



McCulley Messenger

Empowering Inspiring Making a difference

DECEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together

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Secretary: T. Hampson

Superintendent: S. Mark
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

It was great to see so many parents/guardians make the time to meet with teachers to discuss their child's progress. Please continue to communicate with your child's teacher in order to support his/her academic and social growth.

We are heading into a busy time at school. As you can imagine, keeping students focused until the 23rd of December can be a challenge. We thank you in advance for your help with this.

We are so fortunate to have so many different cultures represented in our community. As such, it is important for us to remember that despite what we celebrate at this time of year, we all celebrate how our family and our friends enrich our lives. We hope to see you all at our presentation of The Moosical later this month..

Take some time during the holidays to escape from our hectic world and spend it with family and friends, creating memories that will last a lifetime. On behalf of the entire E.I. McCulley staff, as well as my own family, I wish you and yours all the best this holiday season. We will see you back at school on January, 9th.

Mrs. De Luca-Gates

November Student Stars



- JK/SK - A.M. - Hayden, Hailey
- JK/SK - P.M. - Wedian, Madison, Judy
- SKF - Christopher, Lana
- GR. 1 - Hilda, Madeline
- Gr. 1/2 - Roz, Allie, Xander
- Gr. 2 - Travis, Yi Xin, Aidan
- Gr. 3 - Joel, Danah, Madison
- Gr. 3/4 - Avery, Lucas, Tiana
- Gr. 4/5 - Hunter
- Gr. 5/6 - Stephanie, Brydon
- Gr. 6 - Manny, Robyn

THIS MONTH'S CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY IS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21st AT 9:15 AND OUR NEXT MONTH'S IS ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH AT 1:45. STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR THEIR GROUP'S COLOUR.

THE MOOSICAL

On Dec. 15th, join the E.I. McCulley castload of holiday characters and Mother Time, as they share the tale of a moose who wanted to fly! Marty the Moose wants to be a reindeer. Those famous flying holiday helpers have all the fun - especially traveling around the world on Christmas Eve delivering gifts to all the good boys and girls. Besides, everyone knows that moose are simply too big and heavy to fly! Who ever heard of a Christmas Moose anyway?

We will have a matinee performance at 2: 30 p.m. and an evening performance at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Admission is a non-perishable food item. Students are asked to attend both performances. For the evening performance, please drop students off in their classrooms at 6:00. Students can be picked up **AFTER** the show from their classroom.

School Advisory Council will be holding a 50/50 draw at both performances and a bake sale will held before and after both performances. Forms for the bake sale are in today's newsletter.

KEEPING OUR SCHOOL SAFE

All parents and guardians are reminded of the following expectations that are part of our Safe Schools Policy:

- When visiting the school, **ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND VISITORS must** check it at the office.
- If you are dropping off an item for your child, we have stickers at the front counter that you can use to identify the item. So as to minimize disruption to instructional time, we will call your child to the office at a natural break in the school day to pick up their item.
- If you need to speak to your child, we will call your child to the office.
- If you have a meeting with the teacher, we ask that you sign in, we will give you a visitor's badge and we will let the teacher know that you have arrived.
- If you need to speak to the teacher before or after school, we will call him/her down to the office.
- If you are volunteering in the school, we ask that you sign in and we will give you a visitor's badge.

The visitor's badge lets all staff and students know that you have checked in at the office and we are aware that you are visiting E.I. McCulley. Remember that to most staff and students, you are a stranger. **THANK YOU FOR HELPING KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE!**



DECEMBER/JANUARY'S CHARACTER THEME IS CARING

Caring is giving love and attention to the people and things in your life that matter to you. It means treating people and things gently and respectfully. Caring people help others feel less alone, and they always complete tasks with their very best effort. Caring people make the world a better and safer place to live.

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." Leo Buscaglia

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The next meeting of our Council is Jan. 25 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the school library. Babysitting is provided. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

Meeting dates for the remainder of the year are:
Feb. 29, Mar. 28, Apr. 25, and May 30.

MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS

We are thrilled that circulation in our library has increased and students are enjoying the many books available to them. In order for this to continue, we insist that students return all books borrowed. Despite having sent home overdue notices to students, we have many books missing from our library. Please check at home and return any books belonging to the school library. Thanks in advance for your help.

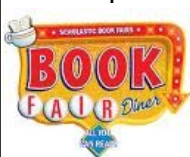
SAVE THE DATE—FAMILY NIGHT AT THE ICE DOGS—Thursday, Feb. 9th

Order forms will go out in early January.



The Scholastic Book Fair

This year's Book Fair was a huge success thanks to the students, parents and staff at E.I. McCulley. Our 4-day event was filled with exciting new features including exclusive book previews, author videos, hundreds of the hottest fiction and non-fiction books today, and a visit from Clifford! We sold over \$1700 dollars worth of books, which allowed Mrs. McMullen and Mrs. Falk to purchase **over \$850** worth of books and learning resources for our library!



Again, thank you to all students and parents who supported the Scholastic Book Fair and who showed their love for reading!

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DRAW

My child(ren) _____
Class(es) _____
and I have read the newsletter.

Question: *What is one way to include math in a trip to the grocery store?*

Answer:

Signature:

Please answer the question and return this ballot to the office for a chance to win a prize!

Congratulations to Zana B. who won November's Newsletter Draw



Remember to save labels from eligible **Campbell's products** and send them to the school.

Thanks!

McMillan's Fundraiser

Thanks to everyone who supported the School Advisory Council's fundraiser. We raised \$750.00 that will directly benefit the students in our school. A big thank you to Mrs. Levesque for organizing the event and to all who helped count money and distribute orders.



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND YOUR CHILD

Did you know that Canadian children/youth ages six to 19 spend an average of 8.6 hours per day, or 62 per cent of their waking hours, being sedentary? Here are some ways to help your children meet the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each day:

- Limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours per day
- Encourage children and youth to play outdoors
- Play outside with your children: go for walks, hikes, build snowmen, go tobogganing
- Introduce your child to skates or skis so they can learn to slide.
- Play catching games using a wide range of soft objects



For more information go to www.activehealthykids.ca or www.participation.com



JUNIOR BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

The Jr Boys' Volleyball team wraps up the season December 6th, in the consolation final game. The boys have put in a great effort all season, and have shown dramatic improvement at just the right time, to put the pressure on for playoffs! Regardless of how the final game goes, we are proud of the efforts of all players, and thank our parent drivers and enthusiastic fans for their support this season. Congratulations to the team members:

Andrew B.
Ayden R.
Brydon R.

Charles M.
Dryden S.
Hussein A.

Kiefer S.
Lamarr E.
Mac L.

Manny C.
Mohammed H.
Ryley M.
Wayne B.



Thanks to Mrs. Ditto and Mrs. Hannigan for all of their work coaching our boys' team.

Treating Lice?

The plastic comb that comes in a package of lice shampoo is most often not that effective in removing eggs. Our public health nurse suggested that flea combs that are used for pets are very effective in removing eggs. These are available at pet stores and most large department stores. Remember that the removal of eggs is key in the treatment of lice.

BUMP IT UP AT E.I. McCULLEY

Ask your children how they have bumped up their writing. Here are some things found on our "Bump It Up" bulletin boards:

How did you Bump-it-Up?
add details
does it make sense?

What are you learning?
Why are you learning it?
How will you know when you have learned it?

Bump Up Your Writing

Requirements	Criteria
• Must use a graphic organizer to brainstorm and organize ideas.	• Correctly state the message and the main idea in each paragraph in a clear and accurate manner.
• Must state at least 2 important details.	• Clearly state 2 or more important details, with little or no irrelevant detail.
• Must contain multiple paragraphs (including an introduction, body & conclusion)	• Use well-chosen, precise words and descriptive phrases.
• Errors in conventions must not interfere with communication.	• Write a clear and specific concluding statement directly connected to the main idea.

- use connecting words to organize your writing
- use lots of "juicy" words
- use the 5 senses, SWs, numbers & comparison to describe
- use a variety of sentence types to keep it interesting

CRAWL THROUGH THE STORY

How we read to children is as important as how often we read to them. Traditionally, when most adults share a book with a child they read and the child listens. Research tells us that children learn best from books when they are actively involved. To get children involved we want to create a conversation while reading a book. We want both children and adults to move slowly through the story together to explore the book. The best way to help your child is to allow them to become the storyteller of the book. The adult becomes the listener, the questioner and the audience for the child. To create a conversation about a book, use the strategies below to help turn book reading into a fun conversation. These techniques encourage children to talk more and give descriptions about what they see

C – Come Read with Me!

Let your child be the leader while reading a book. Let them look and talk about what they are interested in. It's OK to look at the same pages again and again! Repetition helps to build vocabulary and learn concepts.

R – Remember and Recall

For example, you can ask "What was your favourite part? Who were the characters? Do you remember when....?"

A – Ask questions with the word "THINK"

These questions help your child learn to predict and describe. For example, you can ask "What do you think might happen? Where do you think they might go? Why do you think they did that?"

W – Where is the picture? Where are the words?

Help your child understand that pictures and print are different – the words tell us about the story! Can your child point to the words? Can your child count the words?

L – Link to real life

Ask your child "Do you remember when we...." or "Have you ever...." If you let the child link the story to their real life you can help them to relate new words and concepts to their everyday life.

SUPPORTING THE YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN AT HOME

Young mathematicians should be provided with opportunities to explore mathematics throughout their day. Share the times when you are using mathematics in your day so that they see and understand the importance of math in their world. Support them as they begin to grapple with mathematical ideas. Help them understand that success lies not in getting the right answer, but rather in the challenge of solving the problem. Also, let them know that you think math is important, exciting & even creative!

There are many times when mathematical thinking could be discovered while at home or out with the family. Here are a few examples. Be sure to keep it fun!

At home:

Daily chores: How long will it take us to clean the dishes? Let's time it and see if we were close.

Cooking: Measure out the flour for this recipe. What if we double the recipe?

Reading stories: How many elephants are there? How many feet would there be?

Budgeting: How much will you need to save to be able to buy that bike you want to get?

Puzzles: How did you know that piece didn't fit there?

Card Games: What number is that? Is that number bigger than mine?

Board Games: What roll do you want to get? What are the chances of that happening?

Video Games: How much is your team winning by?

I spy with my little eye, something that is smaller than a shoe box...

Grocery store:

Please pick out 5 apples for the family.

I have \$20. Will that be enough to buy what we have in the shopping cart?

That's a lot of pop cases. I wonder if there are more than 100 cases?

Should we buy the smaller bag or the bigger bag? Which is the better deal?

I spy with my little eye, something that is more expensive than a loaf of bread...

Restaurant:

About how much will this meal cost?

About how much of a tip should we leave?

I spy with my little eye, something that is a rectangle...

Help support your child as they encounter math in their daily lives. As well, it is very important that young mathematicians have many experiences around a mathematical concept (addition or multiplication) so that they can understand it in depth. While knowing math facts is important, it is more important that young mathematicians have opportunities to deepen their understanding, to reason mathematically, and to use mathematics to navigate their world. Making connections between school math and the math they encounter in the real world will support this learning.

Remember to keep it fun!