Congratulations to all students on completion of the first half of the 2010-2011 school year. Your hard work and dedication to academics have been rewarded in that you are now that much closer to achieving your high school diploma. Whether you have just completed your first semester of high school or are entering your last, we hope that you have taken advantage of all the wonderful opportunities that our school has to offer.

Our teaching staff and administration have begun the School Effectiveness Framework process with assistance from the Critical Thinking Consortium at www.tc2.ca. Thank you to the staff for embarking on this journey, which has already enhanced the educational benefits and opportunities for the success of our students.

The first semester was buzzing with activity as we strove to new heights in athletics, clubs, on stage and in our classrooms. Markville is filled with great students and amazing stories every day, and all of you that make up our school continue to represent us well. To the staff, thank you again for putting students first and for your continued efforts. Together, our school community continues to support the success of our students.

Our staff continues to grow and change. Thanks to Ms. Howland, Ms Kim and Ms. Trevelyan, for all their hard work in semester one, and all the best in the future. Welcomes are extended to our new teachers Ms. Konaryeva, Mr. Whiler and returning from maternity leave Ms. Chong.

As we begin the second semester we encourage all students to work diligently, ask for help when needed, be of good character and work together to do and be their best. Get involved in school clubs, activities, athletics and other extra-curricular activities so you can get everything out of your time here.

We wish each and every one of you good health and continued success in the next semester.

Mr. Steve Bewcyk
Dramatic Arts

The first semester has been a busy one for Markville Drama students.

The Drama Club meets every Thursday after school in the Drama Studio [Room 346/347]. This year’s Club Executive includes Crystal Parkes, Sarah Thomson, Charlin Maclsaac, Jeffrey Wong, Brandon Jamieson, Sybil Tong, Zac Knight, Jessica Wilson, Austin Adams, Ammi Parma, Ian Millard, and Maha Dostmohamed. Exec members have been very busy this fall organizing club meetings and events such as our very successful Halloween Costume Party and our Holiday Party. New members are always welcome.

On November 8, grade 9 and 10 drama classes travelled to the historic Distillery District in Toronto. After seeing where the movies “X Men”, “Chicago”, and “Cinderella Man” were filmed, students attended Soulpepper Theatre Company’s production of A Raisin in the Sun. Students were impressed with the unique staging and dynamic performances in this American classic.

For two days in January, the grade 9 drama class entertained the students from Markville’s Community Class with Stories from Many Lands. This production featured multicultural plays written and directed by the students themselves. Students were also responsible for designing props, sets, costumes, lighting, and sound.

Also in January, the grade 10 drama students performed five original Children’s Theatre plays for the Markville Daycare students. These fairy tales were written by the drama students and each one had a special lesson for the children. The plays were enjoyed by all.

Second semester drama students head to the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People in Toronto to see the powerful dance drama I Think I Can and senior students will travel to Stratford to see The Grapes of Wrath at the Stratford Festival.

Rehearsals are now underway for the Drama Club’s production Snow Angel and the senior drama class’s production Chemical Bonding which will both be presented on May 11, 12, and 13. The Drama Club is still looking for people to work behind the scenes, so come to a Drama Club meeting and get involved. See you there.
Dramatic Arts
ESL Department

This semester, Markville’s ESL Department welcomed 17 new English Language Learners into the ESL program, keeping our Student Translators busy with orientation and translation. In September, the translators also held a welcome reception for our new students, creating a variety of games and activities in order to keep everyone entertained, and in October, with the help of Ms. Faizi, Miss Howland, and Miss Chui, a very successful Karaoke night was held.

In December, Mrs. Avgeropoulos, Mrs. Mathura-Malkos, Miss Chui, and Ms. Aceto, took the English Language Learners to downtown Toronto where the students spent the day enjoying skating at Nathan Philips Square

We are looking forward to seeing all the students back next semester when we will also be welcoming 24 new International students.

Computer Studies

The end of semester is always a busy time in Computer Studies as our students finish their independent projects in our Engineering and Programming courses. These projects are designed to showcase their many talents and solidify their problem solving and project management skills.

This semester Mr. Gillespie’s grade 10 students created web pages and some outstanding Flash games. Game titles included Asteroids, Super Mario, Pac Man, Basketball, Brick Breaker and several maze games. Mr. Ianni’s grade 11 Computer Science students completed their semester by creating a variety of computer games including Mastermind, Wheel of Fortune, Minesweeper, Concentration, Pac Man, Frogger and Tetris. The grade 12 Computer Engineering students were asked to program a microprocessor computer that interfaced with the real world. They responded by making a LEGO robotic arm, a plotter, a keyboard made out of pushbuttons and a gumball sorter. A selection of student’s work can be found in the Computer Science Department’s Student Gallery on the school's web site (www.MarkvilleSS.com)

In the 2011/2012 school year we hope to offer a Computer Game Development course, IDC4U, designed to introduce senior students to the many aspects involved in creating computer games. This course will appeal to students who have some experience in computer programming, but will also focus on project planning & management, visual arts, and technical communications. Students will work in teams to develop 2-D and 3-D educational games.
Technology

We now have our own YouTube channel for your viewing www.youtube.com/markvilletech

Students and parents can access Markville Tech’s YouTube channel 24/7 through their iPhones, iPads, Blackberry’s and other smart phones as well as their laptops and home computers. We are excited to be able to offer this compliment to support the course work as we feel it reassures you, as a parent, that your child can remain caught up with the course work in the event of a prolonged absence. You can visit us here http://www.youtube.com/user/MarkvilleTech We are uploading more and more each day! We also offer a QR Code that is linked to our Google calendar so your student can scan and be updated when their assignments are due at any point.

The Tech. Design class is just wrapping up their 3D playground assignments. Starting with concept of “Discovery and Safety” the students have conceptualized, drawn, and modelled their own playground design for children 6-11yrs of age. These playgrounds have been a huge success – look for these future designs to be popping up in a park near you!

This semester Communication Technology partnered with Veterans Affairs Canada to produce an eight min. digital film for the Remembrance Day assembly, with a special emphasis on the Humanitarian efforts and current sacrifices by Canadian soldiers. We had Afghanistan Veteran Ben Swanson speak to the assemblies on his experiences on deployment with the Canadian Forces. Students for their summative projects in grade 12 also produced 3-5 min. documentary interviews on bike safety, healthy living and documentaries for wood shop safety.

Grade 9 Integrated Technologies course has been busy completing various projects both designing and creating Photoshop computer work, drafting, orthographic drawing and building small cars that are powered on mouse traps. They also made acrylic holders for their iPods. The students rotate through each area experiencing different technology teachers and the specialization they offer. Look for their Egg Drop and Mouse Trap car videos on the YouTube channel!

The Woodworking classes have been studying the broad range of career opportunities available in the manufacturing sector and their educational requirements. They have been planning and fabricating various projects centred on furniture and household design.

The Gr. 11 Hairstyling and Aesthetics class was offered for the first time here at Markville Secondary! Ms. Mojica brings her knowledge, expertise, and passion for the industry and provided students with opportunities to develop workplace skills. Some highlights of the course include a Manicure Beauty Blitz, with proceeds donated to the Yellow Brick House, and a field trip to the Elmwood Spa.

Just a reminder that students wishing to receive a Certificate of Endorsement in Technological Education on their Ontario Graduation Diploma need to select additional Tech courses in grades 10, 11 and 12 to acquire a minimum total of six. This Certificate of Endorsement is a ministry document that is recognized by colleges and university entrance programs.

Markville Tech is excited to be part of a pilot project starting in Fall 2011 called the SHSM which will offer your child a streamlined course selection process to facilitate their entry into work placement and post secondary education. More details to follow!
Guidance Department

Congratulations to all Markville students for a very successful semester one. We have had a very busy start up to semester two this year with many new registrations, Grade 8 school visits and University and College applications.

Course selection for Markville students for Semester 2011 has already begun with grade assemblies this past week. Students will choose their next year courses on line through CAREER CRUISING and submit them electronically by February 18th 2011. Students are encouraged to make appointments with guidance counsellors for help and assistance with their selections.

Special Education

Our SERTs in February are connecting semester two teachers with your child’s IEP so that the student’s strengths and areas of need are accommodated for learning. In addition to the SERT playing an advocacy role, parents are asked to call teachers and visit teacher course Models regularly to follow their child’s learning. February is IPRC month. Parents are reminded to signature IPRC forms and return them to the Special Needs Office room 229. Please understand that a signed IPRC form commits our staff to support your child’s placement. Removal from a Learning Strategies courses occurs annually at IPRC time, and not through February course selection. A discussion with the SERT should precede a parent note to change courses. We congratulate all Exceptional students who completed January exams. Every IEP student was offered extra time for their exam, as they will be offered extra time for their June exams. Too, every grade 9 Identified EQAO math student, and every grade 10 Identified EQAO Literacy Test student will be accommodated by the Special Education Department.

Our department welcomes Mr. Gomille and Ms. Scagnetti to our Community Program semester two. We wish Ms. Trevelyan well as she leaves us for one semester. Ms. Jamed, EA, will assist teachers in grade 9 Locally Developed Math & Science classes. We thank our EAs Ms. Miller, Ms. Trefler, Ms. Poyntz, Ms. Gattan for their Intensive and Community support: helping at work experience, program integration, transportation and with student safety; helping Community teachers Ms. Stecher, Ms. Fremont in class to foster communication, numeracy and living skills; and assisting Mr. Patten with Physical Education. Thank you Learning Strategies teachers Ms. Achong and Ms. Adelson, for streamlining and thematically organizing the Learning Strategies courses 9 – 12 into efficient and effective credit courses. Each course, despite a common calendar description, is quite unique. We strongly recommend in a semestered school that Special Needs students take the GLE Learning Strategies courses in grades 9 and 10. The Special Education Department has purchased desktop computers and a second LCD projector to promote technology use in our classrooms.

Any parents desiring an update for training using their child’s SEA equipment should contact Dean Treasure ext. 229.
Geography Department

Times are changing in the Geography Department at Markville Secondary School. Mr. Graham Draper is retiring on February 25, 2011. Graham has been in the Geography Department since the school opened in 1990, serving as the Department head until he stepped down from that position in 2005. Graham is a solid teacher, an excellent mentor, a prolific writer and a good friend. He will be missed. He is looking forward to spending quality time with his family – especially his six grandsons and relaxing after 33 years in the profession! We would like to welcome Ms Mary Faizi to the Department. Mary completed an LTO during first semester and brings a wealth of talent and skills to the department.

We continue our policy of introducing technology into our programs - daily plans are available on the departmental website as are many of the required classroom handouts. With fifteen computers in one of our classrooms our students were afforded increased opportunities for research. Lesson plans are continually being modified in order to take advantage of this technology.

This year we have been fortunate to offer four senior geography courses. The World Issues students marked World Aids Day on December 1st with a poster and video display in the Atrium. The Environmental and the Natural Disasters courses investigated a number of current issues. The heart of the Geography program, however, is the grade nine program. The applied course consisted of a number of hands-on assignments and made good use of the student handbook. The Academic program concentrated on three major student projects: landform building, resource issues and urban planning. Under the guidance of Ms Faizi, the department has formed a Young Activist Club (YAC) made up of excited and dedicated grade 9 students who want to do more to help their community, their country and their world. The Department is also excited to be part of the new gifted program coming to Markville in September.

I would like to think that the students enjoy the Geography program and the challenges that it offers. Geography rocks!!
FSL and International Languages

The Grade 9 French Academic students had a fantastic semester two of French. Students created a Web Page which included music videos from YouTube, games and information about themselves and their families. Students also had the opportunity to create scary monster movies, DVD covers and scary masks. Mme Jeffery, Mlle. Carter held a contest between their classes for best movie, best actor, and best actress.

The second F.A.M.E (festival d’ados de monstres effrayants) movie festival was a success. Winner of “meilleure actrice” was Kelsey Dhanasar, “meilleur acteur” was Jacob McIsaac. The winner of the “meilleur film” was “Une soirée de poupée” by Kathleen Zhang, Haley Prentice, Chandni Patel, Genevieve Tallmeister, Jenny Chen.

The students finished grade nine French with their final task while exploring their talent as they will audition for “Talent Canada: Markville.” Presentations will include diverse talents such as break dancing, sumo wrestling, magic, mime, origami, arts and crafts, singing and playing instruments, baking and juggling!
Bon Travail Grade 9's! See you in Grade 10 French!

The 9 Applieds were very energetic this term when it came to any activity involving healthy competition in class. They performed dialogues, created personal web pages, PowerPoint's or Photostories to introduce themselves. They also filmed a movie and created a comic strip of a superhero based on themselves using a program called “Comic Life”.

To finish up the term, they will be taking on the character of a fortune teller to practice their future tense before exams! Bon travail les amis!

The Grade 10 Academic French explored a variety of themes this year from possible careers, to self-image, the joys of laughing and comedy and the sad history of genocide. Throughout these units, they read different excerpts, tackled new grammar and improved their oral communication. They competed for their dream apprenticeship option, created art to represent themselves and filmed comedy videos. To finish off everything, they created a campaign to promote awareness for organizations and causes important to them! Bravo les dixèmes, vous avez bossé très fort!!!! Soyez fiers et fières!

Grade 11 University French students filmed Téléjournal, presented on famous directors, created fantastic French magazines and had a great term parlant en français!!! They also discovered la grande francophonie through various medias this semester such as music, films, internet. They read The Phantom of the Opera and Le petit Nicolas. They wrote about their childhood, they presented Phantom skits and ended off exploring contemporary social issues while making a magazine and formal presentation to share their discoveries with the class!

The Grade 12 University French explored the French language from different destinations worldwide and through different mediums this term. A highlight was their literature circles where they came prepared to discuss the novel Secrets de Guerre from a variety of critical perspectives. They participated in debates, wrote letters to the Prime Minister, wrote two major essays and attempted to speak in the target language on a regular basis. Les meilleurs voeux l’an prochain dans tous vos poursuits.

Félicitations! We would like to congratulate the following Grade 12 French students on receiving their French certificate of merit and wish them well with all their future endeavours!

- Carina Amaral
- Cherry Chan
- Emilie Cole-Lamagnere
- Tiara Dailleboust
- Victor Diec
- Tony Diu
- Kevin Fung
- Nevetha Kanesanathan
- Vivian Lau
- Becky Lee
- Yan Shuo Lee
- Aaron Li
- Alice Liang
- Harry Look
- Charlin Mclsaac
- Bianca Mok
- Catrina Morrell-Bellai
- Tamkin Naghshbandi
- Aakriti Pasricha
- Sonja Poon
- Joshua Sherman
- Rachel Tam
- Yuki Tamaki
- Mathew Truong
- Jaclyne Tse
- Stanley Tse
- Erica Wang
- Yanan Wang
- Connie Wen
- Evelyn Yeung

Beginning Grade 9 ESL French students have learned a great deal of vocabulary this semester and are enjoying their introduction to a new language. Recently, students presented an interview to show their understanding of newly learned question methods. Lady Gaga, Johnny Depp, Usher and Obama were among the celebrities portrayed by the students.
Grade 10/11 Languages for Travel students learned some key language elements and vocabulary for both countries. They created Power Point presentations on recipes, famous Greeks and Italians, places to visit in both countries and learned about history, fashion, and culture as well. Bravo!!

Grade 10 Spanish—This energetic and creative bunch of students was quick at grasping the Spanish lingo. They are able to maintain a three minute conversation, sin pensar. Many of the students shared their wild experiences while preparing their Spanish food dish for our annual fiesta! The dishes were deliciosas! Our students, the actors, did a phenomenal job on their Markville Movie! They promoted our school to foreign students with charisma and style!

The grade 10 Spanish class went on a fun filled field trip to Kensington Market and Plaza Flamingo. At Kensington Market, students completed an intense scavenger hunt, tried some delicious empanadas along with some sharp cheese from Spanish and Latino countries. After this, students went to Plaza Flamingo where they learned how to Salsa and Merengue! Bailamos! The students enjoyed the paella and dulces at Plaza Flamingo. Lastly, all of the students took part in the Flamenco Dancing. They are ready to dance in España!

At the end of the semester, the students created a children’s story book and audio CD. Hopefully, these fancy books will be available at Chapters one day.

Señor Ebrahim would like to congratulate the Spanish students for a wonderful semester, all their hard work and dedication.

¡Gracias! ¡See you next year in Grade 11 Spanish!

Grade 12 University Spanish—This fun yet hardworking group of students were keen in studying Spanish for the third and last time at Markville. The students worked on their conversational skills. They are able to maintain a seven minute conversation, sin pensar.

Many of the students shared their artistic capabilities while preparing a dish from their own culture as they took part in our food day. The dishes were deliciosas!

The grade 12 students created took part in a competition where they created their own trailers for future Spanish movies. Three of the trailers were chosen for their final task where the students created a 25 minute movie in Spanish. You will be able to find these fine movies at a BlockBuster near you. The titles include, “La Belleza” by Taylor Dhanasar, “¿Dónde está Dion?” by Catherine Ma, and finally “La familia Acogida” by Yanan Wang.

Señor Ebrahim would like to congratulate the Spanish students for a wonderful semester, all their hard work and dedication. Thank you for four wonderful years and best of luck with your future endeavours. Mis ojos les van a echar.

¡Felicitationes! We would like to congratulate the following Italian and Spanish students on receiving their International Language Certificate of Merit and wish them well with all their future endeavours!

- Shabir Amador-Mughal
- Michelle Chung Tiam Fook
- Taylor Dhanasar
- Michelle Dubreuil
- Hassina Farzam
- Dayan Lahera
- Kharina Llanes
- Lauren Lyew
- Catherine Ma
- Maggie Ma
- Bianca Mok
- Rachel Tam
- Yanan Wang
- Weiling Yang

Upcoming Events:
1. A CANADIANA EXPERIENCE: NOTRE VOYAGE BILINGUE. FSL/International Languages are participating in a trip to Quebec City, Montreal, and Ottawa March Break 2011.
2. GRADE 12 (ADVANCED) UNIVERSITY SPANISH*. This course will be offered next year again. Be ready for a fun-filled field trip and movie night! * Upon completion of this course, students will receive the International Language Certificate of Merit.
3. EUROPE OCTOBER BREAK 2012. Listen up for announcements! Information is coming to you soon!!!! Speak to any member of the department regarding this trip. Tentative parent meeting is late April!

Merci (grazie and gracias) à tous pour vos efforts!
To all our fantastic students, we wish you well!
M. Ebrahim, Mme Jeffery, Mme Tavernese, Mlle Carter, Mme Stetcher
Mathematics Department

Markville students have once again performed extremely well in the University of Waterloo Mathematics Contests. Special congratulations go to the following students, who placed in the top 25% of all Canadian competitors for the November 2010 Canadian Open Mathematics Contest:

- Charlene Tong (Top mark)
- Annie Ma (Top mark)
- Frank Fu
- Lantian Li
- Yujing Zou
- Xiangguang Ren
- Yue Xu
- Chiyu Hu
- Tiangong Liu
- Steven Shi
- Bilal Islah
- Anni Dong
- Chuyin Huang
- Angela Zeng
- Xin Liu

We look forward to the upcoming University of Waterloo math contests: the grade 9 Pascal, grade 10 Cayley, and grade 11 Fermat contests to be written on Thurs. Feb. 24; the grade 12 Euclid contest to be written on Tues. April 12; and the grade 9 Fryer, grade 10 Galois, and grade 11 Hypatia contests to be written on Wed. April 13. If any students are interested in participating and have not yet signed up, they should see Mrs. Kei-Baxter or Mr. Segal in the Math Department immediately.

The Math Club, led by Mrs. Trusha Patel, has also been competing in Math League competitions. The Peer Tutoring Club, coordinated by Mrs. Gabriela Smeianu and Ms. Sandy Wong, continues to be a great success, with large numbers of students volunteering and receiving help on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school in Room 345.

The department also welcomed Mrs. Tatyana Konaryeva, who will be with us until March when Mrs. Juliana Nobrega returns from leave. Ms. Wendy Chui, who just completed an LTO with the Math Department, will be working in the Science department for Semester Two. Once again, our Mathematics Department is proud to host a number of Faculty of Education students from York University. It has always been our pleasure to help mentor future teachers.
History Department

Travel Travel Travel

The History and Business departments are taking over 70 students to Europe in October of 2011. We are very excited to go to Berlin, Prague, Auschwitz, Budapest and many sites in between. There are still a few spots left, if you are interested please visit [www.markvillehistory.com](http://www.markvillehistory.com), Travel into History for more details.

We are very excited for our trip to New York City in May. If there are any students interested in joining this trip please see Mr. Nicholson.

We welcome back Ms. Chong from maternity leave and look forward to her energy and passion for teaching. Congratulations to Mr. Wiskin as he now officially joins the Markville staff as a contract teacher!

We encourage students to experience the award winning Markville History Department and see the possibilities.
Health and Physical Education

Health and Wellness at Markville SS Gets a Boost!!!

Markville students and staff had a lot to give thanks for this fall as the new fitness and weight training room was completed and ready for use. Room 214 was converted from a computer technology room into a bright, new, state of the art fitness facility. The room is three times larger than the old room (115) and is gradually filling up with modern new equipment.

It has taken a long year of planning to get to this point and many people have been involved. Mr. Bill Crothers and Superintendent Cecil Roach supported our request for the expansion. Once York Region District School Board approved the project, Mark Page (YRDSB Plant Dept), Principal Steve Bewcyk and Head Caretaker Paul Harrison have devoted many hours to making sure that every detail of the room was completed with great care. Thanks also goes out to Mr. Vlatko Cvetkovski and the entire Technology Department for relocating their classroom to allow the space to be used for the fitness room. Finally, thanks needs to be given to the entire caretaking staff and the members of the Health and Physical Education Department (Mr. Jesse Bramer, Ms. Terrey Norman, Mr. Steve Patten and Mr. Michael Sinukoff) who have spent a great deal of time and effort in the planning and set up of this wonderful new facility.

Last semester the room was open every morning and every night after school where 60 club members made use of the equipment. The staff members who have volunteered to supervise the club are Ms. Kei-Baxter, Mr. Keehn, Ms. Smith, Mr. Bramer, Ms. Norman, Mr. Wisken, Mrs. McCallum, Mrs. Avgeropoulos, Ms. Aceto and Mr. Holik.

Your support of Healthy Active Living is very much appreciated!!
Markville Athletics

Markville athletes have continued to represent themselves well throughout two seasons of York Region athletics. Competitive playoff runs, championship appearances, continued sportsmanship, and individual and team successes have all exhibited the character of our athletes and coaches.

The spring sports will be starting up shortly and for those students still looking for the opportunity to compete and donning the Maverick logo, listen for announcements of upcoming tryouts/meetings for girl's soccer, boy's rugby, track and field, baseball, and ultimate.

All Markville students can always look forward to recognizing their Markville athletes with upcoming opportunities to cheer on the home team occurring almost weekly. As well, the annual Athletic ceremony will be broadening its horizons to an evening event at a local conference hall. This is a highly anticipated annual occasion that recognizes all the successes of the year, giving our athletes a chance to celebrate each other's accomplishments.

Visual Art Department

The Visual Arts Department welcomes Greg Dru back into the department beginning this semester. A special thank you goes out to Ms. L. Kim for her wonderful expertise and teaching during Mr. Dru's absence. Ms. Kim will be missed!

Many former students recently participated in the Varley Art Gallery's Art Battle on Feb 5, 2011...great work everyone! If you took an art course in Semester One with either Mrs. Caston or Ms. Kim, please come and pick up any outstanding artwork by Feb 20th. Work that Mrs. C kept for photographing as exemplars is now ready for pick up.
Music

The 2010/2011 school year promises to be unusually hectic and highly rewarding one for the Music Department. We held our 19th annual Fall Classic Bowling Tournament in October. In November the Senior Wind Ensemble welcomed renowned composer Elliot Del Borgo to the school for a workshop, and performed in the second annual "Students Helping Students" concert, a benefit fund raising evening for Participation House.

On December 6, our bands and orchestras performed at Markham Theatre in Festive Sounds, our annual celebration of the holiday season. This concert was sold out for the sixth straight year! In addition, our choral students performed at Central United Church on December 8 in our new Festive Voices concert.

The new year began with Markville Music's 20th Music Theatre production, "Wonderful Town", performed at the Richmond Hill Theatre on January 6, and 7. The production run was extraordinarily successful, and as always we can't wait to see what next year's show will be (yes, we're already working on it).

The Music Department has two tours organized for the spring. Our senior students will perform in the Magical Musical Days program at Walt Disney world in Orlando, Florida, in late April. As well many of our Junior Band students will be traveling to Chicago for performances and clinics in mid-May.

All ten of our major performing ensembles will spend January and February getting ready for music festival season. We are hoping to claim our usual number of Gold Awards, First Place finishes, and Invitations to Nationals. In addition to our competitive festival performances, we are currently preparing for the 17th annual Elementary Music Retreat at Jackson's Point, the "Jammin At Joe's" fundraiser, our spring Markville Pops concert at Markham Theatre, "Junk Food And Jazz", and our end of the year Music Banquet.

We sincerely hope that you can make the time to join us at one of our upcoming events.
We are very happy to announce that the business department continues to grow every year in sections and the number of courses we offer. Our new grade 12-university preparation course, 'Investments and Finance', has three sections in its first year. The business department is committed to teaching relevant curriculum and preparing our students for the world of business and just last week, we found out that we have been approved as a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) school with two focuses; one in technology and the other in business studies. The SHSM framework is one that is approved by the board and the Ministry of Education. Students can choose to obtain a SHSM in any of the 4 post-secondary pathways (work, trade, college, university).

This year, over 100 students joined the DECA Business Club; making it the largest extra curricular club in the school two years in a row. Mr. Rao and Ms. Sharp work with these students every Wednesday in preparation for both the regional and provincial competitions. Next week, the provincials take place in Toronto and we wish our students the best of luck.

In addition, Mr. Rao and Mrs. Chan will be taking our grade 10 business students to the ‘Junior Achievement’ (JA) competition in March. Last year, we came home with a couple ‘first’ place prizes in this competition, and we hope to place well again this year.

Lastly, this semester, Mr. Steve Whiler joins us in the department and we welcome him to Markville. Mr. Whiler was a student teacher last year, so we are excited to have him as part of our teaching staff.

Living, Sharing, and Learning Together
Markville’s Motto
Resource Centre

The library maintains its status as the hub of Markville’s learning community. Students continue to maximize usage of our computer lab housing 32 high speed internet desktops. The newly created Seminar Room found within the library’s walls has served a variety of student and staff endeavours including Student Success and a quiet respite for our senior students. Our Presentation Learning Center now includes an interactive white board, a Front Row speaker system with microphones, cable television, an ABEL computer – all making this a premium presentation area for our school community. Ms. Sharp’s Law classes were the first to use this system for their Mock Trials. The use of technology was definitely an asset to our student lawyers and criminals (mock!) alike.

Parents and students are reminded of our Electronic Resource collection. Our Library website (easily accessed from the school website) contains a wealth of E-resources. Our newest product is Global Issues in Context: Perspectives on International News and Events. This product is “designed by information professionals and subject experts to support global awareness and the development of critical thinking and information literacy skills” (www.gale.cengage.com). Likewise our digital EBSCO products continue to be successful research resources for today’s curriculum. Our EBSCO e-resources include: Canadian Points of View, Literary Plus Research Center and History Reference Center. Again, all electronic resources are accessed through the Markville Library website. (Remote access password information is available upon request.)

Anyone a fan of a great read is welcomed to join us for our launch at the beginning of Semester II. Remember access is through your Student ID card!

The White Pine reading program offers teens the opportunity to read the best of Canada’s recent young adult fiction titles. A reader only needs to read 5 books out of a list of 10 to qualify to vote. Based on student voting across the province, the most popular book is then selected and the author is honoured with the White Pine Award.

It’s not too late to join — Come in and ask us for information!

- Borderline / Allan Stratton
- Fear the worst / Linwood Barclay
- Fishtailing / Wendy Phillips
- Gravity brings me down / Natale Ghent
- Hearts at stake / Alyxandra Harvey
- The monkeyface chronicles / Richard Scarsbrook
- The second trial / Rosemarie Boll
- Some girls are / Courtney Summers
- Swim the fly / Don Calame
- The worst thing she ever did / Alice Kuipers
Personalized Alternative Education

Markville’s Personalized Alternative Education Dept. continues to grow with even more quadmester options being offered.

The MAGIC program provides students a non-traditional setting with the opportunity to catch up on grade 9/10 credits. Congratulations are extended to all MAGIC students who have successfully completed their credits.

The JUMP program caters to senior students looking to earn their last 8 or fewer elective credits through the world of work. Best of luck to Ryan Bradler, Chris Catay, Kathryn Kirwin, Silvia Yin, Evan Perrier, Augie Pitsillides, Alex Yu as they head off to college.

The QUAD program allows senior students to pursue electives in a 9 week program. Students can earn two credits every 9 weeks in a small classroom setting. Congrats to all of our students and grads who have had a successful semester.

A special thank you to Mr. Holik, Ms. Kant, Mrs. Ruffo, Mrs. Passafiume, Mrs. Smith Ms. Vlahopoulos, Mr. Achong and Mr. Sinukoff for their hard work, creativity, humour and empathy to ensure student success.

English Department

The English Department was full of activity this year. We had many wonderful grade nine activities, including motivational speakers and inspirational media workshops. For the first time, grade ten students put on a Macbeth Film Festival, showcasing their artistry in the MSS Library. The grade eleven classes continued to cultivate amazing speeches and put on complex debates on a range of topics. The grade twelve classes interacted with a bevy of stimulating seminars and put their classical rhetoric skills on display. We look forward to another great semester, as well as the upcoming Spoken Word Festival (March 3, 2011). Congratulations to all of our incredible students!
Family Studies

COOKIE SCAVENGER HUNT
As part of social responsibility, the Grade 9 Social Science class baked a variety of cookies for the entire school, and held a cookie scavenger hunt! These cookies were wrapped in well-decorated, personalized packages, and included a variety of stickers and empowering messages.

PAY IT FORWARD
As a part of the grade 9 Social Studies curriculum, students are asked to explore their personal growth and development as well, understand their natural strengths and talents as well as what it means to be a global citizen. “Think of something to change the world and put it into action” This was the inspiring social studies assignment given by Mr. Simonet in the movie Pay It Forward. Grade 9 students used this philosophy to Pay It Forward by thinking of an activity that will affect change. Some students chose to make and give away bracelets. Some chose to bake and distribute muffins, while others decided to tutor students in need. Overall, students were able to encourage others to use theirs strengths and talents to affect change as well.

FOODS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
The grade 10 foods class hosted a multicultural foods display in the cafeteria. Various cultures and foods were represented. Students and staff had the opportunity to taste foods from around the world.

Anti-bullying Committee
The anti-bullying committee organized a ‘Take the Pledge’ activity in the atrium to increase bullying awareness and to raise money for Kid’s Help Phone. This activity was designed for students to understand that they all have a responsibility when it comes to bullying at Markville. Students were made aware that if they do not help students who are bullied then they are helping the bully. Committee members designed and painted a large mural which contained hand prints and anti-bullying sentiments. Markville students who signed their names on the mural took ‘The Pledge’ that they will support anti-bullying initiatives at Markville Secondary. The committee members also baked cookies and cupcakes and handed them out to students and staff who donated money to Kid’s Help Phone. The mural is now on display in the atrium. The Anti-bullying Committee raised $114.29 for Kid’s Help Phone.
Co-operative Education

Congratulations to our students who completed their Co-op work experience in January. We are very proud of the professional way in which our students represented Markville to our Community partners. They have been working as assistants to Teachers, Veterinarians, Retail Sales and Service Clerks, Accountants, Early Childhood Educators, Theatre Technicians, Auto body and Collision Technicians, Pharmacists, Art Gallery Specialists, Early Childhood Speech and Language Therapists, Art Teachers, Childbirth & Children’s Nurses, Diagnostic Imaging Technicians, Physiotherapists, Administrators, Human Resource Associates, Chefs, Music Teachers, Aestheticians, Graphic Designers, Personal Care Workers, Performance Car Technicians, and Security Officers. We would like to recognize and thank our many employers for hosting and providing excellent training opportunities to our students during the first semester. We are grateful for your guidance and support.

We look forward to another tremendous semester thanks to the enthusiasm of our students and the support of our community. One of our students will be travelling to Ecuador to participate in the International Co-op Program while earning 6 high school credits. We look forward to hearing about her adventures upon her return. The Accelerated OYAP program continues to grow offering students dual credits in both High School and College during a student’s senior year. The Costa Rica summer school co-op was a huge success and applicants are currently being accepted for this summer.

Markville will be a Specialist High Skills Major School (SHSM) beginning in September with a focus in Business and/or Information and Communications Technology. Students who will be in grade 11 or grade 12 in September will be eligible to participate in this program. Please contact the Co-op department for additional information as we will be conducting interviews in April and May. More details will be available on our school website.

If you have any questions regarding the many cooperative education opportunities that are available, or would like to host a co-op student, please contact the co-op office at 905-940-8840 Ext. 227.
Science Department

The MSS Science Department had a successful first semester. In the classroom, students developed their knowledge and understanding while working to improve their scientific thought, investigation, and literacy skills.

The grade 9 and 10 science classes and the grade 11 physics and chemistry classes participated in a science fair which allowed the students to branch out and investigate areas of personal interest.

The senior biology classes welcomed a guest speaker from Reptilia, who brought along a number of exotic visitors (including a skink, a snake and a crocodile). The Science Club took part in the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up, examined superconductivity with liquid nitrogen, dissected a cat, a rat and a frog, and also made slime and discussed nanoscience with guest presenters from the University of Guelph. Markville’s award-winning Environmental Club continued its work, undertaking a waste audit and developing ideas to reduce energy consumption throughout the school.

As we begin the second semester, the Markville science department will continue to provide opportunities for students to learn and experience science: the science club will be offering more occasions for interested students to get together and participate in science activities involving hands-on experimentation, as well as presentations from outside experts; a number of courses will be travelling outside of the school on curriculum-related field trips; and senior students will have an opportunity to compete in a number of contests designed to challenge their knowledge. These contests attract participants from around the world. Interested students should watch the bulletin boards in the science hall for event and contest information.

The Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) is fast approaching. This year’s test will be written on Thursday, March 31, 2011. The writing of this test is a requirement of the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Markville’s Literacy Team has been working with teachers, preparing students to build literacy skills in all subjects. All grade ten homerooms were visited by the Literacy teachers, and given preparatory resources for the upcoming OSSLT. Please see the school website www.markville.ss.yrdsb.edu.on.ca for more information on the Literacy@Markville Program.

Another key resource for students is a new “Literacy@Markville Moodle”. The moodle is a website that has weekly activities, sample and practice questions for the test, and various other useful resources. Students get immediate feedback and will gain a great deal of comfort with the types of questions that they will encounter on this year’s test. Markville is offering an After School Literacy Class starting on February 16 for students that feel they could benefit from more practice. Information and registration forms for the After School Literacy Class are available in the main office.