



DONALD COUSENS P.S. JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Principal: *Tracey Cox*
EOAA: *Anne Beare*
Phone: 905-202-8120
Superintendent: *Dan Wu*

Vice Principal: *Robin Cockburn*
Office Assistant: *Louisa Lee*
Fax: 905-202-8121
Trustee: *Allan Tam*

For upcoming events and dates please visit our website at <http://donaldcousens.ps.yrdsb.ca/>

A Message From Administration

Happy New Year to all of our DCPS Community! We trust you all had a healthy, happy and relaxing holiday.

We are looking forward to continuing an exciting journey together. There are many things to note this month, including Junior Kindergarten and French Immersion Registration. Our dedicated staff continues to run many extra-curricular opportunities for our students. Some of these activities include: intramurals, cup-stacking, eco-club, dodgeball, volleyball team, cooking club, kindergarten helpers, office helpers, band, choir, library club, homework club, social justice club, student council, healthy schools team, and more.

We would like to formally welcome Mrs. McKenzie to our DCPS Family. Mrs. McKenzie is our new grade 8 teacher taking over for Mr. Demacio (who has recently begun his new role as Vice-Principal).

As always, please do not hesitate to call the school should you have any questions or concerns.

Your partners in education,

Tracey Cox
Principal

Robin Cockburn
Vice Principal


January at a Glance

Jan 17 – PA Day

Jan 17 – Kindergarten Registration for 2014 begins

Jan 17 – French Immersion Registration for 2014 begins

Jan 28 & 29 – Dental Screening


Our morning entry bell rings at 8:05 a.m.
Students are expected to be here at school for our entry bell.

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Kiss and Ride Drop Off Area

The safety of all the children is our number one priority. As DCPS continues to grow, the parking lot is becoming very busy. Thank you for continuing to work with us to ensure our Student Drop off area is safe.

- ✓ The painted area on the pavement and on signs where it states **Student Drop off** is not an area for **parking**, it is meant for a drop-off area only. Parents should remain in their vehicle and not park at the curb
- ✓ For their safety please have your children exit the vehicle on the sidewalk side, the inner lane is for moving traffic
- ✓ Please do not drop off at the bend/corner areas of the parking lot. This causes congestion and an unsafe drop off. Instead drop off along the straight area and the students can use the sidewalk to walk to the yard.
- ✓ **Other ways we can reduce the congestion:** Allow your child to take the bus; Walk if possible; Give your child time to get to schoolyard on time

Snow Day—School Bus Cancellation Notice



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 and/or transportation arrangements. Cancellation decisions are 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 is **region-wide** meaning all school buses, vans & taxis will not operate.
- School bus routes may be cancelled when severe weather is not affecting all municipalities in York.
- 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.**
- Parents, students and school staff are asked to visit the **school website** or 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 / 1540 AM / 1580 AM and
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

Please note that it is expected that parents do not transport other children to school without the knowledge or consent of the parent of the other children.

Kindergarten Registration is to commence January 17, 2014

DCPS will have full day Kindergarten September 2014

Kindergarten registration will commence on **January 17, 2014** for the 2014-15 school year. Registration forms are available on YRDSB's website: www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. Children who turn four or five years old during 2014, 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.

Kindergarten! ... here I come!



Emergency Clothing

With the wet and cold weather upon us, it would be helpful if your child brought some extra pieces of clothing that could be kept at school, in case they are needed.





French Immersion Information Sessions and Registrations

Information sessions for the French Immersion (FI) program will take place at **Sam Chapman PS** 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 Senior Kindergarten 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. Parents or guardians then take this form, along with one piece of identification showing their address to **Sam Chapman PS** 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 all 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 available 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.



YRDSB
Locked School Doors

Beginning February 3, all school doors, including the front doors and doors to portables, will be locked 15 minutes after the morning entry bell. The doors will remain locked for the rest of the day. Anyone arriving at the school after that time must buzz in and sign in at the main office.

Measures will also be put in place for parents/guardians to buzz in and pick up students participating in before and after school programs. More detailed information will be available in January. Measures will also be put in place to lock port-a-pack doors.

Our school continues to be a safe place where parent and community member involvement is welcomed and encouraged. This additional step will enhance the measures we already have in place, and ensure that all visitors sign in at the main office upon arrival.

Adults in our Building

Just a reminder that all adults in our building are required to enter through the front doors of the school and check-in at the office. Any adults in our building who are volunteering will be issued a volunteer badge. Please wait for your children after school outside of their regular entry doors. All students are dismissed from their regular doors, and are not to use alternate exits to avoid congestion. Thank you for your support.



HOLIDAY HEROES CAMPAIGN

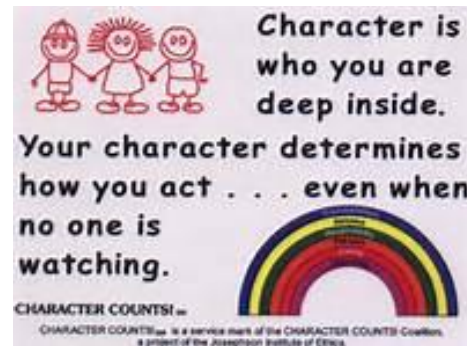
Thank you for supporting the Holiday Heroes campaign. We raised toys, mittens and hats for families in need.

From The Social Justice Club and Student Council



Character Matters for December: Empathy

Empathy Winners			
Teacher	Winner #1	Winner #2	Special Recognition to...
Mendoza	MW:	Ti: Leed Mikayla	
Daragh	MW:	Ti: Ivy Braeden	
Biggs	Jack	Alyssa	Holly
Vardakas	Aarav	Jasnoor	
Moon	Ibrahim	James	
Park	Chanel	Amanda	
Cianfero	Jason	Rachael	Hamza
Curie	Sajani	Anthony	
Wellkala	T.J.	Anjanees	
Ahmad	Ivy	Wesley	
Lyn	Aakiffi	Abi	Kylie
Saxton	Yuki	Sophia	Ryan
Duchek	Jason	Anjani	Justin
Cherbel	Anton	Tisha	Frank
Burbridge	Sunidhi	Naman	
Tagas	Joshua	Seethaa	Anika
Chow	Darin	Christine	
Tredree	Yuhao	Kristine	Meg
Mah/Mueller	Ivy	Noopur	Jonathan
MacDonald	Chloe	Dhiva	Rex
Russell	Maathar	Anam	Connor
Demazio	Luxman	Sai	Nithiyan
Grant	Chrissie		Madison
Woo	Sun		Gary
Virnie	William		Aaron
Chen	Samim		



The Character Trait for January is **Fairness**

We are sensitive to the needs of each individual. We treat each other as we wish to be treated ourselves. We interact with others without stereotyping, prejudice or discrimination. We stand up for human rights.

What is Character Education?

Character education is a deliberate effort to cultivate positive personal attributes and civility among students. It is a whole-school effort to create a community in which positive attitudes, values and behaviours are fostered. These qualities are promoted explicitly, modeled, taught, expected, celebrated, and continuously practised in every day actions. In short, character education is the promotion of universally desirable qualities such as respect, responsibility, honesty and integrity.

DCPS Eco Update

Thank you DCPS for doing your part to help us be green! Keep on sorting your compost, recycling (wet and dry) and garbage. Check the **Eco board** to see how your class can improve your rating.

LOL - Lights out Lunch has been a great success! By turning off your classroom lights when you are eating lunch we are saving energy at DCPS!

January's Eco Focus is G.O.O.S (Good on one side) paper



Be sure to use **BOTH SIDES** of your paper before recycling.
Each classroom should have a box of **G.O.O.S paper** available to use.

And why not try this at home too?

Check out these crafty ideas for re-using paper;

<http://www.favecrafts.com/Green-Crafting/17-Recycled-Handmade-Paper-Crafts>

We can make a difference DCPS!

GO GREEN!

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE PRESENTATION

Grade 8 and High School Students

Markham District High School

January 20, 2014

MDHS School Council would like to invite all parents and guardians to make a note on their 2014 calendar for January 20th. Please join us at 7 p.m. in the school Learning Commons (Library) for an information night courtesy of the York Region Police. Topics to be discussed include drugs and the new terminologies, sexting and warning signs. This presentation is open to all parents of high school age students and is a "must see" for all parents/guardians of grade 8 students.



Triple P Tip of the Month JANUARY Chores

Responsibility for chores helps children learn self-discipline, how to apply themselves to a job and how to help with the running of a household. You will find that you have more time with your child and yourself if you give your child chores.

KEY STEPS: Explain why it is important for everyone to help around the house

- Decide on a list of chores and who will do them
- Draw up a job roster
- Let your child know when their chores must be finished
- Tell your child exactly what needs to be done for the job to be satisfactory
- Talk about rewards and consequences
- Praise and reward your child for completing their chores
- Apply a consequence if your child does not complete their chores satisfactorily

SCHOOL COUNCIL

**NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY
JANUARY 14TH**

SEE YOU THERE!



Coming Soon.....

An Evening for Parents, entitled: "Helping Your Kids Build Positive Social Relationships". This workshop will be offered in Chinese, Tamil and English, and will take place in February. Stay tuned for more information.