

Dixon Grove JMS News

November 2012

Our school year is now well under way, and we look forward to working with family and community members to ensure a successful and rewarding school experience for our students.

The Accepting Schools Act

On June 5, 2012, **The Accepting Schools Act** passed a final reading in the Ontario Legislature. The Act, Bill 13, requires all school boards to take preventative measures against bullying, issue tougher consequences for bullying and support students who want to promote understanding and respect.

This legislation will strengthen the policies and procedures that are in place in our Board to support our schools and classrooms. Boards are expected to make changes to some of their policies and procedures for September 1, 2012, working toward full implementation by February 1, 2013. Currently, principals are expected to report incidents, notify parents, and provide supports for students who need them. When the legislation is fully implemented, there will be a new definition of bullying, enhanced supports for students and parents, school climate surveys and reporting by professionals such as psychologists and social workers. If you have particular questions, please speak to the Principal directly.

Coffee Talk Back at Dixon Grove

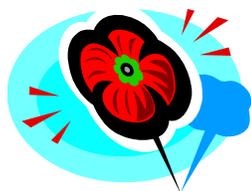
Will be starting on Monday, November 19, from 9 to 10. This is an opportunity for parents to meet informally with school staff and community members to learn more about the school and share your child's school experiences. We meet once a month to discuss important topics. A notice will be posted outside the school and a flyer sent home indicating date and topic. Contact Bharti Lokre, our school settlement worker at 647-296-8429 for more information.

Progress Reports

The Progress Reports will be sent home on Monday, November 12th. Interviews are scheduled for Thursday, November 15th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm and Friday, November 16th from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. Please return the interview form which will be enclosed with the progress report. It is very important for all parents to meet with their child's teacher.

Remembrance Day Assembly at Dixon Grove

We will be having our Remembrance Day Assembly on Friday, November 9th at 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome to attend.



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Halloween Campaign At Dixon Grove!

Halloween at Dixon Grove

Every class carved a pumpkin to be put on display in our "Pumpkin Patch" located in the front foyer of the school which was decorated for Halloween. Students and staff shared their creative skills when they came to school in costumes for our annual parade at the school. It was so great to see the support of our parents dressed in costume. News channels CP24 and CTV were on hand to help us share our festivities with the citizens of Toronto and beyond.



Nutrition Update

Breakfast and Snack Program

These programs are providing Dixon Grove students the availability to have a nutritious breakfast and snack. It is proven that if a child is hungry they find it difficult to concentrate on their school work. We are encouraging all students to take part. To enable them to do so, they must fill out a registration form, which is located in the office with a parent/guardian signature. This form lists all allergies and food restrictions that your child may have. The Breakfast Program runs from 8:20 to 8:40 am. We are always looking for volunteers to assist us! If you can find some time in your busy schedule, please contact the school.

Dixon Grove Bread Program

We have a partnership with Cobs, a local bakery and they are providing us with a quantity of fresh bread every week. Some of this bread is used for our student nutrition programs. However, we have some extra bread which we are wanting to share with families. If your family would like to receive some bread, please let the office staff know.

Healthy Reminders from Public Health

Flu season is here! Help your children stay healthy by reminding them to wash or sanitize their hands **after**:

- Sneezing, coughing or blowing their nose
- Using the washroom
- Handling garbage
- Preparing to eat food
- Touching a cut or open sore

(Message from Toronto Public Health)

Stay protected! Please visit one of the free flu shot clinics in your area by accessing to

www.toronto.ca/health/flu/schedule_en.htm or call 1-877-844-1944

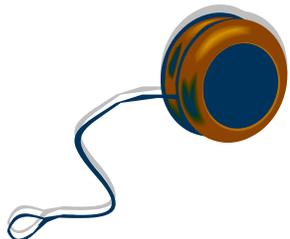
Winter Is Coming!!

All our students spend some time outdoors each day getting exercise and fresh air. Please make sure your child is arriving at school with proper winter clothing including hats, mitts, scarves, boots and a warm jacket or snowsuit. We live in a climate where cold weather is to be expected and can be enjoyable if your child is properly dressed.

The Ned Show!!

This was a great success!! It was so awarding to see all our students enjoying their yoyos at recess. If you have any concerns at all, below is the link:

<http://www.thenedshow.com/customer-care/learn-to-yoyo>



Guidance Update

Hello everyone, this is Mr. Lipa from the Guidance Department at Dixon Grove. We have had a very busy start to the year and things are going great! In September we kicked off our school year with a focus on **Respect**: respect at home; respect in the community; and respect at school. So far, our students have done a tremendous job of being respectful and we encourage them to keep it up. Also in September, I introduced myself to all the students and let them know that there is **Guidance support** for them in any area if they ever need it. All they have to do is ask their teacher, or come to me directly. September also saw our **"You Got Caught"** initiative flourish. This initiative identifies students who are doing great things in our school and are demonstrating random acts of kindness. These students are announced on the PA and are given a certificate of appreciation. Great job Dixon Grove and keep getting caught doing great things.

October has also been very busy here at Dixon Grove. Our Grade 8 students have been introduced to a fantastic new website called **My Blueprint**. This website is an education planning website where intermediate students set goals, devise action plans, create resumes and cover letters, and select their high school courses. All Grade 8 students should create an account as soon as possible. (www.myblueprint.ca/tdsb) On October 22, Dixon Grove's Guidance Department hosted its annual **Choices for Grade 9 Evening**. This evening was a success as we had over 200 parents attend to receive information around high school choices for next year. Also in October, we have been training intermediate students to be **Peer Mediators** to provide peer on peer conflict resolution opportunities. We are almost finished the training and we will begin our program in November. In the middle of October, we also started our **"We Scare Hunger"** campaign to raise food for less fortunate families during the Halloween season. So far we have raised over 2000 canned and non-perishable food items for our local food bank. Thank you so much to all the students and their families for their generous contributions during this campaign. Lastly, we are very happy to announce that we have democratically elected our **Student Council Executive**. Congratulations to Afnan Ali, our student Council President, Munaiba Ahmad, our Vice-President, Yahya Abshir, our Grade 7 Chair, and Rabia Agha, our Grade 6 Chair. We also want to thank all of the students who ran for a position. These students ran strong and honest campaigns. They will also be part of our larger council.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the Guidance Program and we look forward to a great month of November.