Weekly Update – April 8-12, 2013

Character in the Workplace Attribute for April: Responsibility
“Today, more than ever before, life must be characterized by a sense of universal responsibility, not only nation to nation and human to human, but also human to other forms of life.” Dalai Lama

Busy spring @ KPR
- Schools are planning a variety of special activities in honour of National Volunteer Week, April 21-27, and Earth Day April 22. The first event, presentation of Accolades awards to outstanding volunteers, will take place at the April 18 Board meeting. For details on other events coming to individual schools, watch for media releases in the coming week.
- Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) provincial testing also is on the way. With the cancellation of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test for Grade 10s due to ice storm warnings April 11, KPR is awaiting the new test date to be set by EQAO. The new date will be communicated to staff, students and parents, once confirmed by EQAO. Grades 3 and 6 students will complete their reading, writing and mathematics assessments during the weeks of May 27 and June 3. Grade 9 students taking math this semester will write their EQAO math assessments between May 30 and June 14. Individual students will receive their EQAO results, and the EQAO will release school-by-school and board-by-board results, starting this fall.
- Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education has designated May 6-10 Education Week. No provincial theme has been identified as yet. Some schools will be participating in Music Monday May 6, the first day of Education Week, as well. They will join their peers across Canada in celebrating the importance of music education. Watch for information on KPR schools’ events closer to the week.
- Schools are planning a wide variety of events as well, including proms, student council elections, Grade 8 graduation ceremonies, class trips and more. Bowmanville HS will welcome the annual Concert Band Festival April 19, while Kenner CVI will welcome the Grade 9/10 Band Festival April 26; secondary schools from throughout the Board are expected to participate. A few examples of individual schools’ events include the Adam Scott CVI band concert, May 15; Bowmanville HS/Bowmanville Senior PS Take a Parent to School Day, April 26; Clarington Central SS’s music night May 16, drama production May 30-31, and dance recital June 13-14; Clarke HS’s 30-Hour Famine April 19-20 and Maytime Melodies concert May 15; Cobourg DCI West’s performances of The Wedding Singer April 24-27 and music concert April 30; East Northumberland SS’s music night May 9; and Thomas A.
Stewart SS’s Jazz Music Night May 9, and performances of Bang, Bang, You’re Dead May 10-11, and The Laramie Project May 30-31.

- Meanwhile, spring athletics at various secondary schools include track and field, rugby, soccer, badminton, rowing, lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, baseball, softball, and three-pitch, among others. Local tournaments will lead up to the COSSA championships, which involve KPR secondary schools in Northumberland and Peterborough areas; they include senior badminton April 16, junior badminton April 18, tennis May 22, track and field May 23, boys’ lacrosse May 28, and girls’ soccer and boys’ rugby May 29. LOSSA Championships, which involve KPR secondary students from Clarington, include badminton April 23, track and field May 21-22, and boys’ rugby, May 31; the LOSSA championship dates for the remaining sports have yet to be posted. Most provincial-level OFSAA championships will be held June 3-6, with the exception of provincial badminton, May 2. At the elementary level, the Kawartha Pine Ridge Elementary Athletics Association will be discussing the spring schedule next week.

- KPR also has updated its Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, which outlines the policies and actions we will put in place until 2015 to improve opportunities and access for people with disabilities. The plan meets the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and reflects the Board’s strategic directions. To see the plan, please visit the Equity and Diversity link from the Student, Parent or Staff sections of our website at www.kprschools.ca

Deepest condolences
Sincere sympathy is extended to the family, friends, coworkers, and all who knew custodians Rick Hogervorst (Courtice SS) and Greg Sleep (Ganaraska Trail PS), and retired East Northumberland SS teacher Claude Thompson, following their deaths this week. They will be deeply missed.

Provincial news
- Individual school councils are encouraged to apply for Parents Reaching Out grants for the 2013-14 school year. The grants support projects designed to increase parents’ involvement and engagement in their children’s education. Larger grants also are available for regional/provincial projects. Application deadline is May 21. Information is available at http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html
- The Government of Canada, Government of Ontario and Nishnawbe Aski Nation announced they had signed a memorandum of understanding to promote the success of First Nation students. First Nation communities in Northern Ontario will benefit. Information is available at www.edu.gov.on.ca
• Nominations are open for the Lincoln M. Alexander Awards, for young Ontarians who have shown leadership in contributing to the elimination of racial discrimination. Deadline is May 31. Details are available at www.ontario.ca/honoursandawards

Events and opportunities
• Parents of children who will be starting school for the first time this September are invited to The Road to Kindergarten event this Saturday, April 13. The one-stop fun and information show will take place at the Campbellford Ontario Early Years Centre 10 a.m.-noon, and at Brighton PS 1-3 p.m. Crafts, goody bags and the chance to ride a school bus will be part of the activities.
• Outstanding photography by students at Kenner CVI will be on display at Pammett’s Flowers in Peterborough for the month of April. The opening reception will take place April 18, from 4-6 p.m., as part of the SPARK Photo Festival. For information, please contact jeff_stover@kprdsb.ca
• The Northumberland Poverty Reduction Action Committee welcomes educators and members of the public to attend a Conversation Cafe on Food Security, April 23 from 4-5:30 p.m. at Cobourg DCI West.
• A day-long workshop titled Trauma Informed Community – Helping Victims of Crime, will be held April 26 in Peterborough. For details, please email victimservices@peterborough.ca or call 705-876-1122, ext. 268.
• Grades 7-12 students are invited to audition for 2013 Kawartha Idol. Auditions will be held at Kenner CVI April 11, 16 and 18. The Kawartha Idol show will be held April 25, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Kenner. For information, please email john_curtis@kprdsb.ca or call 705-743-2181, ext. 243.
• The New Canadians Centre’s Youth Spring into Spring program at the YMCA in Peterborough includes special activities April 11, May 9 and June 13, from 4-5 p.m. For details, please call 705-743-0882 or email dawn@nccpeterborough.ca
• The Speech, Language and Hearing Association of Peterborough presents The Roots of Literacy: Play and Language, at Showplace Peterborough. Information on the conference is available at www.kidtalk.on.ca
• Girl Talk, an All-Girls Empowerment Conference, will take place Tuesday, June 4 at the GM Centre in Oshawa. The day-long event will focus on empowering young girls and women to embrace their talents, take leadership roles and end bullying. The free conference is designed for female students in Grades 7-12. For details, please email info@makeyourmarkmovement.com
• The Durham Region Health Department has free resources on Connecting With Your Child for parents of children aged 6-12. For information, please visit www.durham.ca or call 1-800-841-2729.
• Health Canada offers a free, online Healthy Eating Toolbox of resources, tools and tips. To access it, please visit http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/nutrition/part/tb-bo/index-eng.php

Hats Off!
Congratulations and Hats Off! go to:
• Courtice SS drama students and teacher Jaymes Henwood, for winning a WAVE Youth Award in honour of their bullying prevention efforts; the group, which is visiting elementary schools with its play, LandMinds, also is in demand among university teachers’ colleges, police services and across the province
• Clarington Central SS’s Senior School Reach Team, who went undefeated in league play to advance to the provincial championships in May; team members include Adam Friedman, Mike Johda, Shawayne Williams, Jacob Stere, Matt Becker, Will Aldsworth, Nathan Silcock, John Choi and Justin Robinson, and coach Jon Gale
• Murray Centennial PS student Jonathan Fawcett, whose speech titled Parents placed first in his category at the zone-level competition at the Trenton Legion
• the Smithfield Christian Congregation, for its generous donation to Murray Centennial PS’s breakfast bin program
• C.R. Gummow PS teacher Nathan Cooper, who was a member of the Kawartha Lakes Men’s Team that won the Ontario Open 5-Pin Bowling Championships, earning a berth in the national championships in St. John's
• students and staff across KPR who supported the Day of Pink April 11 by wearing pink and participating in a variety of activities focused on bullying awareness and prevention
• teacher Christine Stone and the Gay Straight Alliance at Cobourg DCI East, who turned the Day of Pink into an entire week of bullying prevention activities
• Colborne PS student Noah Boughton, whose winning design for the Habitat for Humanity Colborne Build will be printed on t-shirts to be worn by Habitat volunteers; kudos also go to the students in Kelly Hansen’s and Michele Boucher’s art classes, who created original designs for the contest
• Terry Fox PS, for raising almost $700 for the United Way
• Lynda Tonkin, for organizing an excellent vocal festival at Cobourg DCI East
Percy Centennial PS Grades 5-8 students who participated in the Blues in the Schools program, which includes performing their original composition

Prince of Wales PS Grade 7 students Eric Vreugdenhil and Liam Rafferty, who won first prize in their division at the Peterborough Regional Science Fair

Beatrice Strong PS students who are working with artist Pamela Schuller to create a 3D mural in the school

staff at Hastings PS, for winning the ETFO Positive School Award

occasional teacher Erinn Curtis, who will be travelling to Ghana this summer with Projects Abroad to volunteer in local orphanages

the Apsley PS Kindergarten class, for participating in the Roots of Empathy project

Smithfield PS, for donating funds from a recent Hat Day to support humanitarian efforts in Tanzania

Kenner CVI students whose outstanding photos are being displayed at Pammett’s Flowers in April during the SPARK Photo Festival

Carol Patterson-Leclerc’s Grade 3/4 class at Otonabee Valley PS, for being chosen winner of the Pink Shirt Bullying Awareness Event by Peterborough Lakefield Community Police

the Grade1/2 class at North Hope Central PS, whose ribbon cutting ceremony for their new SMART Board attracted media attention, and to Bewdley and District Lions Club, whose donation made purchase of the SMART Board possible

students in the Thomas A. Stewart SS Jazz Band and teacher Vince Abrahamse, for being selected to compete in the Kiwanis Music Festival provincials

Orono PS, for launching a penny drive to support the Canadian Childhood Cancer Foundation and St. Baldrick’s Foundation

South Monaghan PS, which will hold a special day in May to help students focus on, and recognize, the richness of Aboriginal culture; a family night May 9 will be devoted to the same theme

Cobourg DCI East student Lucia Wallace, for winning an intermediate visual arts award from the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation

Kenner CVI students, for winning the inaugural Streeter Spirit Cup from Peterborough Lakefield Community Police for best school involvement and spirit at a recent Drug Awareness Week event.

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