

# Parliament Oak News for November 2011

## *From the Principal's Desk...*

As Remembrance Day approaches, it is important to reflect and be thankful that we live in a peacekeeping country such as Canada. Although many of our children do not understand the losses Canada faced during our World Wars, it is important for them to recognize and learn about keeping peace. Too often, adults take over the problem solving and, as a result, the children do not learn to be assertive self advocates. The adult's role is to help by becoming a mediator, assisting the children to come to a resolution.

### ★ **October Students of the Month**

During the month of October, the staff and students focused on the character trait of responsibility. The following students exemplified this trait consistently throughout the month. They were recognized at our Student of the Month Assembly on October

Miss Inglis	Joseph Gillard, Emily Wilkes
Miss Masson	Kailin MacLeod, Izabel Schiff-Malins
Mrs. Pyle	Lucas Michlik, Ben Tait
Mrs. Stewart	Rosie Tait, Katherine Kononyuk
Mme. Guido	Marlow Davis
Mrs. Andrews	Aaliah Bint-Sadoon, Ethan Moncion

### ★ **Character Trait for November**

During the month of November the staff and students will focus on the character trait: integrity. Having integrity means we are honest, trustworthy, and genuine in that our actions match our words.

### ★ **School Focus**

The teaching staff of Parliament Oak will continue to work on providing students with descriptive feedback based on the success criteria from the teacher and from peers. We have a bulletin board by the parking lot entrance dedicated to our school goals. As the year progresses we will be adding evidence in the form of photos and student work of our goal.

### ★ **Allergy Alert**

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. A list of safe foods is available at the office.

### ★ **Student Lateness**

At Parliament Oak, we feel that assisting students in the development of their social and personal growth is very important. We see this assistance as an extension of what is being taught at home and, in that way, home and school form a partnership. On average 15% of our student body arrives to school late on a daily basis. This is very disruptive to the learning of our students as critical learning is missed or interrupted due to the late arrivals of many of our students. We are requesting your cooperation in helping your children arrive at school on time to ensure that they are receiving their programming in the best environment.

### ★ **Visitor Sign In**

The Ministry of Education recently introduced a "Safe Welcome Program" as a part of the comprehensive Safe School Action Plan. This program is being mandated to ensure student safety while still encouraging a friendly and inviting atmosphere in schools. It is in response to the increasing number of incidents in

schools in which a stranger has entered the building and caused harm to children. To comply with the Ministry's demands, and most importantly to ensure student safety, all parents and visitors must:

1. only access the school through the front door,
2. check in at the office before going to a classroom,
3. sign in using the "Visitor Sign In" book located in the main office,
4. wear a visitor's tag during your stay with us,
5. and use washrooms designated for adults, as student washrooms are for children only.

It is our hope that the 30 seconds it takes to sign in will not inconvenience or hinder our wonderful parent volunteers and visitors to the building. We welcome your presence at Parliament Oak! If you are dropping off an item for your child or picking him/her up for an appointment, you may simply check in at the office as per usual and allow one of our staff members to take care of your request. Thank you for your support in this matter of student safety.

### ★ **School Volunteers**

We have a number of parents and community members volunteering at Parliament Oak. It is wonderful to see so much support in our school. If you are interested in volunteering, please see your child's teacher or contact the office. We will find a place where you are needed. If you are volunteering, please be reminded that when you arrive at the school to volunteer, please sign in at the office and get a badge.

### ★ **Progress Reports**

Progress Reports go home on November 15th. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be the evening of November 17 or during another scheduled time during the week of November 21st. More information will be sent home soon.

### ★ **Remembrance Day Programs**

We will be setting aside time on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> as a very important observance. Our students in grades 1-6 will be assembling at 10:30 A.M. for a program presented by Mrs. Stewart's grade 4/5 students along with the junior choir. Our students from grades 7 & 8 will attend the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph on Queen Street. Parents are always welcome to join us. Students are asked to wear red on that day.

### ★ **Spelling Bee**

The staff of Parliament Oak will be running a Spelling Bee in each classroom throughout the month of November. Study packages will be given to each student by the end of the week. The finalists from each class will participate in a school Spelling Bee on November 30<sup>th</sup>. The school champion will then go on to the first annual DSBN Spelling Bee.

### ★ Student Parliament

Student Parliament is excited to make this your best year yet! Our elected officials are:

**Prime Minister:** Hannah Marsala

**Deputy:** Katarina Martins

**Treasurer:** Varun Mehrotra

**Secretary:** Victoria Crocco

The first event is a Pumpkin Decorating Contest- each class already has their pumpkin. Thank you Walkers Market for donating the pumpkins!

This year we will also have class representatives and will meet in early November.

### ★ 2010-11 Eco Team

This year's Eco Team executive are:

Annelise Perron and Victoria Crocco~ Co- Presidents

Ryanne Adams ~ Secretary

Nicole Aitken ~ Treasurer

Maggie Burns, Katie Caughill, Paige Sherlock~ Morning Announcements.

### ★ Request to Parents - Homework When Absent

When your child is absent from school, we are more than happy to collect their homework should you wish to pick it up.

However, we ask that you request your child's homework when you call in his/her absence in the morning. Mrs. Ciazynski needs to get the request to the child's homeroom teacher before the 8:40 a.m. bell. Please keep in mind that teachers are in the classroom all day and it is very difficult for them to gather homework with short notice. We are able to meet these requests more effectively when given sufficient time. All requested homework can be picked up at the office at 3:15 p.m.

Reminder about calling in!!!

### ★ The Learning Commons Update

All of last years work and planning is finally realized! The Learning Commons is up and running. New furniture and carpet and shelves...oh my! Thanks to the Batson-Feuer family for the comfy chair donation! Our layout has changed and we have new fixtures- another change is the featured "Reader of the Week". Our first reader was somewhat of a celebrity in her own right, but next week's reader is a Parliament Oak student. Be sure to fill in a Reader of the Week form and put it in the file box on your way out- maybe next week's board will feature YOU! Thank you to our volunteers that keep the Learning Commons running so smoothly, Mrs. Lapointe and Mrs. Simmonds.

### ★ STAT Conference for Grade 7/8 Students

On Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, students from Mrs. Bohonos' 7/8 class participated in the DSBN STAT Conference (Students Taking Action Today). Taking place at Centennial Secondary School Auditorium in Welland, the conference was part of the DSBN Character Education Plan. The Intermediate students participated in a presentation by Jeff Yalden. He is a teen Life Coach, author of the book, "Call Me Coach" and featured on MTV television. His inspiring address is directed at young teens who have faced adversity, helping set goals and promoting respect and responsibility for themselves and others. The students found the conference to be exciting as well as inspiring.

### ★ Grade 7/8 Students Visit Holocaust Symposium

On Wednesday, November 2, six students from Mrs. Bohonos' class will travel to Centennial Secondary School in Welland to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Holocaust Symposium and Anti-Discrimination Day. The day consists of two key note speakers and several breakout workshops. Of particular interest to our

students are the afternoon speakers, George and Lara Brady. They are the brother and niece of Hana Brady, a young girl made famous from the story of her life told in the book, Hana's Suitcase. The students were moved by Hana's story of bravery during a time of war, and are extremely excited to be given the chance to meet her family. Please look for their summary of this day in next month's newsletter.

### ★ Random Act of Kindness Day ~ November 4

The staff and students of Parliament Oak School will be celebrating "Random Act of Kindness Day" on November 4. It is a day to recognize kindness and humanity across the Niagara region. Each student will receive a Random Act of Kindness card. Cardholders are encouraged to perform a simple kind act for someone (e.g. hold the door open, write a thank you note) and then hand over the card to that person. Did you know that 75 000 cards will be circulated throughout the region and approximately 12 000 cards will be circulated throughout the DSBN.

### ★ Parliament Oak Tree of Knowledge

In September 2011, Parliament Oak School welcomed its students to a renovated building with many improvements. Parliament Oak is both an educational and community hub as children, parents, staff and community members gather to learn, share and grow together.

All necessities for learning are provided to our staff and students but we hope to offer additional opportunities for our children to grow educationally (technological resources, athletic and arts support) and physically (i.e. playground equipment). We are also working at building community spirit within our school (gym mural). Acquisition of these "extras" will require fundraising, and we hope, the continued generous support of our community. The Parliament Oak Tree of Knowledge is a program designed to honour donors for their support of our school. The benefit to children will be immeasurable as they experience enhanced educational opportunities as a direct result of caring businesses and people like you. For any donation over \$100, donors will receive a tax receipt and a 3-4 inch engraved metallic "leaf" will be added to our beautiful tree display in the hallway of the school leading to the classrooms to serve as a lasting reminder of your generosity and support. Cheques should be made payable to the District School Board of Niagara. Please write Parliament Oak Public School on the front of your cheque in the memo line. Your tax receipt will be sent to you directly from the DSBN. An installment / pledge plan is available. Questions? Call 905.468.4253 for more details. Monetary gifts of any amount are gratefully accepted, and tax receipts are available for all donations of \$20.00 or more. An information sheet accompanies this newsletter.

### ★ Scholastic Book Fair

Our Book Fair will be happening November 15-18! As usual, students will have a chance to browse first and then shop on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We will be having draws for prizes, too! Come and visit on Interview Evening and do a little shopping!

### ★ Mural

Local graphic artist Geoffery VandenBeukel has been busy painting a new mural on our gymnasium wall. The design was chosen to symbolize the panther spirit we have at Parliament Oak School. Next time you are in the school pop into the gym and catch some Panther Pride!

### ★ Mark December on Your Calendar

The staff and students of Parliament Oak School would like to invite you to *Elfis and the Elves Get All Shook Up ~ A Holiday Musical Adventure* on December 20th. More details to follow.

### ★ Parliament Oak Skating Days

Please mark the mornings of December 15, January 19 and February 16 on your calendars as our skating days. We will travel by bus to the Meridian Arena. Information will come home closer to December 15.

### ★ CONGRATULATIONS & KUDOS TO...

- ★ Parliament Oak staff for once again participating in Friday "Dress Down Days" to support a number of charities.
- ★ Mrs. Crocco for the bulletin boards displays she creates throughout the school
- ★ Mr. Bissell and Mrs. Theal who keep our school looking so sparkling clean!
- ★ Mrs. Mainprize who reads with our students several times a week
- ★ Mrs. Lapointe and Mrs. Simmonds for all the work they do in our library.
- ★ Mrs. Ciazynski who works so hard in the office.
- ★ our School Council for all they contribute to make our school a great place!
- ★ Mr. & Mrs. Walker for donating pumpkins for our pumpkin carving contest for Hallowe'en.
- ★ Ms. Godwin for helping our students produce some great art pieces.

### ★ Cross Country

Congratulations to our cross country team on another successful season! Our lead up time is short, and all runners worked hard to compete in both meets at Burgoyne Woods. Team members are: Layla A, Katie C, Owen M, Beth D, James D, Will C, Katherine K, Clara D, Aila S, Rosie T, Ben T, Nathan Z, Nathan W, Michael W, Paige T, Cierra P, Giorgios A, Ben S, Nick S, Hunter M, Isabel F, Ruben M, Justice B, Max S. Thanks to our volunteer marshalls, Katarina M, Hannah M, Jessica R, Alex T, Emily D, Victoria C, our parent drivers, and assistant coach Ross Robinson. As always, I am proud at these meets to say, "That's the Parliament Oak team right there"-great support of each other and leading by example. A BIG congratulations to Nick S in Grade 4 who went on to compete at the DSBN meet.

### ★ Intermediate Girls Volleyball

The Intermediate Girls volleyball team has had a very successful year so far with the wins outnumbering the losses, 5 to 2! Even though the season is coming to an end, the girls are very excited about the playoffs coming up the Tuesday and Thursday following regular play. There has been a lot of outstanding play this season and the girls hope to continue their magic on the court as they venture into playoffs on November 8<sup>th</sup>. They will also participate in a tournament at the end of the month.

On behalf of the volleyball team, we would like to thank everyone who helped out - the scorers, drivers and linespeople. They encouraged us to play our best and allowed us to focus on playing the game. It has been a great season, GO PANTHERS!

### Girls Lineup

Hannah M., Katarina M, Emily D, Annelise P, Ryanne A, Victoria C, Kiara N, Jessica R, Alex T. A big thanks to Coach Pyle for her hard work and countless hours of practice that she provided to the team!

### ★ When to Keep Your Child Home from School

With winter coming and cold and flu season upon us 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 until they are symptom free for 24 hours. *Practicing regular hand washing and teaching children to "cover their cough" are great ways to prevent the spread of illness.*

### ★ Inclement Weather Policy

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

At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children in school on that day rests with the parent or guardian. **Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.**

A key resource in any emergency is the DSBN Emergency Information form that you filled out at the beginning of the school year. Please let the school know of any changes in contact information or procedures you wish to be followed throughout the school year.

For secondary schools it may become necessary to cancel late buses. Notice will be provided via school announcements and on the websites and subscription features by 11:30 a.m. Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

### **Websites:**

[www.dsbns.org](http://www.dsbns.org)

[www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca)

### **Subscription Features:**

DSBN Facebook or Twitter

NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

### **Phone:**

Niagara Student Transportation Services 905-346-0290 Voice Auto Attendant

### **Radio Stations:**

CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines  
WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines  
CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls  
CHML (900 AM) Hamilton K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton  
CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland  
Y-108(107.9) Hamilton

### **Television Stations:**

CH - Hamilton CityTV Breakfast Television  
CTV Toronto Cogeco Channel 10

