



# Kennedy Clan News



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

February 2016

Kennedy P.S.  
20 Elmfield Crescent  
Scarborough, ON  
M1V 2Y6  
Telephone: 416-396-6410  
Fax: 416-396-6412

Principal:  
Rhonda Cohen-Pierobon

Vice Principal:  
Lisa Teodosio

Office Administrator:  
Patricia Lamanna

Data Secretary:  
Sheila Ko

Superintendent:  
Beth Veale

School Trustee:  
Manna Wong

School Council:  
Stephen Hu



In February, our students will benefit from a variety of special Heritage Month presentations. Starting with Groundhog Day activities at the Primary level, our students will also be celebrating "100" days of school, the Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day and Black Heritage Month, which will culminate with an African Heritage Literacy Storytelling presentation.

We continue to experience excitement in athletics with Girls Junior and Senior Volleyball and Gr. 6, 7 & 8 dodge-ball. Our Kennedy athletes continue to take part in various system wide competitions all the while representing our school as true dolphin ambassadors. Thank you to all our coaches for the extra curricular activities, accompanying our athletes to the various games and for hosting tournaments here at Kennedy PS.

The Kennedy band continues to impress. This month, they will be performing at the Ontario Band Association Concert which will be held on Tuesday, February 9th at *Le Parc* Banquet Hall and then at the *Kiwanis* Festival on February 24th. Add to this Student Council, Spirit Day, ECO focus, Lunar New Year and Speech Arts; and you can see why February is sure to be a fun filled and exciting month at our school.

Following up on our Pathways to Success the Gr. 8 students are getting ready to plan their transitions to high school. Our staff has been working to assist our graduates with option sheets and program selection, and later in the year, the students will have the opportunity to visit local high schools and programs.

Literacy initiatives remain a priority with reading taking on a school wide focus. On Literacy Day students and teachers were engaged in a variety of activities including a 'Book Swap' and a School Spirit Day when staff and students got to wear their favourite pajamas and snuggled up with a stuffed animal to 'Read'!

Term One Report Cards will be sent home on Monday, February 8th, followed by parent-teacher interviews scheduled for Thursday February 11th, in the evening and Friday February 12th in the morning.

Finally, we wish to remind you that Kindergarten Registration will take place on February 3rd, 10th & 17th and that our school will be closed on Friday, February 12 for Interviews and on Monday Feb. 15th, for Family Day.



Rhonda Cohen-Pierobon Principal

You can now follow me on Twitter @RhondaCohen

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



MESSAGE SENT ON BEHALF OF  
CHAIR ROBIN PILKEY  
AND  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION  
JOHN MALLOY:



The entire TDSB family is shocked and saddened at the events that unfolded in La Loche, Saskatchewan yesterday. As parents, teachers, and students we extend our deepest sympathies to a fellow school community. It is an unspeakable tragedy and

we will hold you in our thoughts in the days and months ahead.

Robin Pilkey                      John Malloy  
Chair of the Board    Director of Education

In recognition of our shared thoughts, Kennedy P.S. in solidarity with all TDSB had the school flag flown at half-mast.

### *Term one report Cards and Parent Teacher Interview*

On Monday February 8th, students will be bringing home their Term One Report Cards. The report indicates their achievement of both the curriculum expectations in each subject area and learning skills. When reviewing and **celebrating your child's report card, please engage in dialogue** with your child about their learning skills and achievement and help them to identify possible next steps for improvement.

These conversations are critical in helping kids to develop decision making skills and draw connections between action and results. For example, discuss with your son/daughter how he/she uses the resources available to them at school. These resources include: extra classroom help, Guidance counsellor, and conversations with their classroom teachers about goal setting. It is beneficial for ongoing dialogue of your **child's achievement to continue between** the teacher, student and parent throughout the second term as well.

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions.



**FAREWELL & WELCOME BACK!** We wish to thank **Ms. Mahoney** KGT A; **Miss. Lee** in KGT B; **Ms. Wong** KGT C who are leaving us this month. Thank you for your contribution to Kennedy P.S. & best of luck in the future. Welcome back **Mrs. Doell**; **Mrs. Rego**; & **Mrs. Palmer** who are returning from their maternity leaves.

### Upcoming February Dates

3rd, 10th, 17th: Kindergarten Registration

5th: Lunar New Year school celebrations

**8th: Lunar New Year: 'Year of the Monkey'**

8th: Term 1 Report Cards go home

**9th: Kennedy Band performs at 'Le Parc' Banquet Hall 7:00 p.m.**

10th: 100th Day of School events!

11th: Gr. 7 & 8 Immunization round 2

11th: Intermediate Dance p.m.

11th: Parent Teacher Interviews evening 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.,

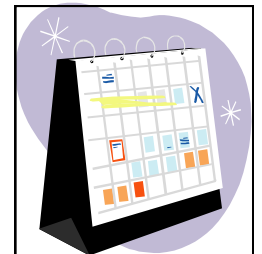
12th: Parent Teacher Interviews 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. school closed for students

15th: Family Day School closed

22nd: African Heritage Month: Story Telling Presentation

24th: Kennedy Band performs at Kiwanis Festival all day

26th: ACSA after school program closed



# FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL!



## TRAFFIC CONCERNS

Community members are extremely concerned that a student will be hit by a car on Canongate due to parents not respecting the **NO STOP** signs

from 8 to 9 AM and from 3 to 4 PM on Canongate near the walkway in front of the pumping station. Many of us have witnessed terrifying situations with students trying to cross Canongate in between cars illegally parked.



## TAKE CAUTION

We all recognize that the winter months are especially hazardous due to the presence of ice and snow, often causing slips, falls and injuries. Despite our constant effort to clean and salt the walkways around and on our school property, there are times when the ground beneath the snow continues to be icy. **Please take caution** when walking your child to and from school.



## ♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

### FEBRUARY IS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION MONTH

Kindergarten registration is very important because it is often the first formal interaction of families with their home school and the Toronto District School Board. Kennedy P.S. will host registration on February 3rd, 10th & 17th!

### PARTNERSHIPS AT KENNEDY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Kennedy Public School continues to value partnership and staff development with the Universities and Colleges. This term we welcome:

- Centennial College Early Childhood Educator students
- \* Sui Lai Wu in Mrs. Shakes & Miss. Lee's KGT class;
- \* Shirley Lin in Mrs. Assi & Ms. Mahoney's KGT class;
- \* Weinam Li in Ms. Khalili & Ms. Wong's KGT class;
- \* Shirley Mak in Miss. Cochrane & Mrs. Le's KGT class
- Gulf University Early Childhood Educator students
- \* Yi Shi from in Miss. Cochrane & Mrs. Le's KGT class
- OISE Teacher Candidates
- \* Sharon Lo in Mrs. Buick's Gr. 1 class
- \* Natasha Schleiffer in Ms. Lee's Gr. 2 class
- \* Lisa Chan in Mr. Hui's Gr. 4/5 class
- \* Katie Manakis in Mrs. Chombok's Gr. 6 class
- \* Hannah King in Mr. Pollard's Gr. 6 class

## CHINESE NEW YEAR 2016



Along with All the new hopes and promises That the New Year would bring Hope it also Brings us a lot more opportunities to work together. Wish you a very Happy And Successful Year Ahead.







## Character Development

January - Respect

February - Responsibility

March - Empathy

April - Kindness & Caring



## Sister School Ambassadors

Title of Project: *Reciprocal Learning in Teacher Education and School Education between Canada and China*

**研究课题：加拿大—中国教师教育及中小学教育互惠学习**

Purpose of the Project: **The Project's purpose is to build cross-cultural understanding between Canadian and Chinese education. We want to build bridges because we believe that China and Canada have much to learn educationally from one another. Teachers, students and their families are vital forces in building a world of mutual respect, mutual understanding and reciprocal learning.**

**研究宗旨：**本项目旨在建立加拿大和中国教育之间的跨文化理解。我们努力建立这样增进理解的桥梁，因为我们相信中加双方在教育方面有很多值得互相学习之处。教师、学生和他们的家庭是建立这样一个互相尊重、相互理解和互惠学习空间的重要力量。



## ECO SCHOOL UPDATE



**Kennedy's Eco Club saves the world at lunchtime!** A group of dedicated, eco-minded students are joining forces to champion environmental issues at Kennedy Public School.

Our goals this year are: to bring awareness to staff and students about recycling and waste management, the importance of water, and to continue to look at school wide energy conservation strategies.



We have many exciting events planned including a waste audit, a door decorating contest, sweater day celebrations, and lights out challenges. Stay tuned for more information about these and many more exciting environmental happenings here at Kennedy Public School.

Environmental League of Superheroes,  
Ms. Csombok, Mr. Hui, Ms. Le,  
Ms. Mahoney and Ms. Teodosio

# FROM THE CLASSROOM

Grade 6 Students Join the World!

On Monday December 7, 2015, Mr. Pollard's grade 6 class, under the guidance and direction of Mrs. Chong participated in a world wide "Hour of Code." Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook), Bill Gates (Microsoft) and Hadi Partovi (code.org) are amongst the leaders in starting this international event years ago, to encourage students to try coding, and to raise awareness of computer science. Coding is a part of your everyday life whether you know it, or not. From using apps on your phones or tablets to surfing the internet, pretty much anything with **technology needs some coding.** The students in Mr. Pollard's class used Star Wars and Minecraft to develop a code that allowed characters on the screen to navigate obstacles and explore their environment. The "Hour of Code" is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in 180+ countries. They estimate that 191,025 "Hour of Code" events are taking place around the world the week of December 7. By: Masaya Chan



## KENNEDY ATHLETES



Congratulations go out to the intermediate girls' basketball team. The girls competed in a tournament and played well throughout the day. The girls made it into the finals but fell short and

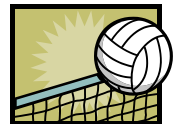
came in second overall. The girls demonstrated excellent sportsmanship. Special thanks go out to Ms. Khan and Mr. Downward for helping with driving. Mr. Hui.



Congratulations go out to the senior boys' volleyball team. The team placed first in their



Tournament and advanced to the TED-SA Easter conference finals. The team had improved so much over the course of **the tournament that the other teams' coaches thought that our boys played 'Club Volleyball'.** As their coaches we wish to share how proud we are of the **boys' sportsmanship, determination and** over all skill development. They sure have come a long way from their first practice. Way To GO Boys ! Ms. McDougall and Mrs. Johnson





# STEM AND ROBOTICS



## STEM Robotics Exploration Workshop

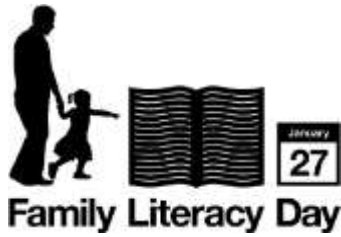
Have you ever wondered how the Siri voice from the iPhone 6 works? Well, it all starts with the basics of constructing and programming. On January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, we went to the STEM/Robotics FLL Exploration Workshop at Sir Ernest MacMillan Senior P.S. Once there, we were introduced to our two mentors, Bo Lin and Nimal, and we were told about our mission. The mission was to build an attachment for a Lego robot and program it to press a button on a simple machine, roughly a meter and a half away from the robot. We were then split into two groups to accomplish the task; one group was tasked with building the attachment,



while the other was to use code to program it. We chose to build our attachment similar to the front of a bulldozer, while the programmers downloaded the robot with commands. Through trial and error, and several attempts, we finally managed to perfect the **programming and construction of the robot extension. It was then the moment we'd been waiting for**, the moment to enter the competition! We were the last team to participate in the friendly contest. We were allowed three chances: our first try was unsuccessful due to the obstacles in the path; the second trial was also a failed attempt because the button got jammed, as it experienced contact with our robot; the final try was triumphant, with the robot successfully pushing the button and performing a small dance. The added flair got us a superior score of 60+ points! This was an amazing opportunity because of the knowledge and skills we learned.



# FAMILY Literacy Day



Family Literacy Day is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on January 27 to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development. Even just 15 minutes a day can improve a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

ABC Life Literacy Canada encourages families to have "15 Minutes of Fun" learning together every day. For a list of 15 new activities for 2016, please visit the following



On Wednesday, January 27th, 2016 Our school took part in a day long Literacy Day Celebration! Ms. Saleh organized an amazing day that included a *Pajama Spirit Day* when students got to snuggle up to read with their favourite stuffed animal, a gigantic book swap and prizes. In their classrooms, teachers organized literacy lessons and activities for their students.





## Participation at Kennedy P.S.

### *Our Student Leadership Team volunteering at the Dorset Park Community Hub Food Bank*



**Who :** The Kennedy Student Leadership Team, Kennedy teachers and the Dorset Park Community Hub Staff

**What :** The Kennedy Student Leadership Team did volunteer work. The staff educated us on the food bank system. They taught us how families apply and receive food from the food bank. We received hands-on experience on what the staff members do on a daily basis. We learned several things. For example, we learned that they support over 300 families every single week. They also taught us about the history of this very food bank.

**Where :** Dorset Park Community Hub (1911 Kennedy Road, Scarborough)

**When :** December 16th, 2015

**Why :** The Kennedy Student Leadership Team and teachers went on this trip to help out the community of Scarborough. Since the TDSB's character trait of December was "Kindness and Caring", we wanted to help out the ones in need. The teachers saw that volunteering at a local food bank would be a great opportunity to display this trait! In addition, we would be getting hands on experience on what staff at the food bank do everyday! Our school recently had a very successful food drive as well. Not only did we donate food, we went above and beyond and went to assist a local food bank!

In the month of December, the Student Council and the Kennedy Student Leadership Team made a visit to the Dorset Park Community Hub to make a contribution in spirit of the holidays. This year the Student Leadership organized a very successful food drive. To really understand what happens to the food donated, they decided to go to a nearby food bank to help out and learn about what the staff do on a daily basis. The Student Leadership did volunteer work and received hands-on experience. The students were also educated about the system of the food bank and how many families have to make a tough daily decision of either eating or paying rent. At the end of the day the team was proud to have helped over 300 families.

Written by: Student Council



Snow day fun