

Parliament Oak News for October 2011

From the Principal's Desk. . .

Wow...the first month of school is over already. Parliament Oak is certainly a busy place with so many wonderful events happening daily. It was nice to see so many parents coming to meet the staff on the night of our Open House. Our cross country and volleyball teams are in full swing and participating in regional as well as DSBN meets. Just a reminder that Friday, October 7th is a Professional Activity Day for all teachers and Monday, October 10th is Thanksgiving. There are no classes for students on those days. We are proud to remind parents of our web site. To access the site go to www.dsb.org/schools/parliamentoak. In closing, we would like to thank the students, staff and parents of Parliament Oak for making September such a great month!

☆ Staff Changes

September is always a busy time of year with school opening. It was even more busy for us with the "down to the wire" renovations as well as some staff changes. In September we said "good bye" to Mrs. Cutting and Mrs. Durrant who both accepted an increase in their teaching time at other schools. As a result, we welcome Mrs. C. Stewart, our new grade 4/5 teacher. We also welcome back Mr. Mead who will be at Parliament Oak every other morning. We also welcome Mr. O'Brien, an Educational Assistant, who replaces Mrs. Bell. Mr. O'Brien is at Parliament Oak every afternoon.

☆ Peanut/Tree Nut Allergies

To help protect children with severe allergies to peanut/peanut oil/tree nuts (walnuts/hazelnuts) from having an allergic reaction and anaphylactic shock that can be life threatening, please do not send any products containing nuts or nut oil to school for lunches or snacks. If students go home for lunch, please ensure that they wash their hands before returning to school.

☆ Students of the Month

The staff find it very important to celebrate those students who achieve during the month. This month RESPECT was our focus and these are the students who were chosen as the Students of the Month.

Mrs. Inglis Anna Abid, Julia King
Miss Masson Ingrid Eshuis, Kyle Kocsis
Mrs. Pyle Alison Kocsis, Ava McGuire
Mrs. Stewart William Couroux, Sadie Williams
Mme. Guido Kaylee Janzen, Warren Liao
Mrs. Andrews Gabriel Symonds, Jessie Jones
Mme. Bake Varun Mehrotra
Mrs. Bohonos Hannah Marsala

For the month of October staff and students will be working on the character trait of responsibility. Responsibility is demonstrating self discipline, self control, reliability, and accountability for choices.

☆ Parliament Oak's 10-11 EQAO Results

How does this assessment fit in the total picture? This chart indicates the percentage of Parliament Oak grade 3 and grade 6 students who are achieving at or above the provincial standard in the EQAO testing conducted in May and June of 2011. When considering

these results, it is always wise to look at this snapshot within the larger context.

Assessment is an important part of the teacher's daily instructional practice: observing students' work, marking their assignments, giving tests and projects, and having their students perform various tasks.

The main purpose of the teacher's assessment of student learning is to make decisions about what the child needs next for continued growth. It is personalized, and tailored to the instruction taking place in that class.

The Provincial Assessment is designed to inform us about the quality of program across the province; it also provides, for individual students, a part of the total picture, which should be used in conjunction with other assessments.

For the individual student, it is the teacher's assessment, based on the year-long experience of that child, that is most meaningful.

Overall Grade 3 Achievement Percentage at Levels 3 and 4

	Reading	Writing	Math
# of students	20	20	20
# with Level 3 or 4	70%	95%	65%

Overall Grade 6 Achievement Percentage at Levels 3 and 4

	Reading	Writing	Math
# of students	21	21	21
# with Level 3 or 4	81%	71%	62%

The percentages are based on the actual number of students who participated in EQAO.

☆ School Safety

If you are visiting Parliament Oak, please be sure to sign in at the office. As part of our Safe Schools initiative, we require all visitors to check in at the office. If a staff member does not recognize you, please be aware that they may ask you to check in at the office. Many parents drop off and pick up their children at school. We ask that parents not come into the school at dismissal and entry times. Parents with students in Grades 1-8 are encouraged to drop off their children and leave them in our care. We also have concerns about the traffic

congestion in the parking lot during drop off and pick up times. Please be certain there is room left so that the natural traffic flow can occur and our students' safety is not jeopardized.

☆ **Thank You to...**

- Mrs. Crocco for the wonderful bulletin board displays she made for every teacher in the school. The school looked great to welcome students on the first day.
- Mrs. Towndrow for volunteering to be our School Council Chair..
- Mrs. Lapointe and Mrs. Simmonds who have worked tirelessly in the library to transform it into the Learning Commons.
- the many parent volunteers who have been helping out in classrooms on a regular basis. If you would like to volunteer, contact Mrs. Hadfield, a classroom teacher or Mrs. Berezcky. We have work for you!
- Mr. Robinson who has been running with the cross country team. Mr. Robinson, an experienced marathon runner, has been providing the team with some great running tips.
- Mrs. Adams and RYANNE ADAMS for publishing an amazing yearbook! They have even offered to do it again this year!
- Walker's Family Market for donating fall decorations for our school.

☆ **Communication**

Did you know that all newsletters and calendars are posted on the school website at the beginning of each month? Our website is updated on a weekly basis to keep our community aware of the ongoing activities that happen at our school. We also have a monthly video of the activities our students and staff do at Parliament Oak. The main page of the website includes curricular information that you may be interested in. This month the focus is on the new learning skills that were introduced last year. We have also added our Colour House tally chart so students can see how their Colour House is doing on a regular basis. Please check out our website at:
www.dsbnschools.org/schools/parliamentoak

☆ **Our Gym is Getting a Mural**

We have hired graphic artist Geoff VandenBeukel to add a mural to our renovated gym. He will begin his work after Thanksgiving weekend. We are excited to show our school spirit through the mural design. Stay tuned for updates!

☆ **Outdoor Education Day**

Parliament Oak School's 2nd Annual Outdoor Education Day will be held on **Friday, October 14th**. This date has been changed from Thursday, October 6th because of the rain delay of the Cross Country Meet.

All students from grades 1-8 will be walking to Memorial Park at 9:30 a.m. and returning to the school by 2:00 p.m.. At the park students in colour house groups will be participating in various physical activities planned by the staff. This is a great way for our students to get to know each other and have fun being active. Please read the information below so that your child is prepared to participate in Outdoor Ed. Day. If there is heavy rain, the event will be rescheduled for a later date.

1. Students should wear running shoes and comfortable clothing for physical activity.
2. Students should bring sunscreen and wear a hat for protection.
3. Students should bring a water bottle and a litterless lunch and snacks.

☆ **Girls Volleyball Team**

Congratulations to the following girls who successfully tried out and made the volleyball team:

Ryanne Adams, Annelise Perron, Emily Day, Katarina Martins, Victoria Crocco, Hannah Marsala, Alex Fraser-Tyler, Jessica Robinson, Kiara Nestor. Thanks to Mrs. Pyle for coaching.

☆ **Toonies for Terry**

Parliament Oak School was excited to host a Terry Fox Run/Walk on Thursday, September 29th. The run/walk took staff and students to The Commons and back. Parliament Oak has raised money each year in support of the Marathon of Hope to find a cure for cancer and we were very excited to join students from all across Canada in Terry's Marathon of Hope. To support this worthy cause we asked each student to donate a toonie to Terry's Marathon of Hope. We raised approximately \$250.00.

☆ **Bicycle Safety**

We have noticed several students arriving to school not wearing bicycle helmets. Ontario law requires all cyclists under 18 years of age to wear a safety helmet. Research by Sick Kids Hospital shows that between 1991 and 2002, cycling-related deaths among children between 1 and 15 dropped 52 percent, from 13 to six deaths a year. The organization credits the Ontario helmet legislation, noting that there was not a significant change in fatalities for those not covered by the law.

☆ **Parliament Oak Spirit Wear**

Regatta Sports will be supplying our school with our spirit wear this year. Order forms for Parliament Oak spirit wear have been sent home. Sizing kits are available in the office. Please note that all orders must be returned to the school by Thursday, October 6th. Cheques are made payable to Parliament Oak School. Order forms are also available on our website if you click on Resources and then click on Forms.

☆ **Parliament Oak Sports Pack/Shopping Bags**

We are selling Parliament Oak nylon sports packs which are ideal for phys. ed. clothing. They can be purchased for \$10.00 each. Shopping bags can be purchased for \$5.00 each.

☆ **School Council**

Our first School Council meeting was held on Thursday September 29 in the Learning Commons. Mary Towndrow is our new Chair. Heather Davis is our Secretary and Sharon Michlik is our Treasurer. At our first meeting, we discussed ways to fundraise for projects across the school. If you have any fundraising ideas, please come out and share them with us. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 27 @ 6:30 p.m. in our Learning Commons.

☆ **Milk Program**

Milk cards are sold for \$10.00 Only chocolate milk will be offered as of October 3.

☆ **Hallowe'en Activities**

We are planning several Hallowe'en activities for the students in the different divisions. There will be a short parade for the primary students while the intermediate students enjoy a dance. Junior classes will host activities in their classrooms. Most importantly, let's have a safe Hallowe'en. Communication about the events will be sent home closer to the date.

☆ **Photo Day**

Our Photo Day this year will be held on Tuesday, October 11. A reminder notice will go home this week. Photo retakes will be offered on November 10.

☆ **Intramurals During Second Break**

During our second nutritional break, activities such as intramurals will be offered to our students. Students are expected to participate in the activities as their participation earns their Colour House Team points. On even cycles we will offer the activity to our Primary students. During odd cycles the same activity will be offered to the Junior and Intermediate students. Please check our website for the most up to date schedules.

☆ **When to Keep Your Child Home from School**

With winter coming and cold and flu season beginning please review the following guidelines when deciding whether you should send your child to school. Do not send them to school if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

1. A temperature of more than 100 degrees
2. Nausea or vomiting
3. Stomachache
4. Diarrhea
5. Pale or flushed face
6. Persistent cough
7. Headache
8. Earache

9. Thick yellowish discharge from nose

10. Sore throat

11. Rash or infection of the skin

12. Red or pink eyes

13. Loss of energy or decrease in activity

If your child has any of these symptoms when it is time for school, it is best that he/she stay home. Most childhood illnesses are over soon and are no cause for worry. But, if the symptoms are severe or persist for more than 24 hours, you should contact your doctor or visit a clinic. Practicing regular hand washing and teaching children to "cover their cough" are great ways to prevent the spread of illness.

☆ **Do you need child care for the upcoming PA Day on Oct 7th?**

Niagara Nursery School & Child Care Centre has 15 spots available for full day child care.

Lots of Fun & Games!! A full day of activity programming is planned by our Certified Early Childhood Educators.

\$35 for the day for school age children. 8AM to 6PM

Located at 14 Anderson Lane in the new NOTL Community Centre

Call to book your spot Ph#905-468-4386

☆ **Hallowe'en Safety from Public Health**

Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe:

- Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.
- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.
- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.
- You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.

