



# ALEXANDRA NEWS



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## We're Reading for Meaning!

Since December, the Alexandra staff have been working with the Ministry of Education Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat and the teachers at Maywood, Memorial and EI McCulley with a focus on the Ontario Curriculum Expectation 1.6. This expectation has us working with students to extend understanding of texts by connecting the ideas in them to their own knowledge and experience, to other familiar texts and to the world around them.

The skill of making connections is considered a higher order thinking skill. Each grade will be focussing on various Big Ideas (themes) to further explore topics with an emphasis on making connections.

There are two types of connections a reader can make. The common connection is a literal connection with something in the story or text. For example, the main character has a dog and I have a dog. Complex connections mean that students are able to read a story and determine the main idea (honesty, responsibility, etc) and is able to make a connection to this.

While at home reading, encourage your children to read for meaning. You can do this by asking questions such as, "Why did the author write this?" or "What does the author want you to learn from this story (e.g stealing is wrong) and then making a connection to this theme.

## THE PARKING LOT

We are always concerned about the Alexandra parking lot at the end of the day. This lot is for STAFF only. During this term, we have many student teachers at our school making our lot very full and busy.

We have two busses requiring access to the parking lot at the end of the day. Many times, parents have left idling cars unattended to pick up students making this lot dangerous for students, not to mention difficult for buses to navigate. As well, many have been entering or exiting the lot in the wrong direction.

Please report to the office any parents leaving cars unattended. **Please do not park or idle in the front lot.**

## Wrapping Paper

The School Council was able to obtain beautiful wrapping paper to be used as a fund raiser for the school. We sold quite a bit of this at Christmas, but want to remind families that we still have quite a bit of ALL OCCASION paper left. This sells for the bargain price of \$2/roll and is available from Mrs. Lutzer in the office.

## Ms Coombes and Mrs. McAuley

Alexandra staff and students would like to congratulate Ms Coombes who will be the literacy coach at Maywood School starting January 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms Coombes will be at Maywood School every other morning and will continue to be Alexandra School's literacy coach as well as the grade six language teacher. This is a great opportunity for Ms Coombes to use her vast literacy skills in a new community. This means that Mrs. McAuley will be spending more time in the grade six and will be teaching this class 3/4 time now.

## Inclement Weather and School Closing

Alexandra Staff would like to commend our parents and caregivers on their help and support during the December 17<sup>th</sup> school closing. While this decision was a surprise to many, our staff were able to contact most families easily and we appreciate everyone's efforts to pick students up safely and quickly. This allowed us to send our staff home in a timely matter so they too were safe. The Inclement Weather reminder follows. Please ensure the school has an accurate list of emergency contacts in such event we need to close the school again.

*An important message about  
Inclement Weather Procedures...*

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures.

Information about transportation changes and school closures will be available on the websites, radio and television stations listed below as soon as it is available. Please do not phone the school for transportation or school closure information.

**Websites:**  
[www.dsbm.org](http://www.dsbm.org)  
[www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca)

**Television Stations:**  
COGECO Cable 10  
CHCH Television  
City TV

**Radio Stations:**  
CKIB 610 am  
CHML 900 am  
KLite - 102.9 fm  
EZRock 105.7 fm  
Y-108 - 107.9 fm  
Wave 94.7 fm  
Htz 97.7 fm  
The River - 105.1 fm

If early dismissal becomes necessary, we will use the emergency numbers you provided on the confidential form which was sent home in September. If your contact numbers have changed, please call the office with your updated information.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The school may be open even though student transportation has been cancelled. The decision to send children to school is always at the parent's discretion.

# KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN

Do you know a child who is turning 4 or 5 in 2009? Help them get ready for their big first day of school with the DSBM's Kindergarten Countdown.

Parents and children are invited to a **KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE** at our school on **Thursday, February 5, 2008** from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Attending an open house is a great way for children and their families to see the school, meet teachers and staff, and register for the coming school year.

To find out all of the information you need to prepare your child for kindergarten, go to: [www.dsbm.org](http://www.dsbm.org) and click on "Kindergarten Countdown".

## 100 and counting!

Alexandra School was built in 1909 and officially opened on Valentine's Day in February 1910. We will be collecting memorabilia and celebrating this grand event in June, 2010.

As you know, planning begins now. If you are interested in volunteering on the reunion committee, please contact the school.

## LICE

While lice is no better or worse at Alexandra it is easily spread and difficult to eliminate.

We appreciate the support of parents dealing with lice.

Our procedure (as approved at School Council).

When you discover your child has head lice, please:

- ▶ notify the school immediately
- ▶ treat your child with a head lice product
- ▶ use a lice comb to remove eggs/nits from hair
- ▶ pull/comb all eggs/nits from each hair shaft that were not removed with the lice comb
- ▶ vacuum carpets, furniture and car seats
- ▶ wash clothes, hats, towels, bedding in hot water and dry in a dryer for 20 minutes (bleach is helpful)
- ▶ stuffed animals should be washed or stored outside the house for one week (5 hours in a freezer will also work)
- ▶ your child may return to school
- ▶ we will check hair for lice or nits before the student returns to class

If LICE is discovered while at school, we will make every effort to contact parents or the emergency contact to take the child home for treatment.

When we are aware of lice, all students in the affected class will receive a letter requesting parents check their child's head and follow the above steps if lice/nits are found. If you aren't sure if it is lice, bring your student to the office and we will check for you.

### OTHER PREVENTION SUGGESTIONS!

- ▶ retreat your child's head 7-10 days following the first treatment
- ▶ wash your child's hair with baby shampoo (no conditioner) and follow up with a vinegar rinse before applying pharmacy treatment
- ▶ add a small amount of TEATREE oil to all shampoo bottles at home
- ▶ contact your family doctor or the public health department for further suggestions

### **YMCA Alexandra**

The YMCA is pleased to be able to provide quality licenced child care for your children here at Alexandra School. We offer child care for:

- ▶ children 6-12 years of age Monday - Friday from 7-8:50 am and 3:30-6:00 pm
- ▶ kindergarten aged children can also access  $\frac{1}{2}$  day daycare in the afternoon

For further information, please contact Sandra at

### **Attendance**

You are reminded to please call the school if your son or daughter will be late or absent from school.

### **Lates**

We realize that there will be times for all of us that circumstances beyond our control will make us late for work or your children late for school. Unfortunately, the number of late students, many being the same ones over and over again, is increasing.

Here are some reasons it is important for children to arrive at school on time:

- ▶ to achieve academically you must take part in the whole lesson
- ▶ to not interrupt the lesson for other students or the teacher
- ▶ to not interrupt the affairs in the office (Support for student, parents, teacher, morning announcements, attendance)
- ▶ to keep a job later in life, you must learn the skill of being on time

Thanks for your support!

### **Didn't I Send My Child To School With A Coat?**

Please encourage your children to check our lost and found on the first floor of the school on a regular basis. There are many good items of clothing in the lost and found and any left at the end of the month are donated to Community Care.

### **Current Fund-raising**

The Cookie Dough fundraiser has been under way for one week now. Take a look at the special incentive for Alexandra families this year - sell 10 tubs get one tub free! As always, we appreciate your support.

**Volunteers Needed** - to help sort and distribute cookie dough on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Interested? Please contact Mrs. Lutzer.

### **Family Dinner**

We are looking forward to our family dinner Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This event has been a school highlight for the last two years. Please plan on joining us.