

Kingsley Primary School

www.kingsleyschool.ca

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Since 1981

Magic Happens Here

Kingsley Primary News

November, 2011

Newsletter

Principal's Message - Julie Middleton

Compassion is the character trait of November. The Leadership Team will be sharing their interpretation of this quality and presenting it to the school in the next week. We want our students to advocate for themselves as well as for other people which can be the result when one has compassion and empathy for others.

In tandem with this focus, we will be helping out with an initiative started by a woman in the community named Lisa Bendall who is an author and the creator of an award-winning blog called 50 Good Deeds. Over the past 6 months, Lisa has been helping her mother with an unusual project. Believe it or not, the colourful outer plastic bags that hold the three one-litre pouches of milk that we buy at the grocery store can be cut into strips and then crocheted into sleeping mats that are washable, bug-resistant, durable and somewhat cushioned. They can also be made into useful

tote bags. These mats and tote bags are then shipped to help earthquake and flood survivors and third-world medical patients. The milk bags can be dropped

Compassion begins at home, and it is not how much we do but how much love we put in that action. Do not think love has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired."
- Mother Teresa.

off in the front lobby. This initiative will start in November, after the Leadership Assembly. Thank you for supporting the past two fundraising campaigns which provide us with the ability to order resources and books to support the learning that takes place here.

Due to the amount of books ordered through Scholastic, we were able to redeem

close to \$700.00 worth of free books for Kingsley. Once the QSP and the Halloween party profits are tallied, we will share those figures with you all. Thank you very much to Luisa Cardoso for organizing our QSP drive and to Kristin Maw for coordinating Scholastic orders.

I want to thank India for chairing the Halloween Committee and the participants: Toulia, Stela, Sandhya, Julia, Lada and Kimberly. Many thanks to all of you who helped to set up and clean up, as well as contributing to the Raffle Baskets. Everyone benefits from your involvement.

On a personal note, I have appreciated your kind messages and well wishes regarding my leave. The Recruitment Committee, which is made up of four Board Members, has begun the search for a replacement. Finding the best fit for our school is taking priority and we will update you as we proceed.

Grade Two/ Three News with Ms. Brantley

The Grade Twos and Threes have been very busy learning math, spelling, reading and writing. But luckily we have also been busy in Art! Throughout October we have been studying

the use of line in art. Earlier this month we used the draw program in our new computer lab to make linear art designs inspired by Piet Mondrian. Then we looked at how line can be used in abstract ways, from swirls and ripples to jagged edges. We looked at some of the work from the artist Wassily Kandinsky and made our own stylistic stick figures and created abstract paintings in the style of some of his works of art. These paintings are hanging in the hallway outside of our classroom. Come by and take a look.

We'd also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Grade Three student, Blake.

Staff

Principal

Ms. Julie Middleton

Office Administrator

Ms. Rebecca Enkin

Junior Kindergarten

Mrs. Sonia Mead

Senior Kindergarten

Ms. Hilary Beasley

Grade One

Ms. Louisa Florio

Grade Two/Three

Ms. Jennifer

Brantley

Grade Four/Five

Ms. Natalie Fegon

French

(Tues/Thurs/Fri)

Ms. Lieve Hendrickx

Music

(Mon/Tues/Wed)

Ms. Rebecca Enkin

Band (Mondays)

Mr. Marc Enkin

Board

Parents:

Paul Cavanagh (Chair)

Erik de Witte

Sarah Noble

Laurie Olszaniecki

Bryce Dymond

Past Teacher:

Michael Morton

Principal:

Julie Middleton

Founder, Consultant:

Ursula Morton

Kindergarten News

Mrs. Mead and Ms. Beasley

The Kindergarten classes have enjoyed a fun-filled October learning about patterns, apples, pumpkins, fall and seasonal changes, and our five senses. In November we will be finishing up our very engaging Nursery Rhyme study and beginning our exciting unit based on books by Dr. Suess. We will be learning about ordinal numbers (first, second, third, etc.) and two-dimensional shapes, and we will be developing our estimation skills. We will also be experimenting with primary and secondary colours, and talking about migration and hibernation, with a focus on bears. We hope you will join us on the evening of Thursday, November 17th to visit the classroom with your child for our Family Literacy Night. We have lots to show you!

In an effort to enhance our communication with each Kindergarten family, we will soon be implementing an "Effective Learning Behaviours" report. This short, written report will be sent home with your child at least once a month, sometimes more, and will focus on your child's progress with respect to classroom behaviours such as showing attentive listening skills, following

instructions, demonstrating self-help skills, respecting the personal space of him/herself and others, etc. These skills are fundamental to your child's success in learning both in the Kindergarten program and beyond, and we feel open conversations between school and home help to foster the development of these skills with greater consistency.

Please leave a pair of indoor shoes in your child's cubby for your child to wear each day. All shoes worn to school (outdoor shoes) and boots should be left on the mats outside of the classroom.

Unless it is raining or the ground and playground equipment are very wet, we go outside every day. Please ensure that your child has appropriate outdoor wear at school each day, including hats, mittens or gloves, and a warm jacket. These items should be labeled with your child's name.

Also, please ensure that your child has an extra change of clothing at school that is appropriate for colder fall and winter weather, such as leggings, tights or pants, and a long-sleeved shirt or sweater. An extra pair of underwear and socks is needed as well. Please put all extra items in a labeled plastic bag in

your child's cubby.

We have begun to collect clear plastic egg containers for activities we will be doing with colours and colour-mixing. If you have any at home, please bring them in. Thank you!

A few reminders: We are pleased to see so many of the students completing their "Join In" books and returning them to school on Tuesdays. We are continually working with your child to foster independence and responsibility, and would like to encourage the students to place their blue Take Home Folders in the appropriate bin themselves each morning when they come into the classroom.

Readers are sent home three times a week. The schedule is as follows:

- Readers that go home on Tuesday are due back at school on Thursday.
- Readers that go home on Thursday are due back at school on Friday.
- Readers that go home on Friday are due at school on Tuesday.

Of course, if your child is enjoying a particular book, you are welcome to keep it for a bit longer. Please just write us a note and put it in your child's blue "Take Home folder." Thank you.

Grade One News

Ms. Florio

September and October were busy months and November seems to be no different. We have been working diligently on our Science Unit about seasonal changes and living things. As part of this unit we have been looking at different animal habitats. The students are very engaged and we are in the midst of creating a display of grassland, ocean and desert habitats which we invite you to take a look at in the classroom.

In language arts we continue to create our "ABC" books which give the students and opportunity to be creative in their writing while working on spelling and sentence structure. We have also begun to work on a poetry unit. If you haven't already seen our hallway bulletin board

display, I invite you to take a few moments to read the recent poems. As well, we are starting a reader's theatre exercise on *Goldilocks and The Three Bears*. Since this will be interpreted as a puppet show, I have asked the children to bring in some items from home. I will be sending a list home to see what may be borrowed for our rehearsals and our final performances. We hope to present our show to all the classes before the winter break.

In mathematics the class has been working on graphing. We are currently collecting data from all the students at Kingsley in order to prepare graphs about specific topics. We will also start to take a look at Canadian coins and their values. Take the opportunity at home to pull out some coins and play money games at home. The children love to pretend to buy things. On your next

visit to the corner store I encourage you to help them observe and even take part in the exchange of paying for an item and receiving change back. Learning takes place in so many more places than just our classrooms.

We are a very pleased to be able to welcome Logan to our class. I know that Logan and his family will be made to feel very welcome at Kingsley.

As a friendly reminder, if you haven't already returned your volunteer forms and the questionnaire that was distributed on curriculum night do so as soon as possible. I would also ask you to have a pair of indoor and outdoor shoes for your child if you haven't already done so. Have proper gym shoes for Physical Education classes on Monday and Friday mornings. Music is on Monday and Wednesday so please have recorders and folders at school every Monday.

Kindergarten Show & Share Schedule

- Friday, November 4: something that is a fall colour (yellow, red, orange or brown)
- Friday, November 11: a book or poem with rhyming words
- Friday, November 18: a teddy bear or stuffed animal that is a bear (The bears will be joining us for snack!)
- Friday, November 25: something that is your child's favourite colour

We ask that children leave toys at home because things are getting lost at school.

Grade Four/Five Ms. Fegon

October was a great month. The Grade Fours began a light and sound unit in Science, and the Grade Fives have started learning about matter, its properties and how it can change. We began a poetry unit and the students read poems to their classmates and also wrote and shared *cinquain* poems. Just before Thanksgiving, we walked over to the local fire department and dropped off all of the food that was donated by Kingsley families. We would like to thank you for your generosity.

In November we will continue with our science unit. Near the end of the month we will begin our second science unit on rocks and minerals (grade four) and conservation of energy (grade five). In math the focus will be patterning. The students will work with both numeric and geometric patterns. We will also continue to do various types of problem solving activities.

Our trip to the Royal Winter Fair will be on Tues., Nov. 8. The math test will be on Wed., Nov. 2 and the Science test will be Wed., Nov. 16.

Thoughts from a New Board Member

I joined the Board of Directors of Kingsley Primary School in January 2011. My son, Adam, had started JK at Kingsley a couple of months before and I thought it would be a good way for me to become more involved in the school.

I hadn't really had much previous experience as a Board Member and wasn't sure what to expect when I submitted my nomination. As we are currently looking for some new members to join the Board in 2012, the purpose of this article is to describe my experience and encourage other parents to consider volunteering their time and talents to further enrich the educational experience at Kingsley.

Application and By-Laws

The nomination process is rather straightforward. To be "nominated", you must obtain the signatures of two parents of current Kingsley students. The nomination form must be submitted by November 11, 2011. Kingsley has a set of by-laws that set out the rules by which it operates. Once you express your interest in a role on the Board, Julie Middleton will provide you with a copy of the by-laws to read over. Kingsley is registered as a not-for-profit organization. The Annual General Meeting will be held January 12, 2012 at Kingsley

School. At this meeting, new board members will be elected.

Roles

The Board is small in size, with four to six elected directors. In addition to these elected roles, the principal, Julie Middleton, is a Board Member and Ursula Morton, the school's founder, serves as a consultant to the Board. There is a President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The roles are selected by the Board Members at the first regular Board meeting after the annual general meeting. The duties for each position are described in the by-laws. Those who do not hold one of these roles are simply referred to as "Board Members".

Meetings

The Board meets every one to two months during the school year for about one-and-a-half to two hours, at either Kingsley or another mutually agreeable location. An agenda is prepared before each meeting. Topics may include an update on school registration, review of financial position, fundraising, marketing, school upgrades (i.e. computers, books, painting, etc.), and other relevant topics. The Minutes of each meeting are available for parents to review upon request.

Time Commitment

The time commitment is generally minimal. You are required to attend monthly or bi-monthly board meetings throughout the school year. In between Board meetings, you may have the opportunity to assist on a project or as part of a committee.

Financial Commitment

There is no financial cost to join the Board and you will not receive any financial remuneration as a Board member.

Benefits

I have learned so much about Kingsley during the nine months I have served on the Board. I have met some wonderful people who are deeply passionate about our children's education experience. I have a much greater appreciation for the history and philosophy of Kingsley through my participation on the Board and it has made me appreciate this "gem" of a school we are so fortunate to have.

I highly recommend the Board Member experience to any parents of Kingsley students and I would be pleased to discuss my experiences in more detail. If you are considering a position on Kingsley's Board of Directors, I encourage you to reach out to me (or any one of the current Board members) to find out more at 416-247-0785 or laurie-baby2@hotmail.com

November 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat	Sun
Halloween- costume parade at 9:15 am. Bring uniforms to change into afterwards.	1 Junior Engineers, 3:30-4:30	2	3 8:15-8:45 Running Club, CANCELLED TODAY	4	5	6 Daylight Savings Time
7	8 Gr. 4/5 Royal Winter Fair Junior Engineers, 3:30-4:30	9	10 8:15-8:45 Running Club, resumes in the gym	11 Remembrance Day Board Nominations Due	12	13
14 Photo Retakes for anyone interested. Grad Photo Day for grade fives only.	15 Junior Engineers, 3:30-4:30	16	17 8:15-8:45 Running Club, gym Scholastic Orders due Family Literacy Night! 6:30 pm	18 P.D. Day — no school for students	19	20
21	22 Last day for Junior Engineers, 3:30-4:30	23	24 8:15-8:45, Running Club, gym	25 Toonie Dress-Down Day \$2	26	27
28	29 Winter Food Drive Begins in foyer	30 Samko Fundraiser begins	Dec. 15, a.m: "Seussical", YPT Dec. 16: Toonie Dress-Down Day Dec. 16: Concert 6:30 pm Dec. 26-Jan.6/12: Holidays Jan. 9: Back to school Jan. 12: Annual General Meeting Jan. 27: \$2 Dress-Down Day Feb. 8 a.m.: TSO trip Feb. Fridays: Skating (gr. 1-5) Feb. 17: P.D. Day, no school Feb. 20: Family Day holiday Feb. 24: \$2 Dress-Down Day		Mar 9-19: March Break Mar. 20: Back to school March 30: \$2 Dress-Down Day April 6: Good Friday April 9: Easter Monday April 16: TSO concert-juniors April 26: Toonie Dress Up Day and Photo Day-nice clothes, please May 18: P.D. Day May 21: Victoria Day May 25: \$2 Dress-Down Day Jun 8: Spring Concert	