



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

December 2013

Kennedy P.S.

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Sam Sotiropoulos

School Council:

Terry Koo

Jiao Jiang



This past month, our school building has been beaming with brilliant "busy-ness". Our students enjoyed the anti-bullying presentation 'Wired'. Author Mike Umer was here to meet with grades five and six classes. Honourable Jim

Karygiannis worked with our grade fives, and the Grade seven and eight students took part in Junior Achievement day. In addition, our annual music event with the Bethune Band took place at Jackson's Point and our various clubs and teams continued to meet. Finally now, we are busy working the Winter showcase, Boston Pizza Family night and several other year end activities.

In the classroom, staff continues to work on developing strong effective programs for our students both in literacy and numeracy as teachers work collaboratively to support our School Improvement Plan via teaching and learning. In December, the Kindergarten team will focus on 'Early Developmental Instruments', while the Primary, Junior & Intermediate classes will spend time working on 'success Criteria and Learning Goals'.

Our numeracy pathway will center on 'using our findings to inform our work'. In the New Year, we plan to review our EQAO results and 2013 data. In particular, we continue to examine gender differences; use Dot Scores and identify strategies that improve student comprehension in "problem solving". Our staff continues to meet to track students' progress while using effective strategies in the classrooms to determine successful practice and the modifications need to be made.

Finally, the winter holidays are fast approaching. This time of year brings about a flurry of activity as we aim to wrap up 2013 with the same energy that we opened the year with. The last day of school for this term is Thursday, December 19th, 2013. The long awaited holidays are between Monday, December 23rd, to Friday, January 3rd. School will reopen on Monday, January 6th, 2014.

On behalf of the staff and students at Kennedy P.S., I would like to extend best wishes for a restful holiday and a positive start to the New Year.

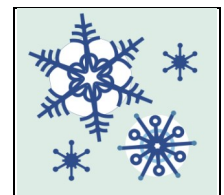
Rhonda Cohen-Pierobon Principal

You can now follow me on Twitter @ Rhonda Cohen

You can now follow Kennedy P.S. on Twitter @TDSB KennedyPS



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Please Save the Date.....

Dear Parents,

Kennedy Family Night Fundraiser

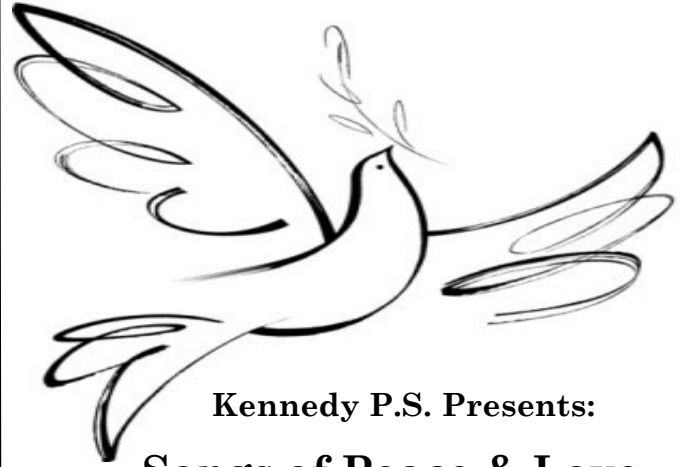


**Wednesday, December 18th
5:00pm - 10:00pm
Boston Pizza @ Warden/Steeles**

- * Kennedy staff will be serving the meals
- * Santa Claus will be joining us.
Bring your cameras!



A percentage of the cost of your meal will be donated by Boston Pizza to support our "playground project".



Kennedy P.S. Presents:

Songs of Peace & Love

Date: Thursday, December 12th

Location: Toronto Chinese United Church 3300 Kennedy Road (By Pizza Pizza)

**Show Time: 7:00pm –8:30pm
Doors open at 6:30pm**

**Cost: \$5.00 (to cover cost of venue)
Tickets go on sale Wed. Dec. 4th**

Upcoming December and January Dates

December



2nd: Intermediate Classes off to see "Catching Fire"

3rd: Grade 2's Attending "Great Lakes" Presentation

4th: School Council meeting 7:00 pm.—8:00pm.

5th: Author Chad Solomon's visit to Kennedy P.S.

9th: Grades 7 & 8 Immunization

12th: Winter Concert 5pm –7pm (Toronto Chinese United Church 3300 Kennedy)

13th: HSP and ESL's Trip to the Aquarium

18th: Boston Pizza Family Night 5pm - 10pm

19th: Last Day of School

December 23rd - January 3rd Winter Holiday

January

6th: First Day of School

9th: Dental Hygiene week begins

10th: Grades 1C & 1D on a trip to Forest Valley

13h: Officer Burns visits with Kindergarten classes





ART ENRICHMENT!

We have an exciting art project developing at Kennedy Public School! Hoping to leave their mark before heading off to high school next year, a group of talented grade 8 students are collaborating on a large scale painting to beautify the walls of our school. The theme of the painting is **'Literacy at Kennedy.'** This artwork will look at how Kennedy's students encounter and engage with literacy in our classrooms. Keep your eyes open -- the painting is slated to be unveiled in February of 2014!

M.P. KARYGIANNIS VISITS KENNEDY

On Friday, November 22 our Member of Parliament for Scarborough - Agincourt Honourable Jim Karygiannis, came to visit the grade 5 classes. Mr. Karygiannis came to teach us about the Federal Government, how elections are run, and how the candidates get people to vote for them. We had a lot of fun doing a mock election that helped us learn about the electoral process in the Canadian Government. Students were chosen to become candidates" and tried to get as many of our fellow class mates to vote for them. Afterwards, Mr. Karygiannis told us about a competition where we can write an essay about why we would be the best candidate for an excursion to Ottawa. Four students for our grade 5 classes will be chosen to visit the Parliament Building in Ottawa for the day.



SKILLS CANADA



The grade eight girls took a trip to Centennial College for a Skills Canada exhibition. We heard motivational presentations from skilled trade persons, encouraging us to give trades a try. We also were able to try out new trades such as, working with hydraulic systems, welding, carpentry, dermatology, cosmetics, & graphic design.

On November 12, Mike Ulmer shared his passion for writing with our grade 5-6 students. He talked about the IPE strategy (idea, plan, edit) for "smart" writing. Mike was a fantastic storyteller who engaged our students with his inspiring talks. We hope he visits again! Visit Mike Ulmer's blog at mikeulmer.blogspot.ca to read more about his visit to Kennedy PS.

Author & sports blogger Mike Ulmer visits Kennedy



Character Development

September - Respect

October - Responsibility

November - Empathy

December - Kindness & Caring



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION **KENNEDY Students Give Back**

Flute & Clarinet Yamaha Donation

We are pleased to share that the TDSB Musical Instrument Inventory Committee has recommended that Kennedy PS receive a new instruments. On Tuesday, November 26th, we received a Flute & Clarinet Yamaha valued at over \$750.00 to support the music programs

No Frills Water Donation

The Kennedy staff, students and community would like to thank **Mike's nofrills** (Steeles & Midland) for their generous water bottle donation to our annual Curriculum night and B.B.Q.



ACSA: The Agincourt Community Services Association wishes to thank Kennedy PS for our generous gift of food donation during the Thanksgiving season making it possible for many families to enjoy the Holiday.

Food Bank Drive: As a culminating task to our unit on Food, Hunger and Poverty, the grade 7 classes will be organizing the Christmas Food Drive during the week of Dec 9th. The goal of the Food Drive is to educate the younger students about the purpose of Food Banks, why they exist, why we help others, and why we give back. Mrs. Mohamed & Ms. Chan

Holiday Baskets: Young Women on the Move are taking on this local cause to help families in the community. The girls will be assembling Holiday Baskets to promote the Spirit of Giving

Pen Pals: Kennedy's Grade 7s will be exchanging pen pal letters with fellow Grade 7s from Terry Fox P.S. To promote inter-school friendships. Through this exchange, they will not only foster friendships and a better understanding of each other, but also practice their reading and writing skills.



Large Tree Program



Eco Schools & the City of Toronto donated 10 trees which were planted on our grounds to provide shade, protect students from harmful UV rays and beautify our school!

Me to We: Movember Campaign

The **Me to We** club has taken the lead on the "Movember Awareness Campaign".

This year, the campaign focuses not only on cancer awareness but on men's and boys' health in general.

Some of the activities that have been planned for the month are:

- creating and displaying posters

- broadcasting 3 weekly announcements that have both statistics and tips about men's health

- having "The Mo-Stashers" hide moustaches around the school each week and handing out awards (a certificate & moustache) to those who find them

- giving in-class presentations about the issues of men's health and of the importance of healthy living

- encouraging our male staff members to grow dapper moustaches (yikes!)

- moustache making workshops

- ending with a March for Movember during the last Community Walk of November

