

Weekly Update – January 23-27, 2012

Character in the Workplace Attribute for January: Initiative

"I would rather regret the things I have done than the things I have not." Lucille Ball

Board meeting

At this week's Board meeting, trustees:

- approved moving forward to tender more than \$2 million in building improvements for three Peterborough high schools, primarily for program and accessibility reasons
- approved establishing two new Community Hubs at Lakefield District SS and Norwood District SS, in partnership with the Peterborough Family Resource Centre, to provide coordinated child services to the communities
- reviewed the 2011 Director's Annual Report, for submission to the Minister of Education
- appointed Trustee Rose Kitney to the Chairpersons' Committee
- accepted, with regret, the resignation of Christine Crough from the Special Education Advisory Committee, and approved Vikki Etchells as a new member
- approved policy wording revisions
- asked senior administration to consult with school councils on draft pediculosis policy revisions, and to look into the possibility of grants for placing automated external defibrillators at schools
- received information reports.

Details are available in the agenda and reports posted in the Board Room section of www.kprschoools.ca

Also new @ KPR

- KPR will be consulting with school councils on draft revisions to its policy on pediculosis (head lice) over the coming weeks. A copy of the draft revised policy will be sent to all principals and school councils, and posted on the KPR website, for comments, within the next few days. Deadline for comments will be March 30.
- KPR schools are participating in a variety of special events this week, in anticipation of national Family Literacy Day, January 27. Author visits, pajama days, family reading events and other special activities are planned. Several schools also will be participating in the Great Literacy Race, which will launch this Friday at Brighton PS at 9 a.m., and at Charles Bowman PS, Bowmanville, at 12:30 p.m.

Events & opportunities

- Mental Health and Youth will be the focus at Durham Regional Police Service's next Parent-Police Forum. It will be held Monday, January 30, at 7 p.m. at Holy Family Catholic School on Aspen Springs Drive in Bowmanville. Speakers will include KPR's Dr. Deanna Swift. Everyone is welcome at the free event. For details, please email ssullivan@drps.ca
- Frontier College's 12th annual Literacy Conference will focus on digital literacy, January 28 at 12:30 p.m. at Trent University's Champlain College. Keynote speaker will be journalist, humourist and social media expert Jesse Brown. For information, please visit www.frontiercollege.ca
- The Kawartha World Issues Centre presents a Mix and Mingle with Mariatu Kamara, January 28 at 6 p.m. at Artspace in Peterborough. Mariatu is the UNICEF Special Representative for Children of Armed Conflict, recipient of the Women's Refugee Commission Voice of Courage Award, and co-author of the book *The Bite of the Mango*. For prices and information, please email kwic@trentu.ca
- The Historica-Dominion Institute encourages teachers to involve their classrooms in The Make Your Own Heritage Minute Contest on the War of 1812. The contest welcomes a 60-second film or animation based on any story, person, event or location related to the War of 1812. For details, please email ecotter@historica-dominion.ca or call 866-701-1867 x 250.
- February 9 is National Sweater Day. The World Wildlife Fund encourages Canadians to "turn down the heat, turn up your sweater" for the event. Toolkits and information are available at www.sweaterday.ca
- The 17th Annual Sears Canadian High School Design Competition invites secondary students to compete in four areas: industrial, fashion, graphic and architecture/interior design. Contest deadline is March 30. Details are available at www.dx.org
- SmartRisk encourages secondary students to create and submit a 30- to 180-second video for the Distracted Driving – Is It Worth It? Contest. Submissions will be accepted March 1-16. For details, please visit <http://isitworthit.ca/>

Hats Off

Congratulations and Hats Off! go to:

- principals **Steve Truelove** and **Jeff Kawzenuk** and the 16 students from Port Hope HS, East Northumberland SS and Cobourg DCI West who are currently visiting Kilema, Tanzania, to work with HIV/AIDS orphans

- Colborne PS, for offering a lunch club on Tuesdays and Thursdays, where winter offerings include homemade chicken noodle soup
- Burnham PS Grade 6 student **Graham Beer**, who was featured on Breakfast Television for his Lego model of the studio
- Lakefield District Intermediate & Secondary School's LEAD group, for leading a fundraising drive to support families in need, and to the students and staff who contributed over \$2,000; as a result, 20 families received food and gifts at Christmas
- **Cassidy Connelly**, student at Peterborough CVS, who competed with the Ontario gymnastics team in Mexico; she placed fourth overall and helped her team finish in second place
- the community speakers who offered presentations at Campbellford DHS's Positive Decisions, Positive Choices workshops; the presentations covered issues such as bullying, violence, drugs and alcohol, healthy relationships and sexual identity
- Enniskillen PS staff, for introducing a trial Twitter account to keep parents up to date on school happenings on a daily basis
- R.F. Downey PS teacher **Kerry Lynn Parsons** and students in the Citizenship Club, whose work has included organizing clothing donations and a Christmas Food Train, preparing Christmas gifts for youth at the Youth Emergency Shelter, sewing bags and blankets for homeless individuals, making Valentine's Crackers filled with treats for seniors, and creating a series of plays for Integrity Idol at the monthly Character Education assembly
- Kenner Intermediate School teacher **Deryck Robertson**, who received a Site Coordinator Achievement Award from The Vancouver Aquarium and World Wildlife Fund; for seven years, Deryck has coordinated the clean-up of Rogers Cove during the annual Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup
- Kenner CVI teacher and chef **Peter Poley** and his culinary students, who won the People's Choice Award for Best Chili at the Peterborough Snowfest Chilifest; kudos go to the winning student chefs, who included **Adin Gee-Ford, Travis Gosselin, Shane Fallowfield, Lukas Poley, Ryan Clark, Patrick Ferguson** and **Devan English**
- the Apsley PS School Council, for organizing a Family Fun Day in honour of Family Day February 20; families from the school will enjoy free activities including snow sculpting, snow shoeing, sledding, games, dance, a crock pot lunch with take-home recipes, and workshops on supporting their children's learning at home.

Share your news! We welcome written submissions for future Weekly Updates and Hats Off! listings. Simply email them to judy_malfara@kprdsb.ca