Weekly Update – November 25-29, 2013

Character in the Workplace Attribute for November: Courage
“Most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.”
Steve Jobs

Character in the Workplace Attribute for December: Respect
I am polite, courteous and caring. I value myself and others. I treat all people with dignity and uphold their rights. I protect property and our environment.

December 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.kprschoo1s.ca/Students/LearningResources.html
- Little Spirit Moon – Mnidoo Giiz’soons (Anishinaabe – First Nations)
- November 4-December 3 – Al-Hijira (Muslim)
- November 28-December 5 - Chanukah (Jewish)
- December 1- World AIDS Day (UN)
- December 2 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (UN)
- December 3 - International Day of Disabled Persons (UN)
- December 5 – International Volunteer Day (UN)
- December 6 - National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women (Canada)
- December 8 - Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
- December 10 - International Human Rights Day (UN)
- December 18 - International Migrants’ Day (UN)
- December 20 - International Human Solidarity Day (UN)
- December 21 – Yule (Wiccan), Winter Solstice
- December 25 - Christmas (Christian)
- December 26 - January 1 - Kwanzaa (African-American)

Board meeting
At the regular Board meeting this Thursday, November 28, trustees will:
- receive an educational presentation about the Reading Recovery program
- vote on eight recommendations related to suggested closure of Cobourg DCI East and Cobourg DCI West, and opening of a revitalized school on the current East campus
- consider the appointment of two community members to the Board’s Audit Committee
- vote on Resource Committee recommendations regarding the tender for construction of the C.R. Gummow PS replacement school, revised smoke free environment policy, and accumulated surplus transfers
- receive a letter from Kensington Palace regarding the opening of Duke of Cambridge PS, as well as several information reports.

The meeting agenda and reports are posted in the Boardroom section of www.kprschoo1s.ca
Wanted: comments on draft calendar
KPR is seeking parents’, students’, employees’ and community members’ comments on the proposed 2014-15 school year calendar. An on-line survey will present two options and ask for people’s preferences. In both calendar options, classes will begin the day after Labour Day, and Winter Break will run December 22, 2014-January 2, 2015. The only differences are the date of one PA Day and the possibility of an extra day off before March Break. The survey will be posted on the home page of www.kprschools.ca by the end of this week, for comment by Monday, December 16.

Also new @ KPR
- School communities across KPR are continuing their tradition of empathy and generosity on behalf of disaster victims around the world. Special movie, pajama or hat days, fundraising lunches and book sales, home room collections and coin buckets are among the ongoing events. The federal government has agreed to match funds raised by relief organizations until December 8.
- KPR has updated its Accessibility Features of Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB Buildings document to reflect changes made in the past year to improve accessibility in our schools and buildings. The document lists features such as accessible entrances and exits, ramps, elevators and more. It is available for everyone to see on www.kprschools.ca, in several sections: the Equity and Diversity Resource Library, Find a School and Community Use of Schools links. The document also is posted on the Occasional Employees conference in myKPR.

Annual survey
The Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO) has re-launched its annual survey for students, parents and educators. The brief survey asks about everything from mental health, to student activity fees, to whether high school students should be able to vote for school trustees. Visit osta-aeco.org to complete the survey.

Provincial news
- The provincial government also announced a new, mandatory health and safety awareness training regulation will take effect July 1, 2014. Online e-learning tools will be available. Information is available at www.ontario.ca/labour
- Meanwhile, the province introduced the new Youth Smoking Prevention Act to increase penalties for selling cigarettes to minors, and broaden restrictions on smoking in public areas. For details, please visit www.ontario.ca/health

Events & opportunities
- Several KPR schools have concerts coming up in December, including:
- Cobourg DCI West Music Night, December 4 at 7 p.m.
- Crestwood SS Winter Music Concert, December 10 at 7 p.m.
- Clarke HS Seasonal Celebration of Music, December 11 at 7 p.m., including students from Clarke, The Pines Senior PS and Newcastle PS
- Thomas A. Stewart SS Winter Music Night, December 11 at 7 p.m.
- East Northumberland SS Music Night, December 12.

- The 2nd annual Community Christmas Concert by Dan Fewings and Friends to benefit Teachers for Kids will take place Saturday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Peterborough CVS. Tickets are $20 and details are available from Teachers for Kids representatives in schools or at http://teachersforkidsfound.wix.com/tfk1
- Nominations are open for the 2013-14 Premier's Awards for Accepting Schools. The awards recognize exceptional and innovative work being done in schools to create a safe and accepting school environment. Submission deadline is February 21. For information, please visit http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/safeschools/award.html

Hats Off!
Congratulations and Hats Off! go to:
- the staff at Buckhorn PS for raising $1,116 for United Way this year
- Terry Fox PS staff, for welcoming 25 teachers from Sweden who were researching the Ontario education system for best practices
- Terry Fox PS primary students and staff who visited seniors at Golden Plough October 31 to share their Halloween costumes and treats with the residents
- everyone involved in the junior/intermediate concert band festival at Cobourg DCI West
- Clarke HS families for raising over $1,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation
- Clarke HS students who volunteered to referee the elementary soccer tournaments held at Orono PS, and to Craig Morrison for organizing the referees
- Armour Heights PS staff and student teachers for generous donations totalling $437.40 at a recent fundraising breakfast for the family of a student undergoing serious health issues; special recognition goes to early childhood educator Lisa McCabe for initiating the event
- Crestwood SS Senior Boys Football team, for winning the OFSSA championships
- Crestwood SS students and staff for supporting several charitable efforts including Teens for Jeans (collecting jeans for youth in shelters), Friends of Honduras’ summer clothing drive, and local food and toy drives
- Burnham PS students Raya and Dylan Rickerby, who received the YMCA Peace Medal in the 2013 youth category for their work on the School of Hope initiative; the funds raised will help hundreds of children in Guinea, Africa go to school
- Percy Centennial PS community, for raising $277.18 for the Red Cross effort to support typhoon victims in the Philippines
• S.T. Worden PS teacher organizer Dara McCallum, staff and students, for raising $881.07 for the United Way through a cake auction and hat day
• S.T. Worden PS School Council co-chairperson Dawn Canonico, for organizing the school’s entry in the First Annual Courtice Santa Claus Parade
• Kirby PS school community, for raising over $560 for people in the Philippines
• the Harold Longworth PS Student Equity and Diversity Committee and teacher Shelly Richards, for organizing a Hats for Haiyan Day to raise funds for Philippines relief
• S.T. Worden PS students who are donating toonies to support people in the Philippines; each student donor will colour in, and write a message on, a paper Philippine flag to be posted in the front foyer
• the Trenton Rotary Club, for its support in launching Murray Centennial PS’s Early Act Club; the Early Act Club will undertake three service projects this year
• Norwood DHS student Leann Benvenete, for receiving a bursary from the Ontario Provincial Police Association
• East Northumberland SS, for welcoming Me to We speaker Molly Burke at its Global Citizenship Assembly
• James Strath PS teacher Sharon Ballantyne, who was featured recently in an article in Discovering Women magazine.

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