

## UPDATES FROM KNOXDALE PS AND KCSC

### CURRICULUM CORNER

At Knoxdale, we like to encourage students to be creative in their learning. Look at the example of creativity below wherein kindergarten students all started with the same line and created individual pictures using their imagination. This activity was based on the mentor text Leon et son crayon. Mme King's class started this provocation to encourage the use of different art materials (often the students associate paint, markers, pastel etc. with art and think pencils are only for writing!) and to encourage detail and creativity in their thinking and art projects.

From Mme King...

We read the book out loud to the class and talked about turning something ordinary, like a line or a circle into something extraordinary!

We photocopied three simple designs for the students to choose from - a straight line, a squiggly line and two circles- and invited them to turn them into something extraordinary! This was a provocation out



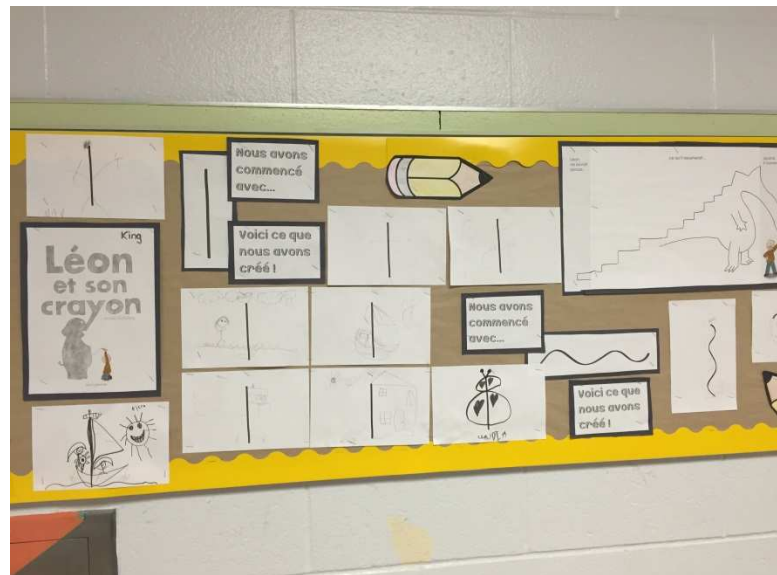
during play. Many of our students choose to do one (or many!). Now instead of simple lines or circles we had a big display of ladybugs, people, sailboats, worms, cars and flowers! We

are continuing to encourage our students to be creative and add detail to their artwork!

### Math Facts

Thinking Tools for Mathematics

Mathematicians create models with objects and drawings as they are exploring patterns and thinking their way through problems. In the same way,



students of all ages (and their educators) model mathematical concepts to not only share their thinking, but to help them to do the actual problem-solving. In school, we often call the objects used 'manipulatives' or 'thinking tools.' Classrooms have some very specific manipulatives for use, but a 'thinking tool' can be any object that helps to share or clarify a mathematical idea. These visual models of mathematical ideas allow us to organize our thinking, solve problems, and make connections from the concrete to the abstract. They also support and enhance our ability to solve problems with others, talk about, write and demonstrate our thinking. As students are exploring and investigating through models and drawings, they are building their knowledge and solving problems, moving towards a deeper understanding. They are making connections between what they know in all areas of mathematics and how they see mathematics in their world. Math becomes understandable, engaging and relevant. You can support your child to use objects and sketches as 'thinking tools' to problem-solve when they do math at home:

- "What might help you to think through this problem?"
- "Try showing this with objects or a sketch."
- "Can you show me what you are seeing in your mind?"

## OUR COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER

Mrs. Heslop, Miss Lindsey and Mrs. Patel's class used the book The Giving Tree as the inspiration for the beautiful interactive board below. Students engaged in a discussion about what it means to give and how does it make you feel to give. They then reached out to our entire student population for their ideas. The idea of the board is that you take a leaf, write down your ideas about giving, and then post it. What a fabulous idea that engages the entire school in reflection!



## FAMSAC FOOD CUPBOARD AND THE SNOWSUIT FUND



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to FAMSAC and Snowsuit Fund! Ms. Lindsey and her students have been very excited to travel around the school collecting and counting donations. We will be accepting non-perishable food items and gently used coats, snow pants, hats, mittens and boots until Monday December 14th.

### EDUCATION FOUNDATION GREETING CARD CONTEST

As mentioned in a previous communication, some of our students participated in the Holiday Greeting Card Contest sponsored by the Education Foundation. Submissions were made from students all across the OCDSB and there were only three entries that were selected. We are so proud of Ariana in Mme Boudreau's class whose work was selected as one of the winning entries! Chris McGarvey, from the Education Foundation of Ottawa, attended at the school this week to present Ariana with a certificate and hosted a pizza party for the entire class!



### STAFFING UPDATES

We welcome Mrs. McIntosh to the Knoxdale team. Mrs. McIntosh has been working with Mme Anderson for the last few weeks to ensure a smooth transition for the students. Mrs. McIntosh brings a wealth of experience to this role and we are excited to welcome her to Knoxdale. We would like to extend our thanks to Mme Anderson for providing such a safe, caring and rich learning environment for our students. We wish her much success in her future endeavours. We also say farewell to Rajvi Patel who has been working with Mrs Heslop and Ms Lindsey this year. Rajvi will be moving to Toronto following the holidays. It has been a pleasure having her join the Eagle team and we wish all the best with her move to the big city! We have recently learned that Mme Foote will not be returning this year. We would like to extend our thanks to Michelle Nurse who has jumped into the role with two feet for the last few weeks- we really appreciate her being with us! We will be hiring for both Mrs. Patel's and Mme Foote's position next week.

### BORDENBALL UPDATE

Congratulations to the girls' Bordenball team who made it all the way to the final game and placed second overall. Coaches M. Michaud and M. Montserrat are extremely proud of the girls' participation, hard work, and ultimate success. Members of the team are Krista D., Avery T., Alexandra G., Celina B, Mila P., Lauryn M. , Pardis A., Elizabeth B. , Haley D. , Teagan R. , Ariana L. , Milena K. , Maggie C. Alina C., Lucy G. , Kaitlyn T., Rhyan M., Alexa L. Due to their great sportsmanship, teamwork, and dedication, they proved to be great ambassadors for Knoxdale. Félicitation les filles!

A BIG thank you to M. Montserrat and M. Michaud for coaching the team!

The Knoxdale Boys' Eagles bordenball teams enjoyed a fantastic day of high paced action in the regional tournament at Confederation H.S on Dec. 3. The boys' team won three out of three round robin games before beating DRK in the semi-finals. The boys then brought home the gold medal in an exciting final against Broadview. Bravo to the Boys' Team: Carter J.N., Roni K., Geoffrey L., Aidan R., Haydan L., Justin S., Luigi Z., Noam B., Sam D., Kieran C., Jack P., Tyson N., Filip B., Emmet M., Philip K., Parsa E., Nathaniel C., Emmet S., Hugh R., Max P., Nigel F.

A huge thank you to Monsieur Charette for coaching the team, and to Monsieur Cameron for convening the tournament. Bravo les Aigles !!

### **JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN SHOWCASE**

JK students are excited to welcome their families to the Knoxdale gym on Wed Dec 16th from 1-2pm. Our students have been hard at work since the start of school in September and are eager to "show off" what they have learned! Please note, this is a shared event amongst all three JK classes. As such, we have room in the Knoxdale gym for up to two (2) adult guests per student. Parking is limited at Knoxdale, please consider parking off site.

### **SENIOR KINDERGARTEN SHOWCASE**

Our SK students are excited to perform some of their favourite songs and show off some art and writing projects at the Senior Kindergarten Musical Showcase next Tuesday, December 15th! SK-A, SK-B and SK-C will be performing from 1:00-2:00 in the Knoxdale gym for family and friends. We kindly ask that each student brings a maximum of two guests to enjoy the performance, due to fire regulations. Parking at Knoxdale is limited, so we suggest parking offsite and walking over. Parents are welcome to sign out their child following the performance. We look forward to seeing you then!

### **HOT CHOCOLATE TREAT**

On Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, our staff and students will be treated to hot chocolate with marshmallows, courtesy of our School Council and our Knoxdale parent elves! Our parent volunteers will be serving the hot chocolate during first recess time to the Grade 1-6's in the back courtyard and then to the kinders at 11 AM in the front play yard. This is a smile-making event!



#### **Hot Chocolate Day – Clarification: Allergy Awareness Station form**

This note is to clarify the purpose of the Allergy Awareness Station form sent home to make parents aware of the Allergy Awareness station during Hot Chocolate day, and to provide full product information. Historically, this note had been sent only to the families of students with allergies. This year it has been sent to all families with any dietary considerations beyond allergies to make them aware of options for the students.

The back of the notice has the allergy/dietary consent form to be completed for any students with allergies.



**In order for students with allergies to receive hot chocolate at the Allergy Awareness Station, these students must have a completed Hot Chocolate Day allergy awareness consent form signed by their parents and have it with them on Hot Chocolate Day.**

**All other students will receive their hot chocolate at the regular tables as per usual – no form is required.**

**IMPORTANT TO NOTE: Except for the vegan/gelatin-free marshmallows - all hot chocolate and marshmallows provided are the same brand and type regardless of being at the Allergy Awareness Station or the regular tables.**

## **FROM THE OCDSB SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER....**

### **Important message regarding Ottawa Student Transportation Authority's Website**

The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) is currently experiencing technical difficulties with their main website. Rest assured that there are always several other sources that you can consult each morning after 6:15 am to check the status of transportation for your child.

Cancellation notices can be found by:

Visiting OSTA's [Parent Portal](#) (includes detailed information about delays)

Following OSTA on Twitter [@OttSchoolBus](#)

Subscribing to OSTA's mailing list to receive email notifications

Monitoring local radio and television stations

### **French Instruction in Kindergarten and Early French Immersion**

This week, we updated our website and launched new information materials for parents and staff about the proposed changes to the delivery of French language instruction in JK/SK and grades 1-3 EFI. This information is in support of an extended consultation process. A 2 page information sheet was sent home with all elementary students. On the District website, you can find a copy of the [Parent Information Sheet](#), the [Frequently Asked Questions](#), all of the [staff reports](#) which went to Committee of the Whole, including [Report 15-147](#) and the [Memorandum regarding financial implications](#), [research references](#) and other information.

We want to hear from you. Parents are encouraged to complete the [Parent Survey](#) and staff are encouraged to complete the [Staff Survey](#).

The current recommendations propose the following changes:

- Effective September 2016 - the amount of French instruction in JK/SK would change to 50% English and 50% French for all kindergarten classes;
- Effective September 2016, math instruction in grades 1-3 would shift from French to English (recommended changes #1 and #2); and

- Effective September 2018 - English would be introduced as a subject in the Early French Immersion program (recommended change #3).

It is important to note that no decision has been made about changes to the programs at this time. These are recommendations for change - the recommendations will be considered by the Committee of the Whole on February 2, 2016. We appreciate your interest and look forward to your feedback through the survey.

## REMINDERS

### Ottawa Public Health Immunization

Under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA), students attending school in Ontario are required to be vaccinated against nine diseases or have a valid exemption.

OPH will be sending letters to parents if their child's records are not up-to-date. A suspension from school may be issued if a student's record remains incomplete. Written notices from Ottawa Public Health for students are now being mailed to parents. To avoid school suspensions, parents who receive a letter requesting immunization information can contact OPH by phone at [613-580-6744](tel:613-580-6744) or submit immunization information online, by fax, by mail or by the ImmunizeCA app.

Parents can visit [parentinginottawa.ca/immunization](http://parentinginottawa.ca/immunization) for more details about how to submit their child's immunization information to Ottawa Public Health. Suspension letters for OCDSB students will be sent home starting in January 2016. Information has been added to our [website](#)

On behalf on the entire Knoxdale Family, we would like to thank all parents for your support and everything you do contribute to our school community. We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!



## **Knoxdale Community School Council (KCSC) News & Updates**

**\*Please note there is no KCSC meeting in January\***

### **February KCSC meeting**

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Knoxdale school library, 2nd floor

All are welcome! Please join us! We will be discussing upcoming events in the new year including family fun movie nights, rescheduling the book fair and used book sale, and the end of the year family picnic. We will have reports from the Chair, Principal and Vice Principal, and an update on the Eagles' Nest Primary Playground Project. If there is anything that you would like added to the agenda for discussion, please email [knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com). See you in the new year!

### **QSP**

We're fundraising through QSP magazine subscriptions again!

Looking for a gift for that "hard-to-buy-for" person? Get them a subscription to their favourite magazine! A magazine subscription is the gift that arrives at the door weekly/monthly/quarterly.

Something fun and exciting to look forward to in the mailbox!

The KCSC is pleased to roll out this fundraiser. A notice will be sent home with your child that includes ordering information or simply go to [www.qsp.ca](http://www.qsp.ca) and order online. Our online school ID# is 3727526. Students that send out e-mail "asks" to friends and family can win a prize and families can be entered to win a family vacation!

Our thanks to Kelly Bagg for organizing and coordinating this fundraiser!

### **Samko and Miko Toy Warehouse Sale**

A huge thank you to Corrie Cassalman for coming forward with the idea and for registering our school.

Thanks to her efforts and those who submitted receipts, we will be receiving a cheque

for \$121.00 that will be directed to the Eagles' Nest playground project! Thank you for participating and we look forward to registering for this sale again next year.

### **2016 MASC Young Authors and Illustrators Conference**

Registration for the 2016 MASC Young Authors and Illustrators Conference is now open!

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Young Authors and Illustrators Conference! Spaces are limited and placements are made in priority of registrations received. To register, please visit the MASC website <http://www.masconline.ca/en/events/young-authors-illustrators-conference.aspx> and check out the exciting list of authors and illustrators coming to Ottawa for this year's conference!

\* from the OCDSB School Council Newsletter

### **Thank you!**

On behalf of the KCSC, a sincere thank you to all of the parents that have come forward to volunteer their time for KCSC activities and events, and to all of the Knoxdale families and our community for your continued support and generosity.

All of your efforts and the money raised directly benefits our children's educational experience at Knoxdale.

Wishing all of our Knoxdale families a safe and happy holiday and best wishes for a wonderful new year!