



Metcalfe Public School
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“ENCOURAGING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP”

February 2016 Newsletter

Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that another month has gone by, with fabulous events, activities, and learning happening here at Metcalfe P.S. as shown in the newsletter below. Thanks to all our parents and volunteers, along with the teachers and their students for making Metcalfe such an awesome place!

Just a reminder to parents and students that winter seems to now be here and the weather is getting colder so please remember to dress for the weather. We will be going outside unless the temperature gets below -25 with the wind chill. Also, if the buses are cancelled due to the weather, the school is almost always open, but if you drop your child off in the morning, you must pick them up in the afternoon.

Kindergarten registration is ongoing and this is the final week to apply for a student transfer.

Parent Council meetings are the first Tuesday of every month so our next meeting is March 1st at 6:30 pm. Come to the meetings to catch up on what's happening at the school.

Have a great month!
Mr. Postma.

Family Literacy Day -- January 27

Mrs. Acres, our library technician, put up this beautiful display in the hallway to promote Family Literacy Day. She provided many examples on how to promote literacy at home and at school.

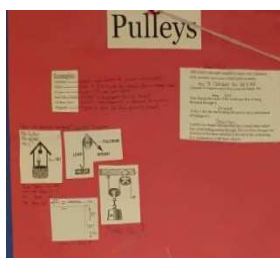
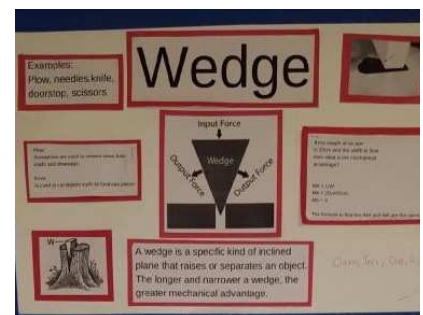
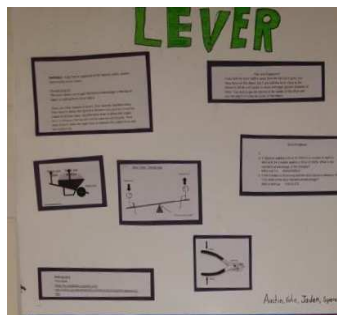
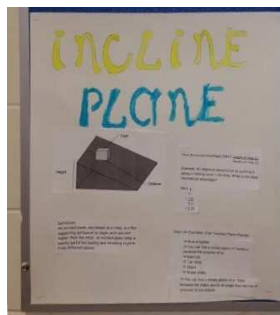
Snowmen Musical Notes and Colourful Artwork!

These are two displays found in our hallways. Mrs. Stewart, music teacher, shows how to place one's fingers on the recorder to play the various notes. The artwork comes from Mrs. Stanley's grade 2/3 class.





The students in Ms. Toohey's class will be working with a local artist, Maya Russell, over the next 7 weeks. These paintings were created using only white and black tempera paint as the students tried out some of the painting techniques used by the impressionist as they painted these bottles.



The students in Ms. Toohey's class are learning about mechanical systems and are reviewing simple machines and mechanical advantage as a jump off point.



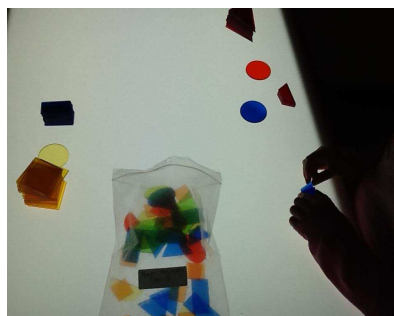
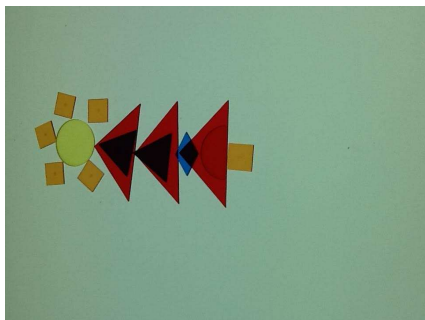
Mrs. Brown's class is working with a monochromatic palette to produce these paintings



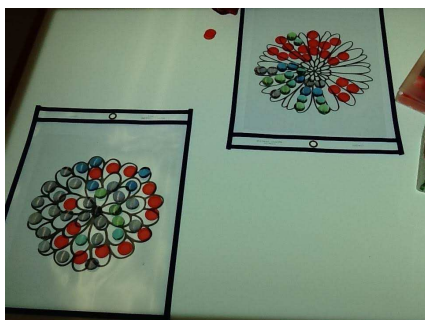
New Light Tables

A parent, Mr. Duckworth, built two light tables for our JK/SK and SK/1 classes. This is how they are being used.

“We have used our light table mostly for math, art and re-tell so far. Using the flower we create patterns using bingo chips and glass rocks.”



The math shapes we use to make pictures using triangles, squares and such but we also found out that when we layer the shapes they make new colours: red on blue made purple. They were quite excited when they discovered this.



We also have made overheads of familiar characters that we can lay out and re-tell a story.”



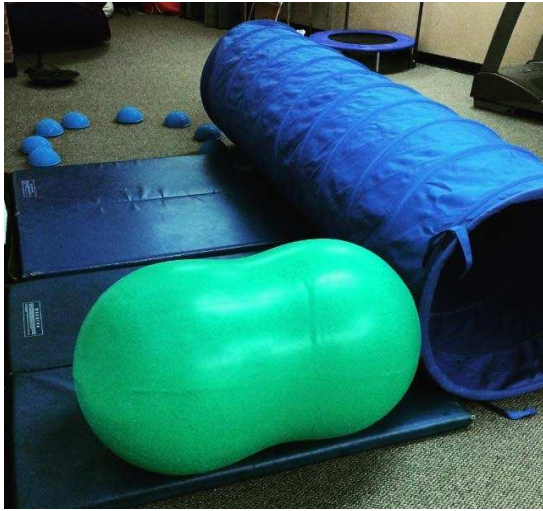
Co-op Students at Metcalfe PS

It was a sad farewell to Hunter Peacock at the end of January. A student from Osgoode Township High School, Hunter volunteered many hours at MPS. He came to the primary core French classes every morning, and the children loved him! As part of the Ottawa Carleton District School Board's Cooperative Education program, our school welcomes several teenagers to help out around the school every year. It is a fantastic opportunity for all of the students involved. It's not uncommon to see them reading with the students, or helping with crafts and science experiments. We are always so happy when they arrive, and then so sad to see them go. The staff at MPS is most grateful for the hard work and dedication shown by these volunteers. Thank you to Nick Smiley, Hunter Peacock, Monika Lalonde, Sondra Seely, Stephanie Baldwin, Montana McLean and all the others who have helped at our school.



Our New Sensory Room

The "old" computer lab was recently transformed into a sensory room. A wall was constructed to allow an office space to be also created for the professionals who work at our school (e.g., social worker, psychologist). New carpeting was installed and the walls were freshly painted. Thank you to our School Council for providing funds to purchase equipment and materials. The sensory room will be a place where students who need a body break throughout the day will be able to decompress by following a series of exercise circuits and a calm/down period. Thank you to Mr. Marleau, Mrs. Miller, Mr. MacDonald and all our Educational Assistants for their help in setting up the Sensory Room which will be called "The Ranch." Our school logo features the Mustangs. Mustangs need a place to rest thus the name, "The Ranch!"



Lisa Boulton, one of our parents, made a fabulous weighted blanket for “The Ranch”. She put in 25 hours to make it for our students! It is made of jeans and corduroy.

Music News

Ukulele news: Students in the Grade 5/6 classes have started to learn how to play ukulele in music classes since the holiday break. They have been using the class set of ukuleles that the School Council bought for our school last May.

Students in the Grade 4/5 classes will be starting to learn to play the ukuleles the week of February 16. Students can purchase their own if they would like to practice at home more for \$35, payable to Metcalfe P.S.

Junior Music Ensemble will be held on Mondays after school from 2:45-4:00pm. Practices start on Monday, February 22 and go until May. Students will be singing, playing recorder, ukuleles and xylophones. We will be taking 25 Grade 4-6 students to Choralfest 2016 on Thursday, April 21, held at Dominion Chalmers with guest clinician and choral director Jacquie Hawley.

Concert Band practices are open to all Grade 7 and 8 students and are continuing on Tuesday's after school. Jazz Band is open to Grade 8's and by invitation due to the more challenging music. Practices are every Day 1 at first recess. We are looking forward to our annual May Jazz Cafe.

Tone Chimes are being played by an enthusiastic group of Grade 7's. They are played and sound like Hand Bells. We can't wait to showcase them!

Scientists in the Schools



On the morning of January 13 our primary students participated in Science workshops presented and guided by "Scientists in Schools". It was a morning full of fun hands-on discovery activities. Junior Kindergartens conducted cool experiments and learned some frosty facts about how people adapt to winter. Senior Kindergartens discovered how to use simple machines in everyday life. Grade ones were part of engineering team and built a structure (stool) to support their teacher. Grade twos discovered how simple machines make work easier, and constructed their own cars while exploring wheels and axles. The grade threes created structures and learnt the impact of forces acting on them. There certainly was a lot of learning taking place!

A big thank you goes out to all the parents, grandparents and other volunteers who helped guide these centers. Without them this amazing Science event would not have been able to happen.

We hope to do it again next year, The Primary Team

PENGUIN POSTCARDS - Mrs. Efford's SK/1

Our class made postcards before Christmas. (Calum) All of us made our own postcards (Addison). To make our postcards we used paper and pencil crayons. (Serena) Our picture had to be about the Antarctica and penguins. (Neena)

Next we mailed them to the Antarctica.(Molly) They went on a US Air force plane. (Jason) They were mailed to the McMurdo station in the Antarctica (Sadie).

After getting to the Antarctica they rode the US Air force planes again to get back to Canada. (Calum) We got our postcards from the mailman at our house. (Jenna) On the back of the postcard there can be 4, 2 or 1 stamp. (Sadie) A black ink stamp says "USAF McMurdo, Antarctica". (Jason)

It is very cool for us to be the only ones in Metcalfe to get a postcard from the Antarctica. (Lenni) We are really happy when we get the postcard back because we have the Antarctica stamp on it. (Connor) I felt happy when my postcard came back. (Seamus) I keep my postcard in my desk and I told my great, great Grandpa. (Sadie) Mine was on my door. (Austin) I keep my postcard in my room. (Serena) I keep mine safe. (Jason) I am going to give mine to my sister so she can put it in her scrapbook. (Simon)

My First Coding Experience

"When I first looked at a page of code, I thought, oh my god, there is no way I am going to be able to learn ANY of this! But I still decided to give it a try, I found this really awesome c++, (which is a coding program) tutorial on youtube. The tutorial was designed for people who are just starting out on this program, which I was. I watched the first episode and then thought, this isn't actually that bad, I think I might be able to do this. I started learning more about the coding world than I ever even thought existed! I learned about things like integers, variables, stds, characters, doubles, and other things I had never even heard of. Even if I don't finish my game, even right now I am proud of myself because of how much I learned. I just recently learned how to make a calculator with nothing but variables, doubles and lines of code."

by: Adam Y, Grade 5/6 MFI

MEASURING T-REX STEPS

Today in math we measured how long a dinosaurs foot was. We found out that a T-rex's foot is 36 inches long or 92 1/2 cm long. It is 49 blocks long and 30 blocks wide.

In the hall we measured the T-rex stride and it was 12 feet long or 360 cm long. In blocks it was 203 blocks long. We layed the kids down straight and 3 kids is one stride. If 18 kids plus one teacher laid down, it would be 6 T-rex strides.

This was cool because we measured a real T-rex's foot and strides!

By" Jason Taylor (SK/1)

Accepting Old Technology

Mr. Fitch is still collecting computer donations for the school. Laptops, desktops, unloved laser printers, cables, and related goodies. Old sticks of RAM are even welcome. Hard drives will be wiped, scrubbed and a new OS will be installed. Boxy CRT monitors can't be accepted though.



MASC Presentation

On Friday, January 29, 2016, our students watched a performance from **MASC Artists**, Grupo de Capoeira "Ante Brasileira". This group of artists played and performed Brazilian dances. Students learned about various folkloric instruments, rhythms and songs from Brazil. The artists demonstrated various acrobatic moves during the performance. Our school applied for and received funds from the City of Ottawa to subsidize the cost of the performance.



News from Mr. Fitch's class

In Mr. Fitch's class, the students are also gathering up old magazines to cut up to create Landscape Collages. If you got them, we'll use the.

Last week we wrapped up our Paper Mache Piggy Banks. Lots of glue and goo and pringles cans. The results were years of safekeeping for all the loose change that one can gather!

<http://www.angelfire.com/ego/mr.f/SubjectLinks/art/papermache.html>

In Language Arts we wrapped up our novel study boxes last month and just last week wrangled our way through our 2 voices assignment.

Coming up shortly will be our preparation for our class spelling bee which includes words that have entered English from other languages.

In math class the students are mastering the art of managing data and how to read graphs while detecting deceptive bias that "hide" some information that is being presented.

A number of Intermediate students in our school are also currently preparing for the University of Waterloo Gauss Math Contest. The Gauss Contest is fun and challenging. Each year almost 100 000 student - matheletes globally complete this.

Some Important Dates:

Kindergarten Registration: On going

Cross-Boundary Student Transfer Application Period: Feb. 8-19

Middle French Immersion Registration Period: February 16-22

February 17	Ski Day for grade 4-8 students who want to participate
February 23	Toonie Tuesday
March 14 to 18	March Break
March 25	Good Friday – no school for students
March 28	Easter Monday – no school for students

Transportation - Bus Delays and Cancellations

A reminder that bus delay and cancellation notices can be found by:

- Visiting OSTA's [Parent Portal](#) (includes detailed information about delays)
- Following OSTA on Twitter @OttSchoolBus
- Subscribing to OSTA's mailing list to receive email notifications
- Monitoring local radio and television stations

Our School's Learning Plan -- Focusing on Literacy

We have begun to release our primary, junior and intermediate teams to work on this year's school learning plan. Teams have met at least twice to analyse our school data, choose a focus of instruction, and plan lessons. Starting February 22, we will begin a 6 week cycle of learning. Staff and students will be engaged in innovative lessons to improve writing. This will look differently at every grade level. For instance, at the primary level, students will work to produce pieces of writing that makes sense to the reader. At the junior and intermediate levels, students will work on improving sentence and paragraph structure in their writing. Teachers will meet again at the end of the 6 week cycle to examine samples of student work and reflect if the strategies implemented have helped students to become better writers.