

No choice but to file human rights complaint: parent

● From front

discrimination complaints from parents battling for their children's right to learn in a safe and inclusive environment.

"These parents have lost all of their faith they had in the school board," NCCM board member Abbas Kassam said. "Parents are pushing on these issues because it's their children, and these are things we shouldn't have to ask for from a public body like the school board."

The council first got involved when a Markham principal posted anti-Muslim comments on Facebook. The council wrote to the school board about the incident. Following the investigation conducted by the board, parents and the council felt the board did not follow its own policy, known as policy 240, since it made no effort to make public the steps taken in the process, nor did it release the findings.

"These issues aren't racially inclusive and that's why we are working with other communities who are experiencing the same things," he added. "The best way to deal with all of this is to have an open dialogue."

Unhappy with the school board's response to the incident, the council turned to Education Minister Mitzie Hunter, who has since met with board chair Anna DeBartolo and education director Philip Parappally, and later sent a letter requesting a plan of action be penned for current issues and sent to her by Jan. 13 for review.

"I have also received a growing number of letters and calls for action from individuals and groups who feel there is systemic racism that

is not being adequately addressed within the board," Hunter wrote in the letter. "These feelings cannot be downplayed or ignored."

Charlene Grant, the mother of a Woodbridge high school student, was one of the first parents to file a complaint against the school board with the Ontario Human Rights Commission when she felt her concerns were being "brushed under the carpet" by teachers, the principal and the board.

"The last meeting I had at the school, it was suggested that we switch schools," she said. "I felt defeated and I was in tears because I couldn't tell my son that things would change."

School is supposed to be a nurturing and safe environment for students to learn, but instead, her son, who she asked not be named for fear of retribution, has endured harassment, inappropriate remarks about his religion and more from teachers and coaches at the school, she said.

She pointed out that he was the only black child in his class at the time.

Grant claims he has been called "intimidating" for looking at a teacher as she spoke to him, benched at a sporting event because he looked "too full" to play after missing a practice for a religious feast, and told by another teacher, "I know people like you."

"One day he forgot an item in the change room and was given permission to leave gym class and retrieve it," Grant said. "When the teacher felt he had been gone too long he told the students they had better go and check on him because he's probably stealing their things."

FREE RANGE TURKEYS

We've sold these amazing turkeys for the last 30 years - and I've written all that can be written about them. So at risk of boring you folk who have read this for the last many years, there are a couple of points that I'd like to make to our newer customers. Firstly, our turkeys eat lots of grain and corn, as much or as little as they want, because they run loose. Add to this a gentler de-feathering process which leaves more of the natural flavour and the odd feather with the turkey, and you'll have a turkey that will exceed your expectations for flavour and moistness, without the aid of the artificial enhancement that Butterballs and some other pre-basted turkeys receive. They come with a little 'pop-up' thermometer as well, just so you know when they're done, which is often a bit quicker than you might expect. They range in size from 14-21 lbs, and for my taste, the optimum eating quality is from those in the 18-21 lb size, as they have a 'good finish' in my opinion. Please know that they are available in portions as well, if your needs are less. **\$3.69/lb** Call us to place your order.

OYSTERS!

There will be three types to choose from this week; the first being **FRENCH KISS**, which are from New Brunswick, the second being **KUSSHI** from Vancouver Island, and the third are **MALPEQUES** from Prince Edward Island. All are subtly different, so see our "Oyster Guide" at the Fish Counter for all the details. You can mix **\$1.49** each or match these.

DRIED FRUIT TRAYS

A number of years ago, I was given an imposing-looking tray of dried fruit, and as I dug into it (I like dried fruit!) I found that the most fancy ones were 'fluffed-up' by more pleb product, and that in the end. I felt short-changed. I thought then that I would make them for the store, with no fluff - just the best stuff - and right to the bottom - and this will be our 6th year making these. They are great just for yourself, family sharing or as a pretty imposing hostess gift.

WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE DELI!

We'll start with our **Cranberry Quinoa Salad**, with dried cranberries, diced sweet peppers, slivered almonds, and chopped dried apricots, in a cranberry dressing. This is a pretty light and refreshing salad. **Regular is \$2.99/100g. The deal will be**

Our next item will be **Hubbard Squash Soup**, made with sweet onions, carrots, celery, Yukon potatoes, maple syrup and chicken stock. Hubbards are those big grey-blue monster squash, and one goes a long way.....so think lots of soup! **Regular here is \$8.95 per 900ml The deal will be**

Since we made lots of the Cranberry Brie Stuffing for the tenderloins at the fresh meat counter, we thought that we might stuff some of our chicken breast, as well. We've gone one better and make the **Cranberry Brie Stuffed Chicken Breast** too, so you should just be warming these through. **Regular here is \$4.99/100g The deal for these will be**

What about some **SPRING ROLLS**? There will be 3 flavours on hand; the first is Mango and Shrimp, the second is Three-Mushroom, and the third is South-West Chicken. These just need to be heated in your oven. **Regular is \$1.50 each, Featured at**

Following this, we'll have something new; a **Turkey Shepherd's Pie**. We've used the turkey of course, with sweet onion, carrots, peas and corn, mashed and turkey gravy. Sound good? **Feature will be**

Our SOUS VIDE item of choice will be a **Rib Eye with Porcini Mushroom Sauce**. This is the season for porcini in Northern Italy, and it's a flavour worth travelling for, but just to us! The rib eye is fully cooked, just boil it in the bag, and serve it to rave reviews.....with no clean-up! **Featured this week at**

.....and lastly, our Salad Dressing for this week will be **Caesar** in the 250ml jars, **Featured at**

PORK TENDERLOINS!

We'll be featuring these three-ways this week; the first is stuffed with our usual chopped dried fruit, the second is stuffed with cranberry and brie, both with some bread, and the third is actually not stuffed but au-naturel. Stuffed tenders are easily roasted..... we'll have instructions, while the regular is so versatile that almost anything can be done. **25% OFF** **Regular is \$11.95/lb**

BELLA VITANO CHEESE

These have an aged texture similar to good cheddar, and there are three flavours to choose from this week; **Raspberry, Balsamic** and **Merlot**. Once you start nibbling on these, they won't last long - they really are hard to put down. Be sure they are at room temp, and that you have a glass of wine at hand. **Reg. \$7.49/100g - Featured at 1/3 OFF THIS WEEK**

SMOKED TURKEYS

We make amazing Smoked Turkeys—probably because we start with our amazing fresh turkeys. These are becoming increasingly popular, especially with our Asian customers. It seems that we always make a few less than what we need, which causes a few problems. If you would like one, it must be ordered in advance, before Dec. 18th, because it takes a week to get them ready. **Secondly, be sure that you specify "smoked turkey" otherwise it goes on the list for regular turkey. It's easy, really!** **Order deadline is December 18th.**

HOCKEY WITH HEART

We will be doing our second Street Walk this weekend, and for the names of the streets that we'll visit, see our website www.thevillagegrocer.com. The crew will come Saturday and leave a bag with instructions at your door, and return for pick-up the following day. We accept foodstuffs appropriate for the Food Bank, un-opened and toys and cash if it's easier. The collections will be split evenly with the Markham Food Bank and the Unionville Alliance Church Christmas Program. **ADDITIONALLY**, one of our Green Trucks will be at Angus Glen Arena on Saturday the 10th, accepting donations of foodstuff and toys for these charities as well, should this be a bit easier. The Unionville Men's Hockey Club and Hockey with Heart **THANK YOU** in advance for your continued amazing generosity, as we look forward to a very successful Food Drive this December!

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

I racked my brain to come up with something new and hip to feature at the cafe this weekend, but alas I couldn't conjure up anything out-of-this-world. So instead I wanted to make up the exact opposite, something ultra old-school and unbelievably simple. Our **Tuna, Egg and Salmon Salads** have been mainstays since we opened and are the best around. You can have your choice of the three on either white or wholewheat bread for **\$4.99** each

Sunday Brunch will begin with our **Beef and Barley Soup**, with either **Beef and Mushroom Stew, Chicken Breast in a Pesto Cream Sauce or Bow-Tie Pasta with Chicken Breast and Broccoli in a Rose Sauce**, with either rice or mashed, tea or coffee and a mini dessert, if you have room. All for **\$11.95** per person, served from Noon till Two

HAIDEN MANGOES

Im thinking that you can never be too clean, and part of the fun is getting there...so you'll need some of our amazing **olive oil soap**.

These comes from **Carli**, and they come in 6-packs, so you don't have to be sparing... **Reg. \$24.95, and featured from now till the end of the year at \$20.00 box**

And while we're on the subject of olive oil, we bought a load of 500ml **Carli Extra-Virgin Oil**, and we'll be selling this at **25% OFF** also till the year-end. **Reg. \$13.95 each.** This is great for salads and bread dipping - but not bathing if that's what you were thinking...

PIZZA!

It's been several months since I've seen a mango that's gotten me excited, so I was over the moon when I saw these Brazilian beauties arrive Monday morning. They are tree-ripened and delivered day-of, by air, which allows for peak juiciness and out-of-this-world flavour, as opposed to the ones you might see at other stores that are artificially-ripened and spend weeks in cargo. Due to the cost of air freight, these are a little more expensive, but after a single bite you'll know it's worth it. **\$1.99** each

WHAT'S BAKING THIS WEEK?

This week it will be Meat Lovers, with our bacon, chunks of sausage, sweet onions and peppers with a fresh tomato sauce. 12" size, **\$10.95** each **featured at**

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We'll start with **Candy Cane Cheesecake**, which begins with a shortbread crust, and the cheese mixture is swirled with crushed candy canes, finished with a border of the canes as well. **Reg. \$18.95 ea.**

Eggnog Mousse Cake comes next. This is made with three layers of vanilla sponge cake that's been lightly brushed with a rum syrup, filled with eggnog mousse, and then decorated with white chocolate shavings, fondant holly leaves and gold 'snow'. **There are two sizes, \$24.95 and \$34.95 each.** (BTW - if you tried the Harmony Eggnog at our open house, you'll know what eggnog was actually meant to taste like)

Gingerbread Shortbread - these are our all-butter shortbreads with the addition of all the holiday spices - cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and cloves! You'll find these opposite the counter in the hex containers. **Reg. \$9.95 / container**

And lastly, we've made **Cranberry-White Chocolate Scones**. They have the cranberries and white-chocolate chunks baked-in and are drizzled with white chocolate. **Reg. \$2.29 ea.**

All these will be featured at 25% OFF THIS WEEK
BTW - our **Fruitcake** is now available, **Mincemeat**, too, - and even **Plum Puddings!**



SPECIALS IN EFFECT FROM THURSDAY TO CLOSING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Hours: Mon. ~ Fri. 8:00-8:00 | Sat. 8:00-6:00 ~ Sun. 9:00-6:00



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