

UPDATES FROM KNOXDALE PS

CURRICULUM CORNER

Young Writers of Canada Contest

Recently, Knoxdale Public School received a bronze medal from the Young Writers of Canada contest. We came third place thanks to our astonishing and awe-inspiring teacher Mrs. Ziade. She taught us everything we needed to know to succeed in writing a wide variety of poems and literature. But, as amazing as she is, we're not here to talk about her, we're here to talk about ourselves. Through countless hours of exertion, we spent several weeks learning an array of different tips and tricks to great success. We have explored figurative language such as: similes, hyperboles, alliteration, onomatopoeia, metaphors and personification. Similes are when you compare two things using "like" or "as". For example, "The water sparkled like the finest diamonds". You use hyperboles when you want to put emphasis on something. They're usually exaggerations. For example "The grocery bag weighed a TON!" Another one that we often used in our texts is personification. This means you give something non-human a human trait, such as, "The leaves danced gracefully in the beautiful weather". The students in our class used some of these figurative language strategies to improve our poems. So, that's how the students of Knoxdale Public School won our award. David O'Sullivan and Alina Cai

Two Year Kindergarten Program

Kindergarten is a two year program with a single curriculum. The curriculum is a continuum which provides learning opportunities for a range of developmental abilities as our young learners begin school. Historically, we have not had JK/SK classes at Knoxdale PS as we are an immersion centre, although these multi-age groupings are currently seen in many of our schools. Next year, with all kindergarten classes being bilingual classes, we are moving to multi-age classes for all of our kinder classes. As mentioned, multi-age kindergarten class is not a new idea; there are many blended kindergarten classes within the OCDSB that have proven to be a successful structure for our youngest learners.

A blended Kindergarten classroom comprised of year 1 and year 2 students (formerly Junior and Senior Kindergarten) builds on student strengths and differences. A kindergarten child's age is not the sole indicator of ability or readiness for learning. Students enter kindergarten with a wide range of

experiences, knowledge and abilities and a blended class allows for all children to feel that they contribute and belong. Regardless of the range of students' ages, experiences and abilities, the goal of the educator team is to meet the needs of all learners.

Whenever possible, students in a two-year program may learn with the same educator team and with and from some of the same children for two consecutive years, reducing the stress of school entry and fostering a feeling of community where children feel safe, are able to fully express themselves and feel comfortable taking risks. At the beginning of each new school year only a portion of the students will be new members of the class - the year 2 students develop interpersonal skills through welcoming and mentoring the year 1 students as they take on a peer leadership role. Year 1 students benefit by having peer role models with whom they can participate in more complex play.

Current research supports children of different ages learning together. Research shows that blended classes can provide students with increased opportunities for social and emotional growth. Students develop more positive peer interactions; have greater development of social skills; do more collaborative learning; display greater feelings of comfort and security; have more opportunities for student leadership within a community of learners. (*Combined Grades, Ministry of Education, Ontario -2007*). We are looking forward to this opportunity next year!

CHARACTER CORNER

Les Amis Secrets

Mme MacIntyre's students have started a new task relating to character development and the health curriculum (developing self-esteem and building relationships). Students have all picked another student's name randomly and must do a minimum of 5 acts of kindness secretly for that person before June 22nd. This can be as simple as leaving a note with a compliment on his/her desk!

"As students of Mme Macintyre's class we were very excited to do the "Les amis secret" project, the idea of keeping our "target" a secret made the task much more interesting and fun. Some of the things we did as kind acts towards our secret friends were: sharpening all of their pencils and sending them complementary notes. We think that it is a good idea to send positive messages and

raise spirits of others because many of us need some encouragement and a compliment always improves someone's mood. To make the "Amis Secret" more of a challenge our class agreed to have a small competition at the end where the students try to guess who had who as an "Ami Secret", and the student who had no one identify their "target" correctly will win a small prize. Our class thinks that it is a great activity and that it is a smart way to incorporate being nice into our daily lives at school." Say Gemma and Josh (two of Mme MacIntyre's students).

SPORTS CORNER

Knoxdale Track Meet

On Tuesday, June 7th, Knoxdale will hold it's 11th annual Track and Field Meet for all of our junior grade 4-6 students. Please feel free to come out and watch your child participate in their events. It promises to be a fun-filled day of athletic excitement. If you are interested in volunteering, please send back the attached volunteer slip to your child's teacher, or contact them via email. Go Eagles Go !
(M. Cameron)

Basketball

After more than two months of practising, the boys' basketball team showed great heart and determination and took home the gold from the boy's tier 1 basketball tournament. They played hard, with skill and displayed exemplary sportsmanship on their way to going undefeated during the tournament. When they needed to win their last game to secure first place, they put forth their best effort and won convincingly while treating their opponents with respect. It is with the utmost pride that we congratulate:

Josh G, Emmett M, Luke P, Aidan R, Justin S.

Kasai M-B, Zev L, Will A, Hayden L, Luigi Z.

Sam D, Isaac B, Timur G, Jack P, Jasper C, Abdul Aziz A.

Congratulations to all! Your hard work paid off and your coach couldn't be prouder!

(M. Montserrat)

This year Knoxdale's girls' basketball team turned out to be a group of strong and determined girls who ended up winning the tournament! The girls practiced hard every day and learned a lot between the first practice and the tournament. They also had fun playing against the boys basketball team and ended up winning one and losing the other! At the tournament they won all of their games except one against Broadview. Losing to Broadview in their last round robin game just made them play stronger and harder in the finals against them again! The girls won that game and were proud to represent Knoxdale so well and to bring home the gold!

Congratulations to:

Zoe, Lucy, Leetal, Maryanne , Emily, Zoe, Katie, Pardis, Jade, Rachel, Jordan, Alena, Trishna, Talia, Kaitlyn, and Sophie.

Thank you Miss Highmore for organizing such a fun year of basketball!

Hudson Sargent Relay

On May 26th, Knoxdale competed in the 29th edition of the Hudson Sargent Relay Competition at Mooney's Bay Track. It is a huge Board-wide event, and this was the first time that Knoxdale has sent a team. Knoxdale teams won 2- 8th place ribbons, a 6th place, a 3rd place and a 2nd place in various different race distances. As a team overall, they took home a 6th place finish. Congratulations to the following team members, and to all students who tried out for the team over the last few weeks: Joy C., Isaac B., Diana C., Geoffrey L., Sarah B., John S., Ariana L., Kyle P., Zoe D.-T., Maggie C., Zoe P., James S., Tyson N., Luigi Z., Rachel S., Milena K., Hayden L. Zachary L. and Kasai M.-B. Thank you to Monsieur Charette and Monsieur Cameron for coaching and taking the team. Bravo les aigles !!

OUR SCHOOL SURVEY

This spring, we will be undertaking a K-12 parent survey using the *Our School* (formerly *Tell Them From Me*) survey instrument. The *Education Act* requires an anonymous school climate survey be conducted for students, parents, and staff at least once every two years. The parent survey is an opportunity to engage our community and to allow parents and guardians to have a voice in school climate and student well-being planning.

Survey Administration Details:

This year there will be a common district-wide surveying period of **June 1, 2016 to June 15, 2016**. Look for a letter coming out next week with the survey login

information. Please watch for the letter and complete the survey. Your feedback is important to us!

BUSING INFORMATION- FROM OSTA

In order to secure a seat for your child from the first day of school, it is important that you ensure an accurate home or daycare address is in the school's information system prior to July 2016. Routes will be run with all stops as planned from the first day of school, regardless of intermittent KG start up schedule. Eligibility The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) shall provide transportation for students of Member School Boards who reside, or in the case of students in elementary grades (KG to Grade 8) whose caregiver resides, within the designated attendance and/or program boundary of the school they are attending and meet the minimum transportation eligibility distances as follows: Junior and/or Senior Kindergarten 0.8 km or more Grades 1 to 8 1.6 km or more The caregiver address shall supersede the home address within the designated attendance boundary of the school attended for distance measurement purposes. The pickup and drop off addresses must be consistent five (5) days a week. Students who are in a joint custody arrangement and require transportation to two homes may apply for transportation to an alternate home/daycare location based on the parties' access schedule. All eligibility rules apply to the second address. Deadline for September 2016 seating is JUNE 1, 2016. All documents are available at: <http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca/policies-procedures/variable-transportation-for-students-in-a-joint-custody-arrangement-and-having-two-homes-copy/> We encourage students and their parents who are within the walk zone to engage in human-powered transportation. This leads to a healthier lifestyle, readiness to learn and reduces traffic congestion around the school.

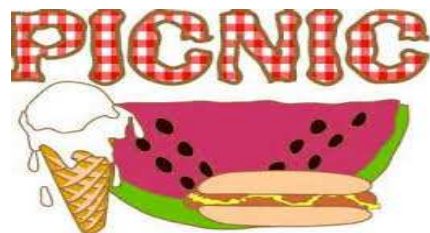
VOUNTEER RECOGNITION

Each year the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board recognizes the extraordinary contributions of individuals and groups who volunteer their time and skills to make great things happen in our schools. This year we had a record number of nominations with a grand total of 70 nominations!



The awards will be presented at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception and Community Recognition Awards on June 8, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Confederation Education Centre - 1645 Woodroffe Ave. (corner of Hunt Club & Woodroffe).

Knoxdale Community School Council (KCSC)



KCSC END OF YEAR FAMILY FUN PICNIC IS ALMOST HERE!

Friday June 17th 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. rain or shine

Join your teachers, friends and family for our end of year family picnic; all are welcome! We will be grilling up dinner on the BBQ, offering baked goods for sale, there will be a DJ and live music, a magic show, face painting, carnival games and the infamous Tug-O-War and so much more! Bring a blanket and some chairs, your appetite and your Eagles' school spirit!

PLEASE PRE-ORDER YOUR FOOD

Please click on the following link to pre-order your food for the picnic. This will ensure that we have the right amount of food on hand for everyone. Save money, time, and effort by filling in the web form and sending payment in with your child(ren) by cash or cheque (payable to KCSC) ahead of time.

Need some incentive? Pre-order your food and save! That's right, pre-ordered food is offered at a discount! All orders and payments are due by Tuesday, June 14th. *Please note that some food will be available for purchase at the BBQ but quantities will be limited.

<http://goo.gl/forms/hNCgg9CJe4QoHx183>

DID YOU KNOW?

Any proceeds raised from the Family Fun Picnic will be directed to the KCSC. These funds are used to support the school and enhance our children's educational experience through the purchase of technology and supplies, and by funding events such as field trips and Scientists in the School. Funds raised through the picnic will also be allocated to the Eagles' Nest primary playground renewal project.

Mabel's Labels ~ for summer camp or next year

Don't forget to order your labels! It's easy, please go to www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for Knoxdale Public School. Remember that our children benefit as 20% of the proceeds are directed to KCSC!



KCSC June Meeting ~ The last one this year!

When: Tuesday, June 7th, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Knoxdale Public School Library, 2nd Floor

Please come to our June meeting, the last one this school year! We will be discussing the end of year Family Fun Picnic and events for next year, we will vote on the budget and review our fundraising strategy moving forward. We will also have reports from the Chair, Principal and Vice Principal as we look forward to planning 2016-17. If there is anything you would like to discuss or have added to the agenda, please email knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com. Thank you!



KCSC Needs

We are currently looking for leadership and volunteers for the positions of Volunteer Coordinator, Hot Chocolate Day Coordinator(s), Family Movie Night coordinator(s) and volunteers to assist the Eagles' Nest Playground sub-committee. We would be happy to

provide more information about these roles if you are interested. Talk to a friend and consider sharing the role! Please contact us at knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com.

The KCSC would not be able to offer all of the wonderful activities and events for our children, school and community over the course of the school year without the support of volunteers. Please consider offering just a little of your time if you can help in any way. Thank you very much!