



VINCENT MASSEY P.S. NEWSLETTER

A Peanut & Nut Safe School

Bev Assinck, Principal Jackie Robinson, School Council Chair Melanie Assing, Vice-Principal
Beverly_Assinck@kprdsb.ca stillscrappin@yahoo.ca Melanie_Assing@kprdsb.ca

March 2017 Newsletter #7	10 Church St Bowmanville, L1C 1S3	Tel: 905-623-5502 Fax: 905-623-7341
Trustee: Sarah Bobka 289-356-2133 Sarah_Bobka@kprdsb.ca	Superintendent: Joseph Tompkins Joseph_tompkins@kprdsb.ca	Trustee: Cathy Abraham 905-987-1833 Cathy_Abraham@kprdsb.ca

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 1** – Ash Wednesday
Lent Begins
- March 6** – Sibling Picture Day and Grad Picture Retakes
- March 7** – School Council Mtg 6:30
Pizza Day
- March 8 – International Women’s Day (UN)
- March 9** – Last Day before March Break
- Mar 10-17** – March Break – No School
- March 12 – Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 13 – Commonwealth Day
Holi
- March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
- March 19 – Earth Hour
- March 20 – Journee de la Francophonie (Can)
Ostara
Spring Equinox
- March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UN), Naw-Ruz
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism & Racial Discrimination begins
World Down Syndrome Day (UN)
- March 21** - Pizza Day
- March 22 – World Water Day (UN)
Intermediate Scientist in School
- March 25 – International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (UN)
Earth Hour



March 27 - Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism & Racial Discrimination ends

Dental Screening

- March 28** – Hot Dog Lunch
- March 31** - Future Aces Assembly
- March 31 – National Aboriginal Language Day (Canada)

Character in the Workplace Attribute for March: Honesty

I am sincere, truthful and trustworthy.

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

It seems that we’re moving back into winter after having had spring already.

Keeping Busy

- February has been a very busy month, which means that it has passed by quite quickly. Our activities have included but are not limited to...
- Outdoor Ed Trips
 - Primary hikes
 - A variety of Primary activities
 - Spirit Team Arts work (all grades)
 - Our first Intermediate Activity days including Skiing, web-design, crafts, volunteering in younger classes
 - Boys’ and Girls’ Intermediate Basketball Tournaments
 - Junior and Intermediate ‘Dimes 4 Times’

sponsored by Their Opportunity
-Their Opportunity bake sale
-Second City (Drama Trip for Intermediates)
-Chess Club start-up
-Guitar Club start-up
-Intermediate Social Justice Group start-up

I would like to send out a great big Thank You to all of our staff who have worked diligently to make sure that while we have focused on the curriculum, we have also helped students have lots of fun.

Welcoming Mrs. Crawford

Ms. Assing will be off for a few weeks and will return after the March Break. We would like to welcome Mrs. Crawford who will be Acting Vice Principal for the last block of every day until then.

Goodbye Mrs. Forbes....Hello Mrs. MacDonald

Our whole school community would like to thank Mrs. Forbes for all the wonderful things you have done for our grade 1 class and the school while you have been covering Mrs. MacDonald's maternity leave. Mrs. Forbes' last day will be March 9. Mrs. MacDonald, welcome back on March 20th.

Looking after our Well-Being...

The end of winter can be a very difficult time for many students. If you have any concerns about your child's mental health that you would like us to know about, please contact your child's teacher or give me a call.

After School Tutoring

From after the March Break until the end of May, we will be offering free after school tutoring for a limited number of students from grade 1-8. We currently have 4 tutors who will be working with small groups of students or 1:1 to support general literacy, numeracy, home work and project completion. Tutors will work with classroom teachers to determine the focus for the student(s) during this time. The program will start at 3:00 and run to 4:00 on Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday. Students will be committing to attending on both days as determined through the application process. Parents will be responsible for their child getting home (either picking them up or granting permission to walk home). If you are interested in your child participating, please contact Suzanne Fallis (secretary) or your

child's teacher to ask for a request form. The forms must be returned by **Monday, March 6th** at the latest.

Bev Assinck

VICE-PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

At the end of the school day, congestion around the school driveway and surrounding streets -with our three buses making their way through for student pickup, as well as parent pickups and other special end-of-day arrangements - continues to be a time we all need to practice extra safety awareness. Thank you to all those who park and then walk up to the school to meet their child/ren at their exit door or a predetermined "safe" spot at either end of the school. Every little bit counts and is making a difference.

I would also like to remind everyone to be very aware of those people who may be walking across the driveway to a parked car either in the parking lot or on the street. Those walking to parked cars are asked to practise and reinforce basic "Traffic Road Safety" rules like:

- looking all ways before stepping out to cross the driveway,
- watching for turning vehicles or vehicles backing out of a parking spot,
- making eye contact with a driver,
- not walking between any parked buses, and
- staying in clear view of all drivers (e.g., not standing at the back of vehicles or in a driver's blind spot).

If we all continue to do our bit, we will ensure the safety of everyone (especially our students), during our End of Day Dismissal Routine.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Melanie Assing and Mrs. Crawford



New Stop Sign

Please note there is a new stop sign where you exit the parking lot. It is imperative that

vehicles come to a complete stop before proceeding onto the roadway.



GRAD RETAKES

On March 6th grade 8 students will be able to have retakes. Please be advised the students MUST hand in their original sitting to the photographer to qualify.



SIBLING PHOTOS

Sibling photos will also be on March 6th. Please make sure you return the form to the school. We have extras available if needed.

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration is underway for Junior Kindergarten! Stop by to pick up your registration package soon!
The following requirements apply:

Junior Kindergarten – child must be four years of age by December 31, 2017.

Planning for Kindergarten Orientation will start in the spring. Make sure you're registered so you don't miss out!

Getting Your Child Ready for Kindergarten

- Talk with and listen to your child about daily activities. Strong oral communication is a solid foundation for learning.
- Encourage your child to speak about their feelings, actions and needs with other children and adults.
- Find opportunities where your child can interact with children their own age.
- Provide opportunities for your child to manage alone when toileting, dressing, tidying and eating.
- Discuss personal safety routines. Encourage your child to know



their name, address and telephone number.

- Read to your child regularly. Select a variety of books of different lengths and subjects.
- Support your child's fine motor skills by drawing, cutting, gluing and handling playdough.
- Encourage running, climbing and playing outdoors. Use television and technology wisely.
- Embrace everyday learning opportunities. Read signs, packages and labels, count household items and play board games.

Parents and guardians worried about their child's readiness for Junior Kindergarten or Senior Kindergarten should contact their child's school principal as early as possible. Schools are a good source of information and may be able to help parents get support for their children.

For more information, please call your local school principal.

THE VINCENT MASSEY DANCE –A-THON

When? Thursday March 9, 2017

How? Raising money through pledges

Where? VMPS Gymnasium

Why? The generous donations collected will be used to support school council initiatives such as:

- increasing and improving technology in the classroom,
- improving the outdoor space for students and
- enhancing the classroom experience for students by providing arts and music related opportunities.

This event is coordinated and run by Grade 8 Vincent Massey students, school council and school administration.

Our theme will be 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow'.

Thank you for your continued support!



someone out or treating a person badly because of a disability.

BULLYING AND CONFLICT

A bully is a person who...hurts people again and again on purpose AND PUTS THEM DOWN.

According to the Ministry of Education, bullies have more power – or they are seen as having more power – than those they target. This real or perceived power difference can be based on one or more factors the Ministry says may include: “size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education.” In all of these cases, the bully is denying the individual’s right to be treated with dignity and respect.



Bullies can put others down in a variety of ways:

- physical bullying, such as hitting, kicking, spitting or damaging property
- verbal bullying, such as name calling, insults, slurs and harassment
- social bullying, such as rolling your eyes, excluding someone, gossiping or spreading rumours
- electronic bullying, such as texting, email and internet sites used to threaten, harass or embarrass someone
- racial bullying, such as racist jokes, or saying bad things about another’s culture or ethnic origin
- religious bullying, such as negative comments about another’s beliefs, making jokes about someone’s beliefs, or name calling
- sexual bullying, such as homophobic, transphobic or sexist comments, leaving someone out, inappropriate touching, pinching or grabbing in a sexual way, crude sexual comments, or spreading sexual rumours
- Disability bullying, such as leaving

In all such cases, the bully is denying basic human rights, and the bullying is never acceptable. If you have concerns that your child or teen is being bullied, please tell us, as soon as possible. Please speak with the teacher, principal or vice-principal, or use our online Report Bullying web link to let us know, at <http://www.kprschoools.ca/students/reportbullying.html>

From the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board

MARCH OSHAWA GENERALS TICKET WINNERS

Congratulations to the following students who won tickets to see the Oshawa General’s in March. Shianne F, Jacob N, Quintyn J, Sam S, Carter C.



PARENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Here are five things to help your children succeed in school:

- Tell your children that you think it is important that they do well in school
- Talk to your children about what is happening in school
- Help your children to develop self-confidence and persistence. Give them praise when they try hard, not just when they do well.
- Read together (in any language!). Read stories, newspapers, recipes or instructions together, then talk about what you read.
- Get involved in your children’s school. Go to parent-teacher meetings, school council, sports meets and special events at the school.

For information in 6 languages:

<http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/how-does-education-work/multi-lingual-information-for-parents/>

EARTH HOUR 2017

It's back! KPR encourages families to participate in Earth Hour once again on Saturday, March 25, from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Participation is easy; just turn off your lights and electronics for the hour. Then, once Earth Hour is over, register online at kprschools.ca to indicate the number of people in your family who participated in the event. The five KPR schools with the highest percentage of families registered as having participated in Earth Hour will receive special banners. Since KPR first started encouraging families' participation in Earth Hour nine years ago, about 30,000 people have registered with KPR. Please join us in recognizing the importance of protecting our planet. Further information is available at earthhour.org



INTERMEDIATE BOYS BASKETBALL

On Wednesday February 15th the VMPS boy's basketball team played in the Bowmanville West District Basketball Tournament. The boys demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, awareness of basketball expectations and levels of development. Each and every game the boys became more competitive and continued to develop team play.

Thanks to Mr. Walters and Mr. Nugent, and most of all, the players.



CLARINGTON EAST BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

I would like to thank all the student volunteers for doing the score sheets and running the clock for our annual Clarington East Basketball Tournament. Without these students volunteering their efforts to score keep and time, I would not be able to run the tournament.

Thanks for a great day!

Ms. deVries



INTERMEDIATE GIRLS BASKETBALL

On Wednesday, February 15th, the girls' basketball team played in the Clarington East basketball tournament. The girls played with a lot of heart, passion and team spirit and everyone represented Vincent Massey very well. A big congratulations goes out to all of the girls on the team for a great season!

JUNIOR VOLLEYBALL

On Thursday February 2nd the junior volleyball team came 3rd at the tournament. The team demonstrated excellent sportsmanship while learning many new skills



Mrs. Rowan, Mr. Rice & Mrs. Crawford

CUPCAKE DAY IS COMING



Wednesday March 8th the grade 8 graduation committee will be selling cupcakes for \$1 to raise funds to put towards their graduation. This is available to all the students JK-Grade 8.

They will also be accepting donations of cupcakes to put up for sale.

Thank you in advance for your support.

JUNIOR POP CHOIR

We will be starting a junior Pop Choir where we sing some modern popular music hits a couple times a week at recess break. It starts next week and continues until the weather is too good to stay inside! Ms. Rowan



PLEASE KEEP SUCKERS (LOLIPOPS) AT HOME

In the interest of safety, please make sure that suckers stay at home. At school, there is a high risk for injury including choking.

Thank you for your understanding.



ENJOY A HAPPY
AND SAFE

MARCH BREAK

MARCH 10TH -17TH