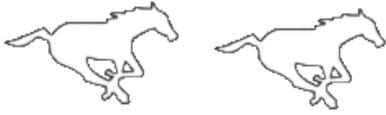


# STAMPEDER EXPRESS



## Winter Newsletter #1 December 2017

*Smith Public School*

*18 Oakes Rd. North, Grimsby, ON L3M-4B1*

*Tel: 905-945-8014 Fax: 905-945-1824 Website: [www.smith.dsbm.org](http://www.smith.dsbm.org)*

*Principal: M. Bridges Secretary: K. Bertrim Custodian: D. McPherson*

*"At Smith School, keep calm and stamper on." by Zain A.*

*"Smith Stampedeers are the best! They are winners, yes, yes, yes." by Jasmine F. & Lauren F.*

*"Smith School will compete. Smith School will not cheat." by Tyson M.*



### **From Mr. Bridges—Proud Principal of Smith!**

Our first three months of the school year have been truly amazing. The students, staff, and parents have really worked together to make this one of the best school years ever. Thanks for supporting our charity initiatives such as Terry Fox and our upcoming Food Drive from December 4-8. Through these initiatives, our students learn some good character lessons about helping others. We also have our fabulous Holiday Concert on December 14 at 6:30 p.m. for JK-Grade 8. Please come out and enjoy our concert to get you into the holiday spirit.

I am proud of our students, your children, for the way they have joined up for numerous extra-curricular activities, such as soccer, student council, classroom helpers, library helpers, volleyball, cross country, Robotics, Bridge Club, spirit days, dances, computer coding, and so much more. Participating in these activities helps to make school much more enjoyable. I continue to be thankful I am at Smith P.S. and invite parents to call me at any time to discuss their child(ren) or the school in general. Remember to check our school website often for current information including our weekly memo.

**Last Day of Classes in**  
**2017**

***December 22***

**First Day Back in 2018**  
***January 8***

### **Upcoming School Spirit** **Activities/Events**

<i>Food Drive</i>	<i>December 4-8</i>
<i>Poinsettia Pick-up</i>	<i>Dec. 7 (2-6 p.m.)</i>
<i>"Joy Day"</i>	<i>December 11</i>
<i>Staff/Student Volleyball</i>	<i>December 11</i>
<i>Gr. 8--G.S.S. Concert</i>	<i>December 13</i>
<i>Holiday Concert</i>	<i>Dec. 14 6:30 p.m.</i>
<i>JK-Gr. 8 Dance Time</i>	<i>December 22</i>
<i>Pajama Day Spirit Day</i>	<i>December 22</i>
<i>Last Day of School</i>	<i>December 22</i>

*(Carol Singing—Dec. 21/22--period 1)*





## Updates About Smith P.S.

\*We have ordered 25 brand new laptops for students in JK-Grade 8 to use. Our Fun Fair and raffle, plus other fundraising, helped to pay for this purchase.

\*Portable two (Grade 6) will be updated with video projection technology.

\*We have purchased many new books for our school library. Thanks Miss Gretsinger!

\*Our character focus this school year continues to be: **Cooperation, Caring, Courtesy, Common Sense and Self-Regulation.** Our next assembly is Tuesday, December 5.

\*We have ordered many new items for our physical education activities, literacy programs, and mathematics programs, among other things.

\*Our school Wi-Fi is currently being updated to increase the signal strength in the school up to 2018 standards.

\*Our volleyball teams were all very successful this year! The junior girls' team lost a close and very exciting one point game!

\*We just received 60 new athletic uniforms to be used by all students in athletic events.

\*Our new graduation plaques will be updated very soon!

## Is French Immersion An Option For Your SK Child?

The French Immersion program (offered at French Immersion sites) is open to all students in Senior Kindergarten. If you want your child to develop a high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer.

### **FEATURES OF THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM:**

- Development of French language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing from grades one to twelve;
- Designed to be a second language program for children whose first language is **NOT** French;
- Current enrolment of over 2,000 elementary students;
- Certificate of French Immersion Studies awarded upon successful completion of the elementary and secondary Immersion program;
- An increased ability to communicate and interact with confidence in French.



Central French Immersion School is very excited to be welcoming their potential grade one students! On Thursday, January 11, 2018, Central will be hosting their grade one open house. This is a great opportunity for new and old families to learn about the French Immersion program at Central and ask any questions that they may have. Please pass this information on to any families you know might be interested. More information will be sent home with all Senior Kindergarten students in the new year. (On line registration will be open as of January 8, 2018.)

## Celebrations and Connections

**Here's to you our amazing parents and students! We couldn't have accomplished so much without your support.**

### Smith Clothing—Still Available

We still have new Smith clothing available. Just see Mr. Bridges in the main office and he will get your size. Prices are a bit cheaper, although they are new items, these items were our school samples:

<b>Short sleeve t-shirt</b>	<b>\$15.00</b>
<b>Long sleeve t-shirt</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Sweatshirt</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>



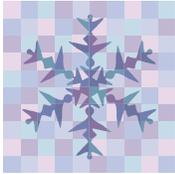


## **Safety At Smith P.S.**

Safety is one of our top priorities. If our students and staff have a safe and comfortable atmosphere, then everyone can achieve to their potential as a learner. With this in mind we wish to share with our community what safety steps we have completed and what steps we have in place as part of our regular process:

- ✚ All staff wear vests while out on supervision.
- ✚ All staff wear name badges for identification purposes.
- ✚ We have and will continue to review all of our emergency, safety and medication procedures.
- ✚ Medication at our school is secured and administering of medication is carefully tracked.
- ✚ We just had our first “lockdown” drill to prepare for any emergencies.
- ✚ The Grimsby Deputy Fire Marshall did our annual inspection and said we were one of the best schools to date in ensuring appropriate safety measures and a fire safe building.
- ✚ Bus safety presentations happened for all students—JK-Grade 8.

## **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.

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.**

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.

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

### **Websites:**

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

### **Subscription Features:**

DSBN Facebook or Twitter      NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

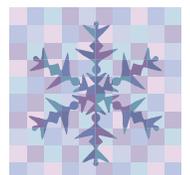
### **Phone:**

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

### **Radio Stations:**

CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines  
 WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton  
 CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton  
 CHML (900 AM) Hamilton  
 CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton  
 Y-108(107.9) Hamilton

CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines  
 CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines  
 CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie  
 K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton  
 GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland



## **Communication Matters**

Did you know that children whose parents are involved in their education do better at school than those with less involved parents? They get better grades, have a better attitude toward school and demonstrate more appropriate behaviour. Consider trying a few of these tips to make a **BIG** difference.

### **Tip 1: Get Involved**

Attend open houses, book fairs, school plays, assemblies, interviews, community nights, School Council meetings etc.

### **Tip 2: Check On Homework**

Communicate with your child each day about homework.  
Provide an organized and quiet place for your child to do school work.  
Help your child manage the workload by dividing assignments into small parts.



### **Tip 3: Make A Good Place For Learning**

Praise and encourage your child. Read and encourage your child to read, every day. Set aside a few moments daily, to talk with your child about a special interest he or she has.



## **Cold Weather Alerts**

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. 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 and talk with parents and staff. 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.

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 a child's hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

## **Visitors and Volunteers**

Over the course of the school day we have many visitors and volunteers coming into our school. In order to help maintain the safety and security of our students, we are asking that you sign in at the Main Office when you come to visit or volunteer during regular school hours. **Please pick up and wear one of our Visitor/Volunteer badges at the office.** This helps us to know who is in our building at all times. When coming in from the parking lot please use the front doors of the school. If you are coming to drop something off for your child (i.e. a lunch) or speak with them, please inform the main office and we will inform your child to come and pick-up the item or come to see you at the main office.





### **School Council**

Our School Council last met on November 7. Smith P.S. has always had an outstanding School Council. Consider joining our team this year. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is on Tuesday, December 12.

### **Kindergarten Open House--February 1, 2018**

You and your child are invited to attend a Kindergarten Countdown Open House on **Thursday, February 1, 2018 from 10:00am - 6:00 p.m. here at Smith School.**

You can tour the school, visit the Kindergarten classrooms, meet staff, and register your JK child. Your child will receive a special gift. No advance registration is necessary, and families are welcome to drop by any time.

# **Holiday Activities At Smith P.S.**



### **Holiday Food Drive (December 4-December 8)**

**\*Thanks for sending in non-perishable food items if you are able to\***

### **Door Decorating Challenge (Dec. 11--"Joy Day")**



### **Holiday Musical (December 14)**

**1:30 p.m. Afternoon Concert (Dress Rehearsal)**

**6:30 p.m. Evening Concert (Students arrive at 6:15 p.m.)**

**\*Join us for drinks/snacks, door prizes\***

### **Holiday Carol Singing Each Morning In The Gym (December 21 and 22)**



### **Pajama Day/Dance Time (Dec. 22)**

# Upcoming Dates

Food Drive	December 4-8
Poinsettia Pick-up	December 7 (2:00-6:00 p.m.)
Grade 8 Graduation Orders Due	December 8
Joy Day Spirit Day	December 11 (Period 5/6)
Staff vs Students Volleyball	December 11 (Period 4)
School Parent Council	December 12 (6:30 p.m.)
Grade 8 Students To G.S.S. Winter Concert	December 13
Smith School--Holiday Concert	December 14 (1:30 p.m.)
Smith School—Holiday Concert	December 14 (6:30 p.m.)
Holiday Singing (Period 1)	December 21 and Dec. 22
Pajama Day Spirit Day/Dance Time/Last Day of School	December 22
First Day Back in 2018	January 8
Grade 1-8 Rocks and Rings (Gym)	January 15
Fandom Day Spirit Day (Dress Like a Famous Person)	January 18
P.D. Day (No School For Students)	January 19
Grade 7/8 Ottawa Trip Cookie Dough Fundraiser	January 22-February 5
Niagara Ice Dogs—School Assembly	January 25
Family Literacy Day	January 26
Term 1 Report Cards Home	February 9
Candy Grams Sold	February 12/13
Grade 7/8 Ottawa Trip—2 <sup>nd</sup> Payment	February 13
Valentine's Day/Candy Grams Delivered	February 14
P.D. Day (No School For Students)	February 16

I have read the newsletter. Please include my child/children in the newsletter draw for prizes!

\_\_\_\_\_

Family Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren) in the school

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature

**(Please return to the school by Friday, December 8)**



