

Parliament Oak News for January 2012

From the Principal's Desk...

Happy New Year! We hope you had an enjoyable break. As 2012 begins, Parliament Oak staff continues to offer a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities for your children. At the same time, your children do a lot for Parliament Oak through their participation in these activities, as well as volunteering in the office at recess and lunch, helping out with the milk program, running pizza days, organizing school-wide student council events, to name just a few. As parents, we can certainly encourage them to try something new in 2012, and support their growth towards independence in many different ways.

✧ Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as "Students of the Month" who demonstrated caring which is showing kindness, compassion, empathy, and friendship toward others.

JK/SK. Ava Randall, Luke Midgley
1/2... Maddie Tait, Madison Kelly
2/3... Florence Symonds, Johnathan Rolph
4/5... Reuben Eshuis, Genny Moncion
5Fl. ... Emily Koop
5/6... Annika Johnson, Spencer McGuire
7Fl. ... Alex Typer
7/8... Kiara Nestor (November), Gregg Walton

In January we will focus on optimism which is having a positive attitude, the resiliency to bounce back from adversity, and hope for the future. We do our part to make the world a better place.

✧ Thank you to our Students for...

- ☺ arriving at school on time and being ready to learn
- ☺ using the proper entrances for entry and exit
- ☺ using your student organizer to make sure homework assignments are done on time!
- ☺ being involved in various extracurricular activities
- ☺ having a positive attitude

✧ Thank You to our Parents for...

- ☺ calling the school when students will be absent
- ☺ stopping and checking in at the office when visiting the school
- ☺ saying goodbye at the backyard and letting primary children line up on their own
- ☺ using the student organizers to communicate with staff
- ☺ volunteering in many ways to help our students

✧ Additional Thanks...!

Thanks to Mrs. Andrews and the Eco Team for their hard work in organizing and setting up the Eco School Bake Sale. I
Thanks to Walker family for donating cider for our skating days.

Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Walker, Mr. Kuhn and Mrs. Dubois for the great work they did in getting the truck decorated for the NOTL Santa parade.

Mrs. Robinson did a great job leading our cheerleading crew during the Santa Claus Parade..thanks!

Thanks to Ms. Schiff for doing a presentation about Hanukkah in the grade 1 /2 and Grade 5 French Immersion class and providing latkes for both classes..

Thank you to Mrs. Batson- Feuer for making latkes for the grade 7 French Immersion class during Hanukkah.



✧ Secondary School Open Houses

Once again it is that time of year when our grade 8 students will need to be thinking about next year and the decisions that they will need to make. During the month of January, our students will be given information about the high schools they should be considering. St. Catharines area schools open houses are: Laura Secord: January 17th, 6:30-9:00 PM; Eden, January 16th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, and Kernahan Park, January 16th, 6:30 -8:00 PM. Parents and students are encouraged to take advantage of the open houses. Parliament Oak staff is available to assist students and parents in making the right choices for next year.

✧ Thank you...

To all who supported our community through the donation of Canadian Tire money (\$25.00) for Christmas Gifts. Thank you to those who participated!

An important message about Inclement Weather Procedures...

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures.

Information about transportation changes and school closures will be available on the websites, radio and television stations listed below as soon as it is available.

Please do not phone the school for transportation or school closure information.

Websites:

www.dsbn.org
www.nsts.ca

Television Stations:

COGECO Cable 10
CHCH Television
City TV

Radio Stations:

KLite - 102.9 fm
EZRock 105.7 fm
Y-108 - 107.9 fm
Wave 94.7 fm

CKTB 610 am
CHML 900 am
CHSC 1220 am
Htz 97.7 fm



If early dismissal becomes necessary, we will use the emergency numbers you provided on the confidential form which was sent home in September. If your contact numbers have changed, please call the office with your updated information.

❄️ Eco Club

Many, many thank yous to all who supported our bake sale, from bakers to buyers. We made \$247.00 for our ECO Team'' outdoor classroom.



❄️ Intermediate Girls Volleyball

The Intermediate Girls Volleyball team closed their successful season with a first place standing at the DSBN tournament on December 2. They went on to the DSBN Championship of Champions in Welland to take on Prince of Wales (Thorold). After a great effort they came home with more "bling" for a second place finish. Congratulations girls on an outstanding season. A huge thank you to the parents who got their children and other team members off to the practices and games. Also, thank you to our scorekeepers and special thanks to Chris Crocco and Jame deBoer who worked all day for us at the tournament.

❄️ School Council Update

Welcome back to the 2012 school year! I hope you were able to enjoy the winter weather with your family over the break. There will be a January Council meeting on Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 p.m. in our library.

❄️ Where Do Your Fundraising \$ Go?

This year the school has raised \$1000.00 through our QSP magazine initiative. We have purchased books for the library to support our Silver Birch Book Clubs.

❄️ Congratulations to the Following:

The following students were award winners in the *Royal Canadian Legion Annual Literary and Poster Remembrance Contest*:

Poems: Annika Johnson, Sadie Williams

Essay: Emilie Dubois, Cierra Perron

Black & White Poster: Emilie Dubois, Isabel Frolick, Cierra Perron, Katarina Martins

Colour Poster: Christopher Crocco, Jessie Jones

❄️ Silver Birch and Silver Birch Express Club

Returns!

Back by popular demand, our Silver Birch book club will begin the second week back from the winter break. This year we are inviting the grade 3-4 students to participate in Silver Birch Express. The participants will have the opportunity to join thousands of kids from across Ontario in the 2010 Silver Birch program. Students who participate in these programs will be given the opportunity to read great new books, and register their votes with the Ontario Library Association. These awards are considered especially prestigious because this truly is a children's choice award. Former nominees include Eric Walters, Sharon Jennings, Kenneth Oppel and Karen Levine. Students who participate in the book club will participate in a bi-weekly lunch hour book club meeting as they read this exciting collection of books. Students who wish to join the book club can pick up their permission forms at the library during the second week of January.



❄️ Pizza Days

Pizza Day is every other Wednesday. We offer veggie and cheese pizza for \$1.00 per slice.



❄️ We are Counting Down to Kindergarten!

Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

Going to school for the first time is a major step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the 'Kindergarten Countdown' open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit www.dsbn.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!

❄️ Cold Weather Alerts at the DSBN

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal. When making this decision, principals will often consult with neighbouring schools, talk with parents as they arrive in the morning, and if the decision to send children outside is made, will equip yard duty staff with walkie-talkies so that they can communicate with the office to sound the bells to bring students in earlier.

The health and well-being of our students are a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region are often good indicators that students will stay inside.



Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

- Try to send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending on the weather.
- Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.
- Warm socks and boots will keep their feet warm and dry in the snow and slush.
- Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep students from losing too much of that essential body heat.
- Put on a good pair of gloves or mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website dsbn.org, or contact the principal.

* Winter Safety

Please review the following playground rules with your children to ensure their safety:

- * Throw no snow. Leave it on the ground!
- * No tag or running on the playground equipment. Slide down one at a time, only.
- * Keep all loose clothing tucked in.
- * Eat snacks on the tarmac near the recycling and garbage cans, not on the equipment or further out in the yard.
- * No body contact, hands off, safe play.



If there are icy conditions, the playground equipment may be out-of-bounds.

With the colder weather, students should not arrive at school before 8:25 in the morning. Since darkness comes early on these short, winter days, students should walk with others to and from school, especially those who remain after school for extra curricular activities. Students who are not accompanied by a parent should go directly home without stopping to play on the equipment or in the yard. There is no direct teacher supervision at this time and students should report home immediately after dismissal.

* Mary's Story



Mary had a little cold, but wouldn't stay at home. And everywhere that Mary went, the cold was sure to roam; It wandered into Mary's eyes and filled them full of tears. It jumped from there to Bobby's nose and then to Jimmy's ears. It painted Anna's throat bright red, and swelled poor Jenny's head. Dora had a fever, and a cough put Jack to bed. The

moral of this little tale is very quickly said Mary could have saved a lot of pain; with just one day in bed!

* Mad Science Club

Mad Science, the world's leading provider of educational and entertaining science programs for children is coming to Parliament Oak School. Their mission is to spark the imagination and curiosity of children everywhere by providing them with fun, entertaining and exciting activities that instill a clear understanding of what science is really all about and how it affects the world around them. They use exciting activities and spectacular demonstrations to capture the attention and imagination of children as we found out during our assembly. Both the students and teachers will be thrilled on 09/Jan/2012 at 1:40 PM when Mad Science comes to the school to do a Spectacular Science show. The assembly will be educational, entertaining and also the kick off to the Mad Science Club. The Club is a 6-week science enrichment program offered to the students.

Students who join the science club will go on a voyage of discovery designed to support the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum. They will explore various topics in science including Chemical Mystery, Current Events, Fundamental Forces, Science of Magic, Stunt Planes and Super Structures. The Club will take place on Wednesday Lunch, Jan 25, Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 from 12:45 PM - 1:35 PM.

* Vaccines and Elementary School Children

Niagara Region Public Health is conducting an annual review of vaccination records for all elementary school children in the Niagara region. **If the vaccination information we have on file for your child is NOT complete, you will receive a letter and questionnaire from us in the mail later this month (January, 2012).**

1. Please follow the instructions for reporting your child's vaccinations to us, as outlined in the letter. Various options for reporting are available.
2. If your child is overdue for one or more vaccinations, you will need to make an appointment with your child's doctor to get your child vaccinated. You can also make an appointment for your child at one of Public Health's General Immunization Clinics by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.
3. If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to vaccinate your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document. Students under 18 years of age attending Ontario schools must have proof of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles). We are required to have this information by law (*Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990*). **Please provide us with your child's missing vaccination information by March 8, 2012 or your child may be suspended from school.**

For more information, please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

An Evening for Parents

Please set aside Feb. 23rd, 2012 for a free evening dedicated to helping our children become more resilient and responsible.

One featured speaker will be Dick O'Brien who will provide suggestions to help our children be more resilient, a crucial ability that enables us to bounce back from whatever life sends our way.

Join us from 6:00 – 9:00 PM
(5:30 – Light Supper)

•@Crossroads School

1350 Niagara Stone Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Questions? Email

notparentevening@gmail.com or call 905-

262-4533

