

October 31, 2014

Secord News



CRITICAL PATHWAY: TEAM PLANNING

At Secord, our teachers work in teams to plan Critical Pathway Units. Our plans always include a strong social justice component, higher-level thinking, critical literacy, and probing questions. This year, we are integrating “STEM” (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities into our Pathways. As well, our first Pathway (October – January) focusses on an environmental theme.

Gr. 1: As stewards we are responsible for ourselves and the environment. What we do locally impacts our environment globally.

Gr. 2: If we assess the ways in which humans impact the environment, then students will learn ways to be positive stewards in local and global communities.

Gr. 3: We are all interrelated with each other, our community and our environment. We have an effect on our environment and our environment has an effect on us. We need to conserve what we have and meet everyone’s needs fairly and protect our environment.

Grade 4 and 5: How can we make a positive impact on the environment in our local community and our global communities?

If we provide problem based learning opportunities about human impact on the environment then students will be better able to make informed decisions regarding their environment.

YOUNG WOMEN ON THE MOVE

A group of students went to the “Young Women on the Move” conference. They met with the author Ashely Spires and learned how to “Hack a Book” (a type of STEM project making a book into another item that can be useful, such as make a purse or pencil holder). Students also learned how to make a circuit with playdough and LED lights. Thanks to Ms. McNulty for organizing the trip.

IMPORTANT DATES

November 6: Picture retakes

November 12: Reports go home

November 13: Parent-teacher interviews evening

November 14: P.A. Day; Parent-teacher interviews a.m.

November 17: Vision Clinic

November 19: School Council 6:30 p.m.

November 20: Parent Workshop 3:15 – 4:00

December 4: Movie Night

December 5: P.A. Day

NEWCOMER MENTORING PROGRAM

Starting in November, twenty Secord students from grades 3, 4 and 5 will be take part in the Ping Pong Club for newcomers to Canada. This wonderful program is run by staff members who work with the Toronto District School Board as part of the “Welcoming Communities for TDSB Newcomer Youth and Kids”. The program is funded by “Citizenship and Immigration Canada”. The students participate on Fridays at lunch and after school for 8 weeks. During lunch, they eat, draw, play games, make crafts and have fun. After school, the students play ping pong with a professional player and fancy ping pong tables. Thanks to Ms. May for organizing this valuable program.



GIRL’S BASKETBALL

Practices have begun for the team and we are looking forward to their tournament on November 20, at Chester Elementary School. Thanks to Mr. Lee and Ms. Timpany for coaching!



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY: TIPS FOR PARENTS

Children under nine should be accompanied by adults or older children when crossing the street. At this age, their judgment and perceptual skills are still immature, yet they often eagerly try to cross streets on their own in order to demonstrate some independence. Teach your children the rules of the road - start when they're young. Think of it as gradually training your children about safety until all the connections are in place.

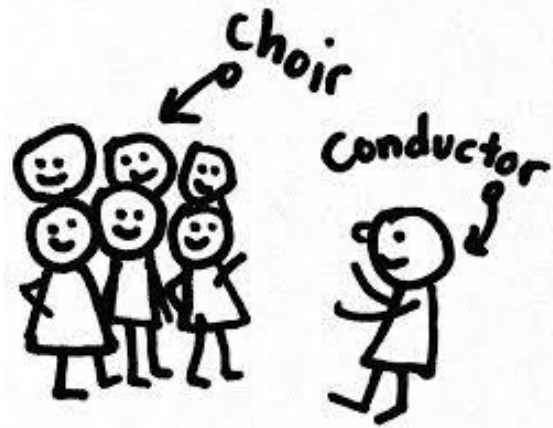
Teach children how to cross the street safely. Teach them to stop (before stepping onto the road), look left, right and left again, and listen for traffic before stepping out into the street. Teach children to wait until the street is clear and to keep looking until they have crossed the street. They should also look the driver in the eye before crossing.

Teach children to recognize pedestrian crossing signals but not rely on them. Before crossing, children should also be sure the traffic has stopped. Remind them to continue across if the light changes to "Don't Walk" while they are in the crosswalk.

Teach children to be extra alert when crossing at a corner with no traffic lights.

Teach your children to stop at driveways, alleys and areas without curbs and to never run out onto the street.

Teach children about the dangers of crossing the street between parked cars or when not at a corner. Children should cross only at corners and pedestrian crosswalks, not diagonally or between parked cars.



PRIMARY CHOIR

At the end of September, Primary Choir started for students in Grades 2 and 3. There are over 60 members! Primary Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays after school and students are learning many new songs and performance skills. Everyone is doing a great job and having fun! The choir will have their first performance at the Remembrance Day Assembly on November 11.

Thank you to the Choir Directors: Mrs. H. Roberts and Ms. Spencer.

JUNIOR CHOIR

Junior Choir is off to a great start! There are many new students participating as well as many members returning for a second year. We are working on a choral version of "In Flanders Fields" for our upcoming Remembrance Day Assembly. The choir meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch time. Thank you to Mrs. Rowe for running the choir and for assistance of Ms. C. Roberts!

YOGA CLUB

Mr. Clement is running the Yoga Club, which meets on Wednesdays in Room 307 at 11:45. Mr. Clement is a certified yoga instructor who will be teaching students about yoga basics such as breathing techniques, basic postures and laughter yoga.



SECORD SOUND CIRCLE

This group meets every Wednesday at lunch in Ms. Spencer's room to get creative with sound. The Grade 4 and 5 group plays on Boomwhackers, drums, World Music, Orff and various percussion instruments and composes sound effects for text.

NEWS FROM THE ECO CLUB

Please look for Secord's Gold Eco-Certification Plaque which will be hanging in the front lobby early in November. The Eco teachers presented it to the whole school at our October sharing assembly. We are very proud of everyone's efforts to keep the ECO in sECOrd!

The Eco Club teachers have been overwhelmed by all the applications for members. We have been reviewing all the applications and are looking forward to meeting with everyone who applied during the first week of November to make Eco plans for this school year. Students: please listen to the announcements during the first week of November to know where and when to meet.

Thanks to Mr. Cornwall, Ms. Rombough, Ms. Romaneh and Ms. Wymer!

MUSICAL THEATRE GLEE CLUB

This club meets every Monday after school. Students from Grades 3 to 5 have fun singing, dancing and acting out short scenes from popular musicals such as Annie, Oliver and Matilda as well as pop songs! MTG Club is directed by Ms. Spencer and Ms. Claire Roberts, along with Mr. Moore, Ms. Soo Lum and Ms. Pan.

SPECIAL DAYS IN NOVEMBER

Aboriginal Education Month

- 1** Samhain-Litha (Wicca/Pagan)
- 5** Ashura (Islam)
- 6** Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib (Sikhism)
- 11** Remembrance Day (Canada)
- 12** Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
- 14** World Diabetes Day (WHO)
- 16** Louis Riel Day (First Nations, Inuit, Métis)
- 16-22** Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week
- 20** Universal Children's Day (UN)
- 20** International Transgender Day of Remembrance
- 23** National Holodomor Awareness (Ukrainian)
- 25** International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (UN)

SLOW PITCH TEAM

On October 10th the Secord Slow Pitch Team traveled to Christie Pits Park to play 4 games in a regional softball tournament against other elementary schools in Toronto. Everyone put forth a great effort and our team ended up winning one game and tying another. Thank you players for all your hard work, and thanks to Mr. Lobo and Mr. Kitney for coaching.

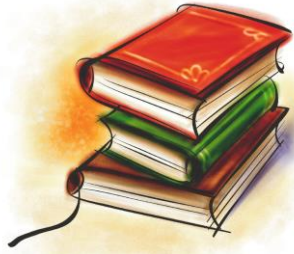
PARENT WORKSHOP

We are offering a parent workshop on November 20th at 3:15 - 4:00 on the topic of "How to Support Your Child at Home". The focus will be on reading and how to access Internet resources at home to help your child. Thanks to Ms. Carey and Ms. Clark!



SECORD C-CHORDS UKULELE GROUP

(Grades 3 - 5) gets together for a strumming, picking and toe-tapping session every Thursday after school. Thanks to Ms. Spencer and Ms. Watson!



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Welcome to Secord Elementary's fantastic library! There has been a lot of hard work put in to organizing the school's amazing book collection, and we have begun book exchange successfully over the past few weeks. We are very excited to have all the kindergarten students with new book bags to help them take care of their books, and remember to bring them back to exchange every week. This is a very special time for kindergarten kids because they are coming to school every day and learning responsibility, along with all the other amazing things their teachers introduce them to every day.

Many junior students have leapt at the chance to contribute to the maintenance of the library, and we are grateful that they have been so responsible and eager to help. Permission forms will be going home for all junior students who want to become library monitors for the school year. Monitors are asked to come every day at 8:30 am to help reshelve and make sure that all the shelves are in order. The breakfast program must be informed of students' participation in this activity so that safety can be ensured.

The library is also open to all community members before the start of the school day. Please feel free to come and visit the library with your child(ren) and read a book with them, help them use a computer, use the dual language books we have acquired, or use the computer yourself. Secord's library is a welcoming place for the whole community, and we hope that all families feel welcome to come use the resources here. Come and use the library any time after 8:15 am.

Ms. Pan

PARENT EVENTS

Volunteer Training Week November 21st, 2014

Learn the basics to becoming a volunteer at your school.

Location: DA Morrison Middle School, 3rd floor Library, 271 Gledhill Drive

Time: 5:30pm – 8:00pm

Date: November 25, 2014

Extra info: Child-minding, dinner and transportation will be provided

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee Conference

8th Annual Parent Involvement makes a difference conference: Increasing Knowledge and Enhancing confidence. Features special guest Speaker J. Richard gentry, PH. D

Date: Saturday November 15th, 2014

Time: 8:00 am to 3:45 pm

Location: Earl Haig Secondary School, 100 Princess avenue, Toronto Ontario

Extra info: Child-minding and interpretation will be available through registration ONLY!

For more information contact (416) 397-3529

Register: www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference

People for Education 18th Annual Conference

Sessions on Education Funding, Making community schools a reality, Digital Education, Mental Health, Making Inclusive Schools, School Councils, Special Education and more! Special Guest speakers!

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2014

Time: 8:15 am – 5:00 pm

Location: 105 St. George Street

Register Online: www.peopleforeducation.ca

George Brown Choices Program for Parents

Explore & Plan for Post-Secondary. Free week-long program where you will discover your learning strengths, interests and personality traits as they relate to your career choices, receive support to explore careers that interest you, learn about how to pay for school (OSAP and business) and develop and action plan that fits your needs.

Date: November 24 – 28, 2014

Location: classes will be held at the St James Campus of George brown College, 200 King St. East