Welcome to Spring, although it's somewhat difficult to get a handle on what season it really is based on the changeable weather! We are well into our "race-to-the-finish" now, and much has happened since our February Newsletter.

First of all, I'd like to thank you all for your enthusiastic response to the School Council's Leap for Learning event. Our prize winners were announced back in February, but a few more donations trickled in after that, to bring the grand total to just over $5000. Special thanks to Arun Srinivasan for his organizational skills, realtor Karen Millar for covering the cost of the DJ's and a book for every child, John & Hanne Welsh for sponsoring the pizza lunch for Ms. Lam's class, Neha Tiku for her accounting expertise, Mary Innocente for her valuable advice and support, and Michelle Peterson for being official photographer. The afternoon was exciting for all, and we look forward to making good decisions as to how to spend the proceeds of the event!

We enjoyed a performance by Dufflebag Theatre Company the first week of February - a comic version of The Three Musketeers, which included some of our very own rising stars! It was a wonderful production which left us all laughing even as we left the gym. Congratulations to the students who were chosen from the audience to participate. You all did a great job!

Spirit Days continue to be great fun, and Pajama Day on March 23rd was no exception. We always wait with bated breath for Mr. Porter's creative outfits, and he certainly did not disappoint with his Pillsbury Dough Boy pajama bottoms (see p. 2). And, as if wearing pajamas to school is not enough, students had the opportunity to eat pancakes in their pajamas! Linda Hutton and Rose Davidson, with the support of several parents, offered a delicious pancake lunch. Thanks to everybody who helped out to make Pancake Lunch a great success.

March 29th saw the return of Loretta Penny, explorer and environmentalist extraordinaire, who did an outstanding presentation to all of our students on Oceans. This was the kick-off to a school-wide Ocean theme, which will be our focus for the next few months. Watch for activities in many subject areas that draw from this inspiration. Last year we turned part of our main hallway into a rainforest - this year it may well be under water!

Our teachers, as a learning community, are about to embark on a literacy-focused Professional Learning activity. Our Family of Schools Literacy Coach will be in the school to guide us through the process of improving students' ability to make inferences when reading, listening, and viewing media texts. We will try some new teaching strategies and have important discussions about best practices in teaching Literacy. Teachers are lifelong learners as well!

Please read on for more details about the exciting goings-on at Norman Ingram!

Megan Cooper
Muhammad Ali said: “Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.” I understand this to mean that we all need to give of ourselves in whatever way we can to make the world a better place. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents, grandparents and friends of Norman Ingram for their tireless contributions of time and energy. We couldn’t run the many events we do without the support of our volunteers. Please keep in mind that we often need people to just perform one little task for us - volunteering needn’t be a long-term commitment. Whatever you can offer, we’ll gladly accept! Our volunteer co-ordinator, Rose Davidson, is always happy to take names for events. With our wonderful barbecue on the calendar for June 15th, she’s sure to be looking for some help. jrdavidson@sympatico.ca Please let her know if you have time to spare for any school activities, and once again, THANK-YOU!

**SOUND$ FISHY TO ME!**

Our outdoor Spring concert, “Celebrating the Arts,” is fast approaching. This year our theme is “Oceans Alive.” The students have been working very hard in class to prepare for our concert on Thursday, May 31st, beginning at 6 p.m.

Each class will be performing music from various cultures, representing sea creatures and ocean life. Students will sing, dance, and play an assortment of instruments including recorder, orff and rhythmic drums.

Please encourage your child to practise daily. Our special night is only weeks away, and we want to give you our best!

We are looking forward to this performance, and thank you for your support.

*Mrs. Pasqua*
THANK-YOU TO THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our pizza days, Mistletoe Magic and QSP magazine sales have generated funds to enable us to purchase 10 new computer systems. Ten classrooms each received a new desktop system, and they were all quickly put to good use. Our ESL (English as a Second Language) students, who receive support from itinerant teacher Ms. Stock upstairs in Room 207, now have a computer! Here is a letter from those students:

Dear Members of the School Council,

We would like to thank you for giving us a computer in the ESL room. We use Google Translate in Japanese, Korean, Russian etc. to help us understand text in English, and to write our ideas in English. We visit ESL websites to practise our grammar and vocabulary. We use the computer to write stories and do research for projects. We even play English vocabulary games when we have time. Thanks again!
From Mrs. Stock and students

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Co-Operation – April’s Character Focus

Your child can show co-operation by:

- playing and working peacefully with others in the family
- listening to adults and being respectful of their requests
- working with others to complete a task and/or achieve a goal
- helping to find a compromise when there are family disagreements

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What is co-operation, and what does it mean to be co-operative in a family?
- What are some things you do at home or at school that require co-operation?

Projects to do together:

- Make a list of things that your family does that require co-operation.
- Watch for situations on television that demonstrate co-operative behaviour, and talk about the various ways in which the characters acted co-operatively with each other.
- Work together on chores at a time when all members of the family can work together to finish them.
- Complete a fun project that involves all family members (e.g., putting together a jigsaw puzzle, making a homemade pizza).

Encouraging co-operation in your child:

- Praise your child when he or she is co-operative.
- Help your child become aware of his or her own co-operative or unco-operative behaviour.
- Share your own experiences of co-operative/unco-operative behaviour and how it affected a goal.

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POSTURE AND BREATHING

~ Sit comfortably at the front of your chair with your back straight.
~ Put your feet flat on the floor.
~ Relax your shoulders, arms, and neck.
~ Don’t gasp. Breathe in, in a relaxed way.
~ Try not to bite the mouthpiece.
~ Take a break if you are tired or sore.
~ Good posture improves performance, helps prevent injury, facilitates breathing, and increases lung capacity.
~ Practise daily for 20 to 30 minutes, reviewing the pieces we’ve learned in class and preparing for our next music class.

RECCORDER TIPS

From Ms. Pasqua

~ Sit comfortably at the front of your chair with your back straight.
~ Put your feet flat on the floor.
~ Relax your shoulders, arms, and neck.
~ Don’t gasp. Breathe in, in a relaxed way.
~ Try not to bite the mouthpiece.
~ Take a break if you are tired or sore.
~ Good posture improves performance, helps prevent injury, facilitates breathing, and increases lung capacity.
~ Practise daily for 20 to 30 minutes, reviewing the pieces we’ve learned in class and preparing for our next music class.

~ Always wipe out your recorder after use. You may use a cleaning rod with a clean strip of lint-free cloth. Simply insert the rod into the recorder to wipe out the saliva or dirt that may have entered the recorder.
~ Rinse the mouthpiece once a week with mouthwash to keep it clean and fresh.
~ Carry the recorder in the plastic/canvas sleeve it comes with, or in an alternative protective case, such as a clean sock.
~ Remember, the recorder is not a toy or weapon. It is a musical instrument that will last a lifetime if taken care of properly.

GOOD LUCK!
School Council

A very big thank you for your generous support of this year’s Leap for Learning event. The total amount raised was just over $5,000 which exceeded last year’s totals by $700!! Many thanks to our generous sponsors, parents, teachers, volunteers and Arun for organizing a wonderful event.

Save the date!! On Friday, April 20th at 6:15 pm we will be hosting a Movie Night ("How To Train Your Dragon") in the school gym. Further details will be sent through your class parent.

The next school council meeting will take place on Monday, May 14th. The end of the school year is approaching and there are several council positions which remain vacant for next year. Parent volunteers are a critical component for council meetings, fundraising and spirit events - all of which impact our children’s experiences at Norman Ingram. We hope you will consider taking on a position, or perhaps sharing one with another parent, to ensure we continue to provide the same exciting opportunities for our children at Norman Ingram.

Joanne McLennan, co-chair

Sports News

By Mr. Whittington

Our Boys’ Basketball teams completed one of our best seasons ever! Norman Ingram sent two teams to the North Conference Championship in February. Both teams were great! The Gold team went undefeated, finishing first in their pool and advanced to the semi finals. The Blue team only lost a single game and also advanced to the semi finals. In one of the best moments in Falcon sports history, both our teams played off in the Conference Semi Finals. The boys, parents, and coaches all shared in the very proud moment for our school. In the end, the Gold team narrowly came out on top, and moved on to take the North Conference Championship. Great job boys! Our Girls’ Volleyball team had another amazing season. With the help of their superstar coach Ms. Campbell, the girls easily won the North Conference Championship and moved on to the TDESAA City Championships to take on the best in Toronto at Variety Village. The competition was tough, but the girls could not be stopped, and they captured the City Volleyball Championship again! Way to go girls! And now it’s time to get back to work Falcons! Spring has sprung and with it comes the busiest time in our sports calendar. Tryouts will begin in April for Soccer, Track and Field, and Ultimate Frisbee. The coaches of the teams have organized a busy practice schedule that will allow the kids to play for up to three teams without any practice, game, or tournament conflicts. Permission forms have already started to go home for the tryouts. Keep an eye on the Falcons Board for schedule updates. Go Falcons!

THE HOCKEY SWEATER

On April 18th, the Junior Concert Choir will join the Toronto Symphony Orchestra for the premiere of a delightful, newly-commissioned work based on “The Hockey Sweater,” Roch Carrier’s classic story! Inspired by his own childhood, this story is about a boy who had to wear a Maple Leaf’s sweater in the small, hockey-mad Quebec town where he grew up. Roch Carrier will narrate this piece in a multi-media concert that will combine live orchestral music with images from the classic book.

Ms. Innocente and Mrs. Pasqua are looking forward to sharing this special experience with the junior students. All year long, the children have been enthusiastic about learning new choral pieces, and committed to the weekly rehearsals. This rare opportunity will certainly be a wonderful musical treat!

AN EXCITING NEW ADDITION TO OUR PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT COLLECTION!

Some of you may have purchased tickets for a beautiful gingerbread house in December. It was donated to the school by Jennie Ferguson. Thanks to Jennie’s generosity, Ms. Pasqua has been able to purchase a special new Ocean Drum with the ticket proceeds. It recreates the sound of waves crashing on the shore, and will be a wonderful addition to Ms. Pasqua’s musical choices during our Integrated Arts Evening on May 31st. Thanks Jennie!

Don’t forget we are still selling Lovable Labels, a way to ensure that your child’s belongings return to you if they’re lost. Make sure your child’s clothing doesn’t land in our overflowing Lost & Found bins. To order, just go to www.normanigram.lovablalabels.ca
Important Dates
April 5 – Sub Lunch
April 6 – Good Friday (no school)
April 9 – Easter Monday (no school)
April 13 – Bake Sale (Ms. Mirebrahimi)
April 18 – Junior Choir field trip
April 20 – Earth Day Spirit Day & Community Clean-Up
- Pizza Lunch
- Family Movie Night
April 23 – Ward Forum Meeting 7 pm.
April 24 – Grade 3 field trip
April 27 – Sub Lunch
May 4 – Bake Sale (Ms. Frangos)
May 11 – Pizza Lunch
May 14 – School Council Mtg. 7 pm
May 18 – Crazy Hair Day
May 21 – Victoria Day (no school)
May 23 – 25 – Grade 3 EQAO test
May 25 – Bake Sale (Ms. P.)
- Sub Lunch
May 28 – Ward Forum Meeting 7 p.m.
May 30 – Grade 5 photos
May 31 – Grade 2 field trip
- Celebrating the Arts event

PINK SHIRT DAY
Thanks to the efforts of Linda Hutton and a supportive group of parents, we celebrated Pink Shirt Day, an Anti-Bullying initiative, on February 29th. This day is based on the actions in 2007 of two Nova Scotia Grade 12 students who marshalled their friends to wear pink in support of a younger student who had been bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school. The e-mail campaign mounted by the older students resulted in not just 50 of their friends but in hundreds of students turning up the next day wearing pink in support of the bullied student. Pink Shirt Day is now an annual event in schools across Canada.

On February 29th, Norman Ingram was awash in pink, including everything from t-shirts to socks, bandanas, scarves, and ribbons. Teachers used the event as a great opportunity to review just what bullying looks like, remind students how to avoid being bullies or victims, and discuss what to do if they see an incident of bullying. Our teacher-librarian, Ms. Innocente, used picture books and video clips with each class to generate great discussions about bullying. The message is loud and clear, as evidenced by the colourful bulletin board down by our gym – Bullying Stops Here! Please stop by and read some of the children’s messages. Thank-you to Linda for raising our awareness about this event, and thanks to you for showing your support of this important initiative, and helping to build tolerance and understanding.

ECO NEWS – Unless!
March has been a very busy month on the Eco-front thanks to the Lorax! The movie ‘The Lorax’s wide release in theatres gave us a timely excuse to delve into the message of one of Dr. Seuss's best loved characters. The Lorax is the quintessential steward of the earth (the original Eco-squader as it were). He ‘speaks for the trees’ and lobbies to save the earth against self-interest. We did a school-wide focus on ‘The Lorax’ for the month of March. All classes heard the story read aloud, and participated in several follow-up activities in their classrooms. The Eco-squad members took on special leadership roles by visiting each class in small groups and leading an activity called ‘Conservation Charades’. They did an amazing job! As a special reward, the Eco-squad went as a group to watch the movie ‘The Lorax’ at Fairview Mall. Hopefully the story, the movie, and the activities have inspired all students at Norman Ingram to think of themselves as stewards of the Earth. As they all learned, “unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing’s going to get better. It’s not.”

A ROOM IN WHICH WE CAN ACTUALLY CONFERENCE!
Kudos to Martha Ferguson, who reorganized our cluttered and somewhat uninviting Conference Room. By cleaning out filing cabinets, culling shelves, and moving around pieces of furniture, she has made it a more user-friendly space. Thanks Martha!
CONGRATULATIONS to our FEBRUARY AWARD WINNERS, WHO EXEMPLIFIED KINDNESS, TEAMWORK or FAIRNESS

We also recognized students for ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE and IMPROVEMENT IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

High Five!!