Can you believe it is already April?
This is a very special month for us. Our school has the honour of being named after a man recognized worldwide for his commitment to social activism as well as the rights and freedoms of all people. We are inspired by this connection and our staff work hard to foster an equitable, relevant and engaging environment for learning and working. We will be celebrating our Grand Opening on Thursday April 23rd, 2015 from 6 – 8 p.m. Your child should have brought home our invitation and we look forward to commemorating this very special occasion with you.

Nelson Mandela Public School Celebrates Education Week

The theme for this year’s two week-long focus on education is **Inspire. Greatness. Together.** From April 14th-24th, students will be engaged in activities that encourage them to think of people and things that inspire them and how they can inspire others. We would like to encourage family members to inspire the students by coming to the school during Education Week and sharing a family immigration story or reading to the students in your home language. If you would like more information on how you can be involved, please call Mrs. Slaunwhite at 905-595-1655 at ext. 218. Nelson Mandela Public School’s Grand Opening will also take place during this time and we hope to see you then.

### Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 14, 2015—9:30 am</td>
<td>Education Week Kick Off Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 17, 2015</td>
<td>“Our Families Inspire...” (Family Shared Stories)</td>
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<td>April 20, 2015—9 am</td>
<td>Jump Rope for Heart—Kick Off Assembly</td>
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<td>April 20—April 24, 2015</td>
<td>Scholastic Book Fair</td>
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<td>April 22, 2015—9 am</td>
<td>Earth Day (Spring Walk) / Earth Day Assembly</td>
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<td>April 23, 2015</td>
<td>Spirit Day (Fancy)</td>
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<td>April 23, 2015</td>
<td>Nelson Mandela Official Grand Opening</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24, 2015</td>
<td>Community Mandela Gathering Assembly—Caring &amp; Positive Attitude &amp; Awards of Distinction Presentation</td>
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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SIGN UP FOR EMAIL UPDATES!**

[http://schools.peelschools.org/1418/Pages/default.aspx](http://schools.peelschools.org/1418/Pages/default.aspx)
March was an action filled month with many sporting and community events. On March 4th, Nelson Mandela P.S. held their first Family Fitness Night and it was a huge success. From basketball shoot-outs, cup stacking, tag and healthy snacks, our parents and students had a blast. A special thank you goes out to all the parents and students that joined us for our Family Fitness Night. We look forward to hosting it again next school year. Also, a thank you to our community groups, Cassie Campbell Community Centre, Brampton A’s Basketball and Brampton Beast Hockey for joining us.

**Intramurals**

March marked the end of our 2nd intramural season. In the grade 2/3 Benchball Finals, we had the undefeated Patriots face off against a very talented Panthers team. It was an exciting and intense final as both team were competing for our Nelson Mandela Legacy trophy. Both teams went back and forth scoring goals, however at the end of the match the Panthers came out on top winning the Benchball Intramural season. Congratulations Panthers and a special shout-out to the Patriots and the rest of the teams on a fantastic season. For the grade 4/5s, their Indoor Soccer finals was competitive. The finals included the Longhorns against the Badgers. Mankirat M. on the Longhorns performed amazing as he scored all three of the teams goals. The Badgers came up with an answer however, the great play from Mankirat M. and the rest of the Longhorns was too much for the Badgers and they lost the match to a final score of 3-1. Congratulations to the Longhorns on winning the Indoor Soccer Intramural league and shout-outs go to the Badgers and the rest of the teams on an exciting season.

**Volleyball and Basketball**

On March 6th, our grade 4/5 girls volleyball team travelled to Hickory Wood Public School to compete in their annual volleyball tournament. Our girls have worked hard 3 weeks prior to the tournament on perfecting their volleyball skills. Their hard work was displayed as they went undefeated in round-robin play. Our girls started off with 6 wins defeating schools such as Queen St. P.S., Robert J Lee P.S., and Ray Underhill P.S. Our girls finished 1st place in their division and earned a spot in the semi-finals. In the semi-finals, our Lions fought hard however fell short losing the match. Overall, our girls performed amazingly and Mr. Jatana and Ms. Soochit are proud of our Lions. Shout outs go to Mary, Joelle, Harini, Hibba, Harjot, Gurkiran, Harleen, Leah, Hailey, Isabella, Mariha and Bavarase on a great tournament.

On March 26th, our grade 4/5 basketball team competed in the Hewson Public School tournament. Our Lions played well throughout the tournament. We lost close games by 2 baskets and fought hard throughout the entire tournament. Great job Lions! Our basketball team will continue their great play on April 3rd as Nelson Mandela is hosting our own basketball tournament with schools from all over Peel region attending.

**Upcoming Athletic Events:**

- Grade 2-5 Pylon Dodgeball Intramurals
- Grade 4/5 Floor Hockey
- Cross Country
- Grade 4/5 Soccer
- Grade 3 Soccer
- Track & Field
### Kindergarten

Spring weather can be quite unpredictable so be sure to check the weather each day. Ensure your child is dressed appropriately as we go outside everyday. We will go on many Spring walks to notice changes in the weather and environment and encourage you to do the same as a family. Use your five senses to discover the natural world, such as smelling blooming flowers and listening for birds.

### Grade 1

In April, the Grade Ones will be learning about telling time to the hour and half hour and identifying money and its value. To help at home, parents can place several coins in a pile and have the child identify the various Canadian coins as well as pointing out specific times in their daily schedule. In Social Studies, students will be learning about physical features in their community and mapping skills. As the weather warms up, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately.

### Grade 2

We will be reading a variety of books to identify the author’s message. They will be using their imagination to help them create narrative stories using story elements such as setting and developing interesting characters using adjectives. In Math, students will continue to explore adding and subtracting with regrouping. Practicing mental addition and subtraction to 18, at home, would help to make learning this new concept easier. In Social Studies, we have begun comparing communities around the world and the students will complete an in-school project on a chosen country. The students will be participating in experiments on air and water in Science and will identify ways that they can help protect these natural resources. Please join us for the Community Gathering this month on April 24 at 9:30 a.m. as the grade 2 students will be hosting and performing a song and a dance.

### Grade 3

Thank you to all the parents who attended our EQAO Information Night. Please visit our website to find links to EQAO resources and further information.

The month of April will be bringing new units in Science and Social Studies. In Science the students will be investigating forces such as gravity, buoyancy and friction. In Social Studies we will compare communities in both rural and urban areas. In Mathematics the students will be measuring length, perimeter and area using standard units (e.g., centimeters, meters, kilometers) and learning strategies to multiply and divide. The students will learn how to infer while reading to help them "read between the lines" and understand various texts. Be prepared for your child to come home and try to convince you that having a later bedtime or getting a new pet is a good idea as they will be learning techniques to write persuasive paragraphs.

### Grade 4

In the month of April, we will be working on different styles of writing while focusing on their voice, the message they are trying to convey, and use of literary conventions. Students will continue to present to the class their castles and feudal system inquiry items, while maintaining eye contact and developing their confidence. In math students will continue to develop their multiplication skills and apply this knowledge to division. We are working with word problems; determining the important information and numbers and finding the most efficient way to solve the problem. Some classes will move into money while others will begin fractions! In social studies we will begin to wrap up medieval times and begin our research into other ancient civilisations. The grade four teaching team is excited to see the connections students are able to make between these time periods and today – have things really changed? In keeping with Nelson Mandela’s quote “A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination”, we will begin to look at how the properties of light and sound in science can be used to support people who are visually and hearing impaired. How can we apply our understanding of these topics to make the world a better place for others? We will explore the effect of light and shadow through visual arts and re-enact a typical day in the life of a medieval serf for drama. It will be a busy month to be sure. Prepare to be challenged grade 4’s!
Grade 5

“The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.” (Nelson Mandela)

It may not feel like spring yet, but the grade 5 team is certainly springing into action. We are starting literature circles in the near future with a spotlight on fiction. As a grade group we are looking at adding more description and vividness to our narrative stories.

In Social Studies, we are continuing to look at First Nations and European Explorers with a field trip coming up soon.

In Science, we are looking at Energy and the Human Body along with producing lab write-ups.

In Math, we are investigating fractions both proper and improper which includes comparing, equivalency and decimals. To help better your child's understanding we ask that you practice math talks with your children and play games which will instill confidence and a love for math.

Here is a great link to get you started: http://interactivesites.weebly.com/math.html

Stay tuned for more events!!!
During this past weekend, I was invited to participate in a discussion/workshop; at the Board of Directors Meeting of the Ontario Music Educators Association. Along with other music teachers, each of us was paired with a board member to discuss an issue in music education today. I was fortunate to be paired with Helen Coker, the Arts Administrator for Thames Valley. Our topic of discussion: Numeracy and Music Education! “Music is math” has never been more relevant as the Peel District School Board works to improve our student’s numeracy skills. As I have mentioned in past articles, math skills are imbedded in the study of music although these skills are not always explicitly stated by music teachers. The OMEA plans to change that beginning this fall when they will introduce lesson plans which explicitly demonstrate the integration of the five math strands within music instruction. I am excited to see this development which further integrates music with the general Ontario curriculum. For our part at Nelson Mandela, I know that this week my grade 3’s are working on number sense when we create ostinato patterns to accompany familiar tunes: and the grade 4’s are practicing geometry and special sense as we drill our note names on the treble clef...See you at the Grand Opening!

Attention all Grade 4 and 5 Students—Chess Club

Attention all grade 4 and 5 students interested in playing chess. Chess club will begin after the Easter long weekend. Listen for announcements on when and where.

Parents can book an appointment to register their children

Children born in 2011 can start kindergarten in September 2015. Parents can contact their local Peel District School Board school to make an appointment to register their child. To find out which school their child will attend, parents can call 905-890-1010 / 1-800-668-1146 ext. 2212 or visit www.peelschools.org and click on ‘Find Your School’. School contact information is available on the Peel board website at www.peelschools.org/schools/all.

Parents should bring the following to registration:

**Proof of child’s age**
- Canadian birth certificate
- Canadian passport
- Citizenship card/certificate
- Permanent Resident Card
- Confirmation of permanent residence
- Work permit
- refugee permit

**Proof of custody**

**Proof of immunization**

It is important for parents to know that required immunization information forms must be completed before children are allowed to attend class. Parents should contact Peel Health at Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 (Caledon residents can call toll-free at 905-584-2216):

- for information about the immunization schedule in Ontario
- to verify that your child’s record is up-to-date
- to obtain exemption forms if your child has not been immunized for medical reasons or because of conflict of religion or conscience
- for information about how to have your child immunized if you do not have an Ontario health card and can’t afford a doctor’s fee for immunization

For more information, visit www.peelschools.org/parents/kindergarten.
The Peel District School Board is hosting its annual parent conference on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at Fletcher’s Meadow Secondary School in Brampton. This year, Numeracy & Beyond: Parent Conference, will focus on numeracy—25 out of 60 workshops help with math. Parents will still have the opportunity to attend workshops on other topics, including literacy, special education and science.

This free learning event is open to Peel parents of students at all grade levels.

Registration is now open. Register at:
www.peelschools.org/parents/conference/register

Stay up-to-date!

For more information, look out for the conference flyer at your child's school in February or visit www.peelschools.org/parents/conference.
Register today for Adult ESL non-credit courses

Do you know an adult in Peel that is interested in improving their English language skills for work, study or daily life?

The Peel District School Board offers Adult ESL courses at three locations in Brampton and Mississauga. Winter courses begin February 2, 2015.

To learn more or to register, call 905-270-6000. Registration is ongoing and continues after courses have started.

To learn more, visit www.peelschools.org/adulteducation.

Twitter: @PDSBLearnESL

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**Bramalea**

Adult Education Centre

25 Kings Cross Road, Unit 3

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**Brampton**

Adult Education Centre

#300 - 7700 Hurontario Street

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**Mississauga**

Adult Education Centre

100 Elm Drive West, Room 117

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Parent resources help you support your child’s learning

At the Peel District School Board, our mission is to inspire success, confidence and hope in each child. There is no doubt that families play a vital role in helping us achieve this goal. As our partner in education, we hope you’ll stay connected to your child’s learning throughout his or her entire school experience.

In October 2014, the Peel board sought input from families to help guide the development of resources that help parents and caregivers support their children’s learning. The result is a new Help Your Child online resource centre on the Peel board’s website with the topics families said were important to them.

Visit www.peelschools.org/parents/helpyourchild to explore all resources available to parents.

There you will find easy-to-navigate buttons that connect families to tip sheets and web pages on a number of different topics, including math, homework, special education, EQAO and mental health.
Help us to encourage and enhance parent involvement in Peel

Apply for a position on the board’s Parent Involvement Committee

The Peel board’s Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meets regularly throughout the school year to review the board’s plans for parent involvement as they relate to parent, family and community engagement, and to make suggestions to schools, councils and the board regarding additional parent outreach.

As mandated by the ministry, the purpose of Peel board’s PIC is to:

- support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parental involvement within schools and across the district, including, outreach to parents who find involvement more challenging
- work collaboratively with the school board to support student success
- seek out the advice and ideas of school councils, and other parents and partners as they plan and implement strategies to involve more parents at the regional level
- develop strategies for enhancing parental engagement and outreach

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CELEBRATION</th>
<th>FAITH AND CULTURE</th>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Mmaal</td>
<td>Aboriginal Spirituality</td>
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<td>April 2</td>
<td>Mahavir Jayanti</td>
<td>Jainism</td>
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<td>April 2 or April 9 (J)</td>
<td>Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday)</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Sakyamuni Buddha’s Nirvana Day</td>
<td>Buddhism</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 3 or April 10 (J)</td>
<td>Good Friday (Holy Friday)</td>
<td>Christianity and Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunset of April 3 to 11</td>
<td>Pesach (Passover)</td>
<td>Judaism</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Theravada New Year</td>
<td>Buddhism</td>
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<td>April 5 or April 12 (J)</td>
<td>Easter or Pascha</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5 (J)</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6 or April 13 (J)</td>
<td>Easter Monday</td>
<td>Christianity and Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 7 or 8</td>
<td>Avalokitesvara Bodhisattva’s Birthday</td>
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<td>April 8</td>
<td>Farvardegan</td>
<td>Zoroastrianism</td>
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<td>April 9 to 27</td>
<td>Month of Jalál</td>
<td>Bahá’í</td>
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<td>April 13 or 14</td>
<td>Vaisakhi or Baisakhi</td>
<td>Sikhism and Hinduism</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Saka and New Year’s Day</td>
<td>Buddhism and Hinduism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunset of April 15 to 16</td>
<td>Yom HaShoah</td>
<td>Judaism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunset of April 20 to May 2</td>
<td>Ridvan</td>
<td>Bahá’í</td>
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<td>April 21</td>
<td>Akshaya-tritiya</td>
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<td>Zarathosht-no-Diso</td>
<td>Zoroastrianism</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28 to May 17</td>
<td>Month of Jamál</td>
<td>Bahá’í</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 30 to May 4</td>
<td>Ghambar Maidyozarem</td>
<td>Zoroastrianism</td>
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Peel board celebrates public education during Education Week – April 13 to 24

Peel public schools will host hundreds of special activities and events to celebrate Education Week 2015. To give schools plenty of time to hold activities, this celebration of education will be held for two weeks from April 13 to 24. The theme for this year’s focus on education is *Inspire. Greatness. Together.*

In addition to inviting parents and community residents to visit their classrooms during the week, Peel schools are hosting open houses, plays/musicals, storytelling, environmental activities, awards assemblies, talent shows and much more.

One of the highlights of Education Week is the presentation of Awards of Excellence. The award recipients are students, volunteers, staff and community partners who have made outstanding contributions to public education in Peel. The awards will be presented to 31 deserving recipients at the Showcase of Excellence ceremony on April 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the board room, HJA Brown Education Centre, 5650 Hurontario St., Mississauga.

More than 800 individuals will also be honoured during Education Week with Awards of Distinction for their contributions to their school or workplace.

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Earth Week – April 20 to 24, 2015

Earth Week encompasses the international celebration of Earth Day on April 22. This is the most celebrated environmental event worldwide. Initiated in 1970, this event has been considered the birth of the environmental movement.

Each year, more than 6 million Canadians join 500 million people in over 180 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. In Canada, Earth Day has grown into Earth Week and even Earth Month to accommodate the profusion of events and projects. Here are some ways that you can celebrate Earth Week with your family:

- create a backyard or schoolyard habitat
- plant a garden or tree
- start a recycling program at home
- organize a carpooling campaign in your neighbourhood to reduce air pollution
- pick up trash in your neighbourhood
- read a book about an endangered species
- make a visit to your local zoo, aquarium or museum
- visit a local park, wildlife area or farm to provide a fun opportunity to learn about the environment and life

EARTH DAY SPRING WALK—April 22, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.