



McCulley Messenger

Empowering Inspiring Making a difference

JANUARY 2012 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: A. Bradnam

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Happy New Year and welcome to 2012! I trust that all students and staff had an enjoyable holiday break and are raring to go.

In December, we said good bye to Mr. Shanahan who is taking a teacher-financed leave to travel. We wish him all the best during his time off. We welcome Ms. Russell to the grade 5/6 class and to the E.I. McCulley Family.

Congratulations to all students for their wonderful presentation of The Moosical. It was a packed house for both the matinee and evening performances. A big thank you goes out to Mrs. Upton and Miss Hiscoe for their hard work in ensuring the success of this production. As well, we thank all staff and parents who helped in a variety of ways. Well done! Between the bake sale and the 50/50 draw, School Council made \$700. Thanks to everyone who supported our fund-raising efforts!

We welcome the Niagara Regional Health Unit's Dental Bus to E.I. McCulley this week. They will be busy bringing free dental care to students who were screened in early December. What a fantastic opportunity this is!

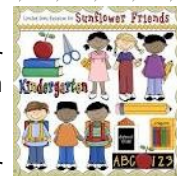
The next few weeks will be busy for students as teachers gather final marks for report cards. We thank you in advance for ensuring your child (ren) is punctual and in attendance on a daily basis.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Mrs. De Luca-Gates

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 DSBNI, 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 at E.I. McCulley. Please bring your child's birth certificate, immunization record, health card and proof of address (driver's license, utility bill, etc.). Visit www.dsbni.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!

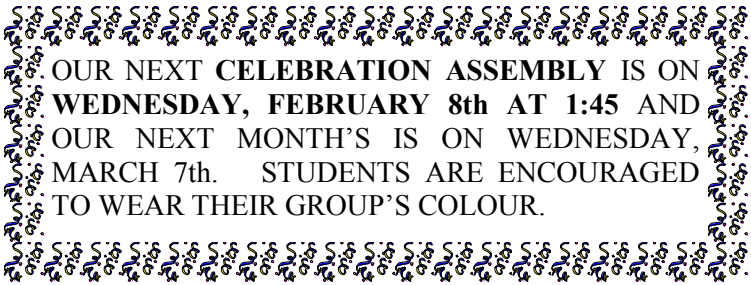
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20th IS A P.A. DAY —
THERE IS NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS.**

District School Board of Niagara is Expanding French Immersion for 2012

The DSBNI is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. In addition, as of September 2012, we will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations. As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year (Grade 7 entry will continue in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake).

Information re: entry levels and the application process is on the DSBNI website www.dsbni.org. Click on the Parent Tab, under Programs, click on French and International Languages, click on French Immersion Registration. Applications for Grades 1, 4, 5 and 7 (at select schools) will be online. Application packages will also be available at the office starting January 9, 2012.

Open House at Sheridan Park (grade 1 entry) is on February 1st from 6:30 to 7:30, at Alexandra School (grade 4 and 5 entry) is on January 30th from 6:30 to 7:30 and at Queen Mary (grade 7 entry) on February 7th at 6:30 to 7:30. Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require further information.



OUR NEXT CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY IS ON **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8th AT 1:45** AND OUR NEXT MONTH'S IS ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7th. STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR THEIR GROUP'S COLOUR.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The next meeting of our Council is Wednesday, January 25th 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.

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

Order forms will be coming home the week of January 16th.



SAVE THE DATE—Family Literacy Night

We are having a Family Literacy Night on Thursday, February 23rd in the evening. More details will be sent home next month.


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.

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

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DRAW

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

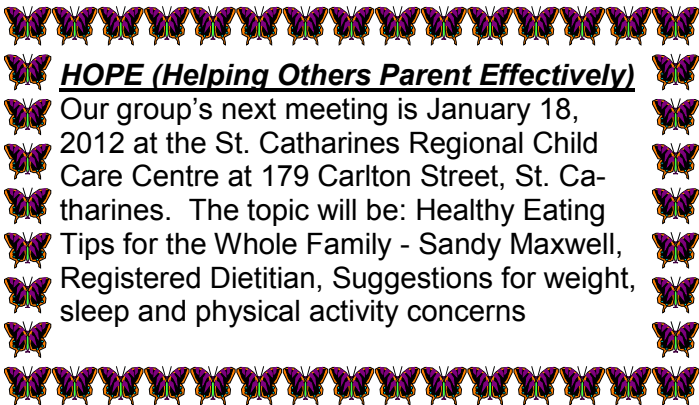
Question: *What is a bansho?*

Answer:

Signature:

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

Congratulations to Tiana and Ty who won December's Newsletter Draw



HOPE (Helping Others Parent Effectively)

Our group's next meeting is January 18, 2012 at the St. Catharines Regional Child Care Centre at 179 Carlton Street, St. Catharines. The topic will be: Healthy Eating Tips for the Whole Family - Sandy Maxwell, Registered Dietitian, Suggestions for weight, sleep and physical activity concerns

Cold Weather Alerts at DSBN

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.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website www.dsbn.org, or contact the principal.

WINTER PLAYGROUND SAFETY

One of the many pleasures of living in Canada is enjoying the wonderful winter weather. As it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, going outside for fitness breaks will be the rule, rather than the exception. There are times, however, when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside. The decision whether or not to hold fitness breaks outdoors is made by the individual school.

Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months:

- send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pull-overs. 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. These will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

As the safety of all children is most important to us, please be aware of the following playground rules for the winter season:

- NO SNOWBALL THROWING.
- NO KICKING SNOW OR "SNOWING" STUDENTS.
- NO SLIDING ON THE ICE.

Please be advised that students engaging in these types of activities will be referred to the office.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please contact the school.



"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

1. **Be aware** of what your children are viewing and learn which movies have smoking in them. Updates available every Thursday at facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood.
2. **Talk to your children** about tobacco and movies and teach them to be media aware.
3. **Show your support** to get tobacco out of youth-rated films in Ontario at smokefreemovies.ca.
4. **Spread the word** to other parents and join the discussion on facebook and twitter.

www.smokefreemovies.ca

facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood