

The Northlea News

Principal:

Kathy Ribeiro

Vice-Principals:

Jeff Little

Becky Jenkins

Office Administrator:

Judy Keith

Office Secretary:

Helen Saroglou

Superintendent:

Rauda Dickinson

Home & School President &
School Council Chair:

Wilmar Kortleever

Trustee:

Gerri Gershon

Administrators' Message

With the new reporting timelines we are now nearing the end of Term I and reports will be going home mid-February.

We have found that when reports come home, it is often just as stressful for the parents as it is for the students. As a parent, it is important for you to know how to interpret your child's report. Whether your child is a high achiever who needs more challenge or a struggling student who needs more help, it's important to discuss your child's successes and challenges, and how to follow up. A report is not just the symbol of the end of a term; rather, it should represent the beginning of

a process.

We would suggest you begin this process by first focusing on the positive aspects of the report, regardless of the grades your child brings home. Starting on a positive note shows your child that you want to focus on their accomplishments and not just the areas that need improvement. For some, this might mean highlighting a strong effort or a positive Learning Skills comment.

The reporting period marks a new beginning to set goals and reflect on past work habits, achievements and challenges. The parent-teacher interview is an important component to finding some of the an-

swers to these questions. Then, creating a plan to maximize future success is an important part of every child's education.

Help your child set realistic and attainable goals for the next reporting period. Outline ways in which these goals can be met, as well as rewards and consequences if they are not. Type the "official plan" and post one copy in a prominent household location, another in your child's binder, and forward another to the teacher.

Involving your child provides him/her ownership and important in this process, and makes the report important only to you, but also to your child!

Kindergarten Registration

This is a reminder to all parents/guardians that registration has begun for children entering Junior Kindergarten in September 2012. Within the TDSB children are age appropriately placed according to their year of birth. Children who were born in 2008 are eligible for Junior Kindergarten in the fall. Please call

the school office at (416) 396-2395 to schedule an appointment. The following documents are required for school registration:

- Proof of Address (2 pieces of documentation to verify address such as a property tax statement, proof of purchase or lease, utility bill, etc.)

ity bill, etc.)

- Birth Certificate or Passport
- Ontario Health Card
- Immunization Record

Finally, Northlea is closed to Optional Attendance so only children living in our immediate catchment area may register at Northlea.



A Forest of Reading at Northlea

It may be just the beginning of the New Year, but it's obvious that many Northlea students have resolved to do a lot of reading this year. Over the past few weeks, the Library has begun offering three of the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Forest of Reading Programs: the Blue Spruce, Silver Birch, and Red Maple Award programs.

These three awards are readers' choice awards, which give students from across Ontario a chance to share their opinions about what books they enjoy most. The Silver Birch and Red Maple programs are open to any students, who are interested, in grades 5 and 6 (Silver Birch), and 7 and 8 (Red Maple). This year, Ms. Jenkins is once again running the Silver Birch program and Ms. Millar and Ms. Capes are in charge of the Red Maple program.

Here's how it works. Students select books to read from a list of ten nominated books. Participating students who read a minimum of five books are eligible to vote for their favourite book in

April. The votes are tallied from students all across Ontario to choose a winner. The winning author will be announced at an awards ceremony to be held at Harbourfront in May.

Copies of the Silver Birch and Red Maple books are available from the school library, but they may also be found at the public library or may be purchased from children's bookstores. After reading each book, Silver Birch students will see Ms. Jenkins to have a brief book talk and to get their Silver Birch passport signed. Red Maple students will see either Ms. Millar or Ms. Capes to have their book talks. So far, more than 40 grade 5 and 6 students have signed up to participate in Silver Birch and more than 30 grade 7 and 8 students have signed up for Red Maple. Some students have already finished reading some of the books and eagerly appear at Ms. Jenkins, Ms. Millar and Ms. Capes' doors to have their book talks. Although the sign-up deadline has officially passed, any students who would still like to join are welcome to

pick up a form from Ms. Jenkins or Ms. Millar.

In addition, Kindergarten and Primary students are participating in the Blue Spruce program with Ms. Millar and their classroom teachers. Each week they will be visiting the library to read one of the ten nominated picture books with Ms. Millar and then the students will have an opportunity to discuss the book, rate the book, and complete a reading comprehension activity. After ten weeks, they will be ready to vote for their favourite story! Our library has multiple copies of each nominated picture book, and when the program ends in April, these copies will be put into the library collection for the students to enjoy again and again.

We're excited to be reading and talking about so many wonderful Canadian books in the Library right now. Tune in this April to hear which ones make it to the top of our lists!

Ms. Millar

Teacher
-Librarian

Lunar New Year

January 23rd, 2012 was a very important day for many people all over the world and a special day for students in Mme Fisher's classroom. This day marked the beginning of a new year for people of Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Mongolian ancestry and their Diaspora. Many followers of Buddhism, Confucianism and Daoism also hold this day important for its symbolism of renewal. Governments, businesses and markets use the Gregorian calendar to regulate the days but use the lunar calendar to mark cultural and traditional days of significance such as the New Year.

For many in East Asia and South East Asia, the Lunar New Year is associated with spring and regardless of one's location it is always marked with great community festivities, gathering of families and feasts.

In Korea, and for many of Korean ancestry, this day is referred to as "Seollal." It is a day when families visit each other, paying respects to their elders. Games and food are always part of the festivities.

In China, and for many of Chinese ancestry, this day is one of the most important traditional holidays. It is one of the longest, lasting for 15 days, and ends with the Lantern Festival. Festivities vary based on regional customs but are mainly centered around



family, visiting of friends and giving (by married couples) of red coloured envelopes to the elderly or unmarried juniors. These "red pockets" often contain money.

For followers of the Chinese Zodiac, this is the year of the Dragon. People born in 1916, 1928, 1950, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000 were also born in the Year of the Dragon.

In Vietnam, and for many of Vietnamese ancestry, this day is referred to as "Tet". Similar to the Chinese and Korean New Year traditions, Tet is considered a family oriented holiday with time spent on visiting family and friends and feasting.

In Mongolia, and for many of Mongolian ancestry, the lunar new

year is referred to as "Tsagaan Sar." This day is marked with a large feast, the giving of gifts and family gathering. Tsagaan Sar is commonly celebrated on the same

Willy Wonka Jr.

Exciting news about Northlea's musical! We have finalized the dates for our production of Willy Wonka Jr. and the performances will be Monday, May 28th—Thursday, May 31st. Information regarding tickets will be available in early May.

day as the Chinese Lunar New Year but has also been celebrated in the same time as Losar, the Tibetan New Year, which sometimes occur one lunar month after.

In recognition of this special celebration, students in Mme Fisher's class enjoyed a parade around the school with the noisemakers and dragon hand puppets that they had made.

Important Upcoming Dates

- **Tue., Jan. 31**
SK French Immersion On-line Application Deadline
- **Wed., Feb. 1**
Trustee Gerri Gershon Ward Forum
(Bedford Park Public School—7:00 pm)
- **Wed., Feb. 8—Fri. Feb. 10**
Grade 7 Trip to Ottawa
- **Feb. 10-29**
Parent Census Survey (JK-6)
(Please complete & return to school.)
- **Mon., Feb. 13**
Report Cards Home
- **Home & School Council Meetings:**
Thurs., Mar. 22 (Funding Proposals)
Wed., Apr. 4 (School Model for 2012-13)
Thurs., June 7 (Annual General Meeting)

Important Meeting about School Board Budget Crunch!

At the last Ward Forum, Trustee Gerri Gershon of the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) already expressed serious concerns about the Budget. The TDSB currently faces a deficit of more than \$85 million with no reserves available. This will likely mean major problems and potential cuts to the system!

Together with Trustees Laskin and Rutka, Ms. Gershon hosts an important Ward Forum about the 2012 TDSB Budget Process. Please consider joining her on Wednesday, February 1st at Bedford Park Public School (81 Ranleigh Boulevard), 7:00-9:00 p.m.

2012 Family Fun Night: Thursday, March 1st!

Welcome to the official launch of the 2012 Family Fun Night fundraising campaign!

Northlea Family Fun Night will be held on **Thursday March 1st, from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

For those unfamiliar with this event, Family Fun Night is the largest single fundraising event at Northlea. It is a night of fun for kids of all ages! Family Fun Night turns the school into an indoor carnival, with games, food and loads of entertainment. Classrooms get involved by hosting room activities, such as *the fish pond* and *nail salon*. The funds raised go toward numerous curriculum-based school initiatives that support various Northlea departments, including Technology, Physical Education and the Music and Theatre programs.

Last year, Family Fun Night launched many new initiatives, and we are happy to announce that many of them will be back, based on their popularity and success. Look forward to seeing the *Photo Booth* as well as the *Raffle*, *Silent Auction* and *Art Auction*.

Now—the big question is...**how can you help?**

There are numerous ways, including: sponsorship, social series, donating goods to the raffle and silent auction and/or volunteering your time. It takes over \$10,000 and hundreds of hours of volunteer work to put on an event of this size. It cannot be accomplished without a team effort from the entire school!

Please surf to the school website, www.northleaschool.ca, for more about

- Sponsorships (contact Lynda Debono at lynda@debono.ca for more information),
- Social Series (contact Nancy Baillie at nancy.baillie@sympatico.ca for more information),
- Raffle/Silent Auction items (please donate!)
- Volunteer Opportunities (urgently sought, among other things: help with graphic design)

For more information or to get involved, please contact your co-chairs for the 2012 Family Fun Night:

Erica Robertson and Gina Fortsas
erica.robertson@rocketmail.com
louieandgina@rogers.com