Weekly Update – April 4-8, 2011

Character in the Workplace Attribute for April: Responsibility
“In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.”  Eleanor Roosevelt

Board meeting
At last week’s regular Board meeting, trustees received two presentations from students: one on students’ volunteer work to help HIV/AIDS orphans in Tanzania and Malawi, and one on bottled drinking water. The Board also received several committee reports for information. For details, please see the agenda and reports posted in the Boardroom at www.kprschools.ca

Also new @ KPR
• KPR’s annual Trustee-School Council Dialogue will take place Thursday, May 5, starting at 6 p.m. at Bobby C’s Dockside, Port Darlington. Two parent members from each school council are invited to participate in the dialogue. Details are available from greg_kidd@kprdsb.ca  The event is supported by the KPR Parent Involvement Committee.
• The Parent Involvement Committee also is sponsoring free, regional Parents Helping Parents workshops. All interested parents and guardians are invited to attend. The workshops will start at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20 at Courtice SS, Cobourg DCI East and Crestwood SS. Participants will be able to choose from a variety of sessions; for details, please see the media release posted on our home page at www.kprschools.ca
• The final numbers are in, and the news is good: 5,138 people registered with KPR as having participated in Earth Hour. This is a 27% increase over the previous record of 4,029 participants. More than 50 people also posted comments on the KPR blog about what they did with their families during Earth Hour March 26. The blog is still accessible from our home page at www.kprschools.ca
• KPR schools will be participating in four important efforts this month: continued fundraising for tsunami and earthquake victims in Japan, the Day of Pink April 13, National Volunteer Week April 10-16, and Earth Day April 22. Staff and students are encouraged to wear pink on April 13, to recognize the international day devoted to celebrating diversity and uniting against bullying, discrimination and homophobia. Look for more
information in separate media releases to be posted on the Communications Desk in FirstClass and on our home page.

- Meanwhile, nominations are still open for outstanding KPR volunteers to be honoured with an Accolades award. Nomination criteria and forms were e-mailed to all schools and posted on the Communications Desk. The nomination deadline is this Tuesday, April 12. For details, please contact judy_malfara@kprdsb.ca

- Senior administration is seeking nominations by April 20 for this year’s Sherry Summersides Award for Dedication to Education. The annual award, introduced in 2009, recognizes non-teaching employees who have demonstrated notable service to students above and beyond their regular duties. For details, please see the memo sent to all schools and posted on the Communications Desk in FirstClass.

- Students from Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) groups at six KPR high schools will gather April 7 and 14 at Peterborough CVS to make movies with highly respected filmmakers from Toronto. More than 30 students will participate in the workshops, representing GSAs at PCVS, Kenner CVI, Thomas A. Stewart SS, Clarke HS, Bowmanville HS and Port Hope HS. For details, please see the media release posted on our home page and on the Communications Desk in FirstClass.

- Olympian Cheryl Pounder will visit three KPR high schools April 11, to launch FitClubs for female students. She will be at Adam Scott CVI at 10:30 a.m., Crestwood SS at 12:10 p.m., and Thomas A. Stewart SS at 2:30 p.m. FitClub is a six-week training program that will involve more than 800 students from Quebec and Ontario. Details are available in the media release posted on the Communications Desk and our home page.

- Cobourg DCI East will play host to the Ontario Teachers’ Federation/Planet in Focus Environmental Film Festival, April 13-14. Films and discussions will focus on the theme of Chemical Body, Chemical Planet. For details, please contact grant_elliott@kprdsb.ca

- Musical celebrations across KPR are a tradition each spring. In addition to performances planned at individual schools, several joint events are in the works. They include the Senior Concert Band Festival April 15 and the Junior/Intermediate Concert Festival April 28, at Bowmanville HS, as well as the elementary Choirfest at Dr. Ross Tilley PS and the elementary Band Festival at John M. James PS May 4. In addition, talented student musicians will be among the performers at Ovation, KPR’s annual gala celebration of the arts. Ovation will take place Wednesday, May 18, starting at 7 p.m. at Showplace Performance Centre in
Peterborough. Look for more details on Ovation in the coming weeks.

More events & opportunities

- The Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council presents Gala Night April 7, showcasing Métis fiddling and dancing. The event will take place at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 43, at 471 Simcoe St.S. Details are available at 905-665-4575.
- Durham Regional Police Service presents the next in its series of Parent/Police Coalition community meetings, April 18 from 7-9 p.m. at Harold Longworth PS, Bowmanville. All are welcome. The discussion will focus on Keeping Kids and Parents in The Know, a safety presentation for parents of elementary students.
- Clarington Central SS School Council will offer Reaching Out workshops for parents, Saturday, April 30, from 8:45 a.m.-noon at the school in Bowmanville. Topics will including bullying, adolescent depression, blended families, Internet safety and supporting acting-out teens. To register by April 24, please e-mail claringtoncentralschoolcouncil@hotmail.ca
- Kinark Child and Family Services will offer a workshop for parents and guardians on ways to assess pre-teens'/teens’ social skills, ways to work with their strengths, and how to address the issue of bullying. The event will take place May 5 at 7 p.m. at the Cobourg Library. Since seating is limited, registration is recommended by calling 905-372-4829, ext. 625.
- Elementary and secondary students across Canada will once again have the opportunity to participate in Student Vote during the federal election. Students in participating schools will vote in a parallel election to learn firsthand about the democratic process. To register, please visit www.studentvote.ca or call 1-866-488-8775.
- Tree Canada welcomes applications for the Green Schools, Green Futures Award. The application awards points for ecological school yards, waste reduction, energy conservation, being a caring school, and eco education. Details are available at www.treecanada.ca

Hats Off!
Congratulations and Hats Off! go to:

- **Scott McKeown** at Burnham PS, for organizing the Lend A Hand for Japan Burnham PS Community Relief Walk; the event will take place May 1, starting at 2 p.m. at the school
- all the students who participated in the Kawartha District Sears Drama Festival held at Showplace; special congratulations go to
everyone involved in Peterborough CVS’s The Russian Play, directed by Rebecca Ballarin, and Adam Scott CVI’s Masterpiece, directed by Madeleine Brown, who will move on to compete in the regional festival in Oshawa

- all students across KPR participating in the annual Kiwanis Music Festivals and Royal Canadian Legion public speaking contests
- Josie Merrett, who has created an effective media page for the Plainville PS website; the page has excellent links for students and parents to literacy and math websites, computer skills and other fun activities
- the teachers and families of Kawartha Heights PS, for planning and participating in an evening of math games and activities March 31; kudos go to Grade 5 teacher Melanie Assing, for coordinating this initiative
- KPR and Ganaraska Trail PS staff, for offering workshops for parents at the March 28 Building the Bridge Between Home, School and Community event, organized by the Ganaraska Trail School Council; presenters included Wanda Knowlton, Ryan Stabler, Christina Cook, Jen Ward and Merna Zahn
- the group of boys at Chemong PS who started Jo Duk Beltz, a “company” making duct tape belts as a fundraiser to support Japanese tsunami and earthquake victims; the boys include Jonah Lehman, Noah Lehman, Riley Martin, Mack Bruce, Zach Wilson, Manley Robinson and Tate Martin
- Burnham PS primary students and their families, who worked diligently over the March Break to produce musical instruments out of recycled treasures
- the Kawartha Heights PS community, whose total raised in the Trent Hands for Haiti fundraiser now stands at more than $2,400
- Orono PS students, whose Me 2 We efforts have included raising enough funds to purchase goats for two families in Bangladesh
- Peter Riccio, of Cobourg DCI West, for his role in organizing the Jazz Fest in which half a dozen KPR schools participated
- East Northumberland SS’s Bruce Tonkin and Dan Walker, for organizing Choirfest for secondary schools last month
- Thomas A. Stewart SS student Jacob Abrahamse, for organizing a benefit concert for Japan; the concert will be held April 23 at Showplace Performance Centre in Peterborough
- Peer Helpers at The Pines Senior PS, for organizing five days of events to benefit Children’s Wish during Fundraising Week April 11-15
- Clarke HS, for planning a fundraiser with hypnotist Brian Wilcox for April 14; the goal is to raise $1,100 for the Charles H. Best Diabetes Centre
• student teacher Carmen Narancsik, associate teacher Brent Laver, and the Civics students who organized eight different fundraisers to support Oxfam’s relief work in Japan
• Kevin Woollacott and his Grade 4/5 students at Queen Mary PS, for organizing a Read-a-thon to raise funds for Japanese tsunami victims; the students also wrote letters of condolence and made origami butterflies, which will be sent to Japan with the funds raised
• Kay Anne Houghton’s Grade 4/5 class at Highland Heights PS, who sang Smilin’ Faces on CBC Ontario Morning after working with blues singer/songwriter Rick Fines for a week
• Grade 6 students at Orono PS who collected over 300 soccer jerseys, 70 pairs of shorts, 14 balls, four pairs of shin pads and socks, and 11 pairs of soccer cleats to be sent to Haiti; the students also collected funds to help two Haitian children attend school
• Orono PS student Megan Graichen, who once again cut off her long hair and donated it to make wigs for children with cancer.

Share your news! Please send Hats Off! and other items for the Weekly Update to judy_malfara@kprdsb.ca