PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE
Hello Brookmede Families,

I hope everyone stayed safe and warm on our recent Snow Day. We had a whole week of Kindergarten registrations in January. We are pleased at the number of new parents registering for September. If you have not yet registered your child for Kindergarten, please do so as soon as possible.

Please be reminded that school hours at Brookmede are 8:40 am – 3:15 pm. Some students are being dropped off very early in the mornings. This is a safety concern as there is no supervision outside until 8:30. Students should not be entering the school until 8:40.

The message of February is Equity. It is also Black History Month. There will be regular announcements of famous quotations as students work on activities and learning in classes.

Tuesday, February 5th is a Breakfast & Chat for parents. Please join us as we discuss Term 1 Report Cards. Term 1 Report Cards will go home February 7th.

Have a wonderful February.

BUS CANCELLATION AND CLOSING SCHOOLS DUE TO BAD WEATHER
During the winter months, we may need to cancel buses or close schools because of inclement weather. Please be reminded to check the board website/twitter account or news stations rather than calling the school for information.

Information regarding details of cancellations or closures will be available at:

Twitter @Peelschools, Facebook at www.facebook.com/peelschools, www.peelschools.org and www.stopr.ca or by calling 905-890-1010 or 1-800-668-1146. It is usually also announced on the radio and television stations listed below.

VIRGIN RADIOFM99.9 BREAKFAST TELEVISION
NEWS AM680 CFNY FM102.1/AM640
CJCL AM590 CHFI FM98.1
NEWSTALK1010 AM EZ ROCK FM97.3
CJBC (FR) AM860 FM Z103.5
FM93.1 FM Q107
CHIN FM 100.7/AM1540
CBC99.1 CITYPULSE
GLOBAL NEWS CITY NEWS
CTV CFRB – (Bell Media)

One of the following messages will be announced:

Peel District School Board buses are cancelled
This means that schools remain open for students and staff, but buses are cancelled. Bus cancellations could occur in all or parts of municipalities. Buses will remain cancelled all day. All activities that require busing will also be cancelled. Permits, night school classes, child care and other activities in schools will operate as usual.

All Peel District School Board schools and board offices are closed
This means that all schools and Peel board offices are closed to students and staff. All activities in schools and board offices are also cancelled, including child care, night school and permits.

All evening programs and permits at the Peel District School Board are cancelled
This means that all activities in schools and Peel board offices are cancelled, including continuing education courses and events. The buildings will be closed.

All weekend programs and permits at the Peel District School Board are cancelled
This means that all activities in schools and Peel board offices are cancelled, including continuing education courses and events. The buildings will be closed.

What if my child does not go to school due to a bus cancellation or inclement weather?
If your child will be absent as a result of a bus cancellation or you choose to keep your child home due to inclement weather, parents/guardians must report the absence using one of the following methods:

- For elementary K-8 students: report it through SafeArrival by calling 1-855-209-6155 or visiting go.schoolmessenger.ca

HOW TO REPORT ABSENCES WHEN SCHOOL MESSENGER IS EXPERIENCING TECHNICAL ISSUES

Recently before the Winter break, the SafeArrival system, provided by School Messenger, experienced problems reporting absences through the App and website. While School Messenger works diligently to fix any technical issues, parents/guardians are reminded that absences can always be reported by calling the School Messenger toll-free number 1-855-209-6155 even when the App and website are inaccessible.

Please be reminded that students must be signed in at the office if they arrive after 8:45 am, to avoid receiving a call from the automated system.

FROM THE LIBRARY
(Mrs. Beamish, Teacher - Librarian)

The books purchased at the Peel Library Vendor Display on October 30th are now trickling in. It is a very satisfying feeling to put new books into the hands of eager readers. As of January 23rd our school has checked out a total of 6,337 books!

Our Forest of Reading is well under way. All primary classes are working their way through the ten Blue Spruce nominees, and the Silver Birch and Silver Birch Express books are making their rounds. As usual, it will be a tough decision when voting time comes around this spring.

Family Literacy Day is celebrated every year on January 27th. This is a special day developed by ABC Life Literacy Canada to help promote reading and literacy in families. Check out this website for some ideas on some ways to celebrate together as a family:
https://abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy

There’s always a lot happening at South Common Library! Check out their January/February calendars here:

FROM THE CLASSROOM
(Ms. Barrow and Ms. Halley, Grade 1)

We have begun reading some books from the Blue Spruce Collection. After reading the books, we will vote which book we liked best. We have a passport to help keep track of each book we have read. So far, we have read 3 books. “I like Barnaby Never Forgets because it was funny.” Vaylah. “I like The Better Tree Fort better because I like tree forts. They are interesting.” Noah. “The book Where Oliver Fits was ok because it was a little sad and a little happy.” Cameron. “I give Where Oliver Fits a big thumbs up. It’s a book that makes you feel good.” Anthony. Final voting will happen before March Break.

Here is the link to the Blue Spruce nominees:
http://www.accessola.org/web/OLA/Forest_of_Reading/Awards_Nominees/Blue_Spruce_Award_Nominees_2019.aspx

The Grade Ones are really looking forward to going to the Ripley’s Aquarium in Toronto in March. We will learn about what animals need to survive and explore the characteristics of an ideal fish habitat. Walking on the moving sidewalk with sharks swimming overhead will be a highlight for sure!
BROOKMEDE PARKING LOT

Parents dropping off children in Grades 1-5 are kindly asked to use the Kiss n’ Ride. Below are reminders of how to keep our Kiss n’ Ride safe and efficient. Please take a moment to review this information. If it is necessary to park and walk your child to their entry door, please do so as quickly as possible. In the morning, we currently have a number of cars that are parked for an extended period of time which prohibits staff from parking in the staff parking lot. At no time should cars be idling while waiting for a spot to become available. If the lot is full, please exit the parking lot. Please help us keep our school property safe for children and respect our staff’s ability to access their workplace. We sincerely thank all of the members of our community who follow these guidelines daily.

KISS ‘N’ RIDE
(Peel District School Board)

Keep students safe in school parking lots

Many elementary schools offer a Kiss ‘N’ Ride program, where parents/guardians can drop off and pick up their children at a designated area on school property. The program was established to provide a convenient and safe option for our students and parents driving to school. To ensure the safety of staff and students, we ask all parents/guardians to be mindful of the following guidelines:

- There is no parking in the Kiss and Ride lane. Pay attention to the traffic in front of you and pull forward as cars move forward. If you choose to park in the parking lot, please escort your child to or from the school and use the main crosswalk.
- Vehicles entering the Kiss ‘N’ Ride lane must stay in the designated lane, unless otherwise directed by a staff member or volunteer.
- The Kiss ‘N’ Ride program is only available to students who are able to disembark independently.
- Have your child ready to exit the car when you reach the curb. Students may only exit from the passenger (right) side of the vehicle.
- After picking up or dropping off your child, leave promptly.
- Always respect traffic flow and abide all traffic laws and signs.

Ask your child’s teacher or principal to learn more about our school’s specific Kiss ‘N’ Ride procedures.

STUDENT ILLNESS

Now that we are in the midst of the cold and flu season, we wish to remind parents that it is an expectation that children who are well enough to attend school are well enough to go outside with the other children during recess breaks in the morning, afternoon and at noon hour. If, in the opinion of a medical practitioner, a student should attend school but remain indoors, a medical letter should be provided.

FAMILY DAY

Please remember that we will be celebrating Family Day on Monday, February 18th. There is no school on Family Day. The Brookmede staff hope that this day of rest will afford you a little time to spend with those you love.

MARCH BREAK

The last day for students prior to the March Break is Friday, March 8th. Classes resume on Monday March 18th.

VALUABLES

Students and parents are reminded to leave items of financial or sentimental value at home.
UP-TO-DATE PHONE NUMBERS ARE IMPORTANT

Please remember to inform the school of any new or revised phone numbers for home, work, cell and caregiver. In an emergency, we cannot contact you if we do not have your up-to-date numbers.

LOCKDOWN DRILLS

As you are aware, the Dufferin Peel Board, the Peel Board and the Peel Police have developed a lockdown procedure to help keep schools safe during any potentially serious or violent incident. This is just another way to keep schools safe in addition to the fire drills and evacuation procedures already in place.

Staff at Brookmede have discussed with their students what a lockdown "looks like" and "sounds like." We have had one school-wide lockdown drill this school year and will have one more in the coming weeks. It is our practice to make an announcement before each lockdown drill so staff can review procedures and prepare students.

SCHOOL YEAR 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year Elementary</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School year ends</td>
<td>June 28, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of instructional days for elementary students</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of professional activity days for elementary panel</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Holidays – Elementary</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Break</td>
<td>December 24, 2018 to January 4, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Day</td>
<td>February 18, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>March 11 - 15, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>April 19, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>April 22, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Day</td>
<td>May 20, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Activity Days – Elementary (7)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-School Professional Activity/Reorganization</td>
<td>September 25, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Learning Day</td>
<td>October 5, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting to Parents</td>
<td>November 16, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment, Evaluation and Report Card Writing Day</td>
<td>January 21, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Learning Day</td>
<td>February 8, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment, Evaluation and Report Card Writing Day</td>
<td>June 10, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Learning Day</td>
<td>June 28, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>