Have a wonderful holiday season and all the best for a happy and healthy 2016!

Church Street Public School
Winter 2016 Newsletter
Nora Spence, Principal
Committed to Student Success!!

Dates to remember:

January
Monday, January 4 Back to school
Friday, January 8 Pizza lunch
Wednesday, January 20 School Council Meeting 6 -7 pm
Thursday, January 21 Dance-A-Thon Pep Rally Assembly
Thursday, January 21 Spirit Day
Friday, January 22 PA Day - children do not come to school
Wednesday, January 27 At Home Alone - Parent/Guardian Workshop
Friday, January 29 Teamwork Assembly - Room 304

February
Tuesday, February 9 Report Cards go home
Thursday, February 11 Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser
Friday, February 12 PA Day
Monday, February 15 Family Day - children do not come to school
Friday, February 19 Pizza lunch
Friday, February 19 Spirit Day
Friday, February 26 Fairness Assembly

Looking Ahead:
March 14 - 18 March Break - no school
Wednesday, March 23 School Council Meeting 6 -7 pm
Thursday, March 24 Spirit Day

NEW!!! Spirit Days at Church Street Public School
(details to follow)

School Council
Our next School Council Meeting is on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 6 pm in the staffroom. Child care will be provided and everyone is welcome to attend!

Playground Update from Michael Sraga
The Church Street Jr. P.S. Playground Committee has been meeting with staff at the Toronto District School Board throughout the year in order to finalize the school’s outdoor master plan. As this stage is now complete the process has moved on to the creation of a detailed design for the school property and working drawings for construction.
It was initially the intent of the Committee that the master plan was to be phased in over a number of years with Phase 1 commencing this past summer. The TDSB has decided that the majority of the work should be done as a single project in order to minimize disruption to outdoor student activity and also to minimize overall construction costs. As a result, a new time line has been proposed with construction hopefully occurring next summer with substantial completion prior to the start of the 2016-17 school year.
Between now and then a number of steps will need to be taken. First, a landscape architect will be retained, commissioned to undertake the detailed design work and prepare construction drawings with specifications. The TDSB has notified the Committee that the selection of the preferred designer will be made next week. The Committee will collaborate with the design team to ensure that the vision put forth in the master plan is carried through detailed design.
As the work continues on the school yard plan the Committee will communicate to students, parents and staff its progress through subsequent newsletters and pin ups on the front lobby announcement board.
Thank you for your interest and patience in this important endeavour. While the timeline has been
extended beyond our initial estimate, the end point remains the same: to provide an improved and healthy outdoor environment in which our children and future generations can learn, socialize and play.

**School Fundraiser for the Christie Refugee Welcome Centre from Room 304 Gr. 6 students**
Part of the Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum is to study Canada’s interaction with the global community. With this in mind, Grade 6 students at Church St., along with Ms. Shield’s and Ms. Hotke’s classrooms, organized a donation drive to help newcomers seeking refuge in Canada over the next several months.
Over the month of November, Church St. P.S. collected various necessities on behalf of the Christie Refugee Welcome Centre. With your help we have collected food, clothing, and toys to help these newcomers feel welcome here in Canada.
We encourage you and your families to continue giving to those in need over the winter months. It takes just one person to make a BIG difference.
We are looking forward to welcoming any and all newcomers to Church St. Public School.

**Library Learning Commons News from Ms. Woodruff**
The Scholastic Book Fair in November was an even bigger success than last year!
The profit earned from it will help supply books for the literacy programs in classrooms. Thank you to all who supported the Book Fair and to all the parents and relatives who volunteered their time to set up, take down and run the fair.
Special thanks to Krista Taylor who organized the whole event and worked tirelessly with her parents, Ken and Judy Taylor, every day of the fair. We couldn’t have run this major fundraising event for our school without volunteers, and their hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated.
Our annual **Ontario Library Association’s Forest of Reading Awards Programs:**
**Blue Spruce (Grades K-2)** and **Silver Birch (Grades 3-6)** will be launched in early January. Each year 40 recently published Canadian books are nominated for these awards. The winners are not chosen by librarians or teachers, but rather by students across Ontario who will vote for their favourites by ballot in late April. These programs provide an exciting way to become acquainted with good Canadian literature, to promote reading for both pleasure and information and to provide opportunities for students to discuss books in an authentic manner with the staff expert readers. All students in Grades K-2 take part in The Blue Spruce Reading Program, which I run during their library visits.

**Drama and Dance from Ms. Salo**
In the upcoming months, all the students in the primary grades will continue to explore stories and characters in depth through dramatic and movement activities, and begin our units in dance. The Folk Dance Club for grades 2 and 3 will begin weekly meetings in preparation for the Spring Concert.

**A Music Note from Ms. Mourre!**
Music students are enjoying learning the elements of music through listening, singing and creating with songs in English, French, Japanese and Arabic, with quite possibly more languages to follow! Students in all grades are encouraged to teach the class to sing the numbers one through ten in their home language using a fun, vocal music, warm-up activity. Perhaps you are hearing your children practise at home?
Grade 4s have started on the soprano recorder and many grade 6s are learning a new system of fingering on the alto instrument. The Junior and Primary Choirs, as well as the String Ensemble and Recorder Ensemble, are preparing for an evening concert, the exact date to be announced in early 2016. There are still some openings for students to join the recorder ensemble - please come see me!

**Church Street Athletic News from Mr. Bui**
Church Street Public School Physical Education and Athletics have had a positive start to the year. In the gym, some of the skills we are working on are overarm throwing, catching, dribbling, defending and moving in a variety of ways. We had a successful Cross Country season with 9 runners qualifying for the Conference Finals and Katrell Dos Santos making it all the way to the City Finals!
We hosted an exciting Grade 6 Girls Basketball tournament here at Church Street with Cottingham and ICS/Jackman schools visiting. Our girls lost their first game, won their second game and played two close exhibition games. Congrats to all of our student athletes. The next team to start practising will be the Grade 6 Boys basketball team.
Please remember that the students must dress appropriately on the days they have gym so that they are comfortable and are able to move easily. (Eg. running shoes, track pants, t-shirt and sweatshirt.) Thank you for your support.