



Autumn/Winter Edition



Jazz musicians at our family music night & dinner

We've had a wonderful first half of the year at McCordic, with many special events, such as the Community Jazz night, Field Trip to Markham Fair, Halloween Dance, Latin Music Workshop with Rodrigo, Holiday Sing-a-long and concert as well as a variety of assemblies and activities centered around First Nations, Inuit and Metis education. We look forward to more adventures!



Musical activities in the gym on our family music night and dinner.



Musician (& Kathleen's Dad) Chris McHardy performing at our Holiday Sing-a-long.



McCordic Staff all dressed up for Halloween!

Did you know?

Remembrance Day

By Anthony Green



The modern world still lives with the consequences of war and the scars it leaves behind. World War I & II are still engraved in our minds after many decades, especially for those who served. We are reminded in many ways through war museums, monuments and the graves of our heroes. Relics of war serve not only as reminders of war, but also commemorate heroes.

We first observed Remembrance day in 1919 in the British Commonwealth and was called "Armistice Day." This day, commemorated the Armistice agreement that ended the first World War on Monday November 11, 1918 at 11:00am, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Armistice day was observed from 1921 to 1930. It was held on the Monday of the week in which November 11 fell. In 1931, a bill was introduced and passed by the House of Commons to observe Armistice day only on November 11. This bill also changed the name to "Remembrance day." This was first observed on November 11, 1931. On this day red poppies are often worn.

The moment of remembrance begins with the "last post" before 11:00 am, then the guns salute and the bells of the peace tower toll the hour. Two minutes of silence is observed, to reflect on those we lost in the great wars and their bravery, fighting for our freedom. Then there is another gun salute, signaling the end of the two minutes of silence. The ceremony continues with the Lament and the bugling of the Rouse, followed by the reading of the act of Remembrance and a fly by the Canadian Air Force planes. Soon after the 21 gun salute and the singing of "In Flanders Fields," the wreaths are placed at the base of the Memorial.



Remembrance Day continued

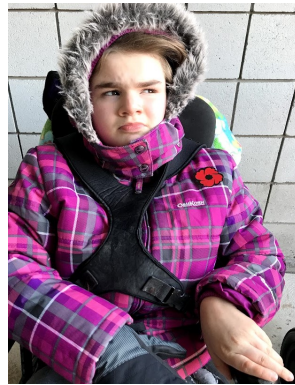


This tradition originates from a poem written in 1915 by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a doctor in the Royal Canadian Medical Corps. He noticed that despite the devastation caused by the war to towns, farms and forests thousands of small red poppies began growing everywhere in the spring. This inspired his poem "In Flanders Fields." To this day the poppy symbolizes Remembrance Day and is sold by the Royal Canadian Legion to provide assistance to Veterans.

Remembrance day in Canada is a federal statutory holiday observed in six provinces and three territories. The National ceremonies are held at the National War Memorial in Ottawa where it is presided over by the Governor General of Canada and attended by the Prime Minister, other dignitaries, the Silver Cross Mother, as well as the public. Occasionally, a member of the Royal Family may also attend, such as Prince Charles in 2009, and Princess Ann in 2014.



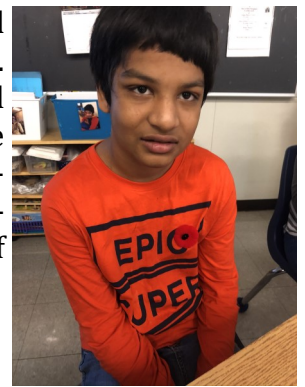
One wreath is set by the Silver Cross mother (a recent recipient of the Memorial cross) on behalf of all mothers whose children have died in conflict in which Canada participated. "God Save the Queen" is played, followed by Armed forces personnel and Veterans performing a march past the Viceroy and any Royal



guest, bringing about the end of the official ceremonies.

A tradition of paying more personal tribute has emerged since the construction of the tomb of the Unknown soldier at the war Memorial in 2000, after the official ceremony the general public place their poppies on top of the tomb

Similar ceremonies take place in provincial capitals across the country. Schools will usually hold special assemblies for the first half of the day with various presentations concerning the remembrance of war.



Latin Music Experience with Rodrigo

By Matthew Long

On October 4th McCordic had local musician Rodrigo Chavez come to our school for his Latin Music Experience. Students got to hear Rodrigo play on his guitar. He performed lots of familiar songs such as Havana, and Guantana-mala. Students also had the opportunity to dance to the music as well as use shakers and drums. It was a great, fun experience for all!



look out for the Robots!

In November and December, McCordic had a great time visiting with Canadian actor David Hewlett (*Shape of Water, Stargate Atlantis*). David is a McCordic supporter and is working on robots with room 214. In 2020, he will be bringing some students from Frankland school to help as well. We await the robot invasions with excitement!



HALLOWEEN DANCE!



At the end of most months, McCordic students have a dance in the gym. So many of our students love music and movement—and this gives them a chance to enjoy both! At the end of October, we had a special Halloween dance and both staff and students wore costumes. It was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy our favourite spooky music, see each others' costumes and get some exercise!



Learning 101!

By Marcia Rodriguez

Between baking cupcakes as a life skill and academic learning through puzzles, Rm. 101 finds the time for Sensory Breaks in the Snoezelen room, and Body Breaks throughout the school day on the playground and common play areas. What a great start to the school year!



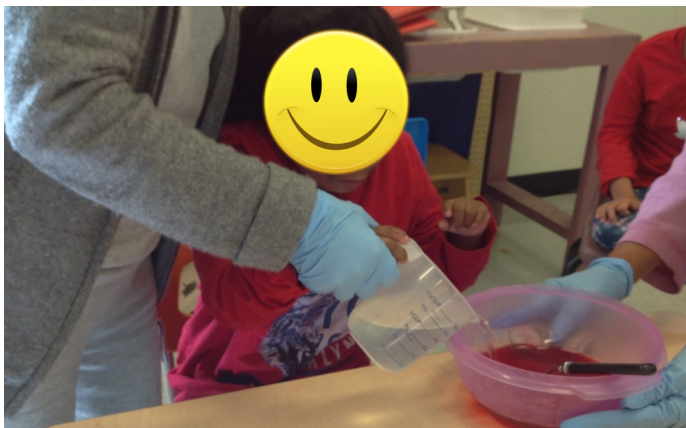
Cooking up a storm in Room 108!

By Sharmila Patel

Room 108 made Strawberry Jell-O. The students enjoyed the sensory experience of feeling and smelling the jelly powder. They also watched the jelly powder turn into a liquid and then into Jell-O. Students learned to take turns while pouring the powder. They learned to be patient as they waited for the liquid to form a solid. Best of all they enjoyed eating the Jell-O.



He is smelling the strawberry flavoured powder.



She is pouring the water.



She is feeling the powder.



She is eating the Jello.

The Adventures of Rice Krispie Squares



By Nicole Windsor

Rice Krispie squares are not only delicious, they have been an influential learning experience for the students in Room 207. It all started with a visual shopping list on the iPad and walk to the local grocery store. While walking the students are learning how to cross the street safely by looking for cars and following the traffic lights.

While at the store the students went on a little hunt with the guidance of their teachers to find the correct aisle and section. The students were able to look at the visual shopping list on the iPad and find the correct food items. Saad is learning all about money this year and Keandra and Dominic are learning their numbers to 10. So they put those skills to the test. There were only three items on the list and Saad was able to read the price tags, add the dollar amounts to estimate the cost.

The Adventures of Rice Krispie Squares Continued...

He then had to count the money to give the cashier and was able to name each coin. Keandra and Dominic helped pack the groceries into the bags and carry them back to school. After returning there was a discussion about where the items belong in the fridge or pantry. We don't want food to spoil! Very important life skill.

The next day the students washed their hands before, during and after and helped follow the recipe. Saad helped read and follow the recipe while the other students helped stir, add ingredients and use the microwave.



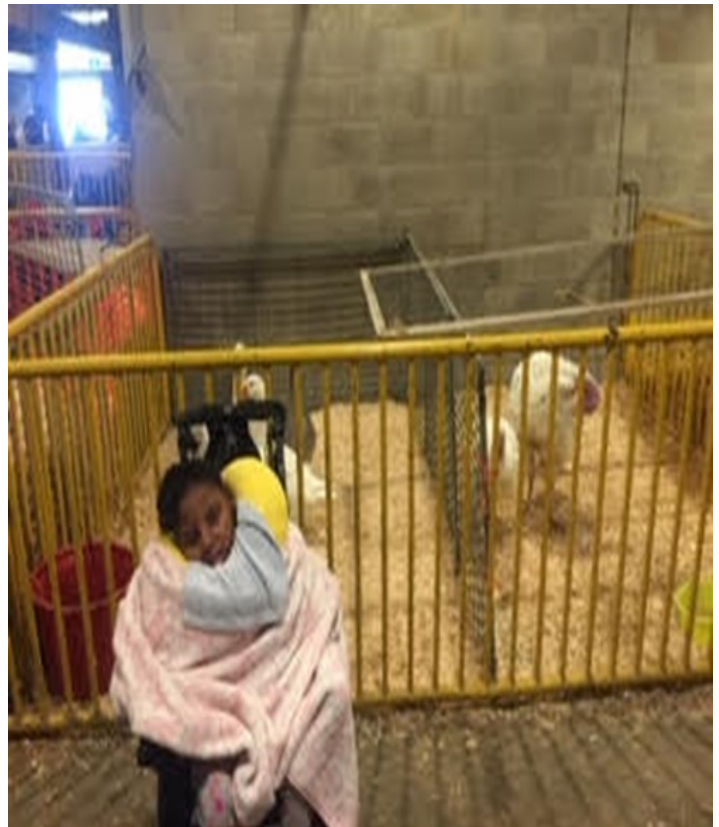
The best part of all was that when they were ready the students and staff got to enjoy these delicious treats. I want to say thank you to the staff in Room 207 who make it possible for these students to have such experiential learning experiences. Room 207 also runs a fundraising Cafe called Runaway Cafe. They sell their baked goods, coffee, tea and hot chocolate to help support their experiential learning experiences which include buying supplies for the cafe, local shopping, field trips and learning materials for their class. Feel free to pop on by for a warm drink anytime!!

Adventures in Room 110!

By Vana Pistiolis



Ameya checking out the exhibits.



Hulda with the Turkeys.



Hafsah looking at the baby chicks.



Halloween class costumes.

Adventures in Room 110 continued...

Our class also walked to and shopped at our local Sobey's grocery store for our baking and cooking program. We made apple crisp and butternut squash soup. Both were very seasonal, delicious and very nutritious.

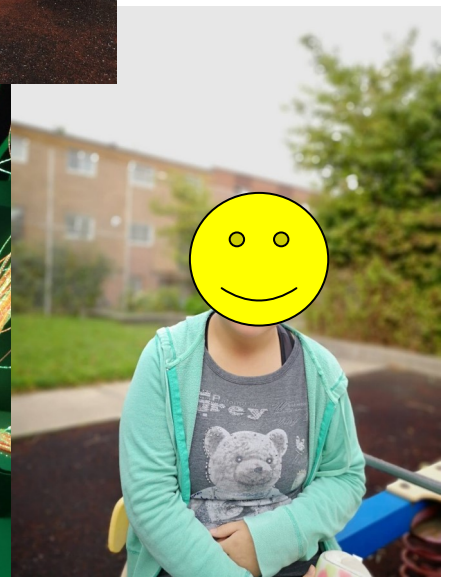
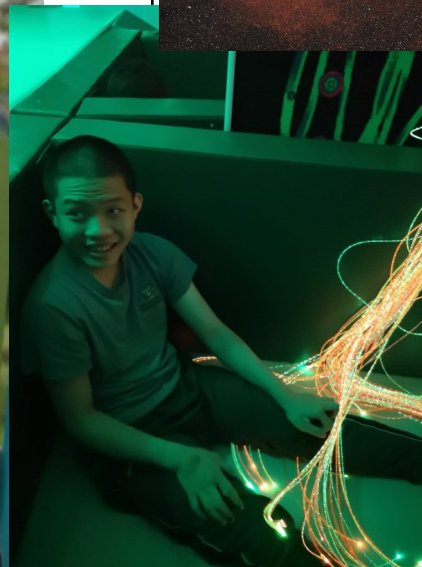


Every student smelled and felt all of the apple crisp ingredients, and helped pour them into a bowl. In the future we plan to do more baking and to experiment with soups and ethnic dishes!!

Room 214 is Thankful

By Ebany Tsukahara

Room 214 has so many reasons to be thankful this time of year, from the new and improved facilities outside, that give all students access to a wider variety of outdoor activities, such as our new chalk board to the many fantastic Field Trips and Special Events hosted by McCordic. With a very active class, Rm. 214 is very thankful for all the school, classroom and community walks we've been able to go on as well as access to the Snoezelen room, where our students enjoy a variety of magical sensory experiences, such as lights that remind us of jellyfish and a relaxing floating swing. Most of all, we are thankful for the growth we see in our students each and every day!



Communication breakthroughs in Room 109!

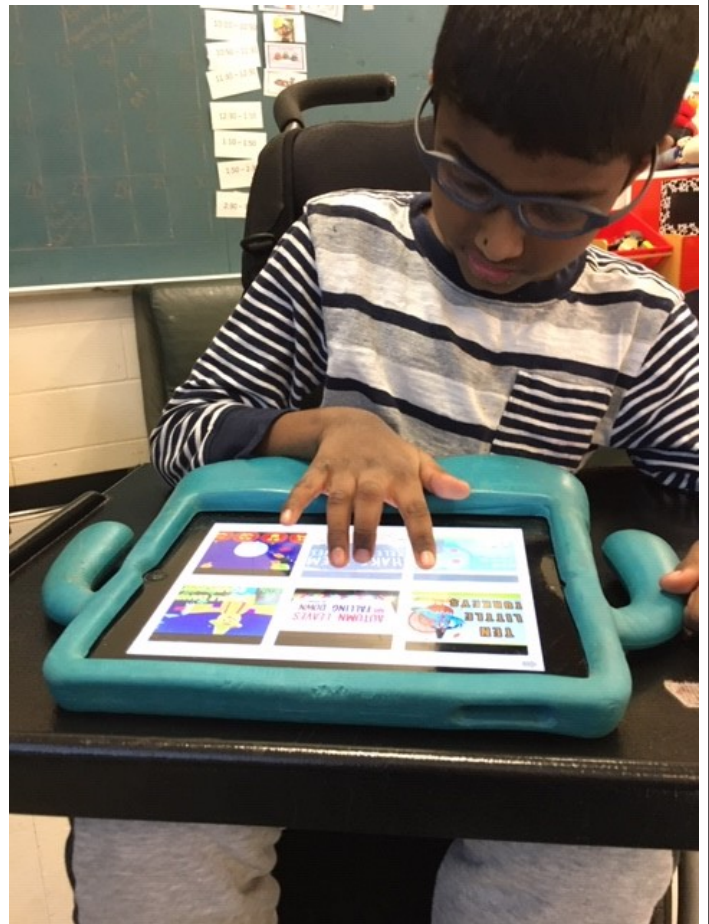
By Tirzah Celestine

Aaliyah and Aathavan are new to room 109 and they're having so much fun with their new classmates!

Aaliyah now has her own PEC book and is learning how to exchange PECS, especially during feeding times. Here she is choosing waffles for breakfast.



One afternoon during his iPad time, Aathavan spontaneously found the Sound Board app and requested to watch tv and go outside. With the help of our new SLP, Alex, we decided to see if he could better communicate his wants during our circle time. In the picture below, he is choosing a preferred song "shake them skeleton bones."



He also chooses clothing items after labeling the weather; helps with class attendance; and will do so much more using the SoundBoard app.

We look forward to finding different ways to communicate with our class -Way to go Rm 109!!

Many Smiles at Markham Fair

By Ebany Tsukahara

As per tradition, students and staff at McCordic visited Markham Fair on a Field Trip this October. The drizzling rain and grey skies, didn't stop students from having a blast, bringing the sunshine with their smiles and excitement. Markham Fair is one of Canada's oldest country fairs, opening its' doors



since 1844, the fair continues to provide the community with a showcase of talents, entertainment, food and performers. Many of our students enjoyed meeting and petting the barn animals at Markham fair, including horses, pigs, chickens and more! Some of our students' have a strong interest in animals

and being able to meet these animals in person, was a fantastic explorative experience for them.

Kelburn (pictured above) loves completing animal puzzles, colouring animal photos and mimicking a horses' neh. It was wonderful to see how ecstatic he was when he got to meet and pet a horse in person.

Markham Fair is home to a fantastic variety of arts and crafts available for purchase and display. Students in Rm. 207 particularly enjoyed exploring the Arts and Crafts tent, which in-



cluded colouring booths, artisanal candy apples, art inspired by Fall harvest and a variety of quilts and paintings inspired by autumnal beauty. While the exhibition brought temporary shelter from the



drizzly weather outside, bad weather didn't stop students from exploring outside, in search of delicious food. Crowd favourites were Daddy O Donuts, fresh cut fries and cotton candy. Students in Room 214 enjoyed watching a local artist paint a wall mural outside, while eating their lunches.

Kiyo and Wally enjoying some Fair food!



Baking Banana Chocolate Chip Muffins!

By Michael Morad

A few weeks ago we had a lovely visit from Chrysoula's mom, Mary, who brought with her a magic bag full of baking ingredients and taught us how to make the best banana chocolate chip muffins ever! The staff and students were happy to meet Chrysoula's mom and to learn from her step-by-step baking lesson. She talked about measurements and then we explored the olfactory sensory elements of baking as well as textures of ingredients



i.e., sugar, flour, etc.

Muaz and Kathleen enjoyed the varying sounds of mixing and pouring. Api and Zain enjoyed the various textures especially the flour. Madison and Iram enjoyed the picture cards. Richard and Rateeb liked feeling the fruit tex-



Robert and Chrysoula loved the muffin song played by Eddie at the end of the lesson. And, of course after talking with Chrysoula we learned that having her mom share her cooking insights and meet all of her McCordic friends- nurses, teachers, peers, etc., was a valuable thing to share. When Chrysoula got home that night she took with her an envelope of photos that we had generated from the lesson for her mom to see. Thanks Mary!

If anyone would like a copy of Chrysoula and Mary's recipe come to 104!

All of us in 104 and 107!

LIBRARY NEWS!

By Helen Kam



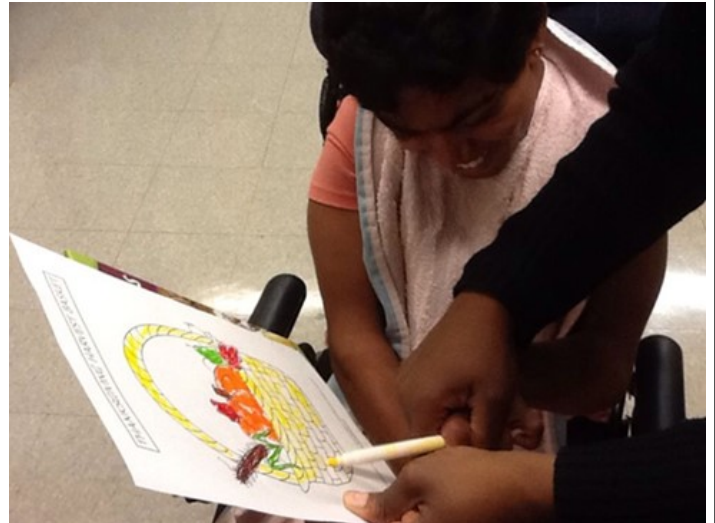
Muaz enjoyed **listening to a story** about the Fall season.



David learnt to **sort objects** found in the Fall according to their colours.



Sehzad **chose which animals** to be placed in the farm.



Api **practised her fine motor skills** when she colours the Thanksgiving basket.

LIBRARY NEWS!



Ameya learnt to **recognize and spell Fall items** such as apples.



Khadijah felt and learnt to **describe the different shape, size, and texture of Fall objects** such as pinecones.



Amar **practised cutting out** the food that he selected for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Kiyoshi **smelled scents of Fall** such as cinnamon.

LIBRARY NEWS! [CONTINUED]



Katherine felt the shape and texture of the various squashes and pumpkins as we read about them in the Fall.



Student learnt to count and match similar objects when making the Halloween brew.

CONNECT WITH MCCORDIC - TWITTER & WEB PAGE

Check out our website at:

<http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/williamjmcordic>

Follow us on Twitter:



<https://twitter.com/WJMcCordic>

(You can also see McCordic's Twitter on the school website if you don't have an account)

RAPTORS 905



On December 5th, several McCordic students and staff went to the Scotiabank Arena to watch a Raptors 905 game. This is an annual event for schools across the GTA. Students were excited to see the arena and be part of the excitement. We look forward to future opportunities to be part of community events and explore our city!



RECENT SCHOOL CHANGES

There are several work projects happening at McCordic this year. As our building ages, it's important to maintain our facility. We got a new east wall (by the gym) to stop leaking. We will be getting new windows in this wall over the next few weeks. We have also done some work in the playground and now have a new wheelchair accessible planter, a chalkboard and a

washable clear board for painting. We cleaned up the front of the school, trimming shrubs and removing undergrowth that was starting to take over in some places. Having a building that is accessible, friendly and appealing is important for our students. With their sensory needs, the state of our building is sometimes a "third teacher."



McCordic Connections

Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal



Happy New Year to all McCordic families! We hope everyone had a great holiday. It has been such a pleasure getting to know all the students and families at WJ McCordic School! It is wonderful to see such happy faces as students enter the building every morning. The TDSB grounds staff spent some time cleaning up the front of the school and it looks magnificent!

We feel very fortunate to have such an amazing staff at WJ McCordic School. Teachers and support staff work together to support each of the students to help them work to their fullest potential. For instance, teachers continue to use assistive technology to engage students. We are so proud of the progress that the students have made thus far. We have also participated in some very exciting events such as Music Night and the 905 Raptors game. We encourage families to visit the school and attend school events.

Warm regards,

Cathy and Liz



Upcoming Events



January 17th, PA Day

January 24th, Lunar New Year at McCordic

January 31st, Monthly McCordic Dance & Spirit Day—Wear **Plaid** (any colours) and join in the fun!

February 13th—Valentine's Spirit Day at McCordic, **Wear red & pink**

February 14th—PA Day

February 17th—Family Day Holiday

February 28th—Monthly McCordic Dance & Spirit Day—Superhero Day! **Wear costumes, T shirts or sweatshirts representing heroes.**

March 16th—20th—March Break

