

Principal's Update

January 2018

We have had an exciting albeit chilly start to 2018! We are back to learning and having fun with our friends with a focus on gratitude, community and team building. Our staff leaders are leading us all through the next steps of our School Improvement Plan with a focus on improving attitudes and performance in thinking and application in math.

Assessment and Reporting

Term One Provincial Report Card which will come home on February 12, 2018. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification regarding your child's progress on February 15, and 16th 2018.

Student Safety

Members of our School Council will have an opportunity to learn about our strategies for identifying bullying

Upcoming Events

Pyjama Day and Pizza Day: Friday February 26, 2018

Kindergarten Registration : February 21, 2018 for students born in 2014

As we continue teaching and learning we do so through a wide variety of fun and exciting tasks designed to engage all of our different learning styles and appreciate our differences and commonalities.

Currently, we are preparing for:

Mackie in Motion: Every morning recess (one class per grade) with Mr. Moutadayne

Learning Commons Team –Monday, Wednesday and Friday @ 11:45 with Ms Raynor in the Learning Commons

Forest of Reading –Monday, Wednesday and Friday @ 11:45 with Ms. Harley and Ms. Raynor

Games Club-Fridays at lunch with Mr. Richards

Eco Club- Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 11:45 with Ms. Qazi and Ms. Duncan

Me to We-As announced

House League-Ball Hockey at 12:00 every day (2 of 5 teams) Supervised by Mr. Stafford, Ms. Duncan, Ms. McFarlane and Mr. Moutadayne

Jr. Boys' Basketball-Coached by Ms. Harley and Mr. Moutadayne

Jr. Girls' Volleyball-Coached by Mr. Stafford and Ms. McFarlane

School Improvement

As a staff we continue to work toward our common goals, ongoing School Improvement Plan (SIP) and planned professional development. We base our plan on our school data, student assessments, report card data and EQAO scores. This year our SIP Focus is on Equity and Math.

Equity is a concept that we address and teach through every subject, theme and conversation. We also put more explicit measures in place such as a Caring and Safe Schools Committee with a focus of communication, accommodations and support. This team has developed a plan that includes a wide variety of leadership and character building opportunities such as Houseleage, Mackie in Motion, Eco-Schools, Me to We, LCT, A Special Education plan that includes monthly SST's (School Support Team) and IST's (In school Support Teams). Both these teams meet monthly to discuss students and seek additional input from parents and professionals when needed.

While the TDSB recognized Bullying Awareness Week, we start these conversations at the very start of the year with explicit teaching of routines and our focus as a staff is placed on:

- Self-regulation
- Positive choices
- Self-esteem
- Engaging tasks
- Caring and Safe Schools

Math

Our Math team is led by Ms. Harley, Ms. McFarlane, and Ms. Mihaly. Once we had looked at all of our data together, our team created an attitudinal survey and diagnostic assessments for all of our grades 1-6. From here we analyze the thinking and application skills of our students to address how to reach them and ascertain next steps. In addition, we continue to access resources like our Learning Coach Lesley Davidson and supports like Innova Stem Labs to enrich our Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs.

School Council

Parents can support student learning in many ways. One of those ways is through involvement in our School Council. Our current council led by Chair, Jenny Gloria, continues to support our school goals through member input. Our school council has helped to improve student access to information and skills through technology, buy contributing fundraising money toward student laptops. They also help to enrich our arts and literacy initiatives by supporting costs of things like bussing to our School Wide Excursion to Munsch on the Moon. Thursday November 23rd, we will have representatives from our school council attending Bliss Carmen Math Night to help to make a connection with our feed school. The School Council also do work behind the scenes on documents such as the School Statement of

Needs, and fundraising initiatives. Please come out and see what the School Council does! All parents are welcome. Our next meeting is November 28, at 6:00pm in our library.

Staffing

We continue to have jobs to fill through the Unit C staffing process. We welcome temporary Educational Assistant Ms. Dhanapalan, who is currently supporting students who have access to our Home School Program. On November 3rd, we said farewell to long-time ECE Ms. Leah Abas, who has moved to the beautiful province of Nova Scotia. We welcome temporary ECE Ms. Shafiq, while the formal hiring process proceeds.

In addition, we will be saying a fond farewell and best wishes to our amazing office administrator Diana Blackburn, who is moving to Brockville this December. The Office Administrator of a small school is a crucial role, and we will be seeking your patience with our temporary staff as we follow the staffing process on this assignment as well. We will continue to ensure that safety of students is our priority throughout these staffing transitions. Please join me in wishing Ms. Blackburn all of the best in her new “simpler” life!

The community of George P. Mackie is an amazing place to live and to work. I am grateful every day for the laughs I am able to enjoy thanks to your inquisitive, honest and engaging children. I mentioned earlier that parenting is a challenge. You are all doing a fabulous job of loving and caring for your children. Thank you for entrusting them to us each day.

Sincerely,

Ms. Ponka, Principal

Principal Report –January 2018

Focussed on

Math Leaders walking us through a Professional Learning cycle targeted at Adaption to the weather

Community- Mackie in motion, Mackie Snackie, Houseleage, Teams-volleyball and ---, Forest of Reading, LC