



VINCENT MASSEY P.S. NEWSLETTER



A Peanut & Nut Safe School
November, 2017

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November 2017 Newsletter #3	10 Church St Bowmanville, L1C 1S3	Tel: 905-623-5502 Fax: 905-623-7341
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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The Importance of Communication

As always, we invite our families to participate in communicating with us to develop and keep our relationships with you and our students strong. Teachers are always available to set up a time to meet with you throughout the year. With that in mind, teachers are meeting with parents over October/November to talk about student progress and next steps. Throughout the year, we are also available to meet or talk on the phone. We are always working to keep small problems small, so never feel badly about calling to address a problem.

Embracing Diversity

(With acceptance and our community in mind, we are repeating the message from last year's November newsletter.)

As we move into the month of November, our students will be engaging in Remembrance Day Activities, as well as a Remembrance Day Assembly. Heading deeper into this time of year, there will be other special days and holidays. I can't stress enough how important it is that we keep in mind the many and varied traditions and rituals during this season of celebrations. We also need to keep in mind - and respect - that many of these seasonal traditions and celebrations are often related to one's personal, cultural or religious beliefs.

One example that just took place in October was the Hindu Celebration of Diwali. Diwali is

the most important of all Hindu holidays. During this celebration, Hindus light lamps, exchange gifts, play dice games, clean their houses, decorate and feast. Other upcoming special days and holidays include: Hanukkah (Jewish), Ramadan (Muslim), Winter Solstice (Secular), Christmas (Christian), Kwanzaa (African American Multi-faith Alternative Celebration), and Chinese New Year (Chinese Multi-faith Alternative Celebration). Many of these celebrations include similar elements to those practised during Diwali (e.g., candle lighting, gift giving, decorating, feasting with family and friends). So, let's honour and respect our differences while at the same time find places of common ground.

KPR believes that the process of multi-faith accommodations and partnership with members of its community will help to build an environment of mutual respect and understanding.

Please let us know about your celebrations during this upcoming season – either ones listed above or other ones not mentioned here – by calling us at: 905-623-5502.

New Superintendent

Our former superintendent, Joe Thompkins has moved to the role of Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. We are happy to welcome

Gloria Thompkins to our superintendency. I have worked with Gloria in many capacities over the years and she comes to us with a wealth of experience, compassion and expertise.

BEV ASSINCK

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

The Importance of Students Being on Time for School...

It is extremely important that students arrive at school on time. When students arrive late, they miss the first messages of the day as well as valuable instructional time. Classes are disrupted when already in session which can be frustrating for both students and staff. We want your child to be a consistent participant in his/her classroom community and being on time ensures that. We understand that very occasionally, there are circumstances beyond yours and their control that make a student late. I will be contacting the parents of any students who are frequently late to discuss solutions with them.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Keeping your children safe and comfortable in all areas of school life is always our focus, which is why it is so important that with the falling temperatures you ensure your child(ren) come to school with appropriate clothing for the weather. Dressing your child(ren) in layers is always a great way to cover all your bases – at least until the cold weather becomes a consistent day to day occurrence with potential signs of snow behind every cloud. At that point, it will definitely be time to switch right into winter gear.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Kindergarten to grade eight students will be participating in the Remembrance assembly on Friday November 10th during the second block at 10:50am. Mr. Hall is coordinating with several classes presenting/performing as well. We welcome parents/families to join us as our school community honours those who have made sacrifices for us.



Lest We Forget.

We would like to thank the Murphy family for representing Vincent Massey at the ceremony at the cenotaph by placing the wreath on Saturday, November 11. All families are welcome to attend. Let us never forget the sacrifices made for our freedom.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov 1 – Grade 8 Students visit BHS Samhain (Wiccan)
- Nov 4 – Birthday of Guru Nanak
- Nov 5 - Daylight Savings Time Ends
Treaties Recognition Week Begins
- Nov 6 - Clarington Basketball Clinic Grades 1-8
- Nov 9 - Progress Reports go Home
- Nov 10 – Room 143 to Outdoor Ed. Centre
- Nov 11 – Remembrance Day
Treaties Recognition Week Ends
- Nov 14 – World Diabetes Day
- Nov 16 – International Day of Tolerance (UN)
Louis Riel Day (ON)
- Nov 17 – International Students' Day
Grade 7 Immunizations
- Nov 19 – Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week begins
- Nov 20 - Transgender Day of Remembrance
International Children's Day (UN)
- Nov 24 – Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur
Professional Activity Day
- Nov 25 – Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week Ends
International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women (UN)
- Nov 26 – Day of the Covenant
- Nov 28 – Ascension of Abdu'l Baha
- Nov 29 – International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (UN)

LOOKING AHEAD



Dec 25 - Jan 5 Winter Break

SAFETY RULES FOR THE PLAYGROUND AND PLAY STRUCTURE

Safety rules for our playground are as follows:

1. Students may play on the structure from 8:15 until 2:50 only when a staff person is on duty. This means that if a staff member is not present, students must wait until one is.
2. All students will observe our hands-off policy on the yard and the playground structure.
3. Students may not run around/through the structure or play chasing games on the wood chip area. These games can take place on the yard.
4. Students may sit, not stand on the yellow bars that support the slide.
5. Go up the ladder and down the slide and only one person is allowed on the ladder at a time.
6. Go down the slide feet first.
7. Shoes must be attached to feet (no flip flops) and students will not play on the structure if they have items hanging off of their clothes that could cause an accident.
8. No loitering.
9. When caution tape is around the structure, it is closed. The structure will be closed for the winter.



OSHAWA GENERALS TICKETS

The Oshawa Generals have generously donated two tickets for home games for October and November to Vincent Massey.

We have completed random draws to see which students will receive two tickets for a specific game. There is no cost!!

The lucky winners from October were:

Sunday October 1 Dawson H.
Friday October 6 Jamal L.
Friday October 13 Oliver W.
Sunday October 15 Sawyer W.
Saturday October 21 Ryan D.
Sunday October 22 Spencer R.
Friday October 27 Brennen W.
Sunday October 29 Sarah A.

The lucky winners from November were:

Sun. Nov. 5th Alexa R.
Sun. Nov. 12th Isabel S.
Sun. Nov. 19th Chloe H.
Fri. Nov. 24th Liam S.
Sun. Nov. 26th Acen K.
Fri. Dec. 8th Robert H.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Each year, we complete 6 fire drills and at least 2 lock down drills to help our students and staff prepare for possible emergencies. We have completed 3 fire drills for the fall and will complete 3 more in the spring. We are in the process of setting up our lock down drills with our community police officer. Thank you to all students and staff for your commitment to safety for all.

A Note about Lockdown Drills...

The purpose of these drills is to reinforce emergency procedures with students and staff. Lockdowns are meant to protect students in case of a variety of possible emergencies, such as wild or rabid animals on the school grounds, police activity in the area, or intruders. These drills may include clearing the hallways and playground, locking doors and taking other defensive measures.

We recognize that, although the drill will not involve a real emergency, it may be confusing or unsettling for some students. We appreciate you speaking with your child about the emergency procedures that take place at Vincent Massey. With the support of staff and parents, well informed students are more likely to feel comfortable with, and prepared for, the drill or a possible emergency.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration information for September 2018 coming soon.

Your child can attend school in September 2017 as follows:

- **Junior Kindergarten** – your child is four years of age by December 31, 2018
- **Senior Kindergarten** – your child is five years of age by December 31, 2018

Please bring a birth certificate or other proof of age, proof of address, and current immunization record when registering your child. Registration forms also available at each school and also on the KPRDSB website.

LOST AND FOUND

Please have a look in our lost and found box over the next week or so. Items that are not claimed will be given to a charitable organization. Thank you.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!!!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who help to keep our kids healthy and ready for learning. **Unfortunately, we don't have enough volunteers.** If you can offer up an hour or two of your time one morning per week, please contact Suzanne at the school. Thank you.

TAKE HOME TUESDAYS!!!

In order to streamline the paper going home to you and to support the environment, 2 things happen:

1. Most families now receive their newsletter by email as determined by our September information sheets. If you would like your newsletter to be emailed to you and it is not already, please contact Mrs. Fallis at the office.
2. Most paper information that needs to go home from the office, goes on Tuesdays (including paper copies of the newsletter-electronic versions will be sent on the first Tuesday of the month as well).

SAFETY IN THE KINDERGARTEN AREA

To make sure all of our students are safe, the gate at the Kindergarten yard continues to be kept closed and latched from 8:15 to 2:50. All families are asked to please close and latch it when you go through.

THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING!!!

Come on down to the Wild West Book Fair! We are pleased to announce that our annual fall Book Fair will run from **November 9th to November 14th**. Lots of amazing titles will be offered and it's a great opportunity to start that holiday shopping too! The fair will be open will be open in the evening Monday November 13th. Y'all come back now ya hear!



OUR COMMUNITY ASSEMBLIES

Unless otherwise stated, our end of the month assemblies to celebrate our learning community and recognize the great things our students and staff do for each other, will take place on the last school day of each month. See the dates to remember for our dates and times.

PRODIGY GAME

Love learning math for free?

Prodigy is a Pokemon-style math game that thousands of students in Ontario are begging their parents to play. As your child plays Prodigy at home, they cover the exact same content that they would in school, and progress through the Ontario Curriculum. Sign up for free at:
www.ProdigyGame.com

HOT LUNCH FUNDRAISING PROGRAM

As you probably know, our hot lunch program has started thanks to the hard work of our School Council and volunteers.

Please understand that we cannot accept late orders. Order envelopes clearly state the return date and time. It takes a great amount of time by our volunteers to sort, count, and create orders for the pizza and hot dog lunches. We cannot ask them to keep altering the orders after they have done this.

Hot lunch will be every Tuesday and we will have 3 weeks of Pizza then one week of Hot Dogs unless you hear otherwise...

Oct. 31 - Pizza
Nov. 7 – Pizza
Nov. 14 – Pizza
Nov. 21 - Hot Dog
Nov. 28 - Pizza
Dec. 5 – Pizza
Dec. 12 – Pizza
Dec. 19 – Hot Dog

POINSETTIA SALES



Vincent Massey will again be selling poinsettias as a fundraiser. The pick-up date for the plants is set **tentatively** for Wednesday November 29th. More

information will be coming home in November.

Online Homework Help

Dear Parents/Guardians

This year, and for this year only, through special Ministry funding, KPR has registered for Online Homework Help in **French**, Math and English as well as French practice activities. The support will be available free of charge to ALL KPR students.

To register to the Virtual Campus which opens **October 2nd, 2017**, you will need to:

- Visit voilalearning.com, click on 'My school board is registered'
- Enter the code: KPR16

The Virtual Campus will be open **Monday to Thursday** from **5pm to 8:00pm** for homework help (send the homework to: homework@voilalearning.com before accessing the platform) and from **6:30pm to 8pm** for French practice.

INTERMEDIATE HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

Winner Aleah W. as the Mad Hatter
Honourable Mention goes to Emilee O. Joel J. and Delton M.

The criteria was ingenuity and creativity.