



MAC'S NEWSLETTER

Mackenzie King Public School - "A Great Place To Be"

Volume 17, Issue 2

November/December 2013

Upcoming Events

November

- 4 - Progress Reports Go Home, G1-G6
- 4 - Bus Evacuation Drill
- 11 - Remembrance Day Assembly—10:15
- *parents and community welcome*
- 11, 12, 13, 14 - JK/SK Observations
- 13 - School Council Meeting—6:00 p.m.
- 14 - Dev Ed—Music Therapy
- 14 - Character Assembly—9:55 a.m.
- "Empathy" - *parents welcome*
- 20 - National Child Day
- 20 - We Day—Kit. Memorial Auditorium
- Mackenzie King Leadership Group
- 21 - JK-3 Fire Safety House at MK
- 21 - Dev Ed—Music Therapy
- 25, 26 - Scholastic Book Fair
- 26 - Poinsettia/Gift Card pickup
- 3:00—7:00 p.m.
- 27 - Scholastic Book Fair—a.m.
- 28 - Dev Ed—Music Therapy

December

- 10 - Garage Sale—2:15 p.m.—for JK/SK
- 11 - Garage Sale—in gym
- 11 - School Council Meeting—6:00 p.m.
- 12 - Character Assembly—9:55 a.m.
- "Social Responsibility"
- *parents welcome to attend*
- 18 - Holiday Concert, 9:30 a.m.
- 20 - P.A. Day
- Dec. 23—Jan. 3 HAPPY HOLIDAYS
- Jan. 6, 2014 Welcome Back!

Message From The Principal

Dear Mackenzie King Families:

This has been an exciting fall term at Mackenzie King. Students are eager to learn and are demonstrating respect with classmates, staff members, and around our school environment. Our school-wide character goals give us a common focus for development and practice of positive social skills and relationships with others and our. Please discuss and reinforce our character goals at home to help children understand how these character traits and values apply to all facets of their lives. Character goals for each are found on our school website.



At Mackenzie King, our school's learning goal is to improve student learning by helping our students to communicate their thinking. Students are excited about writing, as teachers are providing opportunities for relevant and authentic writing experiences, that require deeper thinking. Check out the samples of student writing in this edition of our newsletter. This year, we are challenging students to think deeper by asking questions that are open-ended and critical. We want students to learn "how to think" not "what to think." Exemplars and anchor charts will be consistently used to provide models of quality work that clearly demonstrate success criteria and expectations for performance.

Exemplars give students and parents a clear understanding of what quality work looks like, and identify the criteria for success.

We value your partnership in your child's education. Together We Make The Difference.



Progress Reports go Home on November 4, 2013

Report cards help parents understand their children's progress at school. Read report cards carefully and focus as much or more on "learning skills and work habits" as on the "marks" or the "progressing" boxes. The information about students' learning skills and work habits can have an influence. Report cards offer a great opportunity for parents to talk to their children about school. Parent-teacher interviews are to be arranged directly with your child's teacher.

Bell Times Consultation - Please check out the WRDSB website for the notice of BELL TIMES CONSULTATION. They are asking families and community partners to provide feedback via an online survey which can be accessed at <http://www.wrdsb.ca/bell-times-consultation/> Of note, Mackenzie King is one of the 45 board schools whose bell times remain unchanged.

Writer's Workshop

Teaching writing, like many other subjects, has changed dramatically over the years. Students are encouraged to write for a specific purpose to a specific audience about something relevant to themselves. The Writer's Workshop gives students an opportunity to write within the school day and provides them with appropriate, intensive and targeted instruction in whole groups, small groups and individually. The Writer's Workshop consists of 1) a **mini-lesson** by the teacher where students are gathered for explicit instruction on a specific writing strategy (usually 5 -15 minutes) 2) **independent writing** time where students write and teachers provide precise writing instruction and feedback to individuals and small groups (usually 20- 30 minutes) and 3) **sharing sessions** where students read what they have written and celebrate their writing progress. The share time and mini-lessons are the best opportunities to reach the whole class and to reinforce successful instructional strategies. Teachers support students by acknowledging their progress and then provide explicit feedback based on observed strengths and needs. During sharing sessions, students discuss the new strategies they learned and the challenges they faced as they attempted to apply the strategies.

To your right is a sample of student writing by *Ava Hunter*, *grade 3*, during an independent sustained writing time in Room 7. Notice the catchy opening sentence, details, the author's voice and feelings.

Have you ever had a weekend like Ava?



Going to my Aunt Heather's was not such a good thing after all. The cake I made for my brother spilled all over the floor. The piñata we had on first hit we broke it right away and I didn't get to hit it and I only got 5 candies. My brother hogged it all. That night, I could not get any sleep because it was pouring rain. When the morning came, the rooster woke me up really early in the morning and it was still dark out. I went out to pick the eggs. One of the chickens pooped on my shoe. We made chocolate cookies and burned them. The next night I fell asleep on the couch. The next morning I fell off the couch on to the hardwood floor. Man did I have hard luck on the weekend. ~ Ava H.

Authentic Writing

Students need to have choice and be interested in what they are writing about in order to be engaged and to use effective traits of writing.

In Mason's journal entry *below*, notice how he grabs the reader's attention by asking a question. You can hear his "voice" in his writing as he carefully describes, both in writing, and in his pictures, a small moment in time when a sneeze resulted in a bruised forehead. Notice his use of speech bubbles in his illustrations.

Have you ever banged your head before? That's exactly what happened to me. I was sitting at my computer desk at my mom's. Then I sneezed and "bang", my forehead hit the computer speaker. I cried a lot. Tears went everywhere. I cried my way to mom. My mom said, "it was ok." That night I called my dad and told him it looked like a red gem stuck into my forehead. Don't do this at home! ~ Mason H.





On Monday October 21 and Tuesday October 22, the Red and Blue Kindergarten Classes went on a field trip to Nauman's Pumpkin Farm. Each student was given a small pumpkin to take home and each class was given a class pumpkin!



We wondered what was inside of the pumpkins so we opened the top but decided it was too hard to share a small hole for an opening to look inside and scoop out the insides and the seeds. We decided to cut the pumpkin in half so that everyone could have a turn scooping and separating the pumpkin flesh and the seeds. We had wonderful parent helpers, Mrs. Benson and Mrs. Ireland, help with our pumpkins. Once we had all the seeds separated, we rinsed the seeds, dried them and laid them on a baking sheet to roast in the oven.



At the end of the day we tasted the pumpkin seeds and decided that they tasted like popcorn!

Science Overall Expectations:

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the natural and built environment through hands-on investigations and observations.
2. Conduct simple investigations through free exploration using inquiry skills, questioning, predicting, observing, communicating.

Room 7 and 8 ~ Garage Sale 2013

As part of our classroom goal to help others, Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Korpan will be continuing the tradition of raising money for a charity. In past years, we gave a donation to the Brick-by-Brick campaign to build a school in Kenya (almost \$500.00 in 2012) and to The Give A Goat Campaign. This year we have decided to help out with a local charity, Mary's Place (<http://www.ywcakw.on.ca/emergency-shelter>). Please visit the website if you have any questions about it. The students love the aspect of "reducing and reusing" and enjoy finding great bargains at the Garage Sale.



WE NEED YOUR HELP to ensure that the Garage Sale will go on! Please send us your gently used items of books, toys, household items, jewelry or other items which may appeal to students. Last year, we added a 25 cent gift wrapping table to the list of available items for purchase. We are in need of wrapping paper, bows, tape and other items to make a gift look beautiful. Prices at the Garage Sale will range from 25 cents to \$5.00. There will also be raffle tickets for one of the items that has been donated. Parents are welcome to come at any time throughout the day. We also need volunteers to help out with collecting money and wrapping gifts. If you are able to help out, please sign below and return to school with your child, or call 519-570-8105.

Scissors icon Parent Name _____ Child's Rm # _____

Thank you for circling a date and time(s) below, to volunteer at the Garage Sale:

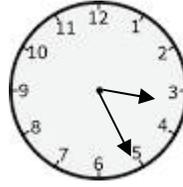
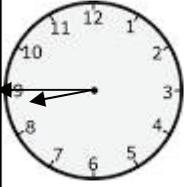
December 10:	2:30	December 11:	9:25	9:55	10:25	
December 11:	11:35	12:05	12:35	1:05	2:15	2:45

Thank you so much for your support. ~ Mrs. Johnston (ext. 8745) and Mrs. Korpan

Before and After School

This is a friendly reminder for parents, guardians and students regarding our before and after school routines.

Our staff is on duty for 10 minutes before and after our school day. Students should be arriving between 8:45 and 8:55 in the mornings so that they are not unsupervised on the playground. As the mornings get colder, the closer that the children arrive to our 8:55 entry, the more comfortable and ready to learn they will be for the day.



At the end of the instructional day, it is our expectation that all students will promptly leave the school property and head home (or to child care). Students should not be staying on the school property to play games or socialize with their friends. Students may only stay on the school property after the dismissal bell if they are under the direct supervision of a care giver. Our staff supervision at dismissal time ends at 3:25 p.m. and is primarily designed to ensure that all the students leave the school grounds in a timely manner.

Thank you for your co-operation in helping to ensure the safety of all our students.

Winter Weather Is On Its'Way

Students are outside for 40 minutes every day and need to be prepared for the winter weather. Please ensure that children dress appropriately with coats,

boots, mittens and hats to be comfortable and safe out of doors.



Mackenzie King—A Great Place To Be—Our School-Wide Goals

October	- RESPECT	“We are respectful in all we say and do”
November	- EMPATHY	“We put ourselves in someone else’s shoes”
December	- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	“We help those in need”

Our goals drive our character development program. We know that when students learn to care, they care to learn. With our JK/SK students on the playground during our nutrition break, our “older” students have been doing a fabulous job of showing how caring, courteous and co-operative citizens act at school. They look after their young friends to ensure their safety and comfort. Please continue to talk with your children about how these character traits look, sound and feel at home.

Mackenzie King Monthly Assemblies Parents Are Welcome

The monthly assemblies are Mackenzie King’s celebration of our school-wide goals and character attributes. Each month, we celebrate a character trait and introduce a new one. We build upon the foundation of respect. Parents are always welcome to attend our monthly assemblies. Watch the newsletters and school website for times and dates.

<http://mck.wrdsb.on.ca/>

Important Reminders—We are a nut-safe and scent-free school

PLEASE



**NO PEANUTS
OR
NUT PRODUCTS**

We have students and staff who are highly allergic to nuts - peanuts, sesame seeds, walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, cashews and all products made with nuts (e.g. peanut butter, M&M candies). We also have allergies/sensitivities to scents. These could result in anaphylactic shock and even death. Students at Mackenzie King may not bring peanut butter sandwiches or any snacks that contain nuts to school. **The soya base substitutes, given their indistinguishable traits from the known allergen, are also not allowed.** Students are not to share food with each other. Students are not to bring scented products to school including hand sanitizers. Please ensure any such products are scent-free. **We appreciate your support as we strive to protect all students/staff.**