

Macaulay Newsflash



Macaulay Public School
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Principal: Peter Edwards
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“Better Together”

Secretary: Jennifer Rendall

Macaulay Public School, touching minds, hearts and spirits to shape our future

November, 2014

Principal's Message

It's that time of year again. The days are getting shorter while the nights keep getting longer. In the morning there's a frost on the ground and on the windows of the car. Living here in Muskoka we know what's coming next – SNOW! ☺ Students and families are reminded that appropriate clothing needs to be here for students to be outside for at least 40 minutes every day.

The new additions to our yard, the outdoor classrooms, Gaga ball pit, learning activities in the kindergarten yard, and music/outdoor library area by the trees, are getting excellent use. A big thank you to Mrs. Sickinger for taking the lead on this, the outdoor classroom committee, and all the parents and students involved in building it. It truly was a community event.

At the School Council meeting I shared this year's plan for continued school improvement. We have accomplished a lot in the past few years and we plan to continue building on that success. There certainly is an academic focus in our plan, but also the importance of developing well-rounded individuals. There are lots of opportunities for the students to get involved and I'm hopeful that they will.

The extended Phys Ed program will be continuing this year with some small modifications. I know our grade 7 students have already started their canoe paddling skills in preparation for their trip in the Spring. Notices will be sent home as each grades activity gets closer.

Looking forward to another great winter here at Macaulay!

Peter Edwards
Principal

Progress Reports

Progress Reports go home on **November 14**. Teachers of grades 1-8 will be contacting you to arrange an interview at a mutually convenient time. Please make every effort to meet face to face with your child's teacher. This is an important piece of the home-school connection that shows your child that you believe their education is important. It also allows you to see and discuss their work with their teacher.



For the parents of JK and SK students, each teacher will be scheduling times for you to observe your child in their class. A note will go home with the children indicating available days and times. Please be prompt about returning your form in order to request a preferred time. Thank you.

Picture Re-take Day

Picture re-take day is on **Thursday November 13th, 2014**.



Remembrance Day Assembly – Nov. 11

Macaulay will be holding our Remembrance Day assembly on Tuesday, November 11th at 10:45 a.m. Please come and join us.



Puzzle Club

Puzzle Club meets every Day 1 in the library during 1st recess. All students in grades 1-8 are welcome to attend and we are looking for puzzle donations for varying abilities (maximum 200 pieces).

Author Club

Author Club meets every Day 2 during 1st recess. All students in grades 1-8 are welcome to attend.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Library will be holding a Book Fair beginning **Wednesday November 18th until Monday November 24th**. The Book Fair will be open until **3:30 p.m.** on **Wednesday and Monday; Thursday, November 20th until 7:30 p.m.** **Friday November 21 is a P.D. Day so the fair will be closed.** Please feel free to browse the huge selection of books on display.

**School Council Meeting**

The next school council meeting will be held on Monday **December 1st at 6:30 p.m.** Please come and join us in the library.

**Weather Watch**

We've had a very wet October, and the cold snowy winter weather will be arriving soon. Please ensure that you send your child with a hat, mitts, and warm coat. All children are expected to enjoy the great outdoors at recess.

**Rylie's Fundraiser**

On Wed. Nov. 12 at 2nd nutrition break, we will be hosting Rice Krispy Square sale in support of the Sick Kids Hospital Liver Transplant fund. Each square \$1.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Dec. Pizza Orders Due → Nov. 10
- ◆ Remembrance Day Assembly → Nov. 11
- ◆ Rylie's Rice Krispies Sale → Nov. 12
- ◆ Picture Retake Day → Nov. 13
- ◆ Progress Reports go Home → Nov. 14
- ◆ 1st Hot Chocolate Friday → Nov. 14
- ◆ Book Fair → Nov.18-24
- ◆ Pita Day → Nov. 18
- ◆ Boys Writer's Conference → Nov. 19
- ◆ P.D. Day → Nov. 21
- ◆ Mix and Match Day → Nov. 28

Hot Chocolate For Sale

Every Friday.

First nutrition break (10:45-11:05)

Sold in front of the office.

50 cents if you bring in a re-usable mug

75 cents without a re-usable mug

Sales begin **Friday November 14th**

New Outdoor Learning Environment

The Kindergartens are thoroughly enjoying the additions to their outdoor playground. The mud kitchen, the construction site, new vehicles and the stepping stumps are big hits with our students! In addition, the entire school is having a great time playing in the GaGa Ball Pit, visiting the outdoor granite classroom, playing the drums and enjoying reading a book at the Moose Library. If you have a chance, stop by and see what our parent council have created for our school. We are so grateful to our Parent Council for making these new additions possible!

Parent Communication

Would you like to receive information from the school by email? by text? by phone? by all three? We have a new system that gives us lots of different ways to communicate with you. Fill out your "School-Home Communication Form" and send it to the school office. Make sure to sign the "Canada Anti-Spam Legislation Consent" portion so that we can share information about upcoming school events, extra-curricular opportunities, yearbook purchases, fund raising initiatives, etc. **Once you have sent in your form - text the word 'join' to 56360.** For more information, call the school office.

November Parent Engagement Tips

Parent Engagement



Immunization Records

The Health Unit is required by law to keep an up-to-date immunization record on file for every student who attends elementary or secondary school. Unfortunately the health unit does not receive immunization information directly from doctor's offices, therefore parents need to contact the health unit each time students receive a vaccine from their health care provider to update their record. If a student's immunization record on file with the health unit is not up-to-date, the health unit will mail a notice requesting immunization information or proof of a valid exemption. If the information requested is not provided, the student may be suspended from school. Immunization clinics are no longer held in secondary schools.

If a student is due for immunizations, an appointment can be made with their health care provider or at a health unit immunization clinic by contacting Your Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520. Parents can now provide updated immunization information to the health unit online by visiting their local health unit website.

Source: Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit

Mental Health Minute

Why is physical activity so important for my child?

- It improves their mental health, mood, and self confidence.
- It improves their attention span, ability to learn, and they do better in school.
- It is a way for them to have fun with friends and feel happier.
- It helps them to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and body image.
- It increases their fitness levels and reduces the risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and some cancers.
- Developing healthy habits at a young age — getting regular exercise and participating in sports, will help them continue good habits into adult years.
- It's fun and something you can all do together!

Source: Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Snacking and Your Smile

Snacks are important in providing a balanced diet for your child's growth and development.

- Foods and drinks with added sugar should be eaten with meals rather than as a snack.
- Choose snack foods that fit into Canada's Food Guide.
- Cheese is a high protein snack and can help fight cavities.
- Sipping on sports drinks and pop will contribute to cavities.
- Sugar-free gum following snacks will help fight cavities.

For more information, call the Health Connection at: 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 or, visit your local health unit website: www.hkpr.on.ca www.simcoemuskokahealth.org

