



APPLE SEEDS

APRIL 2016

Principal, Maria Pantalone

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PLANNING FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Making up the class composition is a task that requires much thought, care, time and teamwork. The teachers and I consider many areas in order to create the most ideal learning and teaching environment for our students.

We take into consideration:

- academic ability
- learning styles of our students
- gender
- learning needs
- social groupings
- friendships

Because there are often families that move over the summer and because of the Ministry caps on primary class sizes, we often find that we need to make some minor adjustments to the number of students in the classes in September. At times, there are also staff changes (retirements, leaves, transfers). To avoid disappointment and to ensure that each classroom is the best it can be for our students, we will finalize the classes just before the school year starts. We intend to post your child's classroom in the school's front foyer on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Although school begins at 8:40 a.m., you may wish to arrive a bit earlier to check the class lists.

The classrooms are organized based on projected student enrolment. At the end of September, when actual student numbers are known, it may be necessary to re-organize.

***In order to assist us with actual figures, if you know that your child will not be returning to OOOPS in September (ie: moving, French Immersion, etc.), please let us know as soon as possible.**

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We will not be holding a School Council meeting in May.

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Kindergarten orientation will take place on Thursday, June 9th at 9:00 a.m. for new parents to the Full Day Junior Kindergarten Program. We look forward to welcoming our new students and families.

EQAO The Primary and Junior EQAO testing will take place from May 25th to June 8th. To learn more about the assessments, parents can access student booklets

containing actual questions from the assessments and scoring guides containing examples of student answers taken from past years' assessments using the following website:

<http://www.eqao.com/Parents/Elementary/036/036.aspx?Lang=E&gr=036>

Students are also practicing former EQAO questions, problem solving and test taking strategies on an ongoing basis in the classroom. It is always beneficial for parents to familiarize themselves with various types of assessments the children encounter to ensure that they are on the right track. Please continue to reinforce with the children that they must always do their best on **every** test.

TDSB NON-COMPETITIVE CHORAL FESTIVAL

Our Grade 3 choir will be performing at the TDSB's Choral Festival on May 16th. They've been practicing hard for some time now and we are very excited to be able to share our accomplishments with other primary choirs across the TDSB.

MASSEY HALL

On Thursday, May 12th, our Junior Choir will be performing at the TDSB's Annual Concert at Massey Hall at 7:30 p.m. They will be singing as part of the mass choir, as well as performing their own solo piece.

SPRING CONCERTS

Our Spring Concerts will take place as follows:

Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Grades 1, 2, 3 and 4

Steel Pan

Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Grades JK, SK, 5 and 6

Strings and Band

4/5/6 Junior Choir (includes Grade 4 students in choir – Gr. 4 students will need to attend on both nights)

*We will be holding a 50/50 draw where proceeds will go toward our Music Program at OOOPS.

PANFEST

PanFest 2016 (Elementary and Secondary Steel Band Festival) took place on Thursday, April 28th. Our Grade 4 students performed at the Bickford Centre under the direction of Mr. James Gregoire, our Itinerant Music Instructor. Congratulations to all our students and to Mr. Gregoire for an outstanding performance!

WARMER WEATHER - SHOES

With the warmer weather slowly approaching, a reminder to parents that students should wear or keep running shoes at school. Sandals and flip-flops feel nice in hot weather, however, these are unsafe in gym class, at recess and during Daily Physical Activity (DPA). Thanks for your cooperation.

PICNIC LUNCHES

Warmer weather also means that students will be eating their lunches outside, picnic style, weather permitting. It's a good idea to apply sun-screen to your children and send them to school with sun-hats and water.

SCHOOL-WIDE HEAD LICE CHECK

Staff from the Lice Squad were at OOOPS on Monday, April 18th, along with parent volunteers to do a school-wide check. Please remember to check your child regularly at home for head lice and nits. Many thanks to the Lice Squad, our parent volunteers and to School Council for funding the event.

COMING EVENTS *(subject to change)*

Please mark these dates in your calendar:

May 5	Pizza Day
May 6	Heart & Stroke - assembly
May 10	Mindfulness Workshop #3 for students
May 12	Junior Choir performs at Massey Hall at 7:30 p.m.
May 16	Track and Field – Grades 3, 4, 5, 6 Grade 3 Choir at TDSB's Choral Festival
May 18	Spring Concert/Musicale for Grades 1-4 at 6:30 p.m.
May 19	Pizza Day The BIG DIG in the morning
May 23	Victoria Day – no school
May 25	EQAO begins Spring Concert/Musicale for Grades JK/SK, 5-6 at 6:30 p.m. (grade 4 students to attend)
May 27	Distribution of May's Apple Seeds Heart & Stroke Event - fundraiser
June 2	Pizza Day
June 8	EQAO ends
June 9	Kindergarten Orientation for newly registered families at 9:00 a.m.
June 10	P.A. Day – no school
June 14	Panoramic Photo at 9 a.m.
June 15	Terry Fox Walk
June 16	Pizza Day
June 17	Fun Fair
June 21	Volunteer Tea after school
June 24	Distribution of June's Apple Seeds
June 27	Grade 6 Graduation

GOOD THINGS GROWING IN OUR SCHOOL GARDEN



Spring has sprung and it's time to get dirty! We've started prepping the OOOPS Children's Garden for planting by turning the soil and amending with compost. Please encourage your children to step only on the straw paths provided, rather than walking on the prepared soil where seedlings will soon be growing.

We'll meet most Thursdays for garden cleanup after school 3:30-4:30 p.m. to water, weed and work on our patch. Watch the notice board in the yard for ongoing details about Thirsty Thursdays.

This year's **BIG DIG** is scheduled for **Thursday, May 19 in the morning**. That's the day all the children in the school have a chance to plant the seedlings we'll tend through the spring, summer and fall. This year, we're focusing on vegetables that are used in Syrian dishes as a way to recognize the culture of the refugee family our community has sponsored.

The garden committee always needs volunteers to help out at the Big Dig as well as all season long. If you can spare an hour the morning of May 19, please email Heidi at heidi_pyper@hotmail.com; if you're interested in gardening, watering in the summer or helping with the many events and fun involved in keeping our edible garden growing, join our email list by contacting Andi at andinick@sympatico.ca

