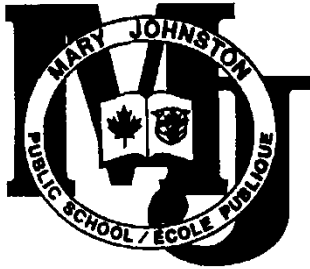


MARY JOHNSTON NEWS

MAY/JUNE 2016



**PRINCIPAL
MRS. K. BILESKI**

**HEAD SECRETARY
MRS. KIESWETTER**

**SECRETARY
MRS. DEVEREAUX**

**OFFICE PHONE:
519-747-1620**

**ATTENDANCE LINE:
519-570-8108
EXT. 3530#**

**SCHOOL ADDRESS:
475 BRYNHURST BLVD.
WATERLOO ON N2T 2C6**

**SCHOOL WEBSITE:
<http://mjp.wrdsb.ca>**

**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:
[@mjpwrdsb](https://twitter.com/mjpwrdsb)**

Principal's Message

Mary Johnston School is definitely a happening place! The action is wonderfully constant. Our Me to We group keeps us continually thinking of others with their Toasty Toes Campaign, Plasma Car Races and Arts Night support. This group of students and their leaders work tirelessly to ensure that we are all doing our part to make our community a better place. Empathy is learned through modeling and we appreciate the peer teaching from this enthusiastic group. Thank you so much for supporting the initiatives this group puts forward.



My favourite time of day is when I can escape the office and visit classrooms. Our students continue to be engaged in learning. Students have impressed me with their inquiry projects, presentations and demonstrations. Class trips are in full swing, with several using public transit for their transportation!

Each day I am discovering all the activities that keep our kids active and moving. Afternoon intramural dodgeball was a hit along with primary games, primary choir and recycle club. The other day a group of students came with cloths and buckets to clean the office windows!!! I worked really hard to recruit them to come to my home ☺ Office helpers love to meet and greet visitors as well as students in need of ice or a bandage.

I'd like to say a special thank you to our community of Mary Johnston volunteers. I have been so impressed with the willingness to lend a hand in whatever way possible. Mary Johnston volunteers have actively supported us in a variety of ways including: School Council, classroom support, book fairs, the Strong Start Literacy program, Nutrition for Learning, pizza lunches, class trips, fundraising throughout the year and much more. The regular daily assistance of volunteers in our classrooms and around the school has provided countless hours of support to our students and staff. We hope our volunteers will be able to join us for our Volunteer Breakfast: **May 17 starting at 8:15am. Stay tuned for further details.**

As we approach the last few months of the school year, it is my hope that you are regularly checking School Day to keep up with all the upcoming events. I look forward to working in partnership with you as we continue to build on the excellent success that Mary Johnston School has already attained.

Warmly,
Mrs. Karin Bileski

Class Placement 2016-2017

It is hard to believe that the 2016/2017 school year is just around the corner! In the next few weeks, teachers and admin will be sitting down to make up classes, based upon our best estimate of enrollment projections for the coming year. When classes are assembled, the focus is to make them heterogeneous.

The major factors in class building considered are:

- The academic level of each student, creating a balance of needs in each class
- The learning skills of each student
- The social/emotional levels of each student
- The relationships among students
- How the child's leadership potential will have an opportunity to develop in the class
- A balance of girls and boys

While attempts are made to place children with at least one or two of his/her current friends, we find that children are adaptable and will make friends wherever they are placed. The guiding principle is to group children for instructional purposes. We do our best to ensure that your child's placement will best serve his/her learning needs.

As part of this planning, parents may choose to submit a letter in writing, outlining their child's characteristics and any observations that they would like the school to keep in mind when developing the classes. Often parents offer information about friendships and learning styles, which help us with social groupings. Please send a paper letter to the office, **no emails please**.

If you wish for the office to consider specific information about your child's placement for September, we ask that you submit this in writing to Mrs. Bileski by Friday, May 27. This information will be taken into account; however, in organizing for the learning needs of all the students in the school we cannot promise that individual requests will be granted. Also, please understand that this is not an opportunity to request a specific teacher for your child. Since the organizational process occurs in June, with staff possibly choosing to transfer, we cannot guarantee that specific teachers will be here in September or that they will be teaching the same grade level.

This is a process that is taken very seriously. We do our best to ensure that your child's placement will best serve his/her learning needs.

2016 EQAO

Grade 3 and 6 Assessment

During the weeks of May 26- June 6, we will administer the EQAO Assessment to our Grade three and six students.

The Grade 3 students will write May 27-May 30

The Grade 6 Students will write June 3-6.

Please try to avoid booking appointments for your child during this time.

For more information, please visit the parent support section of the EQAO website;

<http://www.eqao.com/Parents/parents>.

At MJ, we strive to create a stress free environment while students complete this assessment. We remind our students to try their best, nothing bad will happen and the work you do all year is what should be the focus. This evaluation assessment is a small snapshot into what they know! The information is used for planning, School Board and Ministry purposes.

Attention Volunteers: You Are Invited to our Volunteer Tea Tuesday, May 17, 8:15am

The staff of Mary Johnston Public School will be recognizing parents and friends who have graciously volunteered their time and assistance throughout the school year.

Breakfast snacks will be served at 8:15am in the Library.

Please join us so we can show you our appreciation.



Grade 6 Graduation Celebration Tuesday June 28, 1:00- 2:00pm

Every year we celebrate our grade six students by hosting an assembly where we recognize the years they have spent at Mary Johnston. We strive to keep this celebration low key, as we know all students will enjoy a grand graduation celebration in grade eight. We invite families of grade six students to join us at this assembly. Our School Council sponsors this event by providing refreshments after the ceremony.

**Kindergarten Open House
For New JK Students
Tuesday June 14th 5:30-6:30 PM**

Parents of JK and new SK students are invited to our Kindergarten information night. During this evening, parents will receive information to prepare for their child's arrival to Mary Johnston in September and to get a better understanding of the new Full Day Kindergarten Program and Extended day program as well as bus information.



School Council News

Our School Council team continues to work hard to support all endeavors at Mary Johnston. This year council continues to support school initiatives such as the Arts Night and Grade 6 Graduation, the Used Book Fair and Family Fun Night. We appreciate all the community is able to do for our school. Be sure to check out SchoolDay messages for further information about these events.

At this time of year, council will be setting budget and goals for the new school year. Fundraising initiative and activities will be planned and communicated to you at the beginning of the upcoming school year.

Please consider being a part of this group! There will be opportunities to contribute in many different ways. Any amount of time you can spare is always appreciated!

You will find the Agenda and Minutes posted on the school website under the School Council tab. Please have a look!

**Join us at the next School Council
meeting, May 18th.**

SCIS ~ Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools

Safe, Caring and Inclusive School survey for Parents and Guardians.

Have you had a chance to complete the SCIS survey? The deadline is Friday, May 13th.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. It is important to understand how parents/guardians feel about their child's school. The Waterloo Region District School Board is committed to providing safe, caring and inclusive places for everyone in order to help students learn and succeed.

Your answers are confidential. Survey results will identify some of the positive things already happening within your child's school. These results may also highlight some areas for possible improvement for schools to consider in making their school a safe and friendly place for everyone.

This survey is for parents and guardians of Waterloo Region District School Board students.

Every school in the province is required to have a Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools (SCIS) team.

- The purpose is to promote a positive school climate for all members of the school community.
- The membership represents the school's community with inclusion of: an administrator, a teaching staff member, a support staff member, a parent, a student and someone from the broader community.

At Mary Johnston our team is beginning to make plans. We are hoping to add a community member to our team. If you know of someone willing to join our team, please contact the school.

Upcoming Events at MJ



May

May 17 ~ 8:15 am Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

May 18 ~ Class Picture Day

May 18 ~ 7:30 pm School Council meets

May 19 ~ 2:00 pm Free the Children Assembly for Jr. Students

May 25-31 ~ EQAO Grade 3

May 31 ~ June 7 EQAO Grade 6

May 25/26 ~ Track and Field for gr. 4-6 (26 Rain Date)

June

June 3 ~ PD Day, no school for students

June 8, 9, 10 ~ Grade 6 at Silverlake Camp

June 14 ~ 5:30-6:30 pm Kindergarten Information Night

June 15 ~ 7:00 pm School Council meets

June 16 ~ Jr. Track Meet at University Stadium

June 21 ~ Primary Choir Parent performance

June 22 ~ M.J's Got Talent

June 24 ~ Report Cards Go Home

June 28 ~ 1:00 PM Grade 6 Graduation

June 29 ~ Last Day of School for Students

June 30 ~ PD Day, no school for students