

Duke of Connaught Jr. & Sr. P. S.

Georgia Koziol - Vice-Principal
Trustee - Sheila Cary-Meagher

Beverly O'Brien - Principal

John Kyriazis – Vice - Principal
Superintendent – Vicky Branco

Duke Express

January 2014

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Happy New Year! I hope that all families have come through the ice storm without too much damage. The clean up of the trees around the city will certainly take a great deal of time and resources. I am thankful that our grounds were not severely affected. It certainly has been a challenge to work with the ice and lessen the slippery walkways around the school.

Term 1 is quickly wrapping up with the end of January. Report cards will be going home February 11th. Teachers will be inviting parents in for interviews. Parents can also request an interview. Updated IEPs will also come home with the report cards for those students who require IEPs. We have scheduled Thursday, February 13th in the evening for interviews requiring interpreters. Please work with your child's teacher to arrange interview times that work with individual schedules.

The Duke of Connaught participated in a Learning Walk with our Superintendent Vicky Branco and Associate Director Gen Ling Chang. This Learning Walk provided an opportunity to showcase the hard work of the students and highlight the process behind the learning taking place in the classrooms. Students' work is posted on learning walls outside and inside classrooms. Learning goals and success criteria are key elements of these learning walls. Students refer to their work to reflect and to build on their understanding of concepts. Please take time when you are visiting the classrooms for an interview to see the posted work.

We are fully engaged in collaborative inquiry of mathematics in grade teams. Teachers are co teaching lessons and developing lessons that are leading student success.

Full Day Kindergarten is in the works. We are waiting for construction to take place in three of the current kindergarten classrooms. We have developed a Plan B to accommodate the construction interruption. Teachers in the affected classes will be in touch with families to let them know if there any changes to routines.

The efforts of the students with Operation Bracelet raised \$1965 for the Red Cross which was matched by the Government for a total amount of \$3927. Thank you for your support.

The Duke of Connaught is a great place to learn. It is thrilling to see the high level of engagement and increase in student outcomes. Thank you for your ongoing support with your child's learning.

Sincerely,

Beverly O'Brien - Principal

Curriculum Corner

Les critères de succès :

- J'explique comment le personnage agit-il/elle comme un agent de changement.
- J'explique comment le personnage a pu avoir un impact durable.
- J'utilise des preuves du texte et mes idées propre pour bien soutenir ma réponse.
- J'utilise des indices et des citations (par exemple, il est évident, parce que, l'auteur cite).

It is important that we continue to work together to support student achievement. Your child is growing up exposed to many different forms of texts in our media rich world. It is important that you help foster critical thinking skills with your child so that can understand different perspectives, question the author's message and understand how language can be used to persuade people.

As your child reads different texts, provide opportunities for him/her to talk about what they have read. Some questions that you can ask your child are:

- *What was the text about? Why did you choose to read it?
- *What was the message or big idea that was presented?
- *What might the author want you to think? How do you know?
- *Do you agree with the author's point of view? Why or why not?
- *How did you feel as you read the text? Why?
- *How were words or images to communicate the author's message?

After-School Literacy and Numeracy Program for Grades 7 & 8

Unit 2 of our After-school Literacy and Numeracy Program is scheduled to commence in the second week of January and will continue until Thursday March 6, 2014. For more information please contact Ms. McDonald or Mr. Darkhor.

Eco News

Duke of Connaught had an Interim Platinum Audit on December 10, 2013

Below is a summary of the Interim Audit Report

Program Strengths:

Congratulations on receiving the Jack Layton Award for Youth Action in Sustainability. It is wonderful to see that the Duke of Connaught team has been engaging both students and the community in caring for the school gardens and in harvesting vegetables and herbs to use in the school's food program.

The school has been working hard to reduce its paper use and has a digital newsletter to keep in touch with the school community. Several classes have also focused on online and technology resources in their classrooms.

The Duke of Connaught team is enthusiastic and has plans to implement the new green bin program and promote waste-free lunches in the upcoming months.

Key Steps to Move Forward:

Achieving platinum certification is a big challenge. Areas to focus your efforts include:

- 1) Waste Minimization:** A waste audit is a requirement in the platinum certification process. Waste sorting is also a challenge at Duke of Connaught. Signage above bins and a waste-focused campaign will be helpful next steps.
- 2) Energy Monitoring :** Energy monitoring is an important part of the EcoSchools program.
- 3) Eco- Literacy:** Continue to find ways to engage students in learning about the environment. Perhaps hosting another green day to engage students in eco-activities or finding other ways for classes to collaborate.

Your school has many great ideas! Continue to maintain your efforts where you are already doing well, and make plans to address areas where you have concerns. The report's recommendations can help your team build on your ideas and successes from previous years as you strive to achieve platinum this year.

We look forward to returning in the spring for the final audit to see your progress.

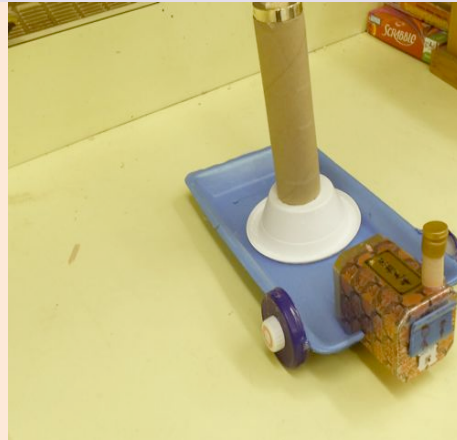
Auditors: Lisa Fisk & Kristen Evers

Learning in Action

Science News:

How do human activities affect ecosystems?

The intermediate classes have started their new science project to explore the impact humans have on the environment and eco systems. For more information please contact Ms. Hodgins.



Eco Train
by Jacob
W.,
Grade 6



We continue to have ongoing success during our pizza lunch. Our students are being quite responsible to ensure that the 3R's are being implemented at our school accordingly. We are very fortunate to have the parents facilitate this process!

Caring and Safe Committee: Welcome Back! Since our committee last met rooms 205, 206 and 107 changed their entry and exit doors. Their new doors are located by the ramp and Applegrove Community offices. Since this switch, there has been a noticeable difference in the number of students trying to enter from one entrance point (Doors located by the Woodfield Gym). We ask that students exercise caution and think safety first when going up and down stairs, especially when they become wet from snow and slush. Our next meeting will be held on Friday January 31st during the lunch hour.

More to Learn

Library News

Duke readers have new books for a new year! Ms. McDonald has been busy purchasing and cataloging books from our student "Suggestion Box." We have acquired many fantastic Junior and Intermediate novels and equity, picture books linked to curriculum. We also have new resources to add to our Black History Quilt Kit, which will soon begin circulating Duke classrooms for February's Black History focus. Happy reading Duke!



Music Corner – January 2014: On December 17th, Duke's Choir, Band and Strings students put on a wonderful Winter Holiday concert. Thank you to the students for their participation and hard work; to the staff for support of the Duke's Music Program and to the parents for encouraging your children to continue to be involved in music.



Duke of Connaught Students and teachers were invited to take part in two periods of Holiday Singing during the last week of school before the winter break. Students and staff had wonderful time singing in the front foyer. Way to go Duke.

Duke of Connaught's Primary, Junior and Senior Choirs will resume rehearsals the week of January 13th. Primary Choir is

full. The Senior Choir is looking for more members (Grades 6,7, or 8 student) and there are still opening for Grades 4 and 5 students in the Junior Choir. The GUITAR/SINGER-SONGWRITER CLUB will start again on January 20th as the Duke Jammerz will start on January 22nd – See you then. Students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 have begun learning Ukelele in class – stay tuned for more information about Ukulele in the Classroom at Duke.

The Grades 7s and 8s will be continuing learning Guitar in February and we are in working on getting the Grade 3 classes learning recorder stay tuned for more information on Grade 3s and recorder in the coming weeks. We hope to have recorder in the Grade 3 classes by February.

Mr. Caruso and Mr. Kirkwood

Sports News

Volleyball: Congratulations to the Senior Boys Volleyball team who are your City of Toronto FINALISTS! The boys defeated the North Conference Champions, Woodbine Junior High School, and moved on to the final match against James S Bell Middle School. The boys were outstanding and played a terrific game. Thank you boys for a superb season!!!!

Ms. Oliveira. Dec. 17, 2013



Ski Trip: On Wednesday, January 8, 2014, over 100 grades 5-8 students traveled to Snow Valley in Barrie for a remarkable day of **downhill skiing!** The day was absolutely fantastic! The sun was shining and the conditions were outstanding. Unlike traditional ski classes, Snow Valley's Adventure Centre allowed our students to develop skills at their own pace. Seven stations provided a fun environment for the development of: 1) Mobility & Balance; 2) Stopping; 3) Linked Controlled Turns; 4) Green Stripe Evaluation; 5) Introduction to Chairlifts; 6) Rhythmical Turns and 7) Direction Change. Students and staff had a very enjoyable time!

Many thanks to the staff who helped and to Ms. Oliveria for organizing this fun outing event.



Swimming: The swimming program at Duke is having a fantastic year with our students in the pool learning new skills such as floating, stroke improvement, building endurance as well as improving techniques to tread water in the deep end. Our students are also having fun playing water polo and basketball among other fun games.

The swim team has been practicing every week and getting ready for their swim meet to be organized soon.

Keep up with the good work everyone and remember to bring your bathing suits for your swimming classes.

From Swim Instructors: **Mrs. Gothreau and Mr. Aishford.**



Community News

All parents who wish to volunteer in school activities must provide a police reference check. We are committed to ensuring the safety of all of our children. Our community support worker would like all parents interested in volunteering, but that do not have a police reference, to contact him at: Daniele.cammissa@tdsb.on.ca or 416-779-1143

Grade 7 Open House The Duke of Connaught Jr. & Sr. P.S. is inviting students and families from our feeder schools to our Grade 7 Open House Wed. Jan. 29th at 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Format of evening:

- Presentation in the gym/auditorium by school principal
- Duke students and staff will be available to bring families on a tour of the facility
- Duke students and staff on hand to answer questions about The Duke

An enthusiastic and dedicated staff provide Duke students with rich learning opportunities and various experiences which promote life-long learning.

Additional Features of The Duke:

- Cantonese and Mandarin Classes
- Aquatics Program
- Lego Room
- Snack and Hot Lunch Program
- Breakfast Program
- Strong athletics program
- Dedicated vocal music program with guitars and ukuleles

School Website <http://schools.tdsb.on.ca/dukeconnaught>

Cancellation of Busses During Severe Weather

Severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation or, in extreme conditions, close schools. The decision to close schools is made by the director of education. In the event transportation is cancelled or schools are closed, the local media will be informed before the beginning of the school day. Tune in to your radio and television news stations for the latest information or visit www.tdsb.on.ca or follow TDSB on Twitter.

Making the Best of Winter Weather at our School

Principals are often asked how we decide whether it's too cold to allow our students out in the schoolyard for recess. Fresh air and exercise are important for children. It keeps them physically fit, and helps them stay alert all through the school day. Parents can help by making sure their children come to school prepared to spend time outdoors. Hats, mitts, boots and a warm jacket are important to keep students comfortable during lunch and recess. But extreme cold can be dangerous, and parents want to know that their children will be safe. When the temperature is predicted to drop below -15C, the City of Toronto may declare a cold weather alert. Schools are very sensitive to the needs of our students and pay close attention to the weather, especially when the wind chill is below -20 C. When temperatures and/or wind chill factor indicates -28C or lower children will remain indoors due to risk of frost nip and frostbite.

Community News

School Council

- Greetings to all parent-guardians, teachers and school staff!
- Welcome back to a fresh start and a New Year. The Council's scheduled activities are already in full swing, having hosted a coffee morning and a hugely successful pizza lunch. We continue to experiment a little as to how we organize and execute the event, but the students love it and the proceeds support some very important events and activities for the benefit of our students.
- A big thank you goes out to all the parents who volunteered to organize the event and distribute the pizza, as well as those who supported it and purchased pizza for their kids. The event raised a total of \$420.
- Forms are available for future lunches if you have not already signed up.
- As for other successful events recently held, with the help of Council and our parent-guardian community, our Movie and Pajama Night raised \$900. This may indeed be a record!!
- Also, on January 17, Council's Athletics Committee will be hosting an open basketball game for grades 5-8. The game will run from 5:00-7:00 in the Woodfield Gym with a suggested donation of \$1 per person. Pizza (\$2), popcorn (\$1) and juice (\$1) will be available to purchase. At this time we're asking for donations of nut free baked goods. They can be dropped off to the office any time on Friday.
- There will also be a chance to win a pair of Raptor tickets (\$400 value)! Raffle tickets are \$2 for one ticket or \$5 for 3. See you there!(check out last week's Need to Read for further information) and our annual Adult Social event in March.
- For more details on upcoming events, both this week's and those of the coming months, please visit our web site at <http://dukeschoolcouncil.weebly.com/>.
- Do you have some time to help out this month? Right now we are looking for:
 - Parent-guardians or caregivers who are able to read with students during Read Up, Thursdays after school in the library
 - Parent-guardians or caregivers who are able to help out with the hot lunch program for food preparation, serving and clean up

If you are able to volunteer, please email us at DukeSchoolCouncil@gmail.com.

Pediculosis Check: Our second whole school pediculosis check will take place on February 4 all day in the Parent Resource room. Each class will be called to down to have the check completed by our nurse and volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kyriazis.

Important Dates:

Jan. 20 – Optometry clinic for identified students
Jan. 22 – French Immersion Information Evening 7pm
Jan. 24 – P.D. day
Jan. 27 – Family Literacy Day 2:30-3:00
Jan. 28 – SAC mtg @ 6:30
Jan. 29 – Open House Gr. 7 @ 6:30
Feb. 4 – Lice Check full school



February Family Fun & Fitness Month

Come out and join this FREE opportunity with your family in playing various sports and activities.

We will have licensed coaches and instructors facilitating:

Tuesday, February 4: *Family Soccer, Yoga/Tai Chi, Walking / Running the track*

Tuesday, February 11: *Family Football, Yoga/Tai Chi, Walking / Running the track*

Tuesday, February 18: *Family Soccer, Yoga/Tai Chi, Walking / Running the track*

Tuesday, February 25: *Family Frisbee, Yoga/Tai Chi, Walking / Running the track*

Every Tuesday, in February, from 4-5pm at Monarch Park Stadium, light snack and transportation provided. All children must have parent or guardian supervision and must pre-register to join. To register and organize TTC transportation or for more information please call or email your community support worker at:

Daniele Cammisa 416-779-1143 daniele.cammisa@tdsb.on.ca

One block south of the Danforth on Coxwell Ave.