

Weekly Update – January 30-February 3, 2012

Character in the Workplace Attribute for January: Initiative

“What we need is more people who specialize in the impossible.”
Theodore Roethke

Character in the Workplace Attribute for February: Empathy

I respect the feelings of others. I seek to understand what others are thinking to appreciate their perspectives. I listen and consider their views, even though we may not agree. I act with kindness and compassion.

February diversity dates

For additional information on the following, please see the KPR Equity and Diversity Calendar sent to all schools and departments, and posted at www.kprschoools.ca/Students/EquityandDiversity.html

Black History Month

February 3 – Milad un Nabi (Muslim)

February 5-11 – White Cane Week,

International Development Week

February 8 – Paranirvana/Nirvana Day (Buddhist)

February 14 – Valentine’s Day

February 20 – World Day for Social Justice (UN), Family Day (Ontario), Heritage Day (Canada), Louis Riel Day, Mahashivratri (Hindu)

February 21 – International Mother Language Day (UN), Shrove Tuesday (Christian)

February 22 – Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins (Christian)

February 22-24 – Losar (Buddhist)

February 29 – Pink Shirt Day/Anti-Bullying Day (Canada)

Draft pediculosis policy

KPR’s draft policy on pediculosis (head lice) in schools has been posted on our website, and emailed to all school councils, for comment. The deadline for comments is March 30. For details, please see the policy and the comment form accessible from the home page, and from the policy section, of www.kprschoools.ca .

New equity resources

KPR has two new, exciting equity and diversity resources to help foster welcoming, inclusive school environments. For details on the following resources, please email sonia_wilson@kprdsb.ca

- Hidden in Plain Sight is a staff training module designed to help all of us better understand our own biases, how they may affect

- our decisions, and how to lessen their impact. The voluntary training package was developed as part of the Ministry of Education's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy. Equity contacts at all schools have received the training and facilitators' guide, and are being encouraged to use it with school staff. An evening session also is being planned for February 29.
- Meanwhile, KPR also has developed new Hate Crimes and Human Rights Resource Units, for use in Grade 10 Civics classes. The teachers' resource package includes three hands-on lessons titled What is a Hate Crime?, Assaults Against Asian Canadian Anglers, and Mock Trial. The lessons were written and reviewed by experienced KPR teachers. KPR is now seeking Grade 10 Civics teachers interested in piloting these lessons with their students, and providing feedback. Further details are available in a memo emailed to all principals from Superintendent **Martin Twiss**, and by contacting **Sonia Wilson** at the Education Centre, ext. 2094.

Deepest condolences

Sincere sympathy is extended to the family, friends, and all who knew Cobourg-area Canada Coach bus driver **Annette Young**, following her death earlier this week. She will be deeply missed.

Events & opportunities

- On Thursday, February 16, Central PS in Bowmanville will hold its first Hug Your School event. Parents, guardians, grandparents and community members are all invited to join in the event. Staff and students will meet in the gym around 2 p.m., then head outside around 2:30 p.m. to join hands around the school building. Details are available from kathryn_davidson@kprdsb.ca
- In honour of Drug Awareness Week, high school students from Peterborough and Lakefield will gather at the Memorial Centre from noon-2 p.m. February 17. The event will include a hockey game involving high school students and police officers, with the students' team to be coached by Marc Savard. Students also will move through a variety of activities providing information about driving stoned, the health effects of marijuana, the law, and decision-making about drug use. For details, please contact Constables Craig Ralph or Alison Sharp, school liaison officers.
- Adam Scott CVI presents the musical Anything Goes, February 22-25 at 7 p.m. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for students. For details, please visit <http://adamscott.kprdsb.ca/>

- Durham Region's Social Services department is offering three learning sessions for adults, titled High-conflict Parenting During Separation and Divorce, Accepting Anxiety and Facing Fears, and The Sandwich Generation. The workshops will be held between February 2 and 8 at the regional headquarters in Whitby. Details are available at www.durham.ca/FamilyServicesResources.
- The Learning Disabilities Association of Peterborough will be offering a variety of workshops for students, parents and educators in Northumberland, Clarington and Peterborough over the coming months. Assistive Technology and Handheld Devices: Tools to Help at Home, School and Work will begin at 7 p.m. at Bowmanville HS February 22, and Peterborough CVS March 28. Details are still being confirmed for this workshop to run in Northumberland in the spring. The association also will be offering the SoAR (Some Assembly Required) program for Grades 7-9 students in all three areas, on various dates. For details, please contact the association at 866-503-3303 or visit www.ldaptbo.com
- The Mood Disorders Society of Canada is launching an inaugural Defeat Depression Day, May 27. Its purpose is to raise awareness of depression and reduce the stigma associated with the illness. Information is available at www.defeatdepression.ca

Hats Off

Congratulations and Hats Off! go to:

- Hastings PS Grade 8 student **Chelsea Hooisma**, who placed first in the Ontario Provincial Remembrance Day Intermediate Black and White Poster contest; her entry has gone on to the national competition
- Bowmanville HS staff, who arranged for a fitness instructor to come to the school to offer lessons twice a week after work, as part of their employee wellness efforts
- the Orono PS school council, for funding the Journey through the Arts In-School Program for Grades 1-6 students, February 9-10
- Cobourg DCI teacher **Christine Stone**, her group of helpers and the cast of Learning and Life Skills students who staged a wonderful play titled The Power of You and I
- Newcastle PS's **Stapleton** family, for donating two bunnies to the Senior Kindergarten classes, and to Newcastle Home Hardware for donating two mailboxes which the students use to write letters to Rosy and Wascal the Wabbit
- Grade 12 students in the SOLE (Students on the Leading Edge) program at Bowmanville HS, who are visiting Central PS

- students every Thursday morning to provide mentorship in academic and social skills to the Grade 2/3 class
- Peterborough Lakefield Community Police, Peterborough Drug Strategy, Peterborough and District Dental Society, Trident and National Sports, for sponsoring the February 17 Drug Awareness Week event that will offer high school students invaluable information on the realities of marijuana use
 - Clarington Central vice-principal ***Shakti Patel*** and ***Dr. Deanna Swift***, for offering presentations at this week's Parent-Police Forum in Bowmanville on KPR schools' student mental health initiatives
 - ***Linda Chopping*** and Mitts for Kids, for donating mittens, hats and scarves to keep Havelock Belmont PS students warm.

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