

UPDATES FROM KNOXDALE PS AND KCSC

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Below you will find a few updates from school. We have been very busy in the school with our creation of our School Learning Plan and numerous activities throughout the school! We have all been taking advantage of this beautiful weather with many of outdoor activities- especially skating! It would be wonderful if this weather continues through February!

CURRICULUM CORNER

We have been fortunate at Knoxdale to have enjoyed success across divisions and grades in terms of student achievement. Every year, we look at our data to collectively decide how we, as a school, can tweak our practices in order to continually close the gap and raise the bar for all of our students. Our first step is to look deeply into our data to identify areas of strength and areas of growth. This is the first part of our School Learning Plan where we reflect on our school's learning journey, consider areas for growth and then determine a focus for student learning. Last year our focus was creating units of study that were framed with an overarching inquiry question and have a critical thinking challenge embedded in the unit.

The following is an example for Junior Math that was used last year:

Overarching inquiry question: How can we use multiplicative relationships to compare items, and parts of items, of various sizes and shapes?

Critical Challenge: How can we use proportional reasoning to design a new pair of shoes for Ralph the Giant and his brother Jim who is twice Ralph's size, knowing only how big Ralph's partially sharpened pencil looks in the arms of a grade 4/5/6 student?

As we move through the phases of our school learning plan last year, we "acted", implementing our units and then reflecting on the effectiveness of our plan. This year, we are creating Theories of Action that link to our work from last year and that are grounded in high yield instructional strategies. Stay tuned to our next update for more information on our plan as it evolves!

OUR COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER

At Knoxdale we appreciate others and we encourage friendship. We think that friends can help others a lot, they can cheer you up and help you if you need assistance. We help each other out by being friends. We are always there for each other. We make sure our buckets are always full. We also help other people's buckets get filled too! We believe that helping out or filling someone's bucket in any situation is nice, whether it's helping out a friend, a family member, a teacher, a classmate or even a student you've never seen before at Knoxdale. ***Remember, kindness is contagious! By: Rhyan and Tara***

What would filling someone's bucket feel like every day? It makes them



and you feel amazing and it makes their day great too! It t does the same for you! For example, if someone is not feeling good because their work is too hard you can just go talk to him/her and ask them if you could help them. Riley and I do! We help each other with French work and there are a lot more things you can do to that make your day or someone else's day better. Try to fill someone's bucket today!!!! It makes everyone happy! What are you going to do to fill someone's bucket today? By Riley and Mason



TERM ONE REPORTS

Please note that the Term 1 Report Card will be sent home on February 4th, 2016 for SK to grade 6 students (JK students will receive a report card in June) and will provide an evaluation of your child's learning between September 8th, 2015 and January 22nd, 2016. While SK reports will consist of comments only, grade 1-3 students will also receive letter grades for the subjects of the Ontario curriculum. Aside from their knowledge, students are evaluated on their ability to communicate their thinking and apply what they have learned

As a parent, you are encouraged to participate in your child's learning by reviewing and discussing learning skills and achievement in subject areas. Both students and parents can use the tear-off section at the bottom of the report card to comment on "best work" and "goals for improvement" then return this section to your child's teacher. There is not a formal scheduled opportunity for parents and staff to meet following the report card. However, parents are encouraged to contact the teacher with any questions or concerns about their child's progress at any time in the school year.

As always, we continue to have high expectations for all of our students in terms of academic, social and emotional development. We appreciate the home/school partnerships that optimize the learning situation of students.

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.

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.

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.

TRANSPORTATION- BUS DELAYS AND CANCELLATION

A reminder that bus delay and cancellation notices can be found by:

- Visiting OSTA's [Parent Portal](#) (includes detailed information about delays)
- Following OSTA on Twitter @OttSchoolBus
- Subscribing to OSTA's mailing list to receive email notifications
- Monitoring local radio and television stations

COMMUNITY NEWS

PARENTING THE PAMPERED GENERATION

You are invited to participate in a Briargreen Public School Lecture Evening with Dr. Maggie Mamen, Clinical Psychologist. The event is taking place at Briargreen Public School on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00 pm. Please see the flyer attached for more information.

HOCKEY DAY in WARD 9 SHINNY TOURNAMENT

Hockey Day in Canada is rapidly approaching on February 6th and your local community associations are once again hosting a shinny tournament for kids and families in Nepean to commemorate this great day! Kids of all ages and skill levels are invited to play. Food and drinks are provided and all players receive a toque and a puck for participating. Tournament winners will receive free tickets to either a 67s or Senators game. If you would like to play in this fun and exciting shinny tournament, please pick up a registration form in the office.

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

Please place your order for tickets and food through the on-line link and send in payment before next Tuesday, February 2nd. Thank you in advance!

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 or dress like your favourite minion, and please bring a pillow and a blanket to sit on! Please note that lawn chairs are not permitted in the gym. Please 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 be 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.

See you there!

Jennifer McGregor

Co-ordinator

Please come to our February 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 before Sunday, January 31, 2016.

Please come to hear about what is happening in your school!