

STAMPEDER EXPRESS



Winter Newsletter #2 February 2018

Smith Public School

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

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

"Smith Stampeders 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!

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! Since our last newsletter, Smith School has accomplished so much, thanks to everyone's support and help.



Clubs like our Library Club, Chess Club and Bridge Club are operating well with many children involved. Basketball teams at the intermediate and junior level are happening. All students enjoyed participating in the Rocks and Rings curling day at our school. The Niagara Ice Dogs hockey team visited our school and presented to the students their message of "teamwork and hard work". Family Literacy Day was a success and we shared over 500 used books with our students. Our Student Council continues to plan activities such as the upcoming Valentine's Day candy grams. Students may send a candy gram to another student for a fee of 50 cents. We have many activities happening each week for our students. I encourage our students, your children, to get involved with things at our school. This makes school that much more enjoyable. March Break will be here before we know it! Please remember to enjoy the "journey" with your child.

We are in the beginning stages of planning a Family Math Activity Night. Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 19, from 5:30-7-30 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to see how your child's mathematics program has changed and what the major focus areas are in the program.

P.D. Day

***Friday, February 16
(no school for students today)***

Family Day Holiday

Monday, February 19

March Break

March 12-16

Upcoming School Spirit

Activities/Events

<i>Term One Report Cards</i>	<i>February 9</i>
<i>Valentine's Day Activities</i>	<i>February 14</i>
<i>Family Day Holiday</i>	<i>February 19</i>
<i>Lego Robotics Challenge</i>	<i>February 22</i>
<i>SK/Gr. 8 Graduation Photos</i>	<i>February 23</i>
<i>Niagara Ice Dogs Game</i>	<i>February 24</i>
<i>Book Fair This Week</i>	<i>February 26</i>
<i>Public Speaking Challenge</i>	<i>February 27</i>
<i>Pink Day (Anti-Bullying)</i>	<i>February 28</i>

Updates About Smith P.S.

- *Our 25 new laptop computers are being used by all students each and every day! This gives us 55 laptop computers for technology use at our school!
- *Our character focus this school year continues to be “self-regulation”.
- *We have purchased more mathematics materials including textbooks and manipulatives.
- *At our Kindergarten Open House last week, we registered over 35 new JK students for September 2018!
- *We are replacing three of our video projection units that work with Smartboards at our school.



GOTCHA Program

Our motivational Gotcha program continues to reinforce with our students, how important it is to develop good character. Every Monday, we continue with our draws from the “Gotcha Bin” to celebrate students who have received Gotchas from the staff. All a student has to do, is demonstrate positive character, and they may be “caught” and receive a Gotcha. Gotchas stay in the bin until they are drawn out for a special prize. Once drawn out, the Gotcha goes on a bulletin board in the front hall of the school. This is just one more part of our overall character education program at Smith P.S.



Grade 8 Graduation News

We are beginning the process of planning Grade 8 Graduation ceremonies for Smith P.S. The beginning stages involve brainstorming ideas for the larger planning items, like the theme, award planning, among other things. Graduation will take place on Tuesday, June 26. A separate letter will go home in April with all grade 8 students, showing more details.



Pink Day/Bullying Awareness Day—February 28

We invite all students to wear anything pink on February 28 to celebrate Bullying Awareness Day. We will hand out some pink shirts as prizes. Special announcements will happen on this day as well. Our entire school board is hosting a “pink day” on this day. If you ordered a pink shirt for your child, they will be handed out several days in advance of the date.

Celebrations and Connections

To all of our parents who have come out and contributed to support our School Parent Council meetings. Our next meeting is February 20. All parents are invited to attend the meeting at 6:30 p.m.



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.

Cold Weather Alerts and Bus Cancellations

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.



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 still call the school. Even when buses are cancelled, since the school is open, we need to know that all students are accounted for.

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

Websites:

www.dsbni.org

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



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 in December. 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, February 20.

Upcoming Dates

Term 1 Report Cards Go Home	February 9
Grade 8 Students To Adventure Campus	February 12
Candy Grams Sold	February 12/13
Grade 7/8 Ottawa Trip—2 nd Payment	February 13
Valentine's Day/Candy Grams Delivered	February 14
Gr. 7/8, Gr. 7, Gr. 1 and 1/2 Classes—Outdoor Ed. Trip	February 15
P.D. Day (No School For Students)	February 16
Family Day Holiday (No School For Students Today)	February 19
School Parent Council	February 20 (6:30 p.m.)
Class Reviews	February 21
Grade 4 and 4/5 Classes To Medieval Times	February 22
LegoRobotics—Brock University	February 22
Smith P.S. Night---Niagara Ice Dogs Game	February 24 (Saturday)
Smith School Speech Challenge	February 27
Pink Shirt Day	February 28
Cookie Dough Delivery	March 1 (3:00-6:00 p.m.)
Last Day Before March Break	March 9
March Break	March 12-16
Good Friday (No School For Students Today)	March 30
Easter Monday (No School For Students Today)	April 2
Autism Awareness Day	April 3
Big Brothers'/Big Sisters' Bowl For Kids Sake	April 10
Grade 7/8 Math Olympics	April 12
Grade 7/8 Ottawa Trip—Final Payment	April 13
Vaccinations—Hep B and HPV	April 18

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 Thursday, February 15)



