

NORMAN INGRAM NEWS



Edition #3 January 2015

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School Council Co-Chairs
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IMPORTANT DATES JANUARY 2015

Sub Lunch	7 th
Popcorn Day	9 th
Pizza Lunch	15 th
CRAZY HAIR DAY	16 th
School Council Meeting	20 th
OOZAKAZOO	22 nd
PA Day (no school for students)	23 rd
Popcorn Day	30 th

IMPORTANT DATES FEBRUARY 2015

Sub Lunch	4 th
DRUM FIT ACTIVITIES (all classes)	6 th
Report Cards go home	9 th
Dr. Karyn Gordon (for parents)	10 th
Pizza Lunch	12 th
Grade 5 BONANZA Sale	12 th
Interview Evening	12 th
JK Reg'n Packages available	12 th
Interview Day (no school)	13 th
Family Day (no school)	16 th
JK Registration	19 th , 20 th

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I woke up and it was suddenly 2015! Belated Happy New Year wishes to everybody.

When I arrived at Norman Ingram five (short) years ago, I believed that our real strength would be our exceptionally talented faculty and staff, in partnership with parents who are deeply committed to their children's success. That belief is now a conviction. Every day that I come to work I have staff members coming to tell me about new websites they have found, activities they want to try, technology that might help a child, a club they'd like to run, and the list goes on. The educators at Norman Ingram are always looking for new and exciting ways to "hook" our students and keep them engaged in the learning process. As I reflect now on all that we have in place to support our children's learning, I can honestly say that your children are very fortunate!

As we continue to work together, I know that we will accomplish a great deal more this school year. Thank you for believing in what we are trying to do for our 224 Norman Ingram Falcons!

M. Cooper

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The TDSB has identified ten character traits thought to help students understand and develop commonly held ethical values and characteristics. To help us learn about all the traits we have met Quazar! Quazar is the super hero from the program **Build Character, Build Success**. Through videos and activities he teaches children about each trait and how to be a good citizen of the school and the greater community.

In November students learned how to show Empathy. With the help of Quazar, students began to understand that when they stop to think about how somebody else might be feeling, they can treat that person with understanding and compassion.

In December our theme was Kindness and Caring. Our CHUM City Wish Toy and Book Drive was a great example of how our whole community came together to show kindness and caring toward others. Thanks to all parents who showed their children that there is value in being generous towards others.

During January we are focusing on Teamwork. In the super-power DVD viewed by our students, Quazar had to go to the Planet of the Leafs where some children and their parents were trying to build a playground. They were very disorganized, didn't have a plan, didn't share their tools and supplies and weren't helping each other at all. Quazar got there just in time to help them create teams to work out a plan and design. In the end, the playground looked amazing and everyone was happy and proud of what they'd done together as a team.

There is a poster in every classroom which lists a few ways to demonstrate teamwork. Please talk about those ways with your child, and encourage teamwork in your home.



"The nice thing about teamwork is that you always have others on your side."

For more information about our Character Education program please visit <http://buildcharacterbuildsuccess.com>

MUSIC AND PHYSED NEWS FROM MRS. PASQUA

DRUMFIT

On Friday, February 6th, our entire student population will have the wonderful opportunity to experience DrumFIT®! This is a fitness based drumming program that combines the mental health benefits of drumming with the health benefits of physical fitness for a full-body workout! DrumFIT® uses top 40's music to drum along to, as well as some songs such as Cotton Eye Joe, Party Rock Anthem, and Gangnam Style. They have a rockin' Itsy Bitsy Spider they do with younger children and they play some fun games as well. We will all drum away our stress and get moving. It promises to be a great day of music, fitness and fun!

CHOIR

The choirs have taken a well-deserved break this month to enjoy the outdoors and play with friends in the snow. We will resume practices **Tuesday, February 3, for primaries** and **Thursday, February 5, for juniors**. In this second term, we will prepare for our Spring Concert in May.

RECORDERS

By the end of January, students in grades 2-5 will be studying the recorder. Each student will be responsible for the maintenance, storage and care of the recorder, as well as the cost for replacement if need be.



We will be following a recorder program whereby the students will be playing and reading notes from the musical staff, identifying rhythms and experiencing folk songs, classical melodies, and popular music. The Ontario Curriculum will be addressed through the recorder study, and the students will be evaluated for a report card grade.

I believe strongly that each student will benefit greatly from this musical experience. You can help your child achieve success with the recorder in two ways:

- encourage your child to practice at home on a daily basis.
- ensure that your child can fully participate in class by bringing their instrument and music folder to school on the days they have music. Your support is greatly appreciated.

If your child is in grade 2, an order form will be sent home shortly to purchase a new recorder. If your older child has lost a recorder, this will be the opportunity to order a new one. Please be on the lookout for this order form coming home soon! Thank-you.

TIPS ON STAYING HEALTHY



1. Flu season is here again. In Canada, flu season tends to run between October and April. The Ontario government is encouraging Ontarians to avoid getting sick this flu season by getting their annual flu shot.

Toronto Public Health is recommending that whenever students or staff experience flu-like symptoms, they head home and do not return to school until they are no longer infectious to others.

The primary concern is for the health and safety of all students and staff. Please note that no special measures are required when there is a case of influenza in a school or daycare. However, everyone should do their part to stop the spread of the flu. As parents, you can assist by:

- reminding children to wash their hands often especially after using the washroom and before and after eating;
- reminding children to cover their sneeze and cough;
- watching for symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, and/or high fever;
- informing the school if your child is ill;
- keeping your child at home when he/she is ill.

Schools do not have facilities to keep students indoors if they have not fully recovered, so please ensure your child is "back to normal" before allowing him/her to return to school.

For more information, please visit the Toronto Public Health website www.toronto.ca/health, contact your family doctor, or Telehealth Ontario. 1-866-797-0000.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

In an increasingly global world, learning languages and cultures benefits children today and helps them build skills for the future. Broaden your child's horizons with a TDSB International Languages and African Heritage program. We teach more than 55 languages and cultures, to 30,000 children each year, in neighbourhoods across the city. Enrollment is ongoing. Register your child today! Visit www.ILEprograms.ca for more information.

GIVING BACK

Each year during the Christmas Season we like to give back to our community in one way or another. We have sponsored refugee families, donated winter clothing to families in our area, and filled backpacks for those on the street. This year we responded to a suggestion by Jennifer Lill-Castaldo and Lily Wang, and asked for donations to the **CHUM City Children's Wish**. During the last week before the holidays, the fire department arrived to pack up four huge bags full of toys and books. Many thanks to everybody who was able to contribute – you helped to make a child's Christmas a happier one!



Thank you for your generous support!

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

We'd like to thank everybody who has eased our transition to TDSB's new automated SAFE ARRIVAL system by calling ahead to let us know of your child's absence or lateness. When you call ahead, Ms.



Castellano is able to enter your information into the system so you do NOT get a phone call on the day of your child's absence or late arrival (at least that's the general idea!! Glitches still occur from time to time!)

Just a reminder that you need to call **416-395-2727 before 9:00 a.m.** to ensure your message is received and the information entered. If you miss that cut-off time, you will receive an automated phone call. Should you receive a phone call, BE SURE TO STAY ON THE LINE UNTIL THE END OF THE MESSAGE TO SELECT A REASON CODE. If you do not choose a reason, the system will keep calling back until you do! Thanks for helping us to keep your children safe!

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

It was a busy Fall for the School Council. Pizza lunches, sub lunches and QSP kicked off the year with great success. Thank you to all the leads and a whole host of volunteers. The Council has completed one fundraiser and the second wrapped up with Festive Decor arriving for pick up on December 4th. Our first event of the New Year will be an evening for the whole family with **OOZAKAZOO** on January 22nd in the gym. Order forms have gone home, but if you would like to learn more about the performers, check them out at <http://www.oozakazoo.net>.

We are happy to say we were able to fund several important items for the school this year thanks to the successful fundraising efforts of last year. We have provided funds for 4 projectors to enable teachers to display computer based learning for the whole class. We provided funds for the purchase of iPads for the 4 kindergarten classrooms (a requirement for each full day kinder class, but not funded by TDSB) and we also purchased an Apple TV for use in the portable to enable the students to pursue technological learning right in their classroom. As well, and as per every year, the council has also provided funds for several Arts events that the school arranges for the students each year. Hopefully our fundraising efforts will be as fruitful this year, allowing the school to continue to purchase items on their wish/need list and to plan events for next year.

The Council applied and was successful at securing a *Parents Reaching Out* grant from the district this year. It is a \$1000 grant intended to be used to further parenting skills. We have partnered with Rippleton Public School and are using the grant to secure the dynamic parenting expert **Dr. Karyn Gordon**. She will be presenting "*Raising Healthy Kids in an age of Overindulgence*" on Tuesday, February 10th at Windfields Junior High School. We have already sent out one e-mail notification about this date – watch for more information closer to the event.

As always we welcome all parents to come out and get involved. If you are interested, our next Council meeting is January 20th, 2015 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the school library. Hope to see you then!

Cayla & Danielle

FEBRUARY IS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION MONTH

At the TDSB, we know early learners learn best through doing; so our four and five year olds are introduced to math and science through play as part of K-12 STEM



programming. To inspire a love for learning, kindergarten classrooms are bustling with inquiry and exploration through science activities, math games, art projects and more.

If you live in our catchment area and your child will turn 4 years old by December 31st, 2015, we encourage you to visit the school on or after February 12th to pick up a Junior Kindergarten registration package. We also welcome Senior Kindergarten students who have not yet registered in another local TDSB school. To attend Senior Kindergarten, your child must turn 5 years old by December 31, 2015.

We will be offering Full Day Kindergarten in September 2015, as well as Before & After School care. To register your child for JK or SK, a parent or guardian must visit the school during one of the following registration times:

Thursday, February 19th

9:15 – 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, February 20th

8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

The following documents must be provided for registration:

- ✓ All paperwork provided in registration package
- ✓ Proof of address; 2 copies of identification with your address and name eg. purchase/lease agreement, tax bill, utility bill (not telephone bill or driver's license)
- ✓ Immunization record booklet
- ✓ Proof of citizenship
- ✓ Health card
- ✓ Family Doctor's full name, address and telephone #
- ✓ Proof of sole custody (if applicable)

We will hold a Kindergarten Orientation on Wednesday, June 3rd at 4:15 p.m. for students and their parents.

Note: If your child was not born in Canada, verification of date of arrival is required. Families who are permanent residents and refugee claimants may register directly at the school. All other families should visit the International Program and Admissions Office, Toronto District School Board (TDSB), 5050 Yonge Street, for a TDSB School Admission Letter. Children without immigration status are welcome in our schools and information about them or their families shall not be shared with immigration authorities, as per TDSB Policy P.061SCH.

Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/kindergarten for further information.

LIBRARY NEWS FROM MS. INNOCENTE

The Learning Resource Centre (a.k.a Library) has been abuzz with activity over the past few months. Aside from the usual book talks and book borrowing, our students have engaged in media literacy, research and computer technology activities.

Our kindergarten friends are learning valuable skills as they visit the library lab every week to interact with literacy and mathematics websites (eg. *BookFlix*, *ABCya* and *LearningPlanet.com*).

The grade one students in Ms. Frangos' class are studying various media forms and recently learned to use an online database called *PebbleGo* to research their science topics. Ms. Lussier's class is examining the features of non-fiction texts and other media forms. They used an online posting wall called *Padlet* to post inquiry questions and respond to open-ended class questions. They also explored an online drawing program called *Pixie* and created slides for their "What I Am" iMovie.

As well as studying media and non-fiction texts, Mrs. Mirabrahimi's grade two class is also learning to use *Pixie* as they draw illustrations to accompany their digital fables.

Ms. Higgins' and Ms. Panella's students studied the features of a book review and created their own reviews which they either posted online to the TDSB "Just Read It" site, or published as a colour poster for our library bulletin board. They are presently learning the finer points of an online comic strip program called *Bitstrips* in order to create curriculum related comic strips.

Ms. Lam's grade four students have delved deeper into media literacy by analysing the purpose, audience and production of certain media forms. They looked at various commercials to infer overt and implied messages in advertising. They are presently deconstructing newspapers in order to understand their form and function.

The grade five students in Mr. Whittington's class started the year by learning to use features of Microsoft Word (eg. SmartART) to create graphic organizers in order to track their inquiry-based learning. They moved on to work in groups to create an iMovie for our Remembrance Day Ceremony. They were entrusted with the task of searching for images of troops that they thought might evoke an emotional response from their audience. They then had to sequence the images in a purposeful way and explain their reasoning. After adding appropriate music, they had to instruct the app to pan across the photos in order to create a sense of movement. They soared to the challenge and created an iMovie that brought tears to the eyes of almost everyone who attended the event. Kudos to them!

I am excited to announce that our students took part in an international education event during Computer Science Education Week, December 8-14, 2014. The event was called Hour of Code, with the goal of giving students across the US and Canada their first taste of computer programming. All of our students, from youngest to oldest, engaged in one hour of computer programming. We are hoping that this experience sparked in our students an interest in creating the technology of the future - not just consuming it! Ask your child about the experience, and if you're interested in learning more about it, please visit www.hourofcode.com.



"When I say to a parent, 'read to a child', I don't want it to sound like medicine. I want it to sound like chocolate."

— Mem Fox

RECESS DURING COLD WEATHER

Elementary school students are kept indoors for recess and lunch times for a number of weather conditions such as rain, lightning in the area, extreme winds and extreme cold. When temperature and wind chill measure -28°C or lower, students are kept indoors. Recesses and lunch hour may be shortened if the temperature and wind chill reading is between -28°C and -20°C .



If a student's medical condition requires further consideration due to weather conditions, or if parents have other questions or concerns about how and when weather conditions affect your child's school day, please contact the school office.

QSP MAGAZINE SALES

Although we initiated this fundraiser last Fall, you can still order new magazines or renew old subscriptions at any time, and all proceeds funnel to Norman Ingram. Adrienne Goddard continues to monitor sales, so if you'd like to participate in this easy fundraising venture, simply go to www.qsp.ca and start ordering online. Thanks for your support!

NORMAN INGRAM SCHOOL CODE IS #3722717

LOOK OUT! IT'S THE ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY BONANZA SALE!

Our grade 5 students will once again be hosting this exciting event to raise money for the Graduation Fund.

- ♥ Thursday, February 12th all morning
- ♥ Prices range from 50¢ to \$3
- ♥ Baked treats, candy, toys, plushies, crafts and much more
- ♥ Grade 1 – 4 classes will be called to the sale with their teachers to purchase items
- ♥ Students from our JK/SK classes are invited to bring \$2 to school and our grade 5's will bring treats to their classrooms for them to enjoy
- ♥ Come one, come all and support our grade 5's



BUS & SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS



Severe weather conditions may require the TDSB to cancel transportation or, in extreme conditions, close

schools. The decision to close schools is made by the Director of Education.

In the event transportation is cancelled or schools are closed, the local media will be informed before the beginning of the school day. Tune in to your radio and television news stations for the latest information or visit www.tdsb.on.ca.

ECO NEWS FROM MS. LUSSIER

Norman Ingram Public School is ahead of the curve! One year ago we implemented our Green Bin Program, and green bins have just this month become mandatory in all TDSB schools. Just think how much we have already saved from landfills by using our green bins effectively!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are currently in the process of creating a five year School Greening Plan, and we would love some parent input on enhancing our green space. If you have a "green thumb" or some great ideas, please email Ms. Lussier at kim.lussier@tdsb.on.ca. We will be forming an official committee during this New Year.

In the Spring we will also be looking for parent volunteers to help us in our gardens. There is always so much to do and we would love some support, especially since we are planning on expanding our butterfly garden. This would not be a huge time commitment and we could work around your schedule. An hour here or there would be a great help. Please email Ms. Lussier if you are interested in helping out during the months of May and/or June.

On December 10th we had the first of our annual audits to maintain our platinum eco status. During this audit, we were visited by a Forest Valley staff member who looked at all the wonderful things we do here at Norman Ingram. Members of our eco team had the opportunity to give a tour of our school and show off our school grounds. After our meeting, recommendations for our program were created, and as a team we will work towards these goals. Thanks to everybody for being ECO aware and supporting our various ECO initiatives at Norman Ingram.

GO GREEN, STAY GREEN!

FAMILY DAY

There will be no classes on Monday, February 16, 2015 to reflect the province-wide statutory holiday called **Family Day**. The holiday occurs on the third Monday in February of each year for the purpose of emphasizing and celebrating the importance of families taking time to be together. Enjoy the time with your children!



SPORTS REPORT FROM MR. WHITTINGTON

The Falcons had a terrific end to 2014. Just before the holidays our Girls' Basketball team had lots of fun both practising and playing, and brought home a new school banner as Conference Finalists. Way to go, girls! I am sure 2015 will be just as exciting as we embark on a variety of new team activities.

Our Boys' Basketball Team has been practicing for a couple of months already and players are working hard to prepare for an upcoming tournament at Forest Manor in February. Our girls are back in the gym honing their skills with our resident volleyball guru Ms. Campbell, in preparation for their approaching tournament. Our boys and girls will be just as tough to beat in 2015!



GO FALCONS!

TWO REQUESTS FROM OUR LUNCHROOM SUPERVISORS



PLEASE label your child's clothing! Our gym and classrooms look like a yard sale when it's time to dress for the outdoors, and you could help us make the process a lot simpler!

PLEASE send a fork or spoon with your child's lunch if needed. We do not maintain a supply of eating utensils, and children will have to resort to fingers!



WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SHOT!



One of our kindergarten teachers, Ms. Patterson, snapped this photo as she left school one day in the late Fall. You seldom see double rainbows, and it's pretty dramatic!

CRAZY HAIR DAY



OUR FIRST SNOWY DAY!

