

NORMAN INGRAM NEWS



Edition #3 February 2013

Norman Ingram Principal
Megan Cooper

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IMPORTANT DATES FEBRUARY 2013

Pizza Lunch	1 st
Family Skate Night	7 th
Popcorn Sale	8 th
Report Cards go home	11 th
Grade 5 Bonanza Sale	14 th
Parent/Teacher Interviews	14 th evening
Parent/Teacher Interviews	15 th morning
Family Day (no school)	18 th
Recognition Assembly 9:15	22 nd
Sub Lunch	22 nd
Leap for Learning p.m.	22 nd
Pink Day (Anti-Bullying)	27 th
Second City Performance	27 th morning

IMPORTANT DATES MARCH 2013

Pizza Lunch	1 st
Popcorn Sale/Pyjama Day	8 th
March Break (no school)	11 th – 15 th
Coin Drive	18 th – 28 th
Sub Lunch	22 nd
School Council Meeting	25 th evening
Pizza Lunch	28 th
Good Friday (no school)	29 th

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we enter February we find ourselves already halfway through the school year! Despite labour unrest and complicated political times, life at Norman Ingram continues to be busy and productive.

- Thanks to our School Council, we continue to investigate new learning strategies using 3 SMART Boards, with another soon to be delivered.
- We enjoy special lunchtime activities such as pizza, sub and pancake days, which foster a sense of community and fun!
- We share Spirit activities across the school.
- We work together to be ecologically aware and responsible.
- We welcome Student Teachers and co-op students, encouraging them to develop their skills, and benefiting from their varied experiences.
- We continue to develop goals and strategies to ensure we are making a difference in the lives of all of our students. Being an effective school is an ongoing, challenging task, and we appreciate your partnership in making it happen.

M. Cooper

CHARACTER EDUCATION

Each month we focus on a different TDSB “Building Character” theme, where all teachers use direct instruction, role-play and discussion to reinforce the monthly character trait.

The themes for December (KINDNESS & CARING), and January (TEAMWORK), were discussed in classrooms and featured during morning announcements. Our p.m. kindergarten students and students of Ms. Mirebrahimi created bulletin boards outside the office where individual students posted their thoughts about how we could all demonstrate these traits in our daily lives. They had some great suggestions!

During February we will focus on FAIRNESS.

Encouraging fairness in your child:

- Listen to your child if he or she has a concern or request. Engage in fair discussion to resolve the issue.
- Show that fairness is important, and that it is crucial to treat others with respect and without judgment.
- Share a situation in which you felt you were treated fairly or unfairly, and describe how that impacted your day.

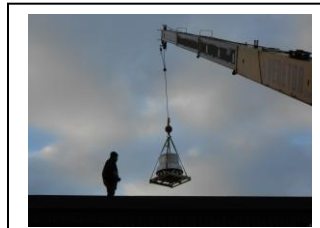
During March we will focus on HONESTY.

Encouraging Honesty in your child:

- Give your child opportunities to tell the truth.
- Make sure that you explain to your child that you always want the truth, even though he or she may be afraid that you might be angry.
- Encourage and praise your child when he or she is honest.
- Model honesty by returning lost items.

OUT WITH THE OLD IN WITH THE NEW

Students in Ms. Clements’ and Ms. Panela’s classes can finally concentrate without lights rattling over their heads! The exhaust fans on our roof, which were causing a terrible racket in those two classrooms, have finally been replaced. Thanks go to Mr. Porter for finally getting this problem dealt with!



LOOK OUT! IT'S THE ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY BONANZA SALE!

Our grade 5 students will be hosting this exciting event to raise money for the Graduation Fund.

- ♥ Thursday February 14th all morning
- ♥ Classes will be called to room 207 to buy items
- ♥ Prices 50¢ to \$3
- ♥ Baked treats, candy, toys, plushies, crafts and much more
- ♥ Both a.m. and p.m. Kindergarten students will be included. JK/SK parents can send \$2 to school and our grade 5s will bring treats down to Room 100



THANK-YOU FROM PROJECT WINTER SURVIVAL

Thanks to parents and students for the items donated in December for Winter Survival backpacks. Here is a letter received January 28, 2013.

To all staff, teachers, students and parents at Norman Ingram Public School,

Project Winter Survival 2013 would like to sincerely thank you for helping us complete 3000 Winter Survival Kits.

Your donation of collected product went into our survival kits. All 3000 kits have now been distributed to 172 front line agencies who make sure that the survival kits get to the people that desperately need them. You should all be very proud of what you helped accomplish!

Thank you for your awareness, for reaching out to Project Winter Survival and for making a difference.

We look forward to your continued support.

Best Regards to all,

The Project Winter Survival Team



ECO NEWS

We are very excited about the planting of 7 new trees behind the school! They arrived in late November, and will help to provide shade to our playground. We have 7 classes from grade 1 – 5, so each class will be adopting a tree, researching facts about it, watering it, charting its growth, decorating its little wire fence, and basically caretaking. What a great opportunity!



The ECO Squad, with the help of Ms. Lussier, Ms. Durante and Ms. Woods, continues its work all over the school. What we've discovered during this period without extra-curricular activities, is that our students are very well trained and continue to take responsibility for ongoing initiatives like Wastefree Lunches, recycling and composting programs, Lights Out, and Norman Ingram Earth Hours. In addition, our ECO team just completed our annual Waste Audit and submitted a package in the hopes that we'll maintain our Platinum ECO status. Let's hope all of the hard work of both students and teachers is acknowledged once again! **GO GREEN, STAY GREEN!**

LIBRARY NEWS FROM MS. INNOCENTE

Our first term in the library was very busy. Since our *School Improvement Plan* focuses on integrating technology at every opportunity, we've made that a real priority when partnering in the library. Here are a few highlights:

Kindergarten

Aside from the cherished story time and book exchange, the kindergarten students engaged in interactive math and literacy activities on the SMARTboard. They also spent time on individual computers using various educational, age-appropriate software that is board-licensed and available from home via the library website.

Ms. Durante's Grade 1's and Ms. Dwyer's Grade ½'s

Our grade 1 and 2 students mastered the "complicated" task of logging into our networked computers with usernames and passwords (and learned to wait patiently!). They too engaged in numerous SMARTboard activities closely centered on curriculum being covered in the classroom. They continued developing their individual technology skills using programs such as *Bookflix*, *Storyline Online*, *KidPix* and *IXL Math*.

Ms. Mirebrahimi's Grade 2's

Ms. Mirebrahimi's students explored traditional fairytales and worked in pairs to write and illustrate their own "twisted" tales using Microsoft *PowerPoint* software. They created slides which were then printed and bound into books. The students worked tirelessly to produce some very entertaining tales. Stop by the bulletin board outside the library and have a look!

Ms. Panela's Grade 2/3's

Ms. Panela's students created mini movies using Photostory. They learned to use flash drives, microphones and digital photos to create movie files with narration, effects, and transitions. They also learned to use an educational, web-based program called *Bitstrips* that helps students create, share and collaborate on comics based on classroom curriculum. They have become regular mini Schultz's!

Ms. Lussier's Grade 3's

These students explored media awareness concepts and applied their knowledge to create book reviews for newly-purchased library books. They used Microsoft Word and the scanners to create posters of the reviews.

Another exciting project was the research of early settlers in Canada. Students transformed their research into mini movies using Photostory. Just like Ms. Panela's class, they too learned to use flashdrives, microphones and digital photos to create movie files with narration, effects, and transitions. We have quite a group of budding movie makers!

Ms. Clements' and Mr. Whittington's Grade 4/5's

While Ms. Clements' students continue to explore health curriculum using *Bitstrips*, Mr. Whittington's class is learning to use SMART Notebook software to create interactive math and language gameboards.

All our grade 4 and 5 students continue to explore various resources available on our library website such as the library catalogue, *Easybib* (a citation website) and *Grolier* (online encyclopedia). They continue to practice safe online researching.

Our grade 4 and 5 students learned to use *Read and Write Gold* software. It is a program that helps students with reading, writing, studying and research. They were very excited to learn about *Prezi*. *Prezi* is a web-based application that takes presentations and storytelling to a whole new level. I hope you will take the time to ask your son or daughter to share their presentations with you.

It has been a very engaging and interactive 1st term. I hope the 2nd term will be as fun-filled and productive. Please continue to encourage your child to share with you their experiences. I have re-launched my library website that will help you keep up-to-date on library 'happenings'.

The web address is <http://innocente.yolasite.com>. It is password protected.

Username: library

Login: love2read

FEBRUARY 18 IS FAMILY DAY!

There will be no classes on Monday, February 18, 2013 to reflect the province-wide statutory holiday called **Family Day**. The holiday occurs on the third Monday in February of each year for the purpose of emphasizing and celebrating the importance of families taking time to be together.



Because teachers are involved in Parent/Teacher Interviews on Friday, February 15th, students will not be attending school on Friday, February 15th and Monday, February 18th. Enjoy your Family Day!

FEBRUARY IS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION MONTH

If you live in our catchment area and your child will turn 4 years old by December 31st of this year, we encourage you to visit the school after February 11th to pick up a Junior Kindergarten Registration package. We also welcome Senior Kindergarten students who have not yet registered in another local TDSB school. To attend Senior Kindergarten, your child must turn 5 years old by December 31st of this year.

To register your child, a parent or guardian must visit the school during one of the following registration times:

Tuesday, February 19th
9:15 – 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 20th
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

The following documents must be provided for registration:

- All paperwork in Registration envelope
- Proof of address (2 copies of identification with your address and name eg. Purchase/lease agreement, tax bill, utility bill (not telephone bill or driver's license)
- Immunization record booklet

- Proof of citizenship
- Health card
- Family Doctor's full name, address & telephone number
- Proof of sole custody (if applicable)

We will hold a Kindergarten Orientation on Wednesday, June 5th at 4:15 p.m.

Note:

If your child was not born in Canada, verification of date of arrival is required. Families who are permanent residents and refugee claimants may register directly at the school. All other families should visit the International Program and Admissions Office, Toronto District School Board (TDSB), 5050 Yonge Street, for a TDSB School Admission Letter. Children without immigration status are welcome in our schools and information about them or their families shall not be shared with immigration authorities, as per TDSB Policy P.061SCH.

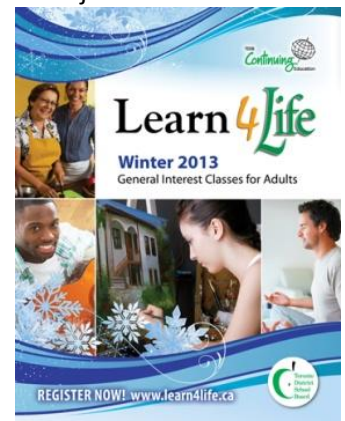
Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for further information.

GENERAL INTEREST CLASSES FOR ADULTS - SPRING 2013

Have you ever wanted to try something new, but haven't actually signed up for a class? Well, here's your chance! TDSB offers a variety of courses for adults through its Continuing Education Department. **Registration for the Spring term begins February 19th, 2013**, with classes beginning the week of April 1st. Parents/guardians are invited to join a Toronto District School Board Continuing Education general interest class. The general interest program offers you an opportunity to relax after a busy day, get fit, create a work of art, or learn a new skill or language. It's a great way to have fun and meet new people.

Visit: www.learn4life.ca

or call 416-338-4111. The TDSB is Toronto's original provider of life-long learning opportunities.



MUSIC NOTES FROM MS. PASQUA

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

We had a very busy start to our winter season in the Music program. Our junior students really got into the spirit of giving in December when they participated in a cookie-baking blitz right in our staff room! With a recipe from Pioneer Village, the children worked in small groups to make authentic gingerbread cookies from scratch! Our spirits were high and we sang our favourite tunes while “we rolled them out and cut them out!” and covered them in sprinkles. All in all, we baked approximately 400 delicious cookies, and the smell of gingerbread in the halls was truly irresistible! Our next venture was to head over to Greenview Lodge where we spread some holiday cheer by performing seasonal favourites, chatting with the residents and sharing our yummy treats. The seniors were very excited to welcome the children and hear them sing. They even helped out by playing jingle bells along with us! A few days later I received a thank-you note from Andy, the Event Coordinator at Greenview Lodge saying that they truly enjoyed our visit and look forward to seeing us again soon. We brought plenty of smiles to the residents of Greenview Lodge, and it was truly rewarding for all of us as well!



HARPOLOGY

When the students in Ms. Panela’s and Ms. Lussier’s classes were learning about the four families of instruments in December, they had the honour of having Ms. Sanya Eng, (Evan’s mom), visit with her beautiful harp. Ms. Eng is a remarkable musician who plays the harp for a variety of ensembles including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Canadian Opera Company. She accompanied students for “My Favourite Things” from the Sound of Music, as well as “Silver Bells”. The children enjoyed hearing Ms. Eng play her harp, especially with all the “glisses” or glissandos she played throughout the music.

Our junior students also had the opportunity for a special rehearsal with Ms. Eng, who accompanied them for “*Dona Nobis Pacem*,” their audition piece for performance in TDSB’s 2013 Spring Concert at Massey Hall. It was lovely, peaceful and a rare opportunity to be accompanied by such a world renowned harpist! The children especially loved seeing and hearing the harp up close.

HOLIDAY SINGALONG

The last day of school before the holidays was hugely exciting! The gym was covered in reindeer, red and green ornaments, presents, candy canes, snowflakes, gingerbread kids, and even curly bearded Santas! The children and staff were dressed in red and green from head to toe, our noses were flashing, and to top it off Ms. Eng played her beautiful harp to escort everybody into the gym! For the first time ever, each class took a turn to lead the sing-a-long, and it was a great success! From JK to grade 5, the children sang together and spread their cheerful holiday spirit. A heartfelt thank you to Ms. Eng, who made the event extra-special, and Mrs. Cooper’s 85 year-old mom, who stepped in to play the piano.

MASSEY HALL, YOU SAY?

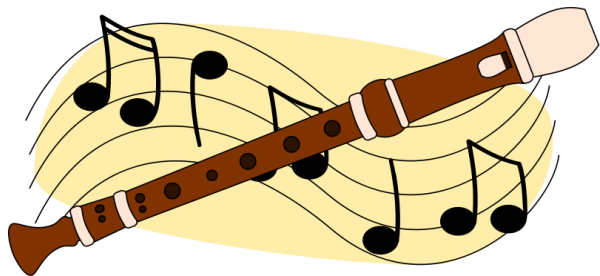
All of the hard work by our grade 4 and 5 students in December paid off when I received word on the last afternoon before the holidays that we had been accepted through an audition process to perform in the TDSB Massed Choir at historic Massey Hall this Spring. When the children found out, they threw up their hands and roared! Hugs and high-fives filled the gym. The energy was high (as if the Toronto Maple Leafs won the Stanley Cup, some boys said!) We have been learning the choral music in class in preparation for the concert, and look forward to that special day!

ANTI-BULLYING DAY, February 27th

Pink T-Shirt Day, a.k.a. Anti-Bullying Day, will be held across the country on February 27th, and our students from JK to Grade 5 will be coming together to raise awareness and spread some positive energy with a song by Phillip Phillips called “*Home*.” We have been learning that sounds can be represented by notes or symbols and together they create a rhythm. Students in all the grades have also been learning to read, play and say the rhythms, and so the next step is to create the rhythms they will play for our special song. Since we are an Eco-school, we will be playing non-pitched, reusable or ‘found’ rhythm instruments such as buckets, cutting boards, spoons, and chopsticks to accompany this piece of music. This experience promises to be lots of fun, educational and hopefully will send the anti-bullying message “HOME!”

LEARNING TO PLAY THE RECORDER

Beginning in February, children in grades 3 to 5 will be studying the recorder. They will be playing and reading notes from the musical staff, identifying rhythms and experiencing folk songs, classical melodies, and popular music. The Ontario Curriculum will be addressed through the recorder study, and student progress will be evaluated.



Each student will be responsible for the care and storage of the recorder, as well as the cost for replacement if need be. If your child already owns a recorder, please locate it and ensure it is clean and in working condition. If your child needs to buy a recorder this year, please keep an eye out for info about purchasing through the school.

Each student will benefit greatly from this musical experience. You can help your child achieve success with the recorder by encouraging daily practice at home, and by ensuring that your child brings his/her music folder for each music class. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank-you from Ms. Pasqua.

STAYING HEALTHY!

[Health Canada](#) suggests that there are things you can do to stay healthy and avoid the flu, while taking in the best that the winter months have to offer. Here are some tips that they suggest will help you stay healthy during cold and flu season.

- **Wash your hands** often and thoroughly, and keep them away from your face.
- **Get your rest**, especially if you start to feel ill.
- **Drink plenty of water** to flush out your system.
- **Exercise** to keep up your stamina and fight the bugs.

And, if you DO get sick – STAY HOME to prevent spreading your germs!

LEAP FOR LEARNING

Our annual, much-anticipated fundraiser featuring the musical stylings of DJ's **The Magen Boys**, is scheduled for Friday, February 22nd. Pledge forms went home with students before the holidays, and are also available on our School Council website. This event gives students and teachers alike a chance to break loose and show off their dance moves! The DJ's go to great lengths to involve everybody, and it's a whole lot of fun.

Special thanks go to Karen Millar of Royal LePage, who is once again sponsoring this event. Funds raised will be used to support programming at all levels across the school. Ms. Innocente will be able to replace library resources and we also look forward to replacing a few pieces of technology.

You can help by supporting your children in their request for sponsorship. There are prizes for students and classes who end up raising the highest amounts – and the grand prize winner actually gets to be the *Principal For A Day!*



Let's get those pledges rolling in, students, and be ready to boogie on February 22nd!

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS FROM CHAIR MATHEW SHERMAN

Thank you to our parent volunteers who continue to help with school events. Pancake, pizza and sub lunches, popcorn sales and other spirit events are popular with the students and we couldn't do them without the extra support from parents. If you have not volunteered for any school events I encourage you to contact the School Council and ask how you can get involved (www.normaningschoolcouncil.ca). Special thanks to Rose Davidson and Linda Hutton for continuing to coordinate not only many events, but also the volunteers needed to run them.

Family Skate Night will be held on February 7 from 6-8PM at the *Shops At Don Mills* outdoor oval rink. I encourage the grade 1's and 2's to come early as it can get pretty busy. Helmets are strongly encouraged.

Our next School Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 25th. I hope to see some new faces! As always I can be reached through the Council web site at www.normaningschoolcouncil.ca/contact-me.

DECEMBER & JANUARY ACTIVITIES AT NORMAN INGRAM

