



Stampeder Express

Smith Public School

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From the Principal's Desk

I would like to take this opportunity wish our students and their families a wonderful holiday season! Hopefully everyone has an opportunity to relax and spend some quiet family time together. The students have definitely earned a break through all of their hard work and excellent behaviour. As parents, you should be extremely proud of them. Please make the most of your time together over the holidays as we all know how fast this time flies by. As we look toward the new year, please consider the following information regarding homework.

In their article, "High-Quality Homework," San Diego State University professors Nancy Frey and Douglas Fisher have listed their criteria for effective homework:

1. It should come after high-quality teacher modeling of the thinking and procedures required;
2. It should come after students have had a chance to practice with their peers in productive group settings, explain their thinking, and hear the thinking of their peers.
3. It should come after teachers have checked for understanding with questions, prompts, and cues and have given students corrective feedback.

In other words, homework should be a chance for students to practice something they already know how to do. It's not the time to introduce new material.

So what are ideal homework assignments? Frey and Fisher believe there are four kinds that produce results:

1. Fluency practice - Students practice one or two skills they already know how to do in order to improve – for example, reading every night from books at their reading level builds reading power as well as vocabulary and background knowledge;
2. Application - Students apply something they have learned to a new situation, which can involve inquiry and investigation – for example, students might be asked to write about what would have happened if the War of 1812 had been fought in 1912;
3. Spiral review - Students complete problems and questions that reach back to curriculum areas covered before the current unit. This keeps memories sharp, relates current to earlier content, and reduces the need for weeks of review before large-scale assessments;
4. Extension - Students are asked to extend what they already know into new domains, which opens the door for different students working on different things – for example, some students in a science class are reading press articles about environmental issues, others are having a discussion with the teacher after school, and others are working on independent research projects.

As parents, I would love to hear your thoughts.

January 2012

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Smith School as an educational community strives to challenge our students to reach their academic and social potential. Parents and teachers work collaboratively to provide students with the necessary tools and skills for individual growth. We are committed to creating learning experiences that will lead to life-long mutual respect.

Smith School Website: <http://www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/Schools/Smith/>



BEWARE!

Of any products containing peanuts or traces of peanuts. Please check granola bar ingredients before including them as a lunch item.

Smith School has SEVERAL students of different ages that have a very SEVERE REACTION when they are exposed to nuts. Please help us by being diligent in what you send to school. Thank you.

Sign up for school email notices and newsletters. Please contact the office, 945-8014 or email: smi@dsbn.org if you have not yet signed up.

"Jingle All The Way" Concert





Cold Weather Alerts at 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 is 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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures. When student transportation has been cancelled and school remains 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 the school to inform them of your child's absence.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following.

Websites: www.dsbni.org; www.nsts.ca

Radio Stations: CKTB (610 AM), WAVE (94.7 FM), CKOC (1150 AM), CHML (900 AM), CHAM (820 AM), Y-108 (107.9), CHRE (105.7 FM), CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM), CKEY (105.1 FM), K-LITE-FM (102.9), GIANT FM (91.7 FM).

Television Stations:

CH - Hamilton, CityTV Breakfast Television, CTV Toronto, Cogeco Channel 10.



KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN

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.dsbni.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!





All students and parents are asked to be fragrance free while at Smith School. We appreciate your cooperation with this request. Thank you!



The Staff of Smith School want to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday. See you back on Monday, January 9th.

Niagara Region PUBLIC HEALTH

“Hey Parents! Do you know what your kids are watching?”

Young people look to celebrities for reassurance about their fashion and behaviour.

The evidence is clear....

The more youth see smoking in movies, the more likely they are to start smoking.

Ways to Protect our Kids

Be aware of what your children are viewing and learn which movies have smoking in them. Updates available every Thursday at facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood.

Talk to your children about tobacco and movies and teach them to be media aware.

Show your support to get tobacco out of youth-rated films in Ontario at smokefreemovies.ca.

Spread the word to other parents and join the discussion on facebook and twitter.

www.smokefreemovies.ca

facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood

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).**

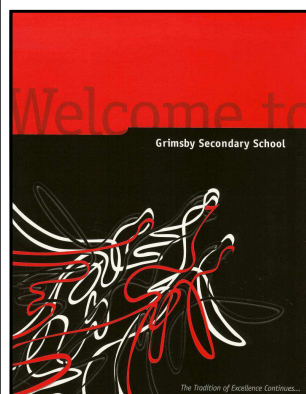
Please follow the instructions for reporting your child’s vaccinations to us, as outlined in the letter. Various options for reporting are available.

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.

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.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Grimsby Secondary School's OPEN HOUSE

Everyone welcome!

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Presentation starts at 7:00 p.m.

Our tradition of Excellence continues ...

www.grimsbyeagles.com





Trustees say “Oui!” to Expansion of French Immersion Programs

Learning a second language enhances students’ reasoning and creative thinking skills, develops their capacity to respect other cultures, and prepares them to participate more fully in an increasingly global marketplace.

With these opportunities in mind, at their regular meeting on December 13, 2011, Trustees approved the expansion of the DSBN’s existing French Immersion program from a Grade 5 entry to one that has students starting in Grade 4. Trustee support of the program expansion will see 36 classrooms open their doors to French Immersion in September, 2012.

The development of French Immersion at the DSBN does not stop there however. Increased parent interest in the program also fueled the plan to implement a Grade One pilot in five schools this fall. Central Public School will launch the Grade One pilot for families in West Niagara, Briardale and Sheridan Park Public Schools will offer the pilot in St. Catharines, John Marshall Public School will run the Niagara Falls pilot, and Gordon Public School will serve the communities of south Pelham.

Superintendent of School Support Services Carol Germyn notes that the decision by Trustees to approve the Grade One pilot will enable more students in Niagara to learn French at a time when they are able to grasp the subtleties of language. “Younger language learners have a great ability to grasp both pronunciation and intonation of new languages,” Germyn said.

To learn more about both the Grade Four entry into French Immersion and the Grade One French Immersion Pilot, parents are invited to attend open houses scheduled for January 2012. Julie Stapleton, DSBN FSL and International Languages Consultant adds that the open houses are also a great way to find out if the program is suitable for their child. “When parents attend a French Immersion open house they will learn more about program specifics, and also ask questions that pertain to their child’s specific learning and program needs,” she said.

Parents interested in enrolling their children in French Immersion will be able to register online from the DSBN website www.dsbni.org starting January 9 2012, with a deadline of February 29, 2012.

For more information about French Immersion at the DSBN, please contact Kelly McDonnell at 905-227-5551 ext. 54202 or Julie Stapleton, DSBN FSL and International Languages Consultant, at 905-227-5551 ext. 52220.

Program Details:

West Niagara:

- Central Public School is accepting Grade 1 students (pilot) as well as Grades 4 and 5 entry students
- Students from Central will continue in the French Immersion program at Lakeview Public School for Grades 6, 7 and 8.

Media Inquiries:

Brett Sweeney, Communications Officer









District School Board of Niagara

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January Calendar

Mon Jan 09 (Day 8)	10 (Day 9)	11 (Day 10) Medieval Times forms go home	12 (Day 01) Pizza Lunch 	13 (Day 02)
16 (Day 03) Milk/Sub/Pizza envelopes go home.	17 (Day 04) GSS Open House, 7 p.m.	18 (Day 05)	19 (Day 06) Sub Lunch 	20 Professional Activity Day - no school today
23 (Day 07) Book Swap Begins and will continue all week. Milk/Sub/Pizza envelopes due 	24 (Day 08) Junior Skating, 1:45-2:45. Grad Pictures  School Council Meeting at 6 p.m.	25 (Day 09)	26 (Day 10)	27 (Day 1) Family Literacy Day ABS Day 
30 (Day 2) New Milk Block begins 	31 (Day 3)	Feb 01 (Day 4)	02 (Day 5) Pizza Lunch   Kindergarten Open House, 4-6 p.m.	03 (Day 6)

SKATING DATES

Junior (Grades 4-6), Tuesday, January 24, Primary (Grades 1-3), Monday, February 6, Intermediate (Grades 7-8), Monday, February 27 from 1:45-2:45. Please join us at the arena. Thank you.

MEDIEVAL TIMES

Upcoming reminder: the grades 4/5/6 classes will be travelling to Medieval Times on Feb 23rd. Permission forms will be coming home on Jan 11. Please watch for them.



THANK YOU!

Bake Sale: The Grade 2/3 and 3/4 classes raised over \$300 for the EZ Holiday Miracle, specifically to West Niagara Community Care. The students planned, organized and held a bake sale to help make a difference in one child's life. Thank you for all your support.

Holiday Baskets and Prize Raffle: WOW! \$1000 was raised from our annual Holiday Basket Raffle. We had additional donations of prizes, which included a hockey game, golf package and some toys. We also raffled off a hand-made quilt. Thank you to the Parent Liaison Committee for organizing the holiday baskets, gifts and raffle.

Food Drive: Another WOW, for all the food, toys and Canadian Tire money that was brought in for the Grimsby Benevolent Fund. Our community is truly blessed and will benefit from the many items that were brought in by our students.

Acorn Cards: Thank you to Mrs. Macleod for organizing the Acorn Card fundraiser. Our school will benefit from the funds raised by the orders for the hand-drawn cards. They looked fantastic. Thank you!

The Me to We Club is please to announce that we sold 68 Rafiki Chains. This allowed us to raise almost \$700 through "Free the Children" for drought relief in East Africa. Thank you for your support.

FUNDSCRIP INFORMATION

If you haven't already signed up for our FundScrip program, please do so. It's an easy way for us to raise the funds we need by using our everyday purchases to make a real difference!

How does it work? All the information you need can be found on the FundScrip website: www.Fundscrip.com. Simply enter the invitation code **G4S46E** to register. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Hobbs (melissa.hobbs@sympatico.ca) or Maria Cooper (coopercontrols@sympatico.ca).

