

McCulley Messenger

Do your best, do what's right!

FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together

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Principal: R. De Luca-Gates
Secretary: T. Hampson

Superintendent: S. Mark
Trustee: M. Heit

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have had a very exciting first month of 2010. It started with the first phase of changes to our library. Mrs. McMullen and Miss Hopcroft worked diligently to put together the shelving purchased through the generosity of the Rotary Club. This was followed by the arrival of our SMART Board and new projector. Several staff members have been busy planning and teaching lessons using this new technology. Ask your child what lessons they have participated in thus far.

Our Family Literacy Night was a great success. Many positive comments were shared by parents and guardians. Many thanks to the Committee for their work in planning a great evening, and to staff members for presenting workshops. This was a wonderful opportunity to continue to build the home and school partnership.

We also had our first skating trip of the year. We tried our best to outfit as many students as possible with skates. Many students came back with stories of fun with friends, as well as how they improved their skating skills. Our next school skating trip will be at the end of March.

Kindergarten registration is this month. See the second page of the newsletter for information on our Open House.

All parents and guardians are reminded that there is no school on Monday, February 15th, as we will be celebrating Family Day. Take the time to plan an activity with your children on this special day. Enjoy!

Mrs. De Luca-Gates

ALL STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED AT 12:00 ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH. THERE WILL BE NO JK/SK CLASS IN THE AFTERNOON.

January Student Stars



- ★ JK/SK - A.M. - Damien, Joseph
- ★ JK/SK - P.M. - Shiane, Emily
- ★ SK-F - Sammi, Dayton
- ★ GR. 1-R - Tania, McKenna
- ★ Gr. 1/2-C - Rachael, Zana
- ★ Gr. 2/3-B - Britny, Brytt
- ★ Gr. 2/3-S - Nikol, Hunter
- ★ Gr. 3/4-D - Ethan, Sarah
- ★ Gr. 4/5-S - Jordan, Tahjana
- ★ Gr. 5/6-G - Alex, Sophie

FEBRUARY'S THEME IS PERSEVERANCE

Perseverance is a big word that means to keep trying, even when something is hard to do. It is making a commitment to a task and working until you complete it, despite the obstacles that may be in your way. When you can't overcome an obstacle after a reasonable number of tries, it's time to find another route. Remember that there is more than one way to reach your goal. Be patient, after all, anything worthwhile is difficult to do.

If you read the biography of your favourite sports hero, entertainment star or an important figure in history, it is quite likely that they had to persevere in order to achieve the success they have. Perseverance has the power to change an ordinary person into an extraordinary one.

"When the world tells you to give up, hope whispers to try it one more time." (author unknown)

NARROW FOCUS UPDATE

As you know, our school-wide focus this year is on Reading for Meaning. In the second phase of our focus, using perseverance as the big idea, teachers have been planning together to develop reading activities that will provide students with opportunities to continue to extend their understanding of what they have read by making connections, as well as to infer. Inferring is using text clues and background knowledge to figure out what an author doesn't actually say. This allows the reader to add deeper meaning to a story, beyond what the words actually say. At home, put an item in a bag and present your child with three clues which they use to guess what is in the bag. Or you can ask them to predict what is going to happen next in the story and ask them what evidence they used to come to this conclusion.


You may have noticed that some of our classrooms have new guided reading tables. These horseshoe-shaped tables facilitate small group instruction, such as guided reading. These tables were purchased through both the school budget and through School Advisory Council fund-raising. It is our hope to have these tables in every classroom, with small group instruction being a key teaching strategy to improve student learning.

KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN

Do you know a child who is turning 4 or 5 in 2010? Help them get ready for their big first day of school with the DSBN's Kindergarten Countdown Open House!

Parents and children are invited to our KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE on Thursday, February 4, 2010 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Families can tour our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills, and register for the coming school year.



Go to www.dsb.org and click on "Kindergarten Countdown" for details!

CANDYGRAMS FOR SALE

School Advisory Council will be selling candygrams on Monday, February 8th, and Tuesday, February 9th during the nutrition breaks at a cost of 50¢ each. Candygrams will be delivered to students on Fri., Feb. 12th.

BEST WISHES TO MRS. RESNEY

Mrs. Resney will be leaving us at the end of the month to begin her year-long maternity leave. We wish her and her family all the best as they await their newest arrival. Interviews are being held this week for the teacher who will be filling in for her until the end of this school year.



SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Your School Advisory Council is looking for a few new members, and a Fund Raising Chair, in particular. If you are interested in becoming a member of Council, please contact Margaret Unruh through the office.

The next meeting of our Council is Wednesday, February 10^h 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 year are: Mar. 10, Apr. 14, May 12 and June 9.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DRAW

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

Question: *What is the Silver Birch Reading Club?*

Answer:

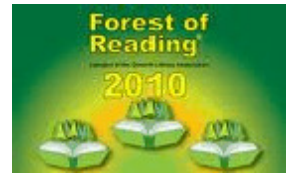
Signature:

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

**Congratulations to Daniel F. who won
January's Newsletter Draw**

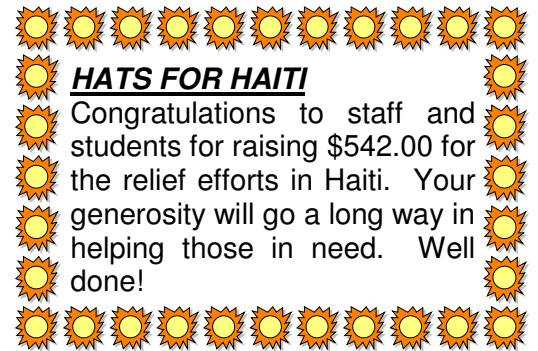
E.I. McCulley Silver Birch Book Clubs

E.I. McCulley students in grades 5 & 6 have the opportunity to join the 2010 Silver Birch Book Clubs for fiction and non-fiction. We will be reading a variety of excellent non-fiction and fiction books written by Canadian authors and selected by the Ontario Library Association. In late April, students will join thousands of kids from across Ontario in voting for their favourite books. Only students are eligible to vote for the Silver Birch Awards, making this truly a children's choice award for best new Canadian literature. As an added bonus, students (who qualify by reading at least 5 books and participating in book club meetings) in the Silver Birch Club will have the opportunity to attend the DSBN Silver Birch Celebration of Literacy Student Conference at Niagara College on May 7, 2010. Check out the Silver Birch Book Club blog at: <http://moosesilverbirchbookclub.blogspot.com/> You can also check out this year's Silver Birch titles at <http://www.accessola.com/forest2010/SilverBirch/>



THE POWER OF POSITIVE PARENTING

- WHO:** Parents of children aged 2 to 12
- WHERE:** Carelton Public School, St. Catharines
- WHEN:** Thursdays, Feb. 4 to Mar. 25 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- WHAT:** Learn about effective parenting strategies and managing common child behaviour problems
- CONTACT:** 905-688-8248, EXT. 7555



HATS FOR HAITI

Congratulations to staff and students for raising \$542.00 for the relief efforts in Haiti. Your generosity will go a long way in helping those in need. Well done!

ICE DOGS

Please refer to the insert in today's newsletter for information on E. I. McCulley's Family Night at the Ice Dogs game.



PLEASE CALL IN

In an effort to ensure accuracy of attendance and to minimize unnecessary calls to confirm student absence, we would like to go over the preferred procedure for attendance.

Please call the office when your child is going to be absent or late, leaving your child's name, homeroom teacher and the reason for lateness/absence. An answering machine is available 24 hours. Please note that it is our policy to call all contacts listed for a student in order to determine a child's whereabouts.

Feel free to call the office in advance for any absences that are known; for example, vacation, and appointments. **In addition**, particularly for vacation days, you may wish to write a note to your child's teacher so that he or she is aware of the upcoming absence and can plan accordingly.

We appreciate your assistance in ensuring the attendance process runs smoothly, allowing us to quickly determine if a child is missing. The safety of your child(ren) is our utmost concern.