

UPDATES FROM KNOXDALE PS AND KCSC

CURRICULUM CORNER

Math Facts (From the School Council Newsletter)

Wrong Answers, Great Learning

Thomas Edison said that he did not fail at making the light bulb one thousand times, but rather that "the light bulb was an invention with 1,000 steps."

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot... and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. That is why I succeed." (Michael Jordan)

Making mistakes is a natural part of all learning. Those who we consider to be "great" are clear that mistakes lead to learning. The latest research on mathematics shows that mistakes are a very important part of learning math! When a person makes an error in math and they have the opportunity to learn from it, they actually develop a much stronger understanding. In fact, the research states that students learn more from making mistakes than from getting all the right answers.

When your child makes an error, it offers insight into what understanding your child has about a mathematical idea. It allows parents and teachers to talk to the child about what they know, and ask questions to stretch their thinking around where they are currently developing their understanding.

Parents can ask "How do you know that? What was your thinking here? Is there another way you could solve that? How did you think about X (an element they may be missing or have misunderstood)?" This conversation helps to develop the crucial skills of reasoning and communication and is therefore more helpful than simply showing a child how the math is done. When you support an attitude that values learning from mistakes, you are telling your child that mistakes are a valuable and natural ingredient in learning and lead to deeper understanding

ON LINE MATH SUPPORT

The OCDSB has launched new online resources to support students (K-12) and parents with Mathematics at home (Online Math Support).

To access the Online Math Support site:

- Browse to www.ocdsb.ca
- On the OCDSB home page, Hover over **Parents** tab and click on **Homework Help**
- On the Homework Help page, click on **Online Math Support**

OUR COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER



Knoxdale Holiday Craft Sale

By Pardis A., Rachel B.S., Katie T. and Erin S.

For almost 3 whole weeks, we bought, crafted, and sold crafts and candy canes to the school. As the Holiday Craft Sale, we created custom cards, bookmarks and gift tags, as well as candy canes. We had a hard time with those candy canes because we kept running out! One student thought it would be funny to buy twenty! We also organized a jelly bean guess and a draw for a huge candy cane. After the last day, our efforts paid off; we had raised 677\$ for FAMSAC. That's enough to help almost 7 families have a happier holiday!

The craft sale started last year in the winter of 2014. A small group of us had decided to try running a holiday craft sale, like the Halloween one the school had been running for a while. This year, we wanted to continue the tradition we had started last year. Erin Stubbs decided to see Madame Williams to arrange it, and then Erin took on the leadership role. We made crafts because it's something that we love to do and we thought we could do something we enjoy and help others at the same time. It makes us so proud and happy to know that we did something to help other people that our less fortunate than ourselves. The feeling of fulfillment you get when this happens makes all the hard work worth it!

We sold a lot of our products! A group of boys and girls used their own time during class periods to get the job done. It took a long time to get all the classes sold to. But we always get the job done and always succeed here at Knoxdale!

A big thanks to everyone who participated, whether you bought, sold, or crafted!

A big thank you as well to Mme Boudreau who supervised us at recesses!

Erin S., Evelyn W., Pardis A., Rachel B-S., Katie T., Kieran C., Briana N., Abi E., Meaghan N., Fiona I., Teagan R., Jade W., Jojo L., Ariana L., Victoria M., and Haylee G.

STAFFING UPDATES

Prior to the break we said goodbye to Rajvi Patel who was moving to Toronto for the new year. We welcome Leah Sirenko to the team. Leah will be working with Caroline Heslop and Lindsey Anderson as a new addition to our JK team. We also welcome Fatima Benyelles to the Eagle team. Mme Benyelles brings with her a breadth of experience across the junior grades and she will be filling in behind Mme Foote for the remainder of the year.

TERM ONE REPORTS

Please note that the Term 1 Report Card will be sent home on February 4th, 2016 and will provide an evaluation of your child's learning between September 8th, 2015 and January 22nd, 2016. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Thank you!

A reminder that this Friday- January 22nd- is a PA Day.

LOST AND FOUND

We seem to collect many items in our lost and found! We often send out reminders to check the lost and found by a certain date, following which the items will be donated. Given the volume in our lost and found, we are looking at donating the items on the last Friday of every month. We will begin this practice in February and, of course, we will also remind students to check the lost and found.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration for Junior and Senior Kindergarten for 2016-2017 school year will take place from **Monday, January 25th, 2016 to Friday, January 29th, 2016**. Children who will be four years old by December 31st, 2016 will be eligible for Junior Kindergarten. Children who will be five years by December 31st, 2016 will be eligible for Senior 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 21st, 2016 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 12th, 2016 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 **Tuesday, February 16th, 2016 to Monday, February 22nd, 2016**. An information night will be held on **Thursday, February 4th, 2016 from 6:30pm to 7:30pm** 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 8th to Friday, February 19th, 2016**. 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.

NEW PA DAY

The following is to update you regarding the addition of a Professional Activity (PA) day to the required number of PA days that must be designated by each school board. A key term of the provincial settlements recently negotiated by the elementary and secondary teacher federations is the provision of an additional PA day to the school year, effective the 2015-2016 school year.

As such, the following PA days at elementary and secondary levels will be in place for both elementary and secondary schools. There will be no classes for students on these dates. In addition, at the secondary level, there is a resulting amendment to the examination dates for semesters 1 and 2.

Focus of the P.A. Days: As identified by the Ministry of Education, elementary educators will be focusing half the day on mathematics education and half the day on health and safety. Secondary educators will be focusing on Ministry priorities, including mathematics education and/or equity. Supports will be provided centrally. More details to follow.

Please see the revised dates below for the 2015-2016 school year calendar.

Elementary:

NEW PA Day: Friday, 15 April 2016

Secondary:

NEW PA Day: Monday, 1 February 2016

Semester 1 Examinations: 26-29 January 2016

Semester 2/Non-semestered Examinations: 20-27 June 2016

MOMMY'S YUMMIES

*****Just a reminder that there are **no** hot lunches this Thursday, Jan 21st. *****

The new Mommy's Yummies menu is here. Your current subscription to our hot lunches is ending soon. We hope that you enjoyed our service and we thank you for your support. If you wish to continue to order food for your children please visit www.myfood.ca -> My Account, to place a new order. If it is your first time and you would like to start to receive Mommy's Yummies hot lunches please visit www.myfood.ca -> Register a new customer and follow the instructions to place your order. If you have any questions please contact us via e-mail at admin@myfood.ca or by phone at [613-882-8739](tel:613-882-8739).

Thank you from Mommy's Yummies Food Inc.

Knoxdale Community School Council (KCSC) News & Updates

Please come to our February next 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 the upcoming winter family movie night, 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.

KCSC Winter Family Movie Night - Friday, February 5th, 2016

Presenting the 2016 Winter Movie Night brought to you by the KCSC!

Come and chase the winter blahs away as you cozy up with your friends other school families!

Feature film: Minions 2015

Where: Greenbank M.S. - Gymnasium

When: Friday, February 5th @ 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (food at 6:00/ movie starts at 6:30)

All are welcome! This is a family movie night and all children **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Wear your pyjamas, and please bring a pillow and a blanket to sit on! Please note that lawn chairs are not permitted in the gym.

Please see follow the link below for more information and to pre-order your tickets and food so that we can ensure that we do not exceed the capacity of the gym and that we can have the correct amount of food on hand.

<http://goo.gl/forms/oOtQr6AXq7>

Once all orders have been filled and the movie has started, we will sell any extra food on hand. There is no guarantee that there will food for purchase unless you pre-order. Thank you for your cooperation!

All proceeds will be directed to the KCSC to help enhance our children's educational experience at Knoxdale.

Please enter through the GMS side doors located closest to the parking lot, and remember to bring an inside pair of shoes or extra socks.

The deadline for ALL orders and PAYMENT is FEBRUARY 2nd, 2016.

Thank you! – Jen McGregor (Coordinator)

FAMSAC and Snowsuit Fund

Sincere thanks to Trudy Price and volunteers for coordinating and organizing this tremendously successful initiative at KPS this year and to all the KPS families for your incredible generosity!



A Big Shout Out to KPS Families!

Within a 14 day period, KPS families contributed a total of:

- 24 large garbage bags FULL of snow gear to the SNOWSUIT FUND!
- 26 very heavy boxes of food items to FAMSAC!

The Snowsuit Fund volunteers at the drop off depot were very grateful when we appeared with that they said was the **largest school donation they had ever seen! Wow!**

And FAMSAC was delighted to tweet about the generosity of the Knoxdale Community – and particularly excited and thankful for the donation made by the craft club.

Thank you to the entire Knoxdale community for your kindness and generosity in making the winter a little warmer for some children in our community and for ensuring there is food in their cupboards. Engaging our children in these types of volunteer initiatives, educating them about community services, and having them actively participate where they can see the results of their efforts (collecting and sorting food and clothing for the less fortunate in our community) will undoubtedly motivate them to continue contributing to and leading charitable projects. These types of initiatives would not be possible without the dedication of our Knox team – particularly Mme. Anderson and Mme. Heslop! From organizing the creation of posters to classroom pick up, to the tally chart for competition – they kept the enthusiasm and flow for the entire two weeks! THANK YOU!!! I would also like to extend appreciation to our amazing custodian, Tim! Always willing to help dragging boxes around and sorting. THANK YOU! A special thanks to my youngest son Alex who happily spent countless hours meticulously sorting food and clothing in that storage room at the end of the hall every day throughout the campaign!

Please follow FAMSAC and the Snowsuit Fun on twitter to keep up to date on their needs throughout the year! Your year round support to these important community organizations is incredibly helpful!

<https://twitter.com/SnowsuitFund>

<https://twitter.com/FAMSACFoodBank>

Till next year....!

Trudy Price

Coordinator

Book Fair and Used Book Sale - Coming Soon!

The KCSC is hard at work with plans to reschedule the book fair and used book sale for this spring. This is a much anticipated annual event for our children and KPS families. We would greatly appreciate if you could please continue to put aside your gently used books for donation to the sale. More details to come home shortly. If you are able to volunteer some time for the sale, please contact the KCSC at knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com. Many thanks!

Hot Chocolate Day Kudos

What a lovely treat on a warm winter's day! Hot chocolate day was a highly anticipated annual event held on the last day of school before the winter holidays. The students enjoyed an extended recess and were eager for a cup of hot chocolate and marshmallows - the kids didn't seem to mind the lack of snow and cold.

A big thank you to Mme. Williams and all of the teachers and staff that accommodated for this activity.

Many thanks to all of the parent and grandparent volunteers who came out in their very best Santa and elf hats, and reindeer antlers ~ there were smiles all around! We would like to extend a sincere thank you to Heather McDonald, Beth Williamson, Robin Wright and Krista Cajka for organizing and coordinating such a successful and fun event for all of our students!

Get Involved With Your School!

If you would like to become more involved at Knoxdale and meet some other families but aren't sure where to start, why not come out to a monthly meeting to hear about what is happening in your school, or volunteer to help with one of the upcoming KPS family events? If you would like any information about the KCSC or have some time to volunteer, we would love to hear from you! Please email knoxdalecouncil@gmail.com or refer to the school council link on the KPS website.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREND-ARLINGTON COMMUNITY RINK

Finally, the outdoor rink is open for business!

The Trend-Arlington community rink is now open. The school makes good use of this rink, as do many members of the local community. This wonderful, free outdoor activity would not be possible without the hard work of our volunteer team. Please consider helping out, as we still need another 4 volunteers to work 1 night per week.

10 Reasons to Become a Rink Volunteer:

1. Great exercise, and no costly gym membership
2. Would you rather kids are inside on their devices, watching TV, or outside getting fresh air and exercise?
3. Many hands make light work. 21 volunteers = 3 people per night = piece of cake!
4. 1 night per week from 9:15 to 10:30 for about 8 weeks (Dec 25 through Mar 7).....that's it.
5. A chance to give back to the community and provide the kids with a safe, healthy, free winter activity
6. You don't need to have any experience. We have 1 veteran per shift that will show you the ropes.
7. It's OK if you can't make every shift. That's why we work in teams.
8. There is nothing more peaceful and satisfying than laying down a smooth flood on a quiet winter evening (seriously)
9. Get to know some of your neighbors in the community.....be part of a fantastic team!
10. Without your help, the rink can't exist

Please contact Paul Basarke at [\(613\)864-7285](tel:6138647285) or email him at: basarke@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer, or have further questions.

Also, Knoxdale Public School is always in need of skates and helmets to provide an opportunity for all students to participate in the school skating program. If you have any gently used equipment, please drop off to the ladies in the school office.