.

When experiencing empathy, you are able to understand someone else's internal experiences.

"Let no one come to you without leaving better and happier" Mother Theresa

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is every wasted." Aesop

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." Plato

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Winston Churchill

"Kind words can be short and easy to speak but their echoes are truly endless." Mother Teresa

"One kind word can warm three winter months."
Japanese Proverb

*Character
Matters!*

Spirit Wear

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our school Spirit Wear. It will be arriving soon!

Once it arrives, we will be sending the items home with students. Orders are currently closed but if you missed out, we are hoping to have a second sale in Spring 2014. We will keep you posted.



NOVEMBER CHARACTER ASSEMBLY — HONESTY

Our school character focus during the month of November was honesty. Congratulations to all of the recipients (shown below). These students were recognized by their teachers and peers for demonstrating 'responsibility' in our school community, and no doubt in the broader community as well. They are to be congratulated for their effort and exemplary character. We are very proud of them! Keep up the great work, Walter Scott students.





Bus Cancellation

To ensure the safety of students, school bus service may be cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather, extreme temperatures and/or poor road conditions. In these cases, parents and students should develop alternate care/transportation arrangements.

Since some busing schedules begin by 7:00 a.m., cancellation decisions must be made by 6:00 a.m. to allow time to communicate this message to bus drivers. Cancellation decisions will only be made after thorough consultation with the Safety Officers of school bus companies servicing York Region and are based on several factors including precipitation, air temperature, road conditions and weather forecast.

Please note the following;

- A decision to cancel school bus service will be **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans and taxis will not operate.
- **School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather is not affecting all municipalities in York Region.** Both the YRDSB and YCDSB operate many regional educational programs. Students attending these programs are transported over large attendance areas encompassing several municipal boundaries. This limits the ability to cancel bus service using a municipality or zone methodology.
- Unless otherwise stated, schools will remain open and parents can make arrangements to transport their children to and from school even if school bus service is cancelled. **If buses are cancelled in the morning, they will not operate in the afternoon. Therefore students transported to school by parents will require the same transportation home.**

Parents, students and school staff are asked to access the following radio and television stations after 6:00 a.m. to receive bus cancellation information:

RADIO

| | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| 590 AM | 640 AM | 680 AM | 860 AM | 1010 AM | 1050 AM | 1540AM |
| 1580 AM | 88.5 FM | 89.9 FM | 92.5 FM | 93.1 FM | 94.9 FM | 95.9 FM |
| 97.3 FM | 98.1 FM | 99.1 FM | 99.9 FM | 101.1 FM | 102.1 FM | 104.5 FM |
| 100.7 FM | 107.1 FM | | | | | |

TELEVISION

| | | | | |
|---------|------------|---------|------|-------------|
| CITY TV | CTV Barrie | CFTO TV | CP24 | GLOBAL NEWS |
|---------|------------|---------|------|-------------|

A bus cancellation message will also be available at www.schoolbuscity.com and by calling 1-877-330-3001, or by following the YCDSB and YRDSB on twitter.

Please note that school bus charters will not operate when home to school bus service is cancelled (e.g. busses for fieldtrips).



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

A. Stewart
December 2013



The **Red Maple** Reading Club will begin this month. Students in grades 7 & 8 are invited to read from 10 new Canadian novels. Once they have completed five novels, they will be invited to vote for their favourite author. Hopefully we will be able to see the authors on a trip to Harbourfront in May 2014. We only have two copies of each book, so if a holiday or birthday is coming up, consider gifting one of the following titles to your child:

Between Heaven and Earth by Eric Walters,
Counting Back From Nine by Valerie Sherrard,
Devil's Pass by Sigmund Brouwer, *Jump Cut* by Ted Staunton,
Loki's Wolves: The Blackwell Pages by K.L. Armstrong,
My Name is Parvana by Debrorah Ellis, *Oak Island Revenge* by Cynthia d'Entremont,
Small Medium at Large by Joanne Levy, *Such Wicked Intent* by Kenneth Oppel,
The Reluctant Journal of Henry K. Larsen by Susin Nielsen.



SILVER BIRCH READING CLUB

The Silver Birch Reading Club
is starting this month!

Ms Matheson and Ms Selvarajan will be running the club for students in grades 4, 5 & 6. They are looking for serious readers who are willing to meet every week and are committed to reading all the books.

A meeting will be called shortly to discuss what day and time is best for the club to meet. Listen for announcements.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS in the Library



We will be learning about non-fiction books this month, so be prepared for some interesting book choices. Next month the SK students will be learning computer skills while the JK students do activities on the SmartBoard.

Please make sure your child's book comes back on time so he/she can get a new book and a sticker on his/her library card.

Library Days
Wodzinski is Monday
Brown is Tuesday
Larter is Wednesday
Bassel is Thursday



News from the Walter Scott Parenting and Family Literacy Centre



Special things are always happening at the
Walter Scott Parenting and Family Literacy Centre!

In October, our families dressed up for a costume party.

In November, we took the local bus to visit the Richmond
Hill Public Library.

In December, we will be having a visit from professional
artist, Tiziana Guido, to show us how to create our own
masterpieces with watercolour paint.

Please stop into Room 13 with your children aged
0 – 6 years to join in the fun!



Parent Worker: Vida Ansari

Open: Every school day between 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

No cost or registration required

Snacks are provided for the children



Positive Parenting TIP

Stress is common to everyone and according to Amy Przeworski (PhD) writing in the magazine, *Psychology Today*, there are many ways that parents/guardians can help reduce the negative effects of stress in our children. Here are a few to help ease the stress of the upcoming holiday season:

*Schedule relaxing activities.
Encourage good sleep hygiene.
Stay calm.*

For more information about “12 Tips to Reduce Your Child's Stress and Anxiety”, please go to <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/dont-worry-mom/201302/12-tips-reduce-your-childs-stress-and-anxiety>

Grade 8 Course Selection Information Evening and Open House



Alexander Mackenzie High School

300 Major Mackenzie Drive West, Richmond Hill

Monday, December 9, 2013

7:00 p.m. ~ 9:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Welcome:

Debra Conrad-Knight, Principal and Otilia Olteanu, Vice-Principal

Guidance Presentation:

Programming @ AMHS and diploma requirements

Department Visits:

Subject Department Heads will share information about grade 9 courses and curriculums

To be submitted to Grade 8 homeroom teachers:

Registration Forms are due before Monday, January 27th, 2014.

Signed course selection forms are due before Thursday, February 13th, 2014.



300 Major Mackenzie Dr. W.
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 3S3
Phone: (905)884-0554
Voicemail: (905)884-9734





December 2013



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--------------------|----------|
| 1 | 2 School Council Meeting 7 p.m. | 3 | 4 Dental Screening K,dgn. Gr. 2, & Gr. 8 | 5 Chanukah ends  | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10  Pizza Day Milk Program Ends today | 11 Mr. Sub Lunch | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 Holiday Concert 6:30-7:30 p.m. | 19 Holiday Sing-A-Long Stinger Spirit Day | 20 P.A. Day | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Winter Break | 24 Winter Break | 25 Christmas  | 26 Winter Break | 27 Winter Break | 28 |
| 29 | 30 Winter Break | 31 Winter Break | January 1 Winter Break | 2 Winter Break | 3 Winter Break | 4 |