



NEWSLETTER

November 2009

Principals Message

Dates to Remember:

- Nov. 17—Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Nov. 20—Full Disclosure
- Dec. 2—Undergrad Awards in Fergie Jenkins Gym
- Dec. 18—Last day of classes before Christmas Holidays
- Jan. 4—First day of classes after Christmas Holidays
- Jan. 13—University Application Deadline
- Jan. 25—First day of Semester 1 exams
- Feb. 1—P.A. Day
- Feb. 1—College Application Deadline
- Feb. 2—First day of Semester 2

Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out.

...Robert Collier

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next School Council meeting will be November 16, 2009. Wende Badder will be chairing this meeting. Please join us if you can. Future tentative dates are January 18th, March 22nd and April 19th.

This newsletter coincides with the first report card of semester 1. It serves as an invitation to come and speak with your son/daughter's teachers about their academic progress on Tuesday, November 17, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A second term still remains to address classroom concerns so that students can achieve all of their credits at the end

of the semester.

Once again, interviews will be conducted on an "appointment" basis. If you think that you will require more time with a teacher than a 10 minute interview will allow, arrange an appointment with them, or schedule a telephone call when it is more convenient. If you are unable to attend on

Tuesday, you can call us at 354-1740 or visit us at the school in person.

Included with the report card is a Response Form. Please complete this form and have your son/daughter return it to their homeroom teacher or the main office.

Literacy



In order to receive an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, students must successfully complete the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (initially administered in Grade 10), or receive credit in the Grade 12 Ontario Literacy Course.

Literacy continues to be a priority at John McGregor Secondary School. There are a number of strategies that we employ to ensure that our students have the best chance possible of being successful on the OSSLT.

Some of these literacy strategies are listed below:

All of our Grade 9 students take English each day all year with the Grade 9 Mathematics course so they will be exposed to literacy and numeracy all year long.

Throughout the year, students begin doing a series of "subject specific" literacy questions. Many of the assignments are designed in every subject area, similar to the types of questions students would encounter on the OSSLT. All teachers are

asked to incorporate these types of questions into their everyday curriculum.

Before the test, teachers introduce students to the actual types of questions they would encounter on the OSSLT by having them complete practice tests, using past test questions provided by the EQAO. Teachers mark this work and students are instructed on common mistakes.

All staff and students are involved in a "Literacy Week", both in November and in the spring (before

Literacy (continued)

the test) to emphasize the importance of Literacy at JMSS. We are also beginning a new staff-lead initiative in which teachers from our English department meet with their elementary counterparts from our family of schools. The goal of this initiative is to discuss and implement strategies that may help our students with the transition from the elementary program to the rigorous secondary curriculum.



Grade 12 students can take the On-

tario Literacy Course as an alternative way to satisfy the literacy component required for graduation. In this course, the process of reading and writing is emphasized. Over the semester, students have to master the same types of questions that they would encounter on the OSSLT. The Literacy course has been offered this semester.

If you have an hour, will you not improve that hour, instead of idling it away?

...Lord Chesterfield

JMSS Students Go to Work

Grade 9 – Approximately 85% of our Grade 9 students went off to work on November 4 to have a real life experience in the world of work as part of our annual “Take Our Kids to Work” day. This is a great opportunity for young people to get their first real work experience. On the same day, local grade 8 students spent the day at JMSS for their first

experience of high school life. We plan to bring them back for a number of other opportunities to make the transition to high school easier.



Learning and Resource Centre

There are a number of resources that can be accessed by all students, whether identified or not. They include:

1. **The resource website.** Go to www.teacherweb.com. Click on Ontario, Johnmcgregorse-donary school, then Learning and enrichment centre.
2. Remember that many of **the novels and textbooks are now in an electronic form.** Parents wishing to have copies at home can contact the school and send in a jump
3. **Another website** has been set up for Literacy as well as English as a Second language. Among the many links on this page (near the end of the site) is a practice site for OSSLT –for all the grade 10 students who have to write the literacy test. There are also reading sites that are a bit easier to begin with. You can access the link by going to : <http://sites.google.com/site/esleddliteracyresources/>
4. Our **writing and reading software can also be downloaded, free, at home.** Go to www.premierathome.com and use the code: lkdsb, enable. Download the Talking word processor, the Universal reader and the Ultimate Talking dictionary. There are others but these will be the best to start with. Parents can call the school and arrange a quick lesson to learn how to use the software at home, or simply access the teaching videos at the top of the program screens under the ‘help’ icon.

EQAO MATHEMATICS TEST

All of our Grade 9 applied and academic math students are required to write the EQAO Grade 9 Test of Mathematics at the end of semester 2 each year. This test is not a requirement for graduation. The results of this test are used by the Ministry to analyze the effectiveness of the Grade 9 math curriculum. The test written last June has been marked and results were recently returned to students.

Community Service Hours

We are constantly reminding students that they must complete 40 hours of community service in order to graduate. Sometime during their high school career, students must record 40 volunteer hours, along with their supervisor’s signature, on a sheet provided by the Guidance Department. This sheet is then submitted to the principal for approval. Please ensure that your son/daughter continues to accumulate volunteer time.



Student Services

Mrs. Regan is in her fourth year as Curriculum leader of the department. She shares her duties with Mr. Lewis, Mrs. Beuckelare and Mrs. Carleton. Mr. Knight is also in the office to assist Mrs. Beuckelare and Mrs. Carleton with Student Success here at J.M.S.S. Mrs. Lawrence and Mrs. Harrison are the secretaries in Student Services. Our office space displays the four Pathways that students might choose for their futures: Apprenticeships, College, University and Workplace. Make sure to visit www.step4step.ca to read more about these pathways or contact a counselor for more details.

Over the past two months, more than 20 universities and colleges have had presentations here, informing our students about post

secondary choices. The College Information Night was recently held at St. Clair College. The University Information Program was held at C.K.S.S. and many of our potential University-bound students attended this event.



Those students who plan to apply to university (\$115 fee) and/or college (\$95 fee) are reminded that this is done on-line. PIN numbers are being handed out for those university-bound students. OEN's (Ontario Education Numbers) are available in Student Services. Apply before Christmas to avoid the pressure of meeting deadlines. Also, to those potential graduates, this is a gentle reminder that you **must** complete

your 40 hours of Community Service before you can walk across the stage in June. Don't wait too long! Finish your hours and submit the appropriate paperwork A.S.A.P. to our office. The deadline for this is May 1st.



During the month of September, grade nine students received an orientation session to learn more about Student Services and what we have to offer them as they progress through our building. These students also just participated in the "Take Our Kids To Work" event on Wednesday, November 4th.

Co-operative Education

CURIOUS ABOUT YOUR

FUTURE?

Why not try COOPERATIVE EDUCATION and "test a career" before leaving high school to enter the work force or enroll in a college or university?

Cooperative Education is a high school program designed to let you earn up to 14 credits while combining in-school classes with an out-of-school experience at a "work" placement. The teacher, school and training supervisor co-operate to design a job description which meets your career needs.

Cooperative Education helps you:

- Test a career
- Explore your interest and aptitudes
- Develop specific job skills, and
- Gain experience to put on your resume

Cooperative Education courses combine a subject you are studying in school, known as your "host course", with a related placement out-of-school. For example, if you are interested in Journalism, you will learn how to apply the expectations you covered in your English classes to a newspaper reporter placement....OR....if you like hands-on types of work, perhaps you can utilize the skills you developed in your auto shop course by doing a placement as an automotive service technician.

Before placement begins, you participate in a unit called Pre-placement Orientation. Topics include job application forms, interview skills, resume writing and workplace safety. Depending upon your program, you will return to school periodically to discuss your

experiences at your placement.

Evaluation in all Cooperative Education courses include some of the following items: log sheets, journal writing, placement supervisor's evaluation of your performance, career research, and more.

Admission Requirements: To be accepted into any Cooperative Education program, students require:

- Suitable host course
- Completed application form
- Permission from parent/guardian
- Personal interview with Co-op teacher
- Commitment to the program.

If you are interested in Cooperative Education, talk to someone in the Cooperative Education Department, room 154, or Student Services, room 104.

More Co-operative Education News



A co-operative education experience, commonly known as “co-op”, provides academic credit for structured job experience. Seventy one John McGregor students are currently out in the community at different placements. All students are presently working towards the completion of a Career Fair project. On November 26th, the students will display their projects at Queen Elizabeth Public School from 8:45 a.m.—10:10 a.m. and Victor Lauriston Public School from 10:25 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

Languages Department

Language students at JMSS continue to improve their language skills through project/activity based units of study. One of the big shockers for many grade nine students is to find out that their French teacher is going to speak French often. Once the initial shock wears off, however, students are finding this approach to be fun and beneficial. The best way to learn a language is to hear it first and speak it second.

Opportunities for exchanges to foreign countries continue to be available to JMSS students. Contact Ms Weir or Mr. Campeau for details.

The Languages and Arts Departments are planning a return trip to Europe for March Break -- 2011. Students going on this fabulous educational trip will be visiting Paris, Rome and Florence. We will be



visiting all of the most famous tourists attractions as well as some lesser known, but equally beautiful places. The emphasis will be on art and culture. This once-in-a-lifetime experience is sure to broaden the horizons of the students who participate. We will start promotion for this trip early in the new year. If you have any questions- call the school and ask for Mr. Campeau.

Canada and World Studies

It has been a busy year for everyone so far but especially in the Canada and World Studies Department. Students have been working hard on their studies, assignments, tests and even exams (as Civics is a half credit course). There have been a number of key events and trips that the students have been involved in. Again this term as in past years the Grade Nine Geography classes went to Niagara Falls. Students visited the Sir Adam Beck Hydro Plant, the Rainforest Cafe, went on the Niagara Glen Nature Reserve Hike and road on the Whirlpool Jet Boat. Students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gained a very positive learning experience. As well, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Bovin and Mr. Harwood are making final preparations for the March Break Trip to France,

Belgium and The Netherlands. Their destinations will include the following places: Vimy Ridge, Paris, Ypres, Arras, Antwerp and Amsterdam. While in Europe, students will see the Arc de Triumphe, the Eiffel Tower, The Louvre, the Bastille, Notre Dame Cathedral, Beumont Hamel Memorial Park, The Palace of Versailles, Flanders Field Museum, Menin Gate, Passchendaele, Tyne Cot Cemetery, Groesbeek Cemetery, and Anne Frank House just to mention a few.



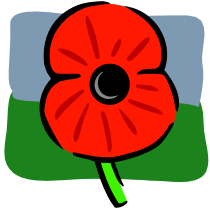
Recently, over forty JMSS Students were involved with the historic Last Post ceremony that took place at Maple Leaf Cemetery. Students acted as an honorary guard for past veterans being honored with military grave markers. The Lt Governor headed the rededication with other dignitaries from the military, Legion and City Council. This event was of monumental importance to both the local and larger community as a whole. Students gained an invaluable experience that made a huge impression upon all those involved.



The department was also involved

Canada and World Studies (continued)

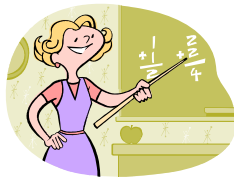
in the Remembrance Day Assembly in November. This solemn occasion reinforced to the students the many sacrifices made by Canadians in times of war and peacekeeping. Similarly, all Grade 10 History students were given the pleasure of reliving World War One through the **History Comes Alive** presentation. In this presentation an actor reenacted the true story of a Canadian soldier's life at the Western Front during WW1. Students got a much deeper appreciation of what it was like to live through trench warfare by participation in this program.



Mathematics

The Mathematics Department has begun an exciting semester of learning. Each course is underway and is now deeply involved in curriculum. As midterm report cards have been sent out, we would like to remind students that extra help is always available. Please feel free to talk to anyone in the mathematics department, guidance or administration if you would like to receive some help.

Our grade 9 students will be participating in the provincial



EQAO testing this June, 2010. There will also be opportunities to write the Waterloo Mathematics Competition for all grade levels beginning in February. If you are interested in writing the Math Competition for your grade level, please speak with either Mr. Orr or Mrs.

Curl. We encourage all academic students to participate in these competitions.

Mr. Orr has begun a grade 9 Math Club which runs every Tuesday during lunch hour. If you are interested in joining this club, please feel free to stop by room 128. Students work through some mathematical puzzles, games and problems. It is lots of fun for everyone!

At any time if you have any questions about math courses at JMSS, please do not hesitate to contact guidance, administration or Mrs. Curl.

Business

JMSS Entrepreneurship classes have been working on exciting changes to the Panther Den including new clothing designs, new products and changes to the physical layout of the store. Watch for the new looks soon!

Accounting students have been putting their accounting skills to good use through everyone's favourite board game monopoly...with a learning twist.

Introduction to Business students have been busy conducting many different blind taste tests to determine the role marketing plays in our purchasing decisions.

The Panther Den is run by students and teachers of the JMSS Business Department with the goal of providing students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience running a retail operation. If your student is interested in volunteering, please contact Mr. Martin or Mrs. Dekoning at the school.

Also, a reminder that school clothing and other products make great Christmas gifts for your Panther, please contact the school if interested.

Science—JMSS Physics Students Tour the Perimeter Institute

The Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics is a research institute devoted to foundational issues in theoretical physics at the highest levels of international excellence. The Perimeter Institute began in the summer of 1999 spearheaded by [Mike Lazaridis](#), founder and Co-CEO of Research In Motion (RIM) — maker of the successful BlackBerry™. Some of the current areas of research that the students were exposed to include:



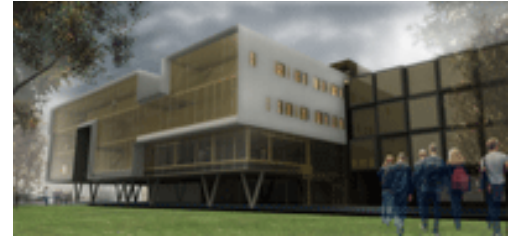
1. [Cosmology](#)
2. [Particle Physics](#)
3. [Quantum Foundations](#)
4. [Quantum Gravity](#)
5. [Quantum Information Theory](#)
6. [Superstring Theory](#)

Perimeter Institute attracts some of the most outstanding minds in physics to act as [Distinguished Research Chairs](#), including Professor Stephen Hawking.

While at the institute, the students explored various displays, including a full-scale model of NASA's Mars Rover, and some took a spin in a human gyroscope. In the af-

The ability to convert ideas to things is the secret to outward success.

...Henry Ward Beecher



ternoon, the group toured the Faculty of Science at the University of Waterloo.

Perhaps with experiences like these, some of our outstanding students will decide to pursue a career in theoretical physics and one day play a significant role in the discoveries of the future.

Booster Club News

The John McGregor Booster Club is working hard to raise money for "extras" in our building. The Booster Club runs bingos every month and we are always looking for bingo helpers; please contact the school if you are interested. All money raised by the Booster Club goes directly to programs in our school. We are currently fundraising for a sprinkler system for the football/soccer field. The Booster Club also supports programs such as art, drama, music, athletics etc.

through the Booster club and use them to make all your purchases. Gift card order forms are available on the school website under the School News section. Order forms are due November 23rd and December 7th. Most gift cards are available for pickup the Friday of the same week; some require an extra week for arrival. **Support JMSS by ordering your gift cards today!**

Attention Parents!! Did you know you can help support JMSS just by buying groceries, gas and other necessities? Purchase gift cards



Welcome to Panther Nation

Proud Member of the [Lambton Kent District School Board](#)

Library News

The library is continuing with the Recycling Fundraiser.

Please drop off any used cell phones, digital cameras, printer ink cartridges or laser cartridges for recycling

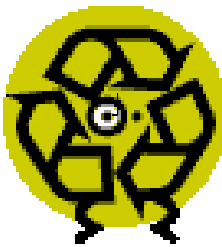


Actions, looks, words, and steps form the alphabet by which you may spell character.

...Johann Kasper Lavater

Test Your Green Vocabulary...

E V G G E L F R H Y S F S E C E C R R A
 S A Y F L D E P E N G A O O W L X S J L
 U M N T W O A U O C G R N E I B H T Y B
 E P B L I B B I F E Y S E M G A E N C Q
 R I S C Y L S A S L E C A N L W Q E J G
 K R C K J S I U L R I T L T E E Z A E V
 K E Z Z I J O B V W E S E E S N J V L B
 O P Q M Z H Y A A W A R S Z Q E H K B Z
 U O E K N I T L Z N N R M O Q R B J A W
 Y W C E L I I R N A I L M U F D I Z D F
 Q E E Q O M O Z T K A A W I U F O L A K
 Z R R N D F C I V L I Z T R N Q F Y R W
 G E B B M N V E C U D E R S N G U I G U
 M Z B T N E M N O R I V N E U Q E G E H
 Q R F N F P O L L U T I O N A S L U D H
 D P O U C A R B O N D I O X I D E J O Y
 K A E T N I R P T O O F N O B R A C I Y
 Q L C P E F Z O Y F K I M I G K W N B W
 S H F W Z T R D H K Z L S L G Z P Q Q I
 H O W S D H M V H X Q K G S C U M L E X



ALTERNATIVE FUELS
 BIODEGRADABLE
 BIOFUEL
 CARBON DIOXIDE
 CARBON FOOTPRINT
 CLIMATE
 CONSERVATION
 EMISSIONS
 ENERGY

FOSSIL FUEL
 GLOBAL WARMING
 GREENHOUSE GAS
 POLLUTION
 RECYCLE
 REDUCE
 RENEWABLE
 REUSE



The future depends on what we do in the present.

...Mahatma Gandhi



Yearbooks are on sale now for \$45.00. If you would like your copy personalized you must give your name, along with \$5.00 to Mrs. Locke before the Christmas break.

October, 2009

The senior Physical Education classes attended Camp Cataraqui for their annual outdoor education trip. Fifty six students participated in a variety of activities including a scavenger hunt, orienteering (both day and night) and cooperative games. The weather was perfect....well a bit cold but the gang was up for anything and had an awesome time. Thanks again for a great trip!



Final Note: As we work as a team to develop our school growth plan for this year, I encourage each of you, as parents, as students, as teachers and as support staff to get involved. Whether it is on a school committee, the school council, student parliament, on a team or as a member of a club, we encourage and welcome you to share your thoughts and voices. Working together, we can accomplish *amazing* results in our school and community.

JOHN MCGREGOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Chatham, Ontario N7M 2C6
519-354-1740
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 **Lambton Kent**
District School Board

Principal: Pam Bradshaw

Vice Principals: Cathy Castle, Michael McDonald

Student Services: Laurie Regan

**SHARE THIS NEWSLETTER WITH SOMEONE
WITHOUT STUDENTS AT JMSS**

Check out all the information on the JMSS web-
site at <http://jmss.lkdsb.net>