

UPDATES FROM KNOXDALE PS AND KCSC

CURRICULUM CORNER

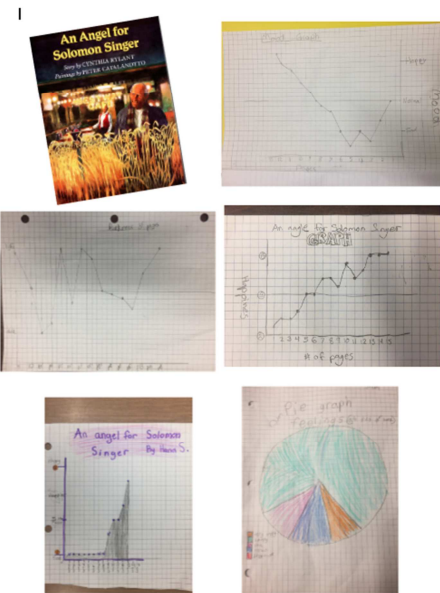
As mentioned in our last communication home, our school team has been working very hard to support our School Learning Plan. Our School Learning Plan has a theory of action as follows: If students have regular opportunities to develop their self-verbalization skills in numeracy across the curriculum, then they will increase their capacity (in thinking and communication) and develop confidence in their numeracy skills (growth mindset).

Our hope through these communications is to give you a window into our classrooms to see some of the activities/lessons that the staff and students have been engaging in to support our School Learning Plan. Below you will find some examples of how we are "bringing out the math" across the curriculum.

Integrating mathematics and numeracy into decorating for the Kinder December Showcase with Miss Jessica! Kinder B students worked together to make a long pattern chain (including patterning, red, green, red...), measured the length using the hallway floor tiles, counting the rings, and labelling the rings using the proper numerals.

The grade 6 and grade 5/6 classes were asked to interpret a read aloud using mathematical language.

How can you interpret a text using mathematical thinking?



Some of our grade

2 students have been bringing out the math in art! Students learned about reflection and used their knowledge to create a work of art with their names.



The kinders were exploring numeracy around the school! On the ice day our kinders went for a walk around school with our "number sticks" to identify the different numbers that we see. We talked about what numbers do, why we find them in certain places, what jobs they do, how they're helpful, and how they appear (big, small, different shapes, fonts etc.) We co-created a display to show our findings.



Math Facts

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.

AT KNOXDALE PS WE ARE WORKING ON OUR MINDSET!

In our School Well Being Plan, one of our goals is focused on mindset. It is as follows:



If we explicitly teach/model for students growth mindset strategies/language, then students will be more confident in their abilities when faced with challenging tasks.



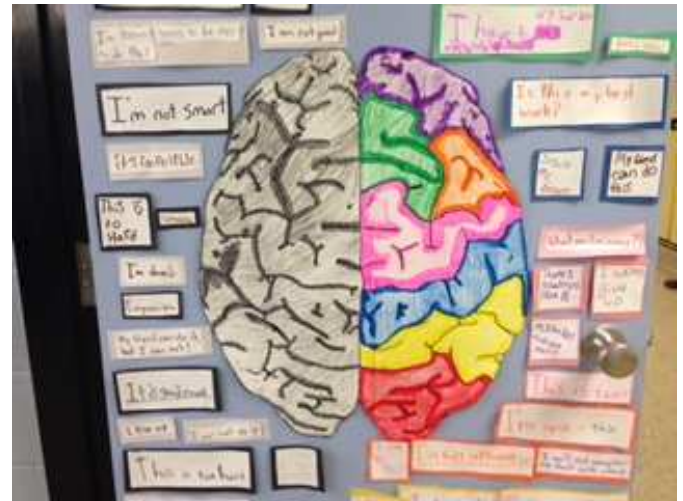
Part of creating a growth mindset involves students reflecting on their work/progress and planning for next steps. While we can say "We cannot do it....yet!", the next piece, more importantly, is

identifying the steps that we are going to take to improve. Below is an example from Mrs. Chambers' class where students were asked to comment on the four following questions:

- 1) What did you do today that made you think hard?
- 2) What will you do to improve your work?
- 3) What did you do today that was a challenge?
- 4) What mistakes did you make today that taught you something?

By: Ella, Lauryn, and N-ima

In Miss Highmore's class, we are working on our growth mindset. In school, we have had an assembly on how to improve our growth mindsets and how to be positive and confident about ourselves. In class, we have made a poster about the growth mindset. We made a brain, one half is a fixed mindset, the other a growth mindset. We then wrote down a few words on each side of the brain. The half that was a growth mindset had positive words, the other half having negative or fixed mindset words. We talked about how to improve in math with a growth mindset, and how not to tell yourself that you're bad at math with a fixed mindset, when you only need to improve. Examples: Growth Mindset- I will try my best, I can always improve. Fixed Mindset- I will never be as smart as her, I am so bad at this.



When we have a growth mindset, we believe that we can learn, change, and develop our skills. We are also more likely to be able to persevere in the face of a challenge and we believe that with hard work we can accomplish our goals.

Our feedback can also contribute to a fixed or a growth mindset. Dr. Dweck is a guru in this area and her research has highlighted the importance of praising effort and the process to foster a growth mindset as opposed to giving feedback related to ability.

Below you will find some suggestions for feedback that cultivates a growth mindset:

- 1) I see that you are trying again, great thinking.
- 2) I noticed that you are thinking through the steps/strategies that we have learned.

Coaching a Growth Mindset

5 Questions to Develop a Growth Mindset

- What did you learn from today's performance?
- What steps did you take to make you successful today?
- What are some different strategies you could have used?
- How did you keep going when things got tough?
- What can you learn from your opponent today?

5 Feedback Comments to Develop a Growth Mindset

- This will be a challenging concept to learn, but I believe you can master it.
- You haven't got it yet, but you will if you keep working and thinking about it.
- I really appreciated your effort today.
- It is okay to take risks, that's how we learn.
- Getting better takes time and I see you improving.

@BelievePHQ
@SportPsychDunc

- 3) I see that you are taking on a challenge, that must make you feel confident.
- 4) I like the way that you...
- 5) I see that you have been putting in much effort at...
- 6) I see that you are more confident in...

OUR COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER

After being given a challenge to come up with an idea to support individuals in our community, Knoxdale's Spirit Squad chose to collect items for the Toy Mountain campaign. They would like to thank you for all of your generous donations. They lead the way to make every child's Christmas bright this holiday season. Knoxdale volunteers will deliver all unwrapped toys on December 12th.



The Spirit Squad and Knoxdale thank you for your generous donations.



Giving Hope Today

Holiday Craft sale comes back in 2016!

This year, we are very excited to start up this our annual Knoxdale holiday craft sale! The sale is spearheaded by a group of dedicated Knoxdale students and supervised by Mme Muller. The Knoxdale holiday craft sale is composed of devoted Eagles who have been working hard for the past few days and will be continuing to work in the upcoming days to create a variety of holiday crafts for all celebrations (Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, etc.) such as ornaments, cards, bookmarks, and gift tags. Nut free candy canes will be sold, along with jellybean guesses and a giant candy cane draw. All purchases are under 2\$. All proceeds our chosen charity, FAMSAC, a cause devoted to helping families in poverty during the holidays. The craft sale is selling from the 19th of December to the 22nd. Last year, we raised almost 700\$, and helped almost 7 families. This year, help us reach an even BIGGER goal!

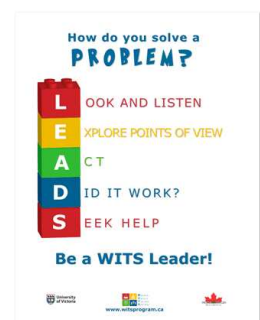
Thank you from Erin and Victoria!

THE WITS LEADS PROGRAM



For the past two years we have been using the WITS program (Walk away, Ignore, Talk it out, Seek help) at Knoxdale to teach students how to respond when they are being teased or bullied at school. The most important aspect of this program is to teach them how to talk and listen to each other in a way that helps

them to resolve their differences. M. Shepherd has also been teaching the WITS LEADS program (Look and Listen, Explain points of view, Act, Did it work, Seek help) to the grade 5/6 students in some Health classes. Some



students have now volunteered to become WITS Leaders on the school yard during recess, using what they learn in the WITS LEADS program to help the younger students develop strategies to resolve their conflicts.

STAFFING UPDATE

We are bidding farewell to one of our staff in December. Darlene Reade will be starting a new chapter in her life as she retires at the end of December. Mrs. Reade has been a cornerstone of the kinder team at Knoxdale for over a decade. I know that many of our families have had a child (or numerous children) start their educational journey in her class. She is a consummate professional whose commitment to students is unwavering. She will be greatly missed and I know that we will all send her our best wishes as she embarks on a new beginning.

OTTAWA 2017 POSTCARD INITIATIVE

On Tuesday, November 29th students in grades 3-6 attended a launch for the Ottawa 2017 Postcard Initiative and our Councillor, Keith Egli, spoke with our students. Empowering youth will be an integral part of Ottawa 2017, and therefore, youth will be the shining light of the event that will kick off one full year of celebrations. Students have received a postcard, created by a student in the OCDSB, and will be encouraged to write a personalized message inviting a relative (parent, friend, family member, etc.) living in Canada to take part in Canada's 150th celebrations in the nation's capital!

SCHOOL SAFETY REMINDERS



To help to keep our school community safe, if you are a visitor to the school we require that you sign in at the office and wear a visitor tag. Thank you to our parents and guests who consistently follow this procedure. When we see your visitor tag we know that you have signed in. If we do not see your tag we will ask you to sign in and get a visitor tag.

Snowballs are always an issue when we experience our first few snowfalls. For the safety of all, snowball throwing is not permitted in our schoolyard. Please reinforce this with your child so that all of our students may enjoy a safe and fun time during recess.



With colder weather now with us, we ask that parents avoid sending children in with scarves, gloves or mittens on chords to help keep our kids safe. As an alternative, we recommend mittens with clips and neck warmers to keep our little ones warm.

SNOWDAY PROCEDURES

If buses are cancelled, PARENTS OF WALKING STUDENTS not coming to school **MUST** call



or email in their absences. Please call 613-828-0010 or email at knoxstudentabsence@ocdsb.ca

Parents of bused students **do not** have to call in their absences as it is assumed that they will **stay home**. When buses are cancelled in the morning, schools remain open. However, buses are **cancelled the entire day**. If you choose to bring your child to school, please be aware that you will need to return to pick them up at 2:30 p.m. (unless they are in our EDP program which runs as normal). Please ensure you discuss the end of day plan with your child before you bring your child to school and where possible, include a communication to your child's teacher.

In the event of a major snow or ice storm, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) will contact local radio or television stations to announce bus cancellations by 6:15 a.m. We recommend checking media and/or installing the OCDSB App on your smart phone or device, this can be found at <http://www.ocdsb.ca/med/Pages/OCDSBApp.aspx>

This information will also be available on both the Transportation and Board websites at : www.ottawaschoolbus.ca & www.ocdsb.ca

HOT CHOCOLATE TREAT

On Thursday, December 22nd, 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 at 9:45 am to the Grade 1-6 students in the back courtyard and then to the kinders at 11:00 am in the front play yard. This is a smile-making event! If you **DO NOT** want your child to have hot chocolate and/or marshmallows, please send a message to their homeroom teacher to inform by Monday, December 19th. The ingredients of the hot chocolate mix and marshmallows are included below. Parents of students with life threatening allergies will receive a form home by backpack to return to the school (giving permission to participate). We have also attached a copy of the form to this message for your convenience. An Allergy Aware table will be set for students with life threatening allergies. Anyone with questions or wishing to volunteer can contact Stephanie Denison at Stephanie_denison@yahoo.ca.



Products and Ingredients:

Hot Chocolate: Nestle - Carnation

SUGAR, CORN SYRUP SOLIDS, HYDROGENATED VEGETABLE OIL (MAY CONTAIN COCONUT, PALM KERNEL AND/OR SOYBEAN OIL), MODIFIED MILK INGREDIENTS, COCOA, CELLULOSE GUM, SALT, DIPOTASSIUM PHOSPHATE, SILICON DIOXIDE, ARTIFICIAL FLAVOUR, MONO- AND DIGLYCERIDES, GUAR GUM, SODIUM ALUMINUM SILICATE.

Marshmallows: Selection Miniature Marshmallows

CORN SYRUP, SUGAR, MODIFIED CORN STARCH, DEXTROSE, WATER, GELATIN, NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL FLAVOURS, TETRASODIUM, PYROPHOSPHATE.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for Kindergarten for 2017-2018 school year will take place from **Monday, January 23rd, 2017 to Friday, January 27th, 2017**. Children who will be four years old by December 31st, 2017 will be eligible for Year 1 Kindergarten. Children who will be five years by December 31st, 2017 will be eligible for Year 2 Kindergarten. To register your child for full day kindergarten, please come into the school office between the hours of 9:00a.m. and 3:00p.m. Your child's immunization record, proof of address and age (birth certificate) and health card are necessary to complete the registration process. Please pass this information along to your friends and neighbours especially if they are not already Knoxdale families, or encourage them to contact us if they have any questions. We will be hosting two information sessions for new Kindergarten parents. The first session will be a general information session about Kindergarten and the OCDSB and will be held on **Thursday, January 19th, 2017 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm**. A further session will be held for parents of students who have registered and will be more specific to Knoxdale and our Kindergarten Program and will be held on **Thursday, May 11th, 2017 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm**, both will be held in the Knoxdale Library.

MIDDLE FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

Registration for Grade 4 Middle French Immersion will take place from **Monday, February 13th, 2017 to Friday, February 17th, 2017**. An information night will be held on **Thursday, February 9th, 2017 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm** in the Knoxdale Library. Please be sure to check the School Locator on the Board's web page at www.ocdsb.ca to confirm your home school for Middle French Immersion.

ELEMENTARY STUDENT TRANSFER PROCESS

If parents/guardians would like their child to be considered to attend a school other than his or her designated school for the following school year, they must complete a transfer form and return it to the school you would like your child to attend **Monday, February 6th to Friday, February 17th, 2017**. Students who are not attending their designated school are not entitled to transportation. Students must still register at their designated school pending approval of the transfer request. Transfer forms are available in all schools. This information can also be found on the Board's website: www.ocdsb.ca.

OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) IMMUNIZATION

As a parent, keeping your kids safe and healthy is your number one priority. All children attending school between ages 4 to 17 need to be immunized according to Ontario Immunization

Schedule. Immunization protects children from many serious diseases that are easily spread in schools. Parents are required to report all immunizations done at the doctor's office to OPH. Under this *Act*, OPH has the authority to suspend students from school. Due to the size of our District, OPH is dividing its surveillance campaign into two phases. The first phase of notification letters to parents alerting them of missing documentation was sent out on November 15, 2016 and the second on November 22, 2016. Suspensions for the first group will commence on February 8, 2017 and for the second group on February 22, 2017 so it is very important to ensure your child's immunizations are up to date.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Once in awhile, we receive requests from the community to share information in our newsletter. Please note that these activities are not endorsed by or connected to Knoxdale Public School.

The 19th Nepean Scouts will be holding their annual Christmas Tree sale on 10-Dec from 9am to noon outside the QGP Community Building at 48 Nanaimo Drive. Freshly cut pine, fir and spruce trees will be available, as well as complimentary hot chocolate. Scouts will be on hand to help prepare and load your tree. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

SNOWHAWKS

Reminder... Deadline approaching... Snowhawks Ski & Snowboard School is offering Knoxdale students in grades 5 & 6 a four-day, after-school ski and snowboard program. The first outing is Monday, January 9, 2017, and the program then continues Jan 16, Jan 23, plus Wed, Feb 1. Two trips each to Vorlage and Mt Cascades will provide plenty of variety. Participants are welcome to register for lift tickets and motor coach travel only, or may add on lessons and/or equipment rental as desired. Coaches will leave the school at dismissal, and return to school at 9:00 PM. Deadline for registration is Dec 14th, although space may fill before the deadline. Info-sheets were handed out to students in the classrooms, and a PDF version is attached. Registration is now open online. For answers to any questions about the program, please contact Snowhawks directly at Ottawa@Snowhawks.com, or [613-730-0701](tel:613-730-0701).

Knoxdale Community School Council (KCSC)



KCSC December Meeting

When: Tuesday, December 13th, 2016

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Knoxdale Public School Library, 2nd Floor

Reminder: No meeting in January

The December monthly meeting was rescheduled to accommodate for the OCDSB Western area review meeting held on Tuesday, December 6th. Please come out tomorrow evening to hear what is happening in your school and upcoming events. We will have reports from the Chair, Principal and Vice Principal, and our KCSC representative attending the Western area advisory committee meetings. If there is anything you would like to discuss at the meeting, please email us in advance so that we may add it to the agenda. All are welcome, see you tomorrow! Thank you!
knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com.



KCSC would like to thank all of those who attended the toy sale for some holiday shopping and supported KCSC by submitting receipts. Sincere thanks to Corrie Casselman for coordinating this fundraising initiative for our school!



REMINDER! FAMSAC FOOD CUPBOARD & SNOWSUIT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL THIS FRIDAY, DEC. 16TH

Thanks to those who have already sent in donations with their children! We have been collecting and sorting away and look forward to continuing to fill boxes during our 2nd (and last) week of the campaign.

- * Non-perishable food items
- * Gently used clean snowsuits (jackets/snowpants), hats, mitts, boots, scarves (please check the pockets!)
- * Cash or cheques are graciously accepted - made payable to "The Snowsuit Fund" or "FAMSAC"
Tax receipts issued for cheque donations over \$10, ensure your name /address are on the cheque.

Last year, the Snowsuit Fund was able to purchase/provide over 16,000 'snowsuits' for children in our community!

Thank you for continuing to help support our community friends and families! The students take great pride in this initiative and enjoy watching the snow gear pile up and the FAMSAC train grow!



Mabel's Labels Fundraiser! The personalized labels make excellent stocking stuffers and are terrific for all types of belongings. To place your order, visit www.campaigns.mabelslabels.com and search for Knoxdale Community School Council. KCSC will earn 20% from the sales. Samples and flyers are on the KCSC bulletin board in the Knoxdale lobby.

Kudos! The first KCSC Ski and Skate "Swap & Sale"

The first KCSC Ski and Skate swap and sale was a success! We would like to sincerely thank Thomas MacLean for his time and effort in organizing and coordinating this new event. We also extend our sincere thanks to those supported this event and who kindly volunteered their time. The sale raised approximately \$500 in support of the Eagles' Nest Playground Project! Now that we have an idea as to how to run this event, we can advertise more broadly and farther in advance for a bigger, better event next year!

Eagles' Nest Playground Project Update

The Eagles' Nest Playground Committee would like to say a huge thank you to the entire school community as well as to the owner and staff at Cozmos Souvlaki. We had a great turnout at the event, saw a lot of friendly faces and managed to get a significant contribution to this project ~ Cozmos donated 20% of all food sales that evening, and when the night was done, a lot of souvlaki went out the door! Cozmos wanted to make sure we had a nice round number so they decided to make an extra donation on top for a total of \$1,000 raised. Our sincere thanks to Cozmos for hosting this event and their generous donation!

We also wanted to recognize another significant step toward our fundraising goal. The KCSC voted to allocate \$7,500 of funds raised over the past few years towards this project. In addition to the funds that KCSC provides to the school each year, these funds were intended for a significant school project, and the playground renewal certainly is one. These two significant contributions, along with a few other fundraisers over the last month puts the current total of funds raised for this project over \$15,000.

Sincere thanks to families and community for your continued support and we look forward to bringing you more events in the New Year!

OCDSB Western Area Review - KCSC Representative Update

A KCSC parent representative and the Principal attended the 3 advisory committee meetings for the OCDSB's Western area review (Oct. 20, Nov. 9, and Dec. 6). There was also a parent and principal from each of the other schools in our family of schools in attendance. Many of our questions and concerns were discussed at these meetings, and there is a final public meeting on January 10th where the Board will have some additional detailed information addressing common concerns and questions. The results of the 'thoughtexchange' survey are available at: <http://ocdsb2.thoughtexchange.info/card-welcome/welcome/> (Follow the links to Western Area Review and SRB family of schools). If you would like to hear more including Board responses to specific questions, please come to the KCSC meeting tomorrow evening.

KCSC Contact

For any information about the KCSC, to request an agenda item for the next meeting, or to enquire about volunteer opportunities, please contact knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!

On behalf of the KCSC executive, best wishes to all for a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season with family, friends and loved ones and for fabulous 2017!

