



VINCENT MASSEY P.S.

FEBRUARY/MARCH

NEWSLETTER



A Peanut & Nut Safe School

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Principal: Barb Speed barbara_speed@kprdsb.ca | Superintendent: Sonal Gohil Sonal_gohil@kprdsb.ca | School Council Chairs: Kristine Phillips, ks.phillips@live.com |
|--|--|---|

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| February/March 2025 Newsletter #6 | 10 Church St Bowmanville, L1C 1S3 | Tel: 905-623-5502 Fax: 905-623-7341 |
| Trustee: Cathy Abraham 905-987-1833 Cathy_Abraham@kprdsb.ca | Trustee: Paul Brown 289-671-7043 Paul_Brown@kprdsb.ca | Trustee: Kathleen Flynn 905-404-6201 Kathleen_Flynn@kprdsb.ca |

DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb 6 – Primary Choir singing at the Eagles Game
 Feb 10 – 14 Spirit Week
 Feb 19 – Int Boys Basketball Tournament
 Feb 25 – Grad Photo Retakes
 Mar 7 – 14 – March Break
 Mar 21 – Dental Screening JK/SK/Gr. 2

| FEBRUARY 2025 |
|--|
| ☞ 2 Vasant Panchami |
| ☞ 2 Imbolc |
| ✱ 12 Lantern Festival |
| ☾ 14 Nisfu Sha'ban |
| ✱ 15 Shakyamuni Buddha's Nirvana Day ● |
| ☞ 17 Family Day (ON) |
| ☼ 25-28 Intercalary Days |
| ☞ 26 Mahashivratri ● |
| ☞ 26 Pink Shirt Day |

| MARCH 2025 |
|---|
| ✱ 1-19 Bahá'í Fast |
| ☾ 1 Ramadan begins ☾ |
| † 3 Clean Monday (J) |
| † 5 Ash Wednesday |
| ☞ 8 International Women's Day |
| ✱ 13 Eve of Purim |
| ✱ 14 Purim |
| ☞ 14-15 Holi |
| ☞ 14-16 Hola Mohalla |
| ✱ 18 Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva's Birthday |
| ☼ 20 Ostara/Spring Equinox ●● |
| ✱ 20 Naw Ruz (New Year) ●● |
| ☞ 20 Journée internationale de la Francophonie |
| † 21 Navroze (New Year) (FC) ● |
| ☾ 21 Eid-e-Navroz |
| ☞ 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination |
| † 26 Khordad Sal (FC) ● |
| ☾ 26-27 Lailat-ul-Qadr |
| ☾ 27-28 Jumu'atul-Widaa |
| ☞ 30-April 7 New Year/Vasant Navratri begins |
| ☾ 30 Eid ul-Fitr Begins ☾ |
| ☾ 31 Eid ul-Fitr ● |
| ☼ 31 National Indigenous Languages Day |
| ☞ 31 International Transgender Day of Visibility |

Kindergarten Registration Information for September 2025

Your child can attend school in September 2025 as follows:

- **Junior Kindergarten** – your child will be four years of age by December 31, 2025
- **Senior Kindergarten** – your child will be five years of age by December 31, 2025

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

Outdoor Play + Warm Clothing = FUN!

Having fun and learning to play games in a fun and cooperative manner is something that children need to learn and practice!

With the cold weather upon us, we ask that you ensure your child comes to school dressed for the weather and prepared for outdoor play. Students are outside for all recess and lunch breaks unless the weather is inclement. Although we encourage the students to stay dry and away from puddles and wet, muddy areas, an extra pair of socks/underwear/pants in the backpack is always a good idea!



Principal's Message

Dear VMPS Families and Community,

As we move through the second month of the year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the spirit of the community that continues to thrive here at Vincent Massey. February is a time when we focus on the importance of staying connected and supporting one another, whether through our academic achievements, shared events, or day-to-day interactions.

Winter can be unpredictable, so I want to remind all families to please ensure students are dressed appropriately for the cold weather. Hats, gloves, scarves, and warm coats are important to keep everyone comfortable and safe during recess and outdoor activities. We encourage students to be prepared for varying temperatures, as we often go outside unless the weather conditions are extreme.

The support and involvement of our families and staff continue to make Massey a wonderful place to learn and grow. Thank you to all the parents and guardians who volunteer their time and contribute to our school's activities. Your dedication makes a real difference in the lives of our students, and we appreciate all that you do.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our incredible staff, who work tirelessly every day to provide our students with a high-quality education and a nurturing environment. Your hard work and passion do not go unnoticed!

As we continue through this month, let's keep up the positive energy and encourage one another to stay engaged and inspired. We are excited about what's ahead and look forward to working together to make this a great month for everyone.



EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

Inclement Weather

On inclement weather days when buses are cancelled due to poor weather and roads, **KPR schools will remain open for students and staff.** As always, families have the final say on whether they wish their children to attend school on those days.

If your child rides the bus, please ensure that you have created an account with STSCO so you will receive cancellation/delay notifications.

On the rare occasion of the school being closed, we will inform families in several ways, including local news media, on www.kprschools.ca, through our social media channels (@kprschools on Twitter and Facebook), and by email or text from School Messenger.

COLD WEATHER AND OUTSIDE RECESS/ACTIVITIES

It is important that children have outside time and fresh air. The following are some of the benefits:

1. **Stronger bones and lower cancer risk:** Today's "indoor kids" don't get enough sun and are becoming Vitamin D deficient, causing health risks.
2. **Trimmer and more healthy kids:** An hour of play a day is what doctors say is a basic tool in the effort to ward off childhood obesity and diabetes.
3. **Improved eyesight:** Recent studies find that kids who get outdoor time have less nearsightedness and need eyeglasses.
4. **Less depression and hyperactivity:** Outdoor time in natural setting (even tree-lined streets) soothes kids and lowers their need for medications.

5. **Longer attention spans:** Children who stare at TV and video games all day have less patience and shorter attention spans.
6. **Better at making friends:** Children playing together outdoors relate directly with one another, create games together, choose sides and improve their "people" skills.
7. **More creative:** Outdoor kids are more likely to use their own imaginations, inventions and creativity while playing.
8. **Less "acting out" at home and school:** Getting kids away from TV violence and video games helps them see that violent behaviour does not always solve problems.
9. **Measurably better grades in school:** The healthy bodies and minds that come with outdoor play are better able to do well in school.
10. **A longer lifespan and healthier adult life:** Doctors estimate that sedentary and obese children lose three to five years from their life expectancy.

EXTREME COLD

The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board released an operations memo that contains information regarding how to deal with extreme cold. You will find that memo attached to this newsletter. The guideline provided is that when the wind chill is -20C or lower students should remain inside.

NUTRITION PROGRAM **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Everyday Vincent Massey provides a nutritious snack to its students. The benefits of this are endless, from social to physical. Currently, we are in dire need of volunteers to keep this program running.

It involves about 2 hours of your time (8:30 – 10:30) and includes preparing the snacks, delivering the snacks, and cleanup.

We have a fantastic volunteer “Tammy” who heads up the program and can show you what needs to be done.

You do not have to commit to everyday, even one day makes a big difference. You will require a valid police record check which Ms. Coffey or Mrs. Fallis can help you with.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact us in the office and we will get your information to Tammy.

A Message from Ms. McGillen and your Student Council

Your student council is back in full swing organizing events for their peers and our community at large.

The goal of student council members is to build school spirit, create a stronger sense of belonging for their peers, understand and harness the power of community, and build their own leadership and public speaking skills.

Most recently, our Student Council ran the Candy Cane Gram initiative which

was hugely successful. Not only did they help spread cheer and encourage kindness between students, but they also raised over \$1000 towards the grade 8 grad trip. This initiative took students giving up their own time to sell, make, sort, and deliver Candy Canes to their peers, they should be very proud of their contributions to our community.

In 2025 you will see student council members continuing to run; our house colour assemblies, two more spirit weeks, student socials, single whole school spirit days, and more that they don't want to give away just yet!

SAVE THE DATE! The first Saturday in May will be our annual Garage Sale. The goal of the garage sale is to build a stronger sense of community at large while raising money for the student council. We want to open our school doors and let the community in! Community members like yourself will be asked to drop off donations the Friday night before the sale, things that you no longer need (houseware, furniture, clothing, sports equipment, toys, books, etc.) that still have life left in them. Student council members will sort and organize them Friday night and prepare a great sale for our community on Saturday morning.

That is, it for now, stay tuned for more news from your student council!

A NOTE FROM YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

February is the month of love; a reminder to take care, love yourself and spread care and kindness into everything you do. It is the bridge between winter and spring and the shortest month of the year. This February, embrace the beauty of small moments.

Our school moto is “I am, because we are, together we are a community”. Fundraising is not possible without our School Community and every dollar raised goes to benefit students through purchases of programs, goods or opportunities that enhance learning and contribute to student well-being.

A reminder of our **Boston Pizza** and **Maverick’s Donut Company** fundraisers running throughout this school year. If you dine at Boston Pizza Bowmanville, write **Vincent Massey PS Bowmanville** on the back of your receipt and drop it in the box at the front door. Boston Pizza will donate a portion back to the school. At the Maverick’s Donut Company, located at 2378 Durham Regional Hwy 2 Unit 4 in Bowmanville, when you purchase their products, keep your receipt and deliver it to the school, and we will collect them throughout the year and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the school at the end of the year.

Once again, a new option to VMPS is our “Donation Button”. An option to donate straight to the school via School Cash Online and skip the fundraising options.

Vincent Massey SCC is hosting a book exchange in April for National Book Day. A flyer will be sent home closer to, but in the meantime if you are thinking of clearing out your Library, think of us and hold onto your extra books until April.

Our next meeting of SCC will be **March 3, 2025, at 6pm in the Library**. Come out and introduce yourself; meet some great Parents, Kids and Staff and share any ideas or thoughts you might have.

Looking forward to meeting you!

Your SCC