Merton Elementary School

November Newsletter

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Merton Families,

November is here, bringing cooler weather, shorter days, and another busy month at school.
This month, we will take time to recognize Remembrance Day and reflect on the importance of peace, respect, and the sacrifices made by those who served. These are important conversations, and our staff will be marking the occasion with students in age-appropriate and meaningful ways.

At the end of the month, we will also be holding our first parent-teacher interviews. This is a great opportunity to sit down with your child's teacher, hear about how things are going, celebrate their progress, and talk about any areas where we can continue to support them.
Our teachers and resource team have also been working together over the past several weeks to create and update student IEPs. This process helps ensure that students who require additional support have clear and meaningful goals in place to help them succeed. The partnership between home and school is an important part of this process, and we look forward to connecting with many of you during parent-teacher interviews.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to our Home & School for all of the time, effort, creativity, and hard work that went into creating this year's phenomenal Haunted House! It was wonderful to see the excitement on our students' faces and to give them such a fun and memorable way to celebrate Halloween at school. Events like this take a tremendous amount of planning and volunteer time, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make it happen. Thank you for continuing to bring so much fun and school spirit to our community!

Sincerely,
Ms. Christy Tannous
Principal

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

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IMPORTANT DATES

- **November 6** – H&S Fundraising lunch - pasta
- **November 10** – PED DAY - NO SCHOOL - BASE open
- **November 11** – Remembrance Day
- **November 13** – End of Term 1
- **November 17** – Governing Board meeting #2 7:00 pm on TEAMS
- **November 13** – End of Term 1
- **November 19** – GMAA play day - Cycle 3
- **November 20** – Report Cards made available
  H&S Fundraising lunch - pizza
- **November 25** – Star Student Assembly
- **November 26** – PED DAY - NO SCHOOL - BASE open
  Parent-Teacher Interviews 8am-8pm
- **November 27** – PED DAY - NO SCHOOL - BASE open

COLD WEATHER GEAR

As the temperatures continue to drop, we would like to remind families to make sure students come to school dressed appropriately for the weather. Students spend time outside each day for recess and other activities, so it is important that they are comfortable and prepared for the colder temperatures.
Please remember to send your child with a warm jacket, hat and gloves each day. As we get closer to winter, additional winter clothing such as boots and snow pants will also become necessary.

TERM 1 REPORT CARDS & PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Term 1 will come to an end on November 13, with report cards available to parents through the ClicÉcole portal on November 20.
Parent-teacher interviews will take place in-person on Thursday, November 26, from 8:00am- 8:00pm.
Please note that there will be no school for students on November 26 and 27.

More information about scheduling appointments for parent-teacher interviews will be shared with families at a later date.

SAFETY AT DROP-OFF & DISMISSAL

The safety of our students, families and staff is our top priority, particularly during the busy drop-off and dismissal periods. We ask everyone to please drive slowly, remain alert and be mindful of pedestrians and other vehicles around the school.
For everyone's safety, **please DO NOT PERFORM U-TURNS in front of the school**, especially during drop-off and pick-up.



We also ask parents to please be respectful of our neighbours. **Do not park in or block neighbouring driveways**, even for a short period of time. Our neighbours need to be able to safely enter and exit their properties at all times.

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING #2

Merton's next Governing Board meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00 pm on TEAMS.**
The regular meetings are always open to parents/guardians of Merton students.
The agenda for the meeting will be emailed to all Merton families prior to the meeting.

Merton Governing Board Members for 26-27:

Parents: Steven Merling, Nathalie Guitta, Josh Gonshor, Jarred Coxford, Lauren Tatner (alternate: Matt Karpman)
Staff: Heidi Loerick, Chérine Mikail, Tania Siconolfi, Sandra Longo, Gesell Dufeal
Commissioner: Paola Samuel
Administration: Christy Tannous



Click here to join the meeting.

GRADE 6 INFORMATION

It's never too early to start planning for some important Grade 6 dates!
Our Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony will take place on **Monday, June 21, at Royal West Academy.** A Save the Date has already been emailed to all Grade 6 families, and additional information about the ceremony will be shared later in the school year.

Grade 6 students will also be writing their End-of-Cycle Exams (EOC) later this year. Please refer to the schedule for the specific exam dates. We ask families to avoid scheduling appointments or planned absences on these dates, as there are no makeup days for these exams.

ENRICHMENT

With the support of the School Board's Consultant for Gifted and Exceptional Students, we are excited to begin offering additional enrichment opportunities for our students.

Families of selected students have already been contacted to participate in **Wonder Works** for Grades 1–3 and **Battle of the Books** for Grades 4–6. These programs are set to begin soon and will provide students with opportunities to explore new challenges and extend their learning.

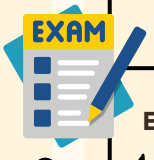
In addition, mathematics enrichment opportunities will be available in the classroom for all students, providing opportunities to strengthen problem-solving skills, think creatively and engage with more challenging mathematical concepts.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

A reminder to families to consult the after-school activities calendar for dates and scheduled activities. Our fall session runs until December, while our Winter session is set to begin in late-January.
Click here for the Fall ECA calendar.

A special thank you to the members of our GB subcommittee who helped create a survey to gather parent feedback on the types of activities families would like to see offered. The results will help guide our planning as we look ahead to our winter and spring after-school sessions.
Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their feedback!

GRADE 6 EOC EXAM SCHEDULE



Français Langue Seconde	**April 26 to May 10**
English Language Arts	**May 18 to June 1**
Mathematics	**June 8, 9 & 10**



OMETZ PARENTING GROUPS

We would like to offer information on an opportunity to join or form a Parenting Group through Ometz.

This organization centers on Social Emotional Learning, Family Systems support and Community outreach. Ometz Parenting Groups offer parents a welcoming, judgment-free space to connect with other families, share experiences, and receive guidance from a professional who specializes in children's mental health.

Groups meet once a month, either in participants' homes or on Zoom, and discuss topics relevant to their children's ages and needs, such as managing emotions, building self-esteem, bullying, social media, sibling relationships, and puberty.

The program costs $50 per month and runs from September to June. Parents can join an existing group or create their own group with friends, making it a great opportunity to learn practical parenting strategies, gain expert advice, and feel supported through the challenges and joys of raising children.

For more information and to register please click on this link:

https://www.ometz.ca/gethelp/families+youth+and+individuals/services+for+families/parenting+groups+and+workshops/

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT... CONT'D

- Halloween was a great success at Merton! It was wonderful to see all of our students and staff come to school dressed up and ready to celebrate. Our annual costume parade was once again a highlight of the day, with lots of creative costumes and excitement throughout the school. A huge thank you goes to our Home & School for all the time, creativity, and hard work that went into creating an incredible Haunted House for our students. Every class had a chance to visit, making it a fun and memorable Halloween for everyone!

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

FREE ONLINE RESOURCES & EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES

Along with the Consultants at the EMSB, I'm happy to share with families a number of FREE resources that can help support and strengthen student learning at home. These resources offer additional opportunities for students to practise key skills, reinforce concepts learned in class, and build confidence in their learning.

Please see the resources below and feel free to explore the ones that best meet your child's needs and interests.



EMSB Educational Resources
AlloProf (available in English and in French)
Ministère de l'Éducation - L'École Ouverte

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Haven't been keeping up with our socials? Here's what you missed in October:



- Our Cycle 3 students went on their first GMAA play day to play soccer. Select students will be going on a volleyball GMAA play day on November 19.



- The students looked their best on Picture Day last October 6 & 7. Since only a handful of students were absent on those 2 days, the photographer has asked that those families contact him to get their photograph taken at the studio. Michael Musacchio can be reached at musaphoto@hotmail.com



- A big thank you to all the families who donated to the Terry Fox school run campaign as well as for coming to cheer on the students during their run. Together, Merton raised an incredible $4466!



- Brian Ewenson, astronaut trainer, came to show the students what the daily life of an astraunaut is. His presentation was out of this world!

- Merton has successfully completed all required fire drills. A lockdown drill will also take place later in the school year as part of our emergency preparedness protocols. Families will be informed of the date in advance, allowing parents the opportunity to help prepare their children for the drill.

