

MEADOW GREEN NEWS

Director's Message

In the newspapers recently, homework has become a major topic of discussion. There are those who feel that evenings are a time for the family to be together without the imposition of homework. Time needs to be left for lessons and activities like soccer, ballet, gymnastics and swimming. Others believe it is a time for even more academic lessons and tutoring, even beyond the daily homework routine. With so many points of view, it's no wonder that there is so much discussion regarding homework.

Those against homework

argue that the work assigned is often irrelevant and useless - busy work at best. The parent child relationship is often strained as the parent tries to get the child to sit and do homework for hours. Many criticize the amount of homework given and the fact that it leaves no time for family interaction.

Those for homework see it as an opportunity for a student to consolidate skills learned that day in class. It gives parents the chance to become supportive participants in their child's education and to discuss ideas and concepts together.

Reviewing work on a daily basis enhances the learning process and better equips students to develop strong, consistent study habits.

We at Meadow Green Academy are very interested to hear what you, the parents think about this issue. We value your opinions and would like to facilitate a **focus group** to discuss both the content and length of homework, and to examine possible options. Please contact the office if you would like to be involved in this.

Georganne MacKenzie

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Spring Concert *Pirates of Penzance*



April 29, 2008
7:00 pm
Meadowvale Theatre

Bring on the Summer by: *Bradley Tower*

The long, cold winter was all around us. It was cold and snow was everywhere. I hope the snow will melt soon and the weather will get warm. Spring days get longer and the sun gets hotter. The grass gets greener and the trees start to show their leaves. Birds are everywhere. The lakes are bright blue. The water is warm. I can go for a swim. Hello summer, I'm glad you're back!



Special points of interest:

- JK and Grade 2 Buddy Reading
- Swimming Lessons
- Clubs
- High School Physical Education
- Community BBQ
- Summer School

MISSION TRIP 2008



On March 15, 2008 a group of tired, but inspired students and adults returned from the Dominican Republic mission trip. We were gone for a short time, but accomplished much. We hand mixed and poured concrete for curbs and ramps to enhance a school named "The Lighthouse". With the children looking on, we also hauled pails of concrete, by hand, up ladders and poured it into frames to reinforce the walls of a new church building. Tired, but satisfied we returned to the compound each evening knowing that we had contributed to the work of God in that community. Members of our team had the opportunity to also teach art and English classes and they played sports with the students at the school.

This was a great trip and we were all thankful for the opportunity to be a blessing and to be so blessed. We returned home as different people, changed for the better by our experience in the Dominican. We highly recommend this mission trip experience to other students and staff at MGA.

Thanks for all your prayers and support.

Julian - What really amazed me on the mission trip were the smiles on the children's faces. We spent our time building sidewalks and helping to improve a school and neighbourhood. What touched me was seeing that even though the people have very little, they seem happy. We have everything we could ever need and want, but we still complain about every little thing. This was a big lesson for me.

Michael - The Dominican Republic mission trip was an amazing experience. The people we met were very passionate and enthusiastic and they even invited us into their homes. I enjoyed helping to build the school and we also got to spend time with the students, which was fun.

Elise - The mission trip made me aware of how other people live and the difficulties they have to face. I realized that I need to get involved and help others who don't have as much as I do. I loved the trip and I want to do more mission work in the future.

Olivia - The mission trip to the Dominican Republic was incredible. It was hard work, but really fun because we were helping others. People there are very poor, but very friendly. I learned that if everyone does a little bit to help, it can make a huge difference in people's lives.



Developing Leaders that will Impact the World!

ACSI Public Speaking Festival

The ACSI Public Speaking Festival, held on February 28, proved to be an entertaining and inspiring event. In order to determine who would participate in the festival, speech competitions were held in various grades. The 10 winners represented Meadow Green in the ACSI competition and kept the judges enthralled with very engaging speeches. Congratulations to all the participants for performing so well on the day.



Parent Teacher Interviews Science Fair Displays April 14 & 15

Students have been working very hard on their Science Fair projects. The projects will be on display in the Gym during the grade 4 to 11 Parent Teacher Interviews. Please take some time to stop by and view these very original and interesting experiments and presentations. Well done to all the students involved.

Looking for Gently Used Running Shoes

On May 11th, during the Mississauga Marathon, Chartwell Baptist Church (1880 Lakeshore Rd W) will be collecting running shoes and sorting them for delivery to Malawi, Africa. We are looking for gently used running shoes. If you are able to donate, please drop them off at the MGA office. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

CLUBS

North Campus - Clubs start April 21

South Campus - Clubs start May 5

Don't forget to sign up!

30 Hour Famine: World Vision

On March 28th, 23 students from grades six to nine made an important commitment to sacrifice food for 30 hours in order to recognize and help those who do not have food on a daily basis. All the students should be extremely proud of their hard work and consideration of those less fortunate than themselves. Over a thousand dollars was raised by the students, with the proceeds going to World Vision.

**JK to Grade 3
Swimming lessons start
Thursday, April 17th**

JK and Grade 2 Buddy Reading

The JK class is thrilled to have their grade 2 reading buddies visit their class every Wednesday. They love to listen to their big friends read exciting stories to them. The JK's are eager to show their buddies what words they can already read. There's a whole lot of reading going on!!



High School Physical Education

Students have completed units on basketball and volleyball and are currently in the middle of their badminton unit. Health education classes have also recently begun with grades 9/10 studying Healthy Active Living, while grade 11 is looking at Healthy Reproduction. Student groups are responsible in leading their peers in a two-day elective student-directed activity. The class recently enjoyed their time at Canlan Ice Sports in Oakville, while learning skating and ice hockey skills led by Chris Cini and Julian Petelycky. We look forward to many more student-directed activities in the weeks to come.





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A **BIG THANK YOU** to the Boyle Family
for donating carpet squares for all of the
lockers.

John W. Boyle Building Group
General Contractor
416-608-0327

Community BBQ

Save the date!
Friday, May 30
Bouncy castles, rides,
games and lots of
great food! Don't miss it!

**Please contact the office if
you would like to be a sponsor!**



Summer School

June 23 - August 8

We are accepting registration for
Summer School 2008.

Academics and Fun
Rolled into One!

Please call 905-273-3344 for more
information.



Turn Off the Tube

PARENT'S CORNER

Studies show that the more preschool-aged boys are exposed to television violence and violent cartoons in particular, the more likely they are to act aggressively, be disobedient and get into trouble later in life. Parents do not realize that preschool children don't distinguish between fantasy and reality the way that older children and adults do. To them it's all very real. If your children are visual learners, their 'picture' of the world will be determined by how much television they watch versus the amount of 'reality' they engage in. Unfortunately, the amount of television children watch today equals more than the time dedicated to reading and playing outdoors combined. Four out of five Canadian youth are not active enough to meet international guidelines for optimal growth and development. For every negative, ten positives are required to counteract it. Television certainly has its negatives. While it's impossible to avoid evil in the world, it is possible to censor it in the home. It is up to parents to filter through the material and guard their children's minds and hearts from the harmful effects of one of the world's most powerful gateways of communication. Teach your children not only what they can and can't watch, but why. Help them regulate their own viewing habits.

Focus on the Family, March 2008

IMPORTANT DATES

April 14 - 15	G4 - 11 Parent Teacher Interviews
April 14 - 15	Science Fair Display
April 15	Freezie Days begin
April 17	JK - G3 Swimming Lessons commence (every Thursday for 6 weeks)
April 17	ACSI Math Tournament
April 19	Badminton Tournament
April 21	North Campus Clubs start
April 23	SK & G8 Grad & New Student Photos
April 25	Dress Down Day
April 26	ACSI Teachers' Conference
April 28	Play Practice & Cast Photo at Meadowvale
April 29	Spring Concert @ Meadowvale
May 5	South Campus Clubs start
May 9	Jump Rope for Heart
May 14	Ontario Fine Arts Festival
May 15	Maple Lodge Chicken Order Forms go home
May 16 - 19	Victoria Day Holiday (no school)
May 30	Community BBQ