

Together, Making A Difference.....One Student At A Time

From The Principal's Desk

How quickly time goes by! I sincerely hope the holiday break was a restful, fun time for you and your family. We are back into our routines here at school with many sports, clubs and activities for students operating at nutrition breaks thanks to our wonderful and generous staff.

Speaking of nutrition breaks, we could really use some help in our kindergarten classrooms over the next month or two during the morning or afternoon nutrition breaks, assisting our youngest students with organizing their lunches and getting snowsuits on and off. If you are available and interested in volunteering, if even for one hour a week, please contact the office or if you are a kindergarten parent, your child's teacher. Together, we're better!

Please join me in welcoming Mme Bowman back to Grade 1 / 2 French Immersion in Room 15. She will return to school commencing February 21st. Mme Porterfield will be concluding her time with us on February 17th. We are grateful for everything she has done for our students and wish her the very best in the future.

As we enjoy the cold and snow, it is possible that we will have inclement weather severe enough to cancel buses or close schools. To receive immediate and accurate information in such events, please remember when checking the school board website for bus cancellations, the card colour for our school is **BLUE**. When

listening to the radio to hear bus and taxi cancellations, the message for our school is **CENTRE WELLINGTON**.

Our main purpose is your child's learning, success and continued growth. Your role is an essential one and you can support your child's efforts in school by:

1. Maintaining ongoing communication with your child's teacher.
2. Talking about school work with your child.
3. Modeling and talking about the importance of reading and managing numbers of all kinds and for different purposes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have questions or concerns. Try to stay warm and remember.....spring is only 2 months away!

Sincerely,

John E. Cassano, Principal

Last month's newsletter winner was.....
Travis T.. Congratulations!!

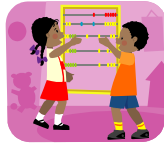
Pizza Days



Our next order will be due on Monday, February 27th for grades 1-6. Please remember that we cannot accept late orders. Also, please make sure that you send an order form FOR EACH CHILD TO THAT CHILD'S TEACHER. Some students may get missed if their order is mixed up with a sibling. However, you may send ONE cheque per family made out to: James McQueen PS. If you do not have an order form, your child can pick one up in the office.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will be on Monday, February 6th. If you have a child who will turn 4 or 5 years old by December 31st, 2012, they are eligible to begin Kindergarten. If your child is already registered in junior kindergarten, it is not necessary to re-register for senior kindergarten. This registration is for new kindergarten students to our school for September 2012 only. If you have a child or know of children in your area who will be school age, please call the school office at 519-843-1700 and Mrs. Hopf will send home a registration package.



Follow The Library!

Do you want to know what is going on in the library? Follow the James McQueen Library on Twitter (@JamesMcQLib) and check out our website (jamesmcqueen.wikispaces.com) regularly for updates to the library collection, access to UG2GO and more!

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny



It's hard to believe that soon the Annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny will be here!! Please put Saturday, March 31st on your calendar now so you don't miss it. There will be more information coming home in the near future so stay tuned!!!

Electronic Devices at School

Since returning from the holiday season, many children have been bringing cellular phones, ipods, hand held game systems and other fascinating electronic gadgetry to school.

Our position is that these items are best left at home since they represent a major distraction for the owner and surrounding pupils from our main purpose which is focusing on learning. Also, James McQueen School is not responsible for equipment like this or of a similar nature that is brought to school and damaged or goes missing.

Should children have these devices with them, they are to never be out or in use during class time. If you need to communicate with your child, please contact the office and conversely, if an issue or information regarding your child needs to be conveyed, we will contact you through the office.

Unsupervised texting, surfing the internet and taking photos of other people during the school day is absolutely not permitted.

School Council Corner...

Thanks to everyone who helped out, volunteered for the December event, or donated baked goods for the Council Café. Everything is better when shared with friends, especially workloads!

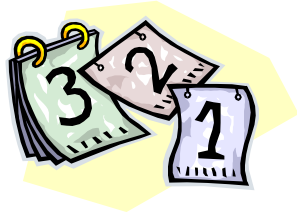
Looking for a great Valentine's gift for that special someone? What about a gift certificate to I Love Chocolate? Cost is just \$20.00 and the recipient can redeem it for 1 lb of fudge (up to 4 flavours can make up this pound), and 1 bag of bark, and the school will get \$5.00. That's one sweet way to support the school! These make great thank you gifts too! To order, contact parent council at jmqparentcouncil@hotmail.ca or pick one up at the Valentine's dance, February 9th!

In 2012 School Council is helping to bring exciting arts experiences to every James McQueen student –beginning with local Artist Meredith Blackmore. Please check out the links for more information on her work, and stay tuned this term while she brings out the artist in your child(ren)!
<http://meredithblackmore.com/>
http://meredithblackmore.com/?page_id=188

Anytime is a good time to Spring clean and think green – are old inkjet or toner cartridges, cell phones and outdated digital cameras piling up and making you worry you might be featured on Hoarders? Save yourself, the school and the environment by disposing of them in an environmentally friendly way. Drop by the school foyer and drop them in our Think Recycle box. You don't have to worry about sorting or pre-qualifying your items. Think Recycle does all the work for us and gives James McQueen money for every item we keep out of the landfill.

A tree is planted on our behalf by the Tree Canada Foundation for every 24 items we collect! Be green and help us grow green. Please check your homes and send in your items today!

The days might be cold, but the atmosphere is warm at School Council meetings! Please join us February 7th for the next meeting. Even if you can only come out one time, it's great to see new faces. No daycare? No problem! Free childcare available on site at the meetings. We meet in the James McQueen library at 6:30 pm and look forward to seeing you there!



Dates to Remember.....

- Thursday, February 2 Scientist in School visits Mr. Campbell's class this afternoon.
- Friday, February 3 M.S. Read-A-Thon Assembly at 11:20 in the gym.
Mr. Campbell's class goes curling from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, February 6 Kindergarten Registration Day.
- Tuesday, February 7 School Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
- Thursday, February 9 Mr. Campbell's class goes curling from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Family Valentine's Dance from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Sponsored by School Council.
\$2.00 admission
- Friday, February 10 Report cards go home.
- Monday, February 13 Fergus Lions Club Skate-a-thon. Details will come home very soon.
- Thursday, February 16 Mr. Campbell's class visits the Fergus Public Library
- Friday, February 17 Grade 1-6 students go skating. Permission forms will be coming home soon!
M.S. Read-A-Thon ends. Please return your pledge envelopes to your teacher asap!!
- Monday, February 20 Family Day! Enjoy your time together!!
- Thursday, February 23 Comfy Cozy Day.
- Friday, February 24 Grade 1-6 students go skating.

Treasure Shop

On Saturday, January 28th from 9:00 a.m. to noon there is a Treasure Shop being held by Grace Christian Fellowship at Bethel Baptist Church, 675 Victoria Terrace, Fergus. There will be loads of FREE great used clothing as well as household items donated from Toronto. Visit us on the web at www.igrace.ca



PARENTS' TOOLKIT



JAMES MCQUEEN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Together, Making A Difference....One Student At A Time

February 2012

John E. Cassano, Principal

Our Focus Is Problem-Solving

Central to our School Improvement plan this year is helping students understand what is being asked of them in learning situations and how to respond. To do this we have been talking to kids school-wide in all classes and subjects, to help them understand how to take apart problems as they are posed and then construct, demonstrate and communicate a solution using numbers, pictures and words.

You can support your child's growing skill in this area at home by working through the problems included in the newsletter with your child using papers, coloured pencils, or objects to model the situations described. The very same problems each month are posted on our "What's the Problem?" bulletin board in the foyer for all to see, think about and solve. Children who come to demonstrate solutions to Mr. Cassano are added to the Principal's Problem-Solving Club.

Some common terms and skills your child will encounter, whatever grade they may be in are listed below to assist you as you work through the problems provided with your children and show them how problem solving as a life skill and these terms apply to your work and in household activities.

Term	Definition	Related Math Skill
List	Use point form.	Make a picture.
Describe	Create a mental picture.	Make a list; Use objects.
Compare	What's the same and different.	Look for a pattern.
Show Your Work	Use numbers, pictures and words.	Make a table; Make it simpler.
Justify	Give reasons and evidence why your answer is correct.	Look backwards; Use logic.

Should you wish to discuss this strategy, please contact your child's teacher or the principal.

Mathematics Problems....

Primary:

Yari wants to collect 83 marbles. He already has 27 marbles and buys 8 more each week. How many weeks does it take for Yari to have a total of 83 marbles? Show your work.

It takes _____ weeks for Yari to have 83 marbles.

Primary F.I.:

Yari veut avoir 83 billes. Il a déjà 27 billes et achète 8 billes de plus chaque semaine. Combien de semaines faudra-t-il à Yari pour avoir un total de 83 billes? Montre ton travail.

Il faudra _____ semaines à Yari pour avoir 83 billes.

Junior:

A company made 1,000,000 balloons last month and packaged them in bags containing 100 balloons. Each bag of balloons sells for \$2.00.

How much money will the company receive if the company sells all of the bags?

- a) \$200
- b) \$2,000
- c) \$20,000
- d) \$200,000

Room To Lead™

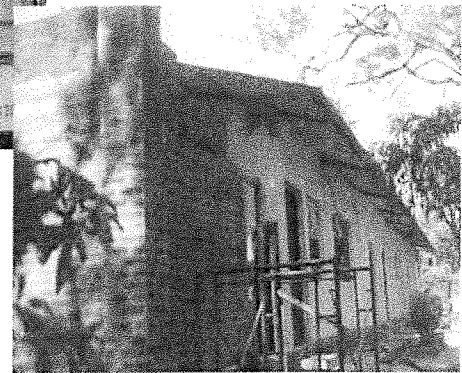
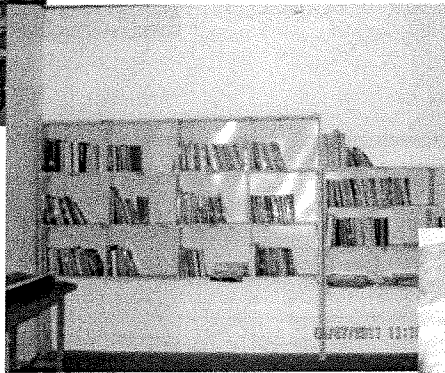
A global non-profit organization in the making - aims to provide educational opportunities to kids in developing countries



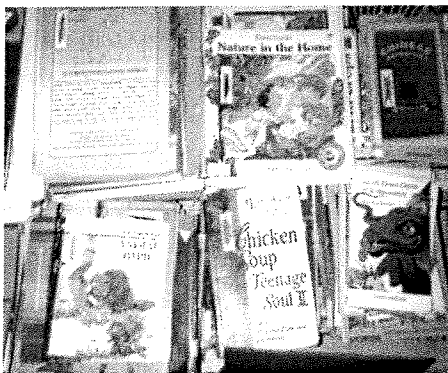
Building a school library in a rural village in Sri Lanka

- 300 students from JK to Grade 13
- No formal library facility

- Building a 10'x 20' room at a cost of \$1200
- Funding covers raw materials only
- Labour comes from the community – mainly from parents
- Start: Mar 2011
Complete: Dec 2011



One of many exciting projects underway!



A big 'Thank you' to students and staff of **James McQueen Public School**, Fergus, Ontario, for your generous donation of nearly 700 used library books, part of which will be shipped to this school in the coming weeks



For further information, please contact: **Shihan Miskin (shihanm@yahoo.com)**

James McQueen School Council
Year-to-Date Financial Report
From Sept. 1, 2011 - Jan. 10, 2012

Opening Book Balance (as of Sept. 1 2011) - \$2026.90		\$ 2,026.90
Plus Revenue:		
Fundraising Activities (from A)	\$ 11,367.93	
Parents Reaching Out Grant	\$ 925.00	
Total Revenue:		\$ 12,292.93
Less Expenses:		
Fundraising Activities (from B)	\$ 8,061.55	
Glow Bands	\$ 130.13	
NSF Chargeback and fees	\$ 76.00	
Actual Projects Funded:		
Student Activities and Resources:		
Community BBQ	\$ 805.00	
Parent Seminar: Speaker Michael Reist	\$ 925.00	
Fine Art Program for Students	\$ 2,100.00	
Total Expenses:		\$ 12,097.68
Closing Balance (as of Jan 10 2012)		\$ 2,222.15

Fundraising Summary

	Revenue (A)	Expenses (B)	Net Proceeds
Halloween Dance	\$ 646.80		\$ 646.80
MacMillan's	\$ 8,906.00	\$ 6,821.00	\$ 2,085.00
Spirit Wear	\$ 1,433.00	\$ 1,240.55	\$ 192.45
Mabel's Labels	\$ 172.99		\$ 172.99
Christmas Bake Sale	\$ 209.14		\$ 209.14
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
			\$ -
	\$ 11,367.93	\$ 8,061.55	\$ 3,306.38
	A	B	

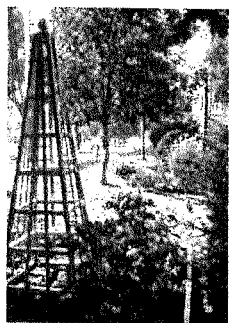
* Glow Band profits are included with net proceeds of dances and Dance-a-thon

Respectfully Submitted By Carrie-Ann Nind Date: Jan 10, 2012
School Council Treasurer

Community Outreach Programs

The Fergus and District Horticultural Society are pleased to support the community by providing funds for garden projects and sponsoring educational programs.

Year	Program
2011	➤ James McQueen School – Learning Garden, Parent Council for Greener McQueen program
	➤ Food Bank donations from Garden Tour
	➤ BT Corner Park – 2 new benches
	➤ Community Coffee mornings in Templin Gardens and BT Corner Park
2010	➤ J. Douglas Hogarth School – Gardens and maple trees
2009	➤ Centre Wellington District High School – funding for Memorial Garden
2003	➤ Centre Wellington Communities in Bloom competition projects: garden and wall at BT Corner Park; new garden beds in Fergus; community garden (Co-Chairs – Fergus & District Horticultural Society and Elora & Salem Horticultural Society)
2002	➤ Centennial projects: rebuilding of Terry Fox Park with pergolas, Canadian Heritage peony bed, trees, etc.
2001 – 2011	➤ Participation in Fergus Lions Club Home show – providing materials and plants and helping attendees to plant pansies for Mother's Day
1999	➤ National Champions – Communities in Bloom Canada (Committee Chairperson – Roberta Vlietstra)
1998	➤ Provincial Champions – Communities in Bloom Ontario (Committee Chairperson – Roberta Vlietstra)
Past	➤ Sponsored bursaries at Centre Wellington District High School for many years



Greener McQueen