



DUKE OF CONNAUGHT



APRIL 2018

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to say April showers bring May flowers but given the weather lately, who knows what will come around the corner. I have seen robins so I am holding on to my hope for warmer spring days soon.

We have a busy week with our Pediculosis checks April 17th and the 20th in the mornings and the Vision and Hearing clinic on April 18th. We have our 6th fire drill April 20th. We have our final Professional Learning Community planning time April 30th – May 2nd. In this third PLC, we continued to go deeper into our understanding of math concepts across the grades and to share best practices to move student learning forward in math.

We welcome the new Kindergarten families May 24th at 5:30. It is an exciting time for families as they come into their new school. Students entering extended grade 4 and the gifted programs are also welcomed at our Open Houses: May 3rd for the Gifted program and May for Extended French.

Looking ahead into May, for Grades 3 and 6, EQAO will be taking place May 22 – June 4. The Grade 3 F.I. classes will only be participating in the math portion in the first three days of the testing period. Teachers will communicate the exact dates and periods of the testing with the families involved. The talent show is Thursday, April 12th at 6:30 p.m. in the Woodfield gym. We are looking forward to Nuit Blanche May 25th 5:30 – 7:30. Mr. Caruso and Ms. Pierce will be sharing details later.

Staffing for next year has begun. I will share the model of classes for the 2018-2019 school year in the May newsletter. The staffing committee with input from parent representatives from Council have all worked hard to create a model that supports the learning of all students. The staffing process includes surplus and transfer rounds for teachers. I will share teacher assignments in the June newsletter. Please note that changes can occur right up until the first day of school and then in the first weeks of September as real numbers of students in seats is apparent. Everyone's patience with this process is appreciated. Parents can speak to teachers about their child's particular learning needs for the following year, but letters requesting specific teachers or classes are not accepted.

Grade 8 graduation is coming June 27th! Thank you to all families for your support of the learning at the Duke of Connaught.

Sincerely,
Beverly O'Brien

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DAY OF PINK



On April 11, the Duke community celebrated the International Day of Pink. It is a day set aside to intentionally rededicate ourselves to the effort to eliminate hate, discrimination, marginalization or intolerance of any individual or group no matter their race, religion, social status, sexual orientation or gender identity. We acknowledge that wearing a pink t-shirt for one day is merely a symbolic gesture: the effort against hate is something that needs to be addressed throughout the year.

The Day of Pink Pledge:

"I believe in a world where love outshines hate. I commit to standing up and speaking against hate, intolerance and oppression. I will freely offer respect to all humankind. I will make an effort to nurture any marginalized group and truly believe that people who are different than me are indispensable to our society. I will work diligently to understand my role as an ally and an advocate. I will always draw love and erase hate!"

Pink Day Doors Competition

Classes were invited to decorate their doors with Pink Day Themes and messages as part of a friendly, school-wide competition. Students took to heart the message of Pink Day and came up with some truly creative and powerful designs. The three winners were Mme Mowat's class in the Primary Division, Mme Bayne in the Junior Division and Mme Legault in the Senior Division. Congratulations to all – it was extremely hard to judge!



Jersey Day

On April 6, 2018 a coach bus collided with a semi-trailer truck near Armley, Saskatchewan, killing 16 people and injuring 13. The bus was carrying members of the Humboldt Broncos hockey team that plays in the Saskatchewan Junior League. Since then, people from not only Canada, but around the world have reached out in various ways to help the victims, their families, and the community of Humboldt itself. Duke is no exception. This month's SAC Coffee morning received items and cash to help out, and the school joined with people across Canada for Jersey Day, to honour the team and show the people of Humboldt that they are not alone.



Superhero Spirit Day



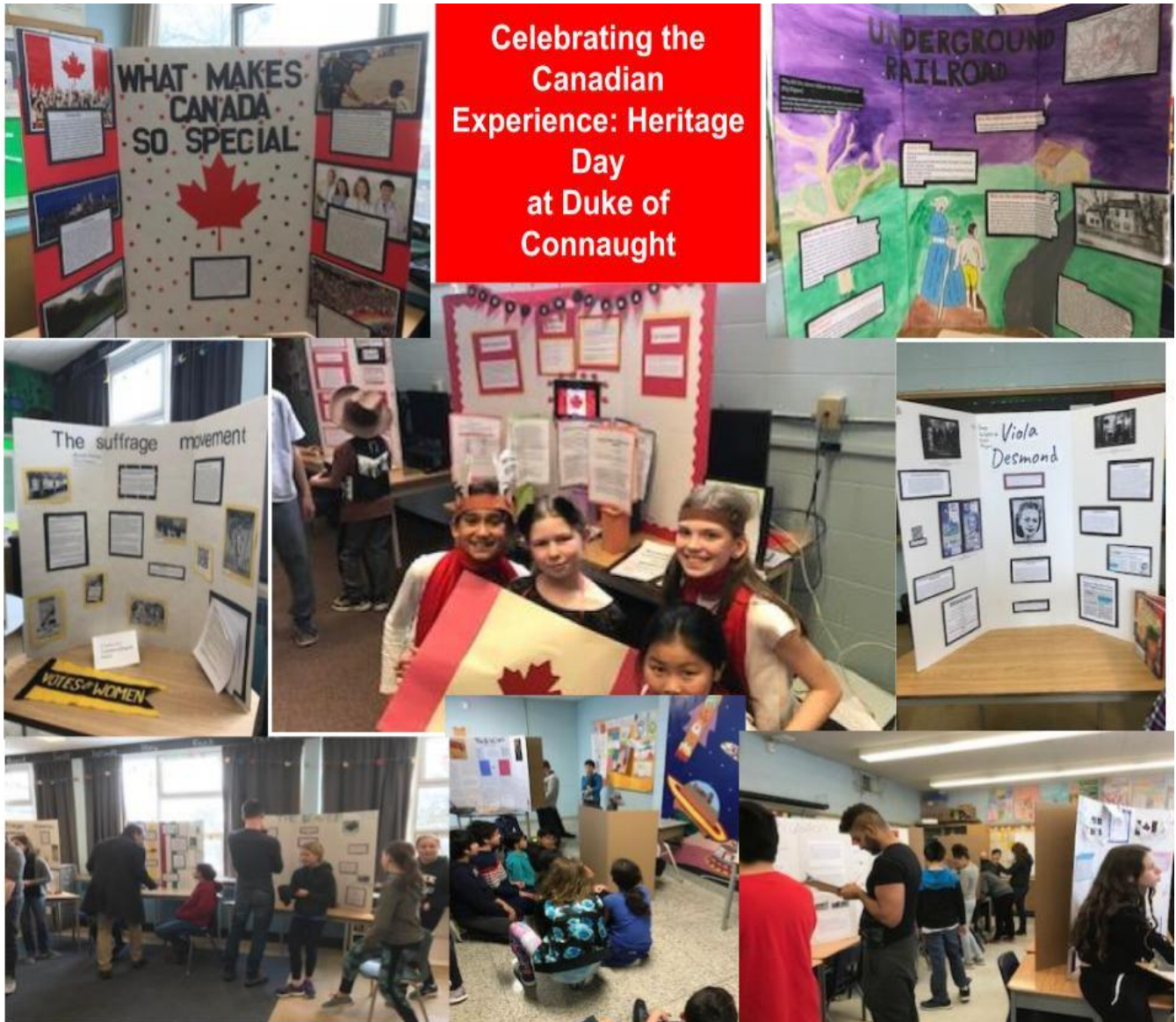
Did you know Duke has more than its share of superheroes? They were in full display on April 5th during Superhero Spirit Day. Now, we know none of us can fly, leap over tall buildings, or run faster than a speeding train like Superman. But if we really look at ourselves, we have superpowers, just like superheroes. Things like **Courage, Responsibility, Resilience and Collaboration:**

It takes **courage** stand up against injustice like Batman

Superheroes feel **responsible** to help others like Spiderman

Superheroes never give up and are **resilient** like Wonder Woman. Being a superhero does not mean that you will never fail. It just means that you get up every time you do.

Superheroes can do it alone but are much more effective in **teams** like the Justice League.



Our Grade 6, 7 and 8 students, along with teachers and parents, took in some inspiring inquiry-based learning at the school's Heritage Fair. Students used research skills to develop presentations based on the idea of Canadian Heritage. From Residential Schools, the Underground Railroad, Women's Suffrage, Wayne Gretsky all the way through to why we should be grateful to be Canadian, students tackled a host of diverse issues. Students were rightfully proud of their work and it's another great example of collaboration among students and teachers.

Hockey Scholars Program Comes to Duke

We welcomed Emily De Roche from the Hockey Scholar program to our school. The Hockey Scholars program is a National Hockey League (NHL) affiliated educational outreach with a focus on hockey that uses an exploratory learning approach in Math and Science. Emily held a series of workshops to work with our grade 6, 7 and 8 students to expose them to fundamental hockey related STEM concepts and mathematical thinking through data analysis using real life STEM applications. Key math terms learned in these interactive workshops included point, coordinate, x/y axis, parallel lines, perpendicular lines, line segments, angles, radius, diameter, centre, area- and scientific terms such as force, magnitude, direction and friction and why they are important in the game of hockey. A real-life STEM application – thanks Emily!



Kortright Conservation Area: Sugar Shack Experience

The grade 7 and 8 classes ventured to the Kortright Conservation Centre to experience one of the great rites of spring – maple syrup season. Students participated in hands-on learning about the history of syrup making from Aboriginal to Modern day times. Students learned the equipment used, forest management practices and cooking procedures of this sustainable resource.

Along the trail to the sugar bush, they learned how sap is produced and flows within the tree, how to identify maple trees, and how farmers tap their trees for sap. At demonstration sites they met a pioneer and modern day syrup-maker who described how they process sap into syrup.



Schoolyard Redesign: Update

The steering committee, comprised of parents, school staff, Facility Services, Woodgreen, Applegrove and the S.H Armstrong Community Centre, met with Aileen Leadbeater, the Board's Design Coordinator, as well as the design architects assigned to the project on March 29th. The latest design concept of the master plan was presented. The committee will meet again in September when it will be determined how much the Board will contribute to the make-over. The major initial priorities will be the relocation of one of the soccer courts to the front near Woodfield and the resurfacing of the basketball court. The current soccer courts will be converted to a more passive, community gathering space. Construction is not expected to begin until 2019. The design can be viewed on the Eco Board, which is adjacent to room 3.



SAC

Greetings from your School Advisory Council Executive!

We are all dreaming of the warm weather that is soon to come and busily preparing for our first annual **Duke Creator Fair**, which will be held on Saturday, June 2 from 11am-2pm. This will be a merger of the Fun Fair and the Make IT! Fair to create an afternoon to celebrate our incredible community of Duke of Connaught students, families, teachers, staff and neighbours. We will showcase makers in all forms – from artists, tech enthusiasts, tinkerers, educators and more – and will also cater to the young (and young at heart) with games, face-painting and (of course) bouncy castles!

We are looking for parents who may be interested in participating to promote DIY and maker culture, to present their products and services to our community. We are looking for exhibitors who would love to share their maker projects, knowledge and creativity with our school community. If you have something you'd love to share, get more information at: <https://goo.gl/forms/jWrLlsEzZmg76MFq1>

A team of talented and dedicated parents, staff and students are working on creating inspirational murals for the washrooms in Woodfield building. Once they are complete, we will be sure to share photos via the Need to Read (NTR) and on our SAC Facebook page.

April 11, our school celebrated International Day of Pink, celebrating diversity and raising awareness to stop homophobia, transphobia and all forms of bullying. Thanks to all who supported our "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully" Pink Shirt campaign! Don't forget that our annual parent social, **Duke's Big Night Out**, is coming up on **Saturday, April 28** at The Redwood on Gerrard St. E. Check out our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/events/420311201759875/>) or email us at info@dukesac.ca for more information on how to get tickets!

All parents are members of council and we hope to see you at our next **SAC meeting on Thursday, April 26 at 6:30pm in the cafeteria**. Childcare will be provided.

Please join us for coffee morning on Friday, May 4th in the school yard. Hope to see you there!

SAC's Need to Read (NTR) newsletter contains updates, school info and important dates. If you are not receiving the NTR, visit the SAC website to sign up: www.dukesac.ca.

"In the book of life, the answers aren't in the back."
-Charlie Brown



In the Pool. . .

The Swim team enjoyed much success this year! Eighty-Five students between grades 4 to 8 took part. After 2 successful meets, 30 moved on to the city finals, with several receiving medals for events. Burkleigh Smith won double gold for front crawl and breast stroke. The Grade 7 girls team won a silver medal for relay, while the grade 6 girls placed third overall! Josh Brunger came in 5th in front crawl.

A huge thank you goes out to the coaches: Ms. Gothreau, Ms. Hodgins, Ms. Zwolinski and Mr. Aishford. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication! The team has been practicing every day at 7:45am for the last 3 months. Enormous thanks as well to the SAC for buying the swim team bathing caps and getting us a bus for the junior meet.



Congratulations to our Gr. 7 Co-Ed Volleyball Team who defeated Glen Ames in the South Conference Finals! Good Luck to the team - they will be representing Duke at the City Finals next week.



Our Gr. 8 Co-Ed Volleyball Team played in a fantastic tournament this season. The team was a very tough contender, fighting right through to semis. Good luck to our students next year in high school!

And congratulations to our Grade 7 and 8 Badminton teams – they played hard in reaching the Conference Finals! Our Grade 5's advanced to the semi -finals, while the 6's finished second at their tournament. A huge thank you to our parent volunteer coaches: Trisha Carter, Maria Chung and Andrew McDonald, as well as our teachers, Ms. Bartzis, Ms. Austin, Mme Boudreau, Mr. Newhouse and Mme Mowat for their dedication to our students!



Poet's Corner

Poseidon's Nightmare

- by Patrick (Ms. Trentadue's Class)

Away from the city in the countryside,
there was a farmyard near the tide.
The animals there would splash and play,
the seaweed was green in the month of May.
Some men came that were on the attack.
They oiled the water and made it all black.
The seaweed was ruined and boiled and cooked,
the lobsters all ran, but they were all took.
The sea was spoiled and polluted too.
The ocean was filled with sludge and with goo.
The fish choked and choked on all of the plastic,
the crabs and the seagulls were sick. It was drastic.
The whales and the squid fled wherever they could,
the octopus left. It wasn't good!
The fishermen came and they overfished cod.
The animals swam to their escape pod.
The pod zipped away to find someplace more cool.
Poseidon cried in a rage in his pool.
Back at the beaches the children were sad,
their sand castles toxic, they all turned out bad.
The grown-ups finally understood,
they brought in a team to do what they should.
The water was cleaned of all of its trash,
the people stopped using all of their cash,
on the horrible things that ruin the earth,
and all of the things that give life its worth.

Scrabble Champs!



French Speech Competition



Magic Club Reminder:

Magic Club starts Monday April 16th - After school (3:15 to 4:15) in Room 31 - Open to Junior and Intermediate students in Grades 4 to 8.



ART IN ACTION

Spark your creativity this spring...

Join **Art in Action** for a brand new spring art program. Our program has an art history component as well as the tactile experience of working with a variety of art materials including: watercolours, acrylics, collage materials, oil pastels, chalk pastels and more.

Create your own great works of art inspired by famous artists such as: Vincent Van Gogh, Édouard Manet, David Hockney, Sonia Delaunay and many others.

Registration is now open!
Go to artinactiontoronto.com

- Classes will be held at **lunchtime** at Duke of Connaught
 - Grades 1-8, **Wednesday**, April 18 - June 6
 - Course Fee: \$135.00 (8 classes, includes all supplies)

Contact: artinactiontoronto@gmail.com

AppleCares Babysitting Course

Spring Session!!

Saturday, May 12th from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm.
Applegrove Community Complex, 60 Woodfield Road



Cost: For a fee of \$100 (limited subsidy available), participants receive training from professionals, a Red Cross certificate, lunch, a four-session placement with our children's programs and a listing in our childcare registry upon completion. Registration and payment required by Monday, May 7th.



www.ApplegroveCC.ca

Participants should bring an infant-sized doll or teddy bear, as well as a pen. For more information or to register, please visit our office or call 416-461-8143.



School Clean Up Day: Friday, April 27

On Friday, April 20th students from across Toronto including the Duke of Connaught will be helping to rejuvenate our city's green spaces by picking up litter around the school yard and the neighbourhood. To increase participation at the TDSB, the Board is challenging each school to collect as much waste as they can in their local community. The Board is offering new water refilling stations as a prize to schools who collect the most.

