



February 2018

John McCrae News



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Principal: Helen Hart
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Superintendent of Schools: Dan Wu - 905-940-7800
School Trustee: Billy Pang - 647-461-9965

Message from the Administrators

Dear Families,



It is hard to believe that we have moved into the second half of this school year! The year has been filled with many academic successes and growth from our students! It is at this time that we start to look forward into planning the 2018-19 school year. So that we may have accurate data about enrolment, it is important for us to account for all students who will be with us next year. If you are planning to move from the John McCrae PS area next year, please let us know via a phone call, note or email.

The Term One Report Cards will be sent home on February 14, 2018. These report cards are based on work completed during Term One. Now is a great time to engage in conversations with your children around setting goals for their continued achievement at school. Achievement includes both academic (goals related to curriculum) and social (goals related to learning skills). Student progress in learning skills can make a huge impact on how a child works and collaborates with others as well as how they approach different learning situations.

Thank you to our amazing School Council for their participation and the hard work many of our parents are doing planning our Family Fun Fair in June. All parents are welcome to support this wonderful home-school event. Please contact Fern Best or Helena Ke if you are interested.

A big thank you to Mrs. Corcoran for her organization of our Electives Days. If your child's day has not been reorganized since the Inclement Weather day, please stay tuned.

As always, we value your partnership and support of your child's learning.

Best Regards,

Helen and Krista



All About Safety!



Punctuality and attendance are crucial to your child being successful in their program. When students are late, they often miss important material being taught. It is critical that you call the Safe Arrival line when your child is going to be absent or late so that the school can ensure all students are safe. If you do not call the school, the school will call home, business, and then emergency numbers provided to ensure your child is safe. In the event that we are unable to contact anyone, it is Board policy that we contact the police.



Families: A great way to keep in touch with things that happen at school is Twitter! Follow us @johnmccraeps and @JMPS_Healthy

Literacy Corner

LITERACY WEEK

- The last week in January was Canadian Literacy Week. It is a time where we try to take a moment to reflect on how lucky we are as Canadians to have access to so many different books and literature. To celebrate, we hosted a wide variety of activities throughout the week-every student in the school was sent home with a free book, there were reading recesses, reading challenges, and the primary classes all received a special visitor to read to. Our literacy week ended with a PJ Day where students could snuggle up and read with their stuffed friends.
- In addition to improving our understanding of print, we have also been working with students and teachers in developing our understanding of digital literacy, specifically the language of coding. The reasons why we should be teaching our kids how to code are countless. Not only does it improve academic skills such as reading, writing, and math, but it also increases creativity, develops communication skills and improves self confidence. If that isn't enough to convince you, there is an extremely high demand for workers in the tech industry, as there is a shortage of people in the workforce today that know how to code.
- During the last couple of months, almost every student in the school has had an opportunity to experiment with coding. We participated in the Hour of Code which is now a world-wide movement. Part of learning the language of coding is learning how to navigate, so commands like, move forward and turn right, can be learned through play, and without the use of a computer. As students progress, they can experiment using websites such as <http://www.code.org> and <https://hourofcode.com.ca> Both of these websites have a variety of free activities and tutorials that progress in difficulty from beginner to advanced.
- We encourage all of our students and families to explore a number of different literacies, and enjoy the journey of learning!

Weather Update



- ◆ All students from Year 1 (JK) to Grade 8 are expected to go out for every recess unless the principal or vice-principal decides that weather conditions are so poor that it would be detrimental for them to be outdoors.
- ◆ Students are to come to school ready for winter and prepared to be outdoors up to 40 minutes after lunch. **We always monitor the weather and, in extreme conditions e.g. wind chill; we keep the students indoors or shorten the recess breaks.**
- ◆ We often receive requests from parents asking us to keep their children indoors during recess times because they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff or facilities to supervise students who are sick or still recovering from an illness. Students with heavy colds, etc., which are serious enough to prevent them from participating in physical education, recesses or other outdoor activities, should remain at home until their condition improves. This will likely benefit the students concerned and prevent the spread of this illness to others.
- ◆ Please make sure that your children are dressed properly for our invigorating winter days. It is advisable for students to bring extra pants and socks. A change is often necessary due to the wet and cold weather of the winter months. To avoid adding to our clothing collection in the Lost and Found, please be sure to label all articles of clothing. Boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, and snow pants for the younger children will help make recess an enjoyable time.

School Council 2017 - 2018

Please plan on joining us for the next School Council Meeting, which will be held in the library at 7:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 13th.**

Co-Chairs: Helena Ke and Fern Best
Secretary: Christy Chen

Treasurers: avina ip and Deepak arma

Please note - Our School Council is working hard preparing for our June Family Fun Fair. If you are interested in joining this group of dedicated parents, please contact Helena or Fern!



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Please join us for our
Family Fun Night
on Thursday, February
22nd, 2018
from
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
*Students must bring a family member to supervise them, as well as a pair of indoor shoes.

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EHello Families of John McCrae P.S.

Eco Crew continues to gather momentum. Here is a summary of the past month as well as a glimpse of what we are planning for the coming month. This January, Eco Crew students conducted an informal waste and energy audit. We found out that per student we generate about 10kg per year in recycling; 7kg in landfill waste and, 6kg in organics. We realized that this was equivalent to about 10 textbooks worth of recycling! With this in mind, we are encouraging everyone to REDUCE waste by REUSING different materials.

At school:

- We have started creating GOOS (Good On One Side) paper bins for our photocopying rooms and classrooms. Doing this will help us to reduce the amount of paper we throw out by reusing paper when we can.
- There will be a Boomerang Lunch Challenge starting later this month. A boomerang lunch is one whereby you take home any waste generated by your lunch. You can pack a waste free lunch by using reusable containers and buying less individually packaged items. Boomerang and waste free lunches can even help you save money. We encourage families to pack waste free OR boomerang lunches. It will be both divisional and a whole school challenge. Prizes will be announced in the coming weeks. The Boomerang Lunch Challenge will help us to reduce our recycling, landfill and organic waste.
- Sort it out - we continue to encourage students to sort their waste appropriately. Organics including paper towels go into the green bin, paper and other recyclable items go into the blue bin. Non recyclable and non-organic items go into the garbage pail.

Moving onward with our plan to REDUCE, we are also encouraging families to consider their energy usage. For example when it's cold at home, we can put on a sweater or get an extra blanket instead of turning up the heat. Rather than turning on ALL the lights, perhaps we can use a table lamp, or only the light in the room that we are using.

At school:

- February 1st is National Sweater Day, but we will be celebrating this as a school on February 15th. To raise awareness of how we can reduce our energy consumption through our choices, students are invited to wear as many sweaters as they can. The class with the most sweaters per student in each division will receive the annual Sweater Day award.
- Earth Hour is Every Day! We will be encouraging classes to turn out their lights for lunch and first recess; to consider using natural light sources and only turning on as many lights as they need. Eco students will be tracking energy usage by doing a walkabout and using the EcoWatch app.
- The Eco Club will be starting at the end of February. Students should keep their ears open for the opportunity to sign up.

We are starting to prepare for Earth Week which will be in April. Stay tuned for ways that you can get involved!

Together we can do great things, so we invite parents and adult family members who would like to support our ventures to please contact Ms. Ukposidolo at mercy.ukposidolo@yrdsb.ca, or write a note in your child's agenda and have them find her in room 212.

**Let's Reduce, Repair and Reuse to Nurture Nature!
- JMPS Eco Crew 2017-2018**

Registration for Year 1 Kindergarten commenced January 19, 2018

Kindergarten registration began on January 19, 2018 for the 2018-19 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2018, live within the school boundary and whose parents are public school tax supporters will be eligible to register for kindergarten. A kindergarten information session for parents is being planned for this spring. For more information please visit the YRDSB website or contact your local school. If your child did not attend Year 1 and turns five in 2018, they would also register commencing on January 19th for the 2018-2019 school year.

You will be required to please bring the child's original Birth Certificate, Citizenship papers, and Proof of Residency such as a Tax Bill, Purchase Agreement or Lease Agreement to the school when you come to register. Please register your child early.

Healthy School Newsletter:

Wednesday February 7th is Winter Walk Day and we are celebrating at JMPS by going on a school-wide walk that morning! It is so good for your health to walk to school and we are encouraging all of our families to make a plan to do more walking and less driving to school. We have started a new walking contest in January where each homeroom class, through their walking tally every Wednesday, will be competing to move their class mascot across our map of Ontario that is located on our Healthy School Bulletin Board. Class mascots will move depending on how many students in that class walked to school each month and there will be a prize at the end of the year for the class who get the furthest across Ontario! Classes are still also competing for our monthly Golden and Silver Running Shoe awards which are given to classes in each division who have the most walkers each month. Thursday February 22nd will be our February Family Fun Night. On these nights, our students are encouraged to bring their family members to the gym from 6:30-8:00pm to participate in some fun physical activities together! Please remember that everyone needs to bring indoor running shoes. Our Winter Activity Day that was cancelled due to inclement weather is being rescheduled. Our grade 7 and 8 students have already gone on their trips and our grade 6 trip is confirmed for Friday March 9th. Our trips for grades 3-5 will be confirmed soon and information will be sent home as soon as possible. Once all of those trips are confirmed we will set a new date for our K-2 Winter Activities here at school and information will be sent home about that as soon as possible as well.

Have a healthy February!



The connection between home and school is vitally important to your child's education. Please keep in contact with your child's teacher to ensure we work together :)

Message From Our Trustee

With report cards coming home, this is a good time of year to review your child's progress and to set goals for the rest of the school year.

As trustees, our goals are set out in the Board Multi-Year Plan. In the coming months, trustees will be reviewing and updating this plan. This process will include opportunities for public input, and trustees will be out in the communities talking about this. More information will be shared about this in the spring.

Developing and reviewing the Multi-Year Plan is just one of our responsibilities as publicly elected officials. Trustee responsibilities also include hiring the Director of Education, setting Board policies and the annual budget, and communicating with the public.

This is a good time to learn more about the role of trustees with the next municipal election taking place later this year on October 22, 2018. York Region District School Board has 12 trustees, elected by ratepayers. As a trustee, listening and communicating with families is an important part of my role. Students, families and members of the public are welcome to attend and observe any public Board, Advisory or Board Committee meetings and to share their views with us on policy and Board governance.

As we move into the second half of the year, I hope that you are seeing evidence of your child's learning and progress, and finding opportunities to get involved in their learning and the life of the school.

I wish you all the best for a successful second term.

Billy Pang

Kids love our delicious specials brought back for the month of February.

THE MID-WINTER VALENTINE'S SPECIAL

Fall in love with this special holiday lunch!

**Chicken parmesan, Pasta in tomato sauce
& a mini Vanilla cupcake**



Gluten-friendly option is available online.

Available on the days we service your school for the month of February.

FEBRUARY SPECIAL

Each month we feature specials and combos to bring you more variety. For the month of February your child can enjoy:

Pasta with meatballs in a homemade tomato sauce

Available in HALAL and VEGETARIAN options.

These items are available as a combo or entrée only.

Visit us on-line to see our full menu.

These specials are available until **February 28th.**

Place your orders today!



Don't forget February starts on a Thursday. Remember to place your orders for the new month by 10am the day before!

Ordering is easy!

Login to place your orders at www.kidskitchen.ca

Orders are accepted until 10am the previous business day (on Friday for Monday orders). A valid credit card is required.

We're here to help!

Live customer service: 8am – 3pm Monday to Friday.

Spend more quality time with your kids. Leave the lunches to us!

