

UPDATES FROM KNOXDALE PS AND KCSC

Curriculum Corner

This is a follow up to our last curriculum corner wherein we highlighted the importance of students having the opportunity to evaluate, judge and think critically about information that they are considering. For the last two years, we have had the opportunity to work with Garfield Gini-Newman who is considered the “guru” in terms of implementing critical thinking across the curriculum. The following highlights the importance of an engaging task.

Some thoughts for pondering from Garfield and Laura Gini-Newman....

The uncovering of curriculum occurs only when students investigate purposeful questions which present meaningful problems or challenges to address. We use the term 'critical inquiry' to signal that inquiry is not essentially retrieval of information but a process of reaching conclusions, making decisions and solving problems. Although some students may enjoy gathering information, students' depth of learning and engagement are greatly enhanced when tasks require students to think critically at each step of the way. This point is illustrated by the typical "research project" as described below.

Task

Students in a primary class are asked to select any topic they wish provided it deals with animals and to prepare a short presentation supported with a display board summarizing their research. Samantha chooses the topic of 'cats'. On the day of her presentation, she relays to her classmates the information she found on cats. Soon her classmates start to ask questions. "Do you have a cat?", asks one of the students. "No", replies Samantha. "Do you like cats?", queries another. "No!" exclaims Samantha, becoming somewhat frustrated by the questions.

What went wrong with this task? The absence of purposeful inquiry put Samantha in a situation where she selected a topic and prepared a report without needing to think critically about the choices she was making or about the significance of the information she was gathering. Had Samantha been invited to and supported in asking a more purposeful question and processing the information critically, she many have selected a topic of genuine interest to her and would have had to think more deeply about her findings. Instead of gathering information to satisfy the requirements of an assignment, Samantha's exploration might have been more purposeful if she was asked to consider which pet would make the best addition to her family. She could then have generated criteria for a suitable choice, including personal preference, cost to purchase and maintain, amount of care required, habitat requirements, and diet (to name a few possibilities). Using the criteria, Samantha might then research several animals to see which would make the most suitable family pet for her family. Finally, she would need to reach a conclusion or judgment and explain her thinking. Clearly, in this scenario, Samantha would have been more involved- cognitively and emotionally- in her inquiry.

Math Facts

Take a look at the new issue of [Math in Motion](#) - A K-12 newsletter that fosters numeracy and mathematics awareness and shares research, resources and actions.

Our Community of Character

At Knoxdale, we our building our incrementally (e.g., learning how to

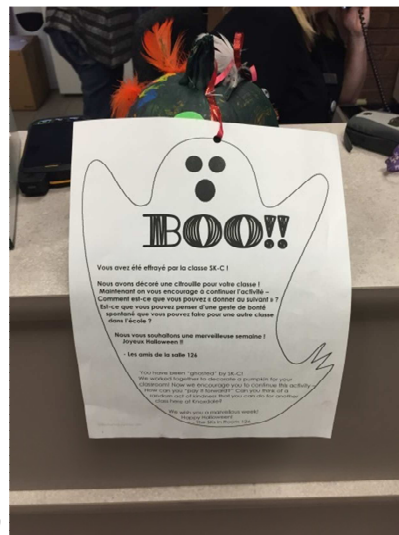


character all of the time! Just as students learn add before learning how to divide), they also learn

appropriate behaviours and grow their character as they move from kindergarten to grade 6 at our school! In this sense, we expect that our eldest students are the role models of good character for our younger students. We see evidence of this all of the time at Knoxdale and we acknowledge students who demonstrate good character- through assemblies, student recognition, Ecoclub, bus monitors, lunch monitors, class helpers etc. It is amazing to see our students interact with our younger ones and model positive talk while acting as mentors and guides! Our students are very familiar with the different character traits in our Community of Character (e.g., Acceptance, Respect, and Responsibility) and what they "look like and sound like". Our focus going forward is to encourage students to put these character traits into action by making positive impacts in the school, community or the global community! What could you do that would make a positive impact? At Knoxdale we are “Bucket Fillers”! The primary students are well versed in how to fill a bucket following our shared reading of How Full is Your Bucket at our September assembly. The concept is simple- as a team we try to keep each other’s buckets full! We do this by saying and doing nice things for others. When we do something positive for someone else it fills their bucket and in turn, it fills your own as well!



There have been some curious events at the school this week!! Students and staff have been paying it forward and making a positive impact by “ghosting” classes. I think the staff are having as much fun as



the students in finding new “ghosting” techniques!

Allerject Recall

We have been contacting our families this week that are affected by the allerject recall. We have included the link below for your information.

English- <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2015/55620a-eng.php>

Annual Craft and Bake Sale

The Annual Craft and Bake Sale was a huge success! A HUGE thank you to the co-ordinators Katherine Montuoro, Susan Ko and Margaret Moores for all of their hard work and to all of the parent volunteers who helped out with the sale- we really appreciate it! Thank you as well to all the wonderful bakers who contributed to the sale – we know they poured their hearts (as well as lots of butter and sugar!) into this event!

Remembrance Day

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony will be taking place at 8:45 am on November 11th in the Greenbank gym.

Staffing Update

Please join me in congratulating Mme Marilyn on her new beginning! Marilyn will be retiring on October 30th. She has been an invaluable resource to the school, the staff and the students, having worked with many of our students over her years at Knoxdale. She always approaches everything she endeavours with a positive attitude and never waivers from doing what is best for students. She believes in all of our learners and always "sees the good" and the potential in each child. It has been such a pleasure to have her as part of the team. I know we will all be giving her our best wishes as she starts a new chapter in her life.

We also welcome some new members to our Eagle team! Tracey Armstrong has joined the team working with Devon Anderson and Stephanie Soifer. We are pleased to welcome Heather Dort (Educational Assistant) to the team, as well as, Erin Colbert who will now be with us full time.

Milk Program

We are pleased to provide milk to our students during the second nutrition break. Students will have a choice of chocolate or white milk. Your children were given their order form this week; please check for it in their note tote, pochette or agenda. We would appreciate all orders returned to us on or before the **Tuesday, November 10th, 2015** deadline. Unfortunately, any orders received after this date will not be processed. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Soccer News

Félicitations à l'équipe de soccer féminine pour avoir remporté l'or pour Knoxdale!

Après avoir travaillé fort durant les pratiques, elles ont très bien joué durant le tournoi et se sont classifiées en première place. La communauté Knoxdale est incroyablement fière de chacune d'entre vous.

Congratulations goes out to the team: Alina, Lucy, Zoe P., Diana, Jordan, Rhyan, Zoe D-T., Kaitlyn, Mackayla, Tara D., Katie M., Sophie K., Meaghan N., Milena, Pardis and Fiona.

Bravo les Aigles!!!!

The Knoxdale junior boys soccer team participated in the regional soccer tournament on Oct 23rd. They represented Knoxdale with great leadership, character and an excellent display of sportsmanship. The boys played 4 round robin games and placed third overall. A big congratulations goes out to the team: Sam, Casey, Kevin, David G., Tyson, Luigi, Kasai, Abdul Aziz, Kyle, Miles, David O., Timur, Geoff, Sascha, Josh K., and Jasper.

A big thank you as well to the coaches- M Montserrat, Mrs. Ziade and M Charette.

Student Photo Retakes

Photo retakes will be done on **Thursday, November 5th**. Students are once again reminded not to wear green, because of the background colour. **All photos must be returned**, whether you plan to purchase them or not, as they are the property of the photographer.

Knoxdale Ski Club

Please note that information regarding grade 5 & 6 ski club will be coming soon. This year it will run Monday nights in January. Watch your Knoxdale PS and KCSC communications for details. If you have any questions you can contact the coordinator Melanie Haskins mel.c.haskins@gmail.com

Knoxdale Community School Council (KCSC) News & Updates

KCSC November Meeting

Please join us at our next monthly meeting. All are welcome!

Date: Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Knoxdale library, 2nd floor

We will be discussing upcoming events including the Family Fun Dance and the Pizza Night in November, and we will have an update on the Eagle's Next Playground Project. We look forward to both the Principal and Vice Principal's reports and a report from the Chair. If you have anything you would like to discuss and see added to the agenda, please contact knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com by Sunday, November 1, 2015. See you there!

Knoxdale Family Fun Dance

Friday, November 6th, 2015

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The KCSC is pleased to present the Knoxdale Family Fun Dance on Friday November 6th from 6:30p.m. – 8:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity for both kids and parents to have fun and socialize outside of the classroom. There will be prizes, games, glow necklaces, pizza, chips, drinks for purchase & DJ Helen!

Tickets will be available for purchase at the door (Greenbank side entrance), \$4 per person or \$10 per family; all ages are welcome and all children must be accompanied by an adult. All proceeds will go to enhancing our children's educational experience at Knoxdale! Questions? Want to Volunteer? Please email knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com.

A donation box will be placed near the front office, if any parents are willing to donate or have any small giveaway/raffle prizes it would be greatly appreciated. The donation box will be at the school until next Thursday evening, please take a look around your houses this weekend.

Dust off your dancing shoes and we look forward to seeing you there, don't miss this fun event!!!

The KCSC Eagles' Nest Playground Project sub-committee is looking for a few volunteers for their information table at the dance. If you would like to become involved with this project and have some time to spare, please consider giving some time at this event. No experience necessary! If you are able to assist, please email the KCSC at knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com. Thank you!

Pizza night at The Parlour Pizza Kitchen

Wednesday, November 18th, 2015

Do you like Playgrounds? Do you like gourmet Pizza? Mark your calendar for Wednesday November 18th. On that evening, come and support the Eagles' Nest Playground project by ordering a pizza dinner from The Parlour Pizza Kitchen in the Greenbank Hunt Club Centre. Stay tuned....more details to follow shortly!

Samko & Miko Toy Sale - Support the Eagles' Playground Project

November 4 – 8 at the E&Y Center

If you are planning on doing some early holiday shopping, why not visit the Samko & Miko Toy Sale next week and support your school and the Eagles' Nest Playground Project as well!

There are 2 easy steps to help out your school;

When you are at the checkout, ask them to stamp your receipt for the Knoxdale Public School Fundraiser.

There are 2 easy steps to help out your school;

1. When you are at the checkout, ask them to stamp your receipt for the Knoxdale Public School Fundraiser.
2. Send in or bring in the original stamped receipt to the school (keep a copy for your records) and place in the envelope on the KCSC bulletin board in the lobby by Friday November 13th.

Samko and Miko will donate 10% of sales back to our Eagles' Nest Playground project!
Please visit the following site for more information:

<http://www.samkoandmikotoywarehouse.com/ottawa-toy-sale>

Thank you in advance for your support!

Bake Sale Prize Winners & Kudos

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped make Knoxdale's 31st annual bake sale a huge success! This year we had an amazing amount of baked goods which profited approximately \$3,500.00!! We are so thankful to those who baked, supplied lunch items for the café, gave their time to set up and work the event, and to clean up and help the event run smoothly.

The class that contributed the most baked goods was Mme. Desjardins' grade 6 class! Congratulations! They will be awarded a pizza party by Mr. Mozzarella! The other prizes were awarded as follows: Best Parent/Child Joint Effort- Veronika and Mom (Gr.2 / Mme.Bennani) and Jack (JK / Mme. Heslop); Most Appealing Baked Goods - Julia (Gr. 5/6 - M. Shepherd) and Justin M. (Grade 6 / Mme. Desjardins); Best Holiday Creations Evan P. (Gr. 6 / M. Charette); Best Halloween Creation - Grace M. (Gr.2 / Mme. Bennani), Lauren P. (Gr. 3 / Mme. Proulx), Lucy R. (JK / Mme. Heslop), Holly B. (Gr. 3/ Mme. Proulx), Agatha (JK / Mme. Heslop), David C. (Gr. 5 / Mme. Boudreau), Kyra and Zoe D. (Gr. 6 / Mme. Desjardins); Most Trendy Creation - Alex (Gr. 4 / Mme. Foote); Best Family Effort - Maryanne M.(Gr. 6 / Mme. Desjardins), Sophia M. (Gr. 2 / Mme. Zarecki). Victoria M. (Gr. 5/6 - M. Corbett); Best Cookie Creation - Emmett (Gr. 5/6 - M. Corbett), Tara D. (Gr. 6 / Mme.Desjardins); Most Healthy Creation - Lyla B. (SK / Anderson).

The KCSC extends our sincere thanks for all of the hard work and effort of this year's bake sale coordinators Katherine Montuoro, Susan Ko and Margaret Moores for putting together a such a fabulous event!

We extend a special thank you to our sponsors and local businesses who generously contributed baked goods and prizes for this event! Cozmos Souvlaki, Subway, Greenbank Flowers, Parti Pizza, Metro, Tim Hortons, Zuni Bar and Grill, Authentic Vietnamese Pho House, Mr. Mozzarella and Franks Baked Goods and Catering.