

UPDATES FROM KNOXDALE PS AND KCSC

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Below you will find a few updates from school. We hope that all of our families enjoyed the long weekend! It was quite a week with all the snow we received- not great for travelling but excellent for outdoor activities, such as snowshoeing and skating!



CURRICULUM CORNER

At Knoxdale, we continue to search for ways to encourage creativity in our students and to honour student voice in their learning. This can be achieved in various ways. One of the initiatives we are piloting is Genius Hour!

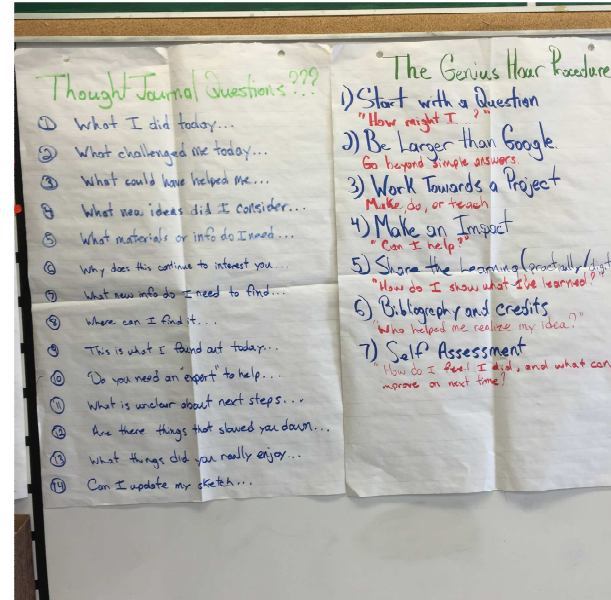
Genius Hour - Where passions come alive

The philosophy behind genius hour started with "google" and their theory that true innovation and creativity is driven by passion and the time to implement and work within that area. Here at Knoxdale, we have started on the road to helping foster true creative thinking. The process starts by working on identifying that



hobby/sport/art/love/hope/dream/ that we all want to spend more time with. We then look at how we can use this area to create and present a product that both promotes original thought and creativity. Thus far in Knoxdale's 5/6 and 6 classrooms, we have

observed works of visual art, short stories, research papers, dioramas, computer programming, hydraulics, sporting devices, and many other products that will offer inspiration to others, and build confidence in the students. This type of passion project driven work offers students a chance to design their own task, gain feedback from peers and teachers, set their own success criteria, differentiate based on their strengths and needs, and reflect and moderate their products for continued success and growth. It is an excellent supplement to both our learning skills and curriculum content, and we have been extremely pleased with the progress and results thus far.



OUR COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER

SPREADING KINDNESS

To honor our custodians and thank them for their kindness and hard work, the students of Mme Zarecki's grade 2 class organized a little party for them at the start of Kindness Week. Each of the custodians: Michael J., Tony, Cody, Shun Li, Wayne, and Tim is more than deserving of special



recognition. As part of a pedagogical exercise in teaching and encouraging "Accountable Talk / Des Discussions Responsables", students were asked to come up with ideas on how we could best honour the custodial staff. Students had to listen attentively to each other's ideas, and respond using verbal and non-verbal ways which demonstrated courtesy and respect. An

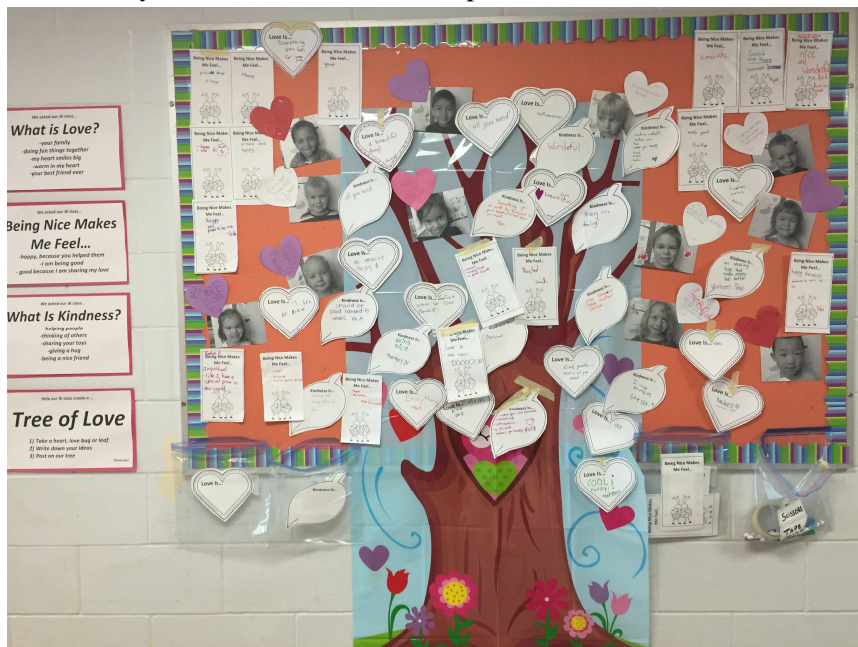


effort was made to model how to take each idea offered seriously and elevate the most humble suggestion to a winning proposition! As a teacher, Mme Zarecki learned how empowering students and giving them a voice, is a win-win approach. They came up with authentic and adorable ideas. Parents were very supportive of the process and felt engaged as well. Some students suggested non-monetary gifts such as giving hugs, pats on the back, playing rock, paper, scissors, making pop-up thank-you cards, and even making up a song and playing it on the piano "Nos concierges sont les meilleurs! Ils sont forts, forts, forts!" A student gave Shun Li a huge bag full of balloons each with a special sticker on it saying "Merci!" and "Vous êtes gentils!". One student suggested we give them a day off by cleaning our own classroom and that we should decorate the class to create a festive atmosphere. We made a huge banner that they will take back to decorate their office. Other students suggested small gifts such as gift cards or chocolates. Some baked cookies at home, others shared some of their own birthday treats. Even the date of the party came from a suggestion by a student that it should be close to Valentine's Day!

Knoxdale appreciates the kindness and support of volunteers who help out with everything from skating to scientists in school!



Ms. Lindsey, Ms. Leah and Mrs. Heslop's class created an interactive caring tree for Kindness Week!



THE DIRECTOR'S CUT

Recently, several of our classes here at Knoxdale had the opportunity to dig deeper in media literacy by taking part in the "Director's Cut" workshops. These workshops offered our students the opportunity to create both digitally based comics and movie trailers, using the latest in digital technology. The students worked collaboratively in groups to brainstorm, storyboard, shoot, and edit their digital works, delivering a product that, while very in tune with our media literacy curriculum content, is also very entertaining. Each student received a DVD of all of those creations, which they should be proud of and that will offer a great visual yearbook to revisit in the future. The teachers, students and Brad (our tech expert) are all very pleased with the finished products.



WE LUV2GROOVE AT KNOXDALE PS

Throughout this first week of February, students in junior grades have had the opportunity to participate in an engaging and energizing weeklong dance workshop hosted by Ottawa based dance company Luv2Groove. The program focuses on educating students about the elements of dance including body, space, time, energy, and relationship and directly reflects the Ontario Arts Curriculum. Check out <http://luv2groove.com/> for more information.

Thank you to the Knoxdale Community School Council for funding this awesome learning experience!

LUNAR NEW YEAR PARADE

On **Monday, February 8th** the students of Knoxdale Public School participated in a school wide parade to celebrate the beginning of the Lunar New Year. The parade procession began with an array of beautifully designed posters, followed by musicians, decoration holders, a teaser and a dragon. The rest of the parade was made up of many of our primary and junior classes, beginning with our kindergarten students. Included in this festive occasion were the many students who lined the first and second floor hallways, with their own decorations, to watch the parade go by. A big thank you goes out to Madame Muller and all of her grade 4 students as well as to M. Shepherd and two of his students. These two groups of students worked together over the past several weeks to create and host this amazing parade.

Gung Hay Fat Choy,

Your Lunar New Year Coordinators: D. Reade, M. Bennani

TOONIE TUESDAY

This year Knoxdale will be participating in Toonie Tuesday. Toonie Tuesday is on February 23rd. On this day, we would ask all students to bring in a toonie to school. It would be a wonderful idea to have students do something at home or in the community to earn a toonie which they can then donate. Funds raised for Toonie Tuesday go to support the Education Foundation. Last year, more than \$35,000 was

raised to support emergent needs of students across the OCDSB. One hundred percent of the funds raised are invested in students across the district through the Students in Crisis Emergency Fund to support food, clothing and medical needs. Please see the flyer attached for further information.

FROM THE OCDSB'S SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER...

New: French Instruction in Kindergarten and Primary Early French Immersion

This week the Board made a final decision on the delivery of French instruction in Kindergarten. Beginning September 2016, all kindergarten programs will be 50% English and 50% French. The entry point for Early French Immersion will move to grade 1. All students in grades 1 through 3, enrolled in Early French Immersion, will have math instruction in English beginning in September 2016.

In the coming months, staff will be working on detailed implementation plans to support the new delivery model. This includes plans to allocate resources to provide additional supports in the kindergarten program to assist students with special needs as well as the English language learners.

Parents of students enrolled in kindergarten for the fall for 2016 can anticipate more information will be provided to them before the end of the current school year. In addition, updates will be posted to the district website.

The school district would like to thank all the parents, staff and community members who took the time to participate in the consultation and decision-making process on this topic.

Math Facts

Communicating with Children Using Math Language

Talking about mathematics with your child - whatever his or her age - helps strengthen his or her mathematical reasoning and understanding. Some ways to keep the talk engaged and focused while you support your child include:

1. Revoice - Repeat what you heard your child say, then ask for clarification (e.g., "So you are saying it's an odd number?").
2. Repeat/Restate - Ask your child to restate your reasoning (e.g., "Can you repeat what I said in your own words?").
3. Reason - Ask your child to apply his or her own reasoning to someone else's reasoning (e.g., "Do you agree or disagree? Tell me why.").
4. Adding On - Prompt your child to participate further (e.g., "What more would you add to that?").
5. Think Time - Wait several seconds (try five) to give your child time to think (e.g., "Take some time to think."). You may be surprised by how hard it is to stay silent in that time!

Knoxdale Community School Council (KCSC) CONTACT!

Next KCSC meeting. All are welcome!

When: Tuesday, March 1st, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Knoxdale Public School Library, 2nd Floor

Please come out to hear about what is happening in your school. We will have reports from the Chair, Principal and Vice Principal, an update from the committee's Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) representative, and we will be discussing upcoming school events including the rescheduled Book Fair, Spring Movie Night, Education Week, the Eagles' Nest Playground Project, Family Fun Picnic and the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant application. If you would like to raise an item for discussion or have it added to the agenda, please email knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com by Friday, February 26th.

Save the Date!

Monday, April 18th 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Your KCSC is excited to be hosting the following information session for our school community:

Understanding the Mental Health of Your Children

Dr. Barry H. Schneider (<http://www.drbarryschneider.com/>) will be discussing potential warning signs, and how parents can best support their children.

More details and information to follow. Please stay tuned!

Our thanks to Geoff Pearce for organizing this event!

The KCSC New & Used Book Fair is Back!

Dates: May 2nd - 4th, 2016

Location: Knoxdale Library, 2nd Floor

We are happy to advise that the book fair has been rescheduled! **Please start putting aside your gently used English and French books. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the school during the last 2 weeks of April.** Each year, our book fair owes its success to a team of generous parent volunteers. If you can volunteer some time to sort books, set up the book fair, help with sales during the book fair, or clean up after the book fair, please contact our book fair coordinator JP Larochette at jplarochette@gmail.com.

Kudos

The Winter Family Movie Night of 2016 was a smash! Knoxdale families came out in their PJs and slippers to watch the Minions and we had tons of fun! Thank you to everyone for signing up, ordering food, and spending your evening with us. What would we do without our parent and student volunteers? Please accept our heartfelt thanks, we wouldn't be able to host these events for our Knoxdale community without your time and effort. Next movie night is April 8th! See you there.

Sincere thanks to Jennifer McGregor and Angie Russell for all of your time, effort and hard work in organizing and coordinating such a fun family event!

OCDSB - Free Math Help

*Parents looking for resources to help support your child's learning might be interested in the following resources:

- **ONLINE MATH TOOLS:** The OCDSB has recently launched a new suite of tools and resources, organized by grade groupings, to support home and school collaboration in mathematics. These resources help students build skills and stamina and can be used with a parent/guardian or independently at home. Take a [look](#).
- **NUMERACY GUIDE FOR PARENTS:** The OCDSB has an excellent [Numeracy Guide for Parents](#) which helps parents understand how math instruction is provided and how students can be supported in their learning at home.
- **HOMEWORK HELP:** Homework Help is an [online math help resource](#) for students in Grades 7-10. Homework Help provides FREE, live one-on-one tutoring from Ontario teachers. Homework Help is funded by the Ontario government and administered by TVO. Students can ask their math questions during our [chat room](#) hours - Sunday - Thursday 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

*From the OCDSB newsletter

Keeping You Connected

February 12, 2016

KCSC - Come out and see!

Would you like to become more involved with your school but are not sure where to start or how to do so? Would you like to meet other Knoxdale families? Do you have some time to help organize or volunteer with one of our school community events? If so, please contact us at knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com or come to one of our monthly meetings. We would love to hear from you!