Our school motto this year has been “Building a Culture of Caring”, and we see more examples of Nelson Mandela Park PS students caring every day. Whether it be students selected as student of the month who have demonstrated the February character trait of fairness, or students studying hard, and showing that they care about their academics, we have students who demonstrate on a routine basis that they care about making our school a place of excellence. One important aspect of “building a culture of caring” is having our students find ways to show a caring attitude beyond their own direct realm.

In February, we have worked to achieve this through our school wide awareness campaign around congenital heart disease (CHD). We have partnered up with Cardiac kids through Sick Kids Hospital to raise awareness about congenital heart issues, and also raise funds to support research in this area. Our parent led School Council organized a bake sale, and we had another parent source out many prizes such as a pair of Maple Leaf tickets for us to raffle off for those that donated to the CHD cause. We are still in the process of counting all the funds received, but we definitely raised over $500. All of the proceeds will be going to the cardiac unit at Sick Kids Hospital. As the year continues on, we will look for further ways that our school community can “give back”. We are all so incredibly lucky to be in such a well-resourced community like Regent Park. Our students have access to multiple programs and services and thus “get” many things that enrich their lives. It is important for our students to not just see themselves as recipients, but also understand that they have the capability to “give back” too. When we have our students “give back” we instill a sense of empowerment in them - they see that even at a young age they do indeed have the ability to truly make our world a better place. This is one of the most important lessons we as a school can teach your child. Thank you to all those folks who have supported our awareness and fund raising efforts so far this year.

It should be noted that in the correspondence sent home with the February Report Cards, there was a letter to families outlining how our school would be moving to a school uniform next year. This is an initiative that has been led by parents in our School Council. This is a decision that involved much consultation with our parent community including a survey that went out to all of our school families. We had 80% of families respond to our survey with 70% indicating that they would like our school to become a uniform school. We are still working with our School Council to determine the specifics, but rest assured we will
implement this change slowly and in a manner that will not require purchasing a lot of new clothes.

Lastly, we want to share with you that we have been working with TDSB Instructional Leaders in Math and Science to revamp our school Science Lab. We want to ensure our Science Lab is a first-rate space that is conducive to doing hands-on scientific investigations. We have partnered up with an organization called Visions of Science, and together look forward to finding creative and engaging ways to teach our students about Science and Technology.

The future lies in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and it is important that we find ways to prepare our students to excel in these areas of the curriculum, so they can be part of that future.

Sincerely,

Jason Kandankery  
Principal

Ainsworth Morgan  
Vice-principal

Ways We Were Caught Caring...

- Worked on Blended Learning at home to get caught up.
- Picked paper off the floor
- "Let's move this together. That's teamwork!"
- "Let's not waste time... we need to get our work done" at homework club.
- Put aside snack for classmates in steel pan.
- Helped clean up another group activity after she had finished cleaning up her own
- Always holding the door
- Put all the net books in order.
- Solved a problem with kind words.
- Picked up the broom and almost single-handedly cleaned up the room by herself.
- Worked as a team to tidy up Lego.
- Invited a new student to join her and her friends for lunch.
- Queen of the smart board!
- Organized clean up of wheels and axles after building
- Money fell out of a student pocket during music. Ryan was honest and returned the money.
- helped collect the garbage.

Notes from the Library

Many, many students are participating in the Forest of Reading Book Clubs. So far Meryam, Imad, Tawfiqur, Marwa, Janyet, Mozzaker, Eshoni, Nidani, Asim, Muminar and Aisha have read at least 10 books. There are more books to choose from in the Library. If you are reading a Forest of Reading book, please be sure to return it as soon as you can so others can read the book. Thank you to the teachers the students have been able to find for signing the student passports. On Thursdays at noon those reading Forest of Reading books are welcome to come to the Library and read, talk about their books or do bitstrips. There are some great books to choose from so if you would like to participate, please ask Jean.

Jeans Book Club

By: Safiya  
Rm. 214 Grade 4

Book Club is in the Library with Jean on Thursdays at 12:00pm. The Book Club is when kids that are reading Forest of Reading books come once a week to read, do Bitstrips or Storybird and talk about the book. The goal of the Book Club is to read more, understand the books more, and practice language skills. The conditions of the Book Club are, you have to be reading Forest of Reading books, and be engaged in a task.

The students reading the books were so excited about reading the books I thought they would enjoy a club. -Jean
Every Tuesday evening, between 6:00-8:00pm, Mr. Adams takes some Intermediate students to Ryerson University. The Nelson Mandela students are being trained each week by the Ryerson University Rams Hockey team. There are three mentoring sessions: a nutrition workshop, fitness sessions, and an on-ice hockey session. All students will be outfitted with professional Bauer hockey skates, equipment and jerseys. At the end of the sessions, the students will learn to play ice hockey, and will have an awards banquet with local celebrities and delicious, nutritious food. Special thanks to Mr. Adams’s Ryerson University student Amara-Leila Charles for helping organize this event for the Nelson Mandela Park PS students at Ryerson University.

By Hina (Gr 8)

House League!!

*When is House League?* House League is on Tuesday and Thursday at 12:10pm. On Tuesday it is for boys and on Thursday, for girls. *Who runs House League?* Mr Alok and Mr Adams run the House League.

The Gr. 7/8 boys basketball team finished their season a few weeks ago against Lord Dufferin PS. Although our boys lost, they demonstrated growth skill-wise through the experience of a full season of organized basketball. The future looks positive for these boys and for the next young batch of Nelson Mandela Park P.S. ballers.

By Imad Grade 4

Junior Boys Basketball

The Gr. 4/5 boys had a record of 1 win/1 loss in their basketball tournament. Our team, however were outstanding in both games. Led by Godfrey Ngongo, our Junior team made some dazzling, crowd pleasing shots against Winchester PS. Godfrey scored game highs of 23 and 26 points in both games. Well done!

By: Imad Grade 4

The 2014 winter olympics were being held in Sochi, Russia. The Olympics are fun. You don’t know who will win. Go Canada! Some sports include: ice hockey, bobsleigh, curling, snowboarding and alpine skiing. There are a lot more that I can name. The summer Olympics has more sports though. By Adel (Gr. 4)

**GO TEAM CANADA!**

The Winter Olympics 2014 was officially the 22nd Winter Olympics. They took place from February 7th to 23rd, 2014, in Sochi, Russia. There were 98 events in 15 sport disciplines. The events were organized by Sochi Organization Committee (SOC). Some of the events are Figure skating, Freestyling Skating and lots of other events.

How many medals did Canada earn?

Win a prize by writing an article about Canada’s medals. By: Saajid Grade 4

**Danny and Muhamed loved watching Canada win GOLD in hockey - Men’s and Women’s!**
Valentines Day was on February 14th. What is the history of Valentines Day?
We do know that Valentines Day is a day of romance and friendship. It is celebrated in many countries around the world, although it remains a working day in most countries. Today Valentines Day is an official feast day. Many people express their love with others on this special day.

By: Veda & Saima Gr. 4

NMPPS BOOK

PROJECT INFO
We are publishing a book of poetry, short stories and artwork commemorating Nelson Mandela and celebrating the students/staff of NMPPS. The book will have 5 themes: CARING, LEADERSHIP, LEARNING, INSPIRATION & PEACE. All students and staff are invited to submit something under one of the themes (1500 word max) by the April 15th, 2014 deadline.

Field Trips
Room G01 went on a field trip to the Ontario Science Center on Tuesday February 18th, 2014. They went to learn about structures and while they were there they built a tower and a bridge. They took a streetcar, a subway and a bus to get there. They all had so much fun...some of them didn't even want to come home!

WHO IS GOING ON A FIELD TRIP?
An Interview with Grade 1’s.
Why are you going on a field trip?
People mostly go to field trips to have fun.
Where do you go?
Who goes with you?
Parents, teachers and MR. Fowler’s class goes.
Where do you want to go?
We want to go to Allens garden. I want to go to the chocolate factory.
By: Farheen Gr. 4

Kean Soo works with Team Wowler!
Our class and Mr. Fowler’s class went to the Common Room to write comics with Kean Soo. He is a famous comics writer. The name of one of his books is Jellaby. On the first day, he showed us how to draw comic characters. He told us to make simple shapes to draw characters. On the second day, we made characters for our own comics. On the third day, we started to make the comics and we used paper with panels on them. On the fourth day, he showed us pictures from his new book, March. We were excited to be the first kids to see it. On the last day we will finish our comics about fairy tales and fables.
By Team Wowler

The Blackburns
Lucie and Thornton Blackburn were born in the United States. They escaped slavery and came to Canada by following the North Star on the Underground Railroad. When they got to Muddy York they saved money and bought land. They built a house and started the first taxi company in Toronto. It was a horse and carriage. They lived in Regent Park on Sackville Street. In the Regent Park community there are still taxis today. Nowadays taxis are different. They are not carriages and horses. They are cars. In Grade One, 9 fathers drive taxi cabs.
By Isam, Shaazara, Rehan, & Samsil
UNDERGROUND ALPHABET

Several weeks ago, our class joined other classes to go see a play. The title of the play was “The Underground Alphabet.” The story was about how slaves were not allowed to learn how to read and write. The actors, who were children, showed us how some slaves were brave and earned their ABCs in secret. We believe that everyone should be allowed to learn how to read and write.

By The Grade 1s from Room 140

Room 222 Invents!

Ms Cordina's class has been busy inventing things this month. Mozakker and Noah are busy recording about what their invention is and how it makes our world better! Check out their inventions in the second floor showcase!

Celebrating Mandela

Wednesday February 11th, 2014 was the 24 year anniversary of Madiba's release from the South African prison system where he served 27 years of imprisonment. We remembered this important event with an assembly sharing our pride in being named for him with readings, drumming and steel pan.

Googling Our Community

Rukaiya (Gr. 1) has written an excellent procedure for “How to do a Lockdown.”

Adam and Grace (Gr. 2) are exploring the Regent Park Community.

Tech Talk

Technology Expectations for kids

1. Treat all equipment with respect.
2. Always use your assigned netbook, ipad, headphones when possible.
3. Netbooks MUST be plugged in when they are returned to the cart. (Please use the correct plug for your netbook).
4. Notify the teacher and/or the Tech Manager for your class if there is a problem with your assigned equipment so that it is logged.
5. Make a note on your classlist if you use a netbook other than the one you are assigned.
6. Learn how to troubleshoot network and hardware problems.
experiment using paper airplanes to understand the properties of flight. The students competed against each other with specifically designed planes.

Grade 8 students with student teacher Ms. Kim from Rm. 325 doing science experiments on viscosity in the science lab.

**YOGA**

Two weeks ago, the Grade 1 team started doing Yoga in the Commons Room several times per week. We learn how to breathe in through our nose and out through our mouth. We also stretch out our arms, neck and different parts of our body. Yoga is an activity that we do to get ourselves calm. This is challenging for some students at first, and is getting easier as we practice.

**Speeches**

The junior grades have been working on speeches for many months. The finalists for our school for a 3 to 5 minute speech on the topic of their choice were: Humaira R, Rawaa, Ifaz, Jasmin W., Tahseen, Riham, Saima, Ibrahim R., and Muminar. These students were then given the opportunity to continue and compete against other schools. We were forced to choose only 1 student from these excellent speakers to represent our school. After much
Sumdog Contests

If you are in Gr. 1, 2, 3 or 4, you definitely know about www.sumdog.com. It's a math game where you can improve your math skills by playing games with robots and friends. This is the top 10 for our February competition for Gr 2, 3 & 4, and as you can see, we LOVE doing math this way! And I know we have a lot of eager Mathematicians in Mr Fowler’s class that have just started on sumdog. In March, there is a Toronto-wide competition that runs from March 21st - March 27th. Let’s show everyone what we can do!

ART EXHIBIT

I went to Daniel Spectrum to see an art exhibit. The first exhibit my class and I saw was made out of Lego. One of the pieces we saw was called Tar Baby, it came with a song. What the piece meant was that a mother was singing to her little baby, saying that her baby will not see her anymore after she sells her to other people for slavery. The other exhibit we saw was like a Barbie Wonderland because there was a barbie in every image. My favourite exhibit was when we saw a bunch of Native pictures. One of the pictures was of a colour wheel. The artist painted the CN tower, the Rogers center, and all the buildings around there. When I saw that, it made me know that more people in Toronto respect me and my culture and by knowing that I feel really happy that people know how much my people had to do to keep their land.

By Kayla (Gr. 5).

EARTH DAY is Coming...
Are YOU Ready?

Tuesday, April 22
Earth Day 2014
check out http://www.earthday.ca/ for ideas on things you can do to help make our planet better.

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT

Participate in our special Spirit days next week!

Monday - Pajama Day
Tuesday - Twin Day
Wednesday - Wacky Wednesday
Thursday - Tie Day

Win a class Pizza Party by having everyone in your class show their school spirit!
Teachers count too!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Following the success of the Candy-Grams (we raised almost $125.00 for the Nelson Mandela Children’s Fund) Student Council has organized a ‘Spirit Week’ before March Break.

If you want to see the amazing Animations from Rm. 307, check them out on our You Tube Channel!

YOUTUBE: NMPPS1382

STUDENT COUNCIL
NMPPS NEWSFLASH

Coming Events
Mar. 7th    PA Day
Mar. 10-14  MARCH BREAK
Mar. 17th   Back to school
Mar. 24th   Sharing Assembly (1:20pm-2:00pm)
            G01, G07, 140, 221, 114, 314, 325
Mar. 25th   NMP Parent Council (9 -10:30 am)
Mar. 25th   Sharing Assembly (1:20pm-2:00pm)
            G29, G32, 128, 225, 316, 323,324, 214
Mar. 27th   Sharing Assembly (9:30-10:10am)
            G09, G34, 222, 201, 315, 327, 307
Mar. 28th-Apr. 6th  Toronto Storytelling Festival at Daniel's Spectrum
            www.torontostorytellingfestival.ca
Apr. 8th    NMP Parent Snack & Chat (9 -10:30 am)
Apr. 17th   Talent Show 9:00-10:30am
Apr. 18th   Good Friday (No school)
Apr. 21st   Easter Monday (No school)
Apr. 29th   NMP Parent Council (5:30-7 pm)
May. 13th   NMP Parent Snack & Chat (9 -10:30 am)
May 19th    Victoria Day (No school)
May 27th    Spring Concert 5:30-6:45pm

Things to do in the snow
Thank you to Radhia for recognizing the dangers of throwing snowballs. She think anyone who throws snowballs should have very hard and serious consequences, including detentions, staying in at recess, calling parents and being grounded at home. What do you think?

NewsFlash Wordsearch

aiyhdhegni1ruced
tinhaccontinugne
gyigdueciteddoo
snaissursgddecc
gnidaerfotserof
yttndsllyuytngsoy
aessredshlnatsl
ddwteaubbthgaicy
yroolgottuofnnim
rrrluibilbedpa
iityoerpwgccnmf
mghbdicehockeya
alpineskiingole
fhrasnbindslod
eedananacondrib

Find 21 words or terms that are in this NEWSFLASH with more than 6 letters. Hand in your list to WIN!!!!

Reminder: Please help teach the younger students NOT to walk through the parking lot on the way to school.

Raffle Ticket Winner.
Congratulations to Nejat, who won the Leaf’s tickets in the Raffle! We are still looking for the owner of Ticket # 3045395 who won the Movie Pack.

eLearning
Students in Gr. 3-8 can access eLearning at home by going to tdsb.elearningontario.ca.

FAIRNESS
February 2014
NMPPS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Our NewsFlash is produced by the students of Nelson Mandela Park PS for the students and parents/caregivers of our school community.