

McCulley Messenger

Empowering Inspiring Making a difference

NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together

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www.dsbni.org/Schools/EIMcCulley

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

Superintendent: S. Mark
Trustee: A. Bradnam



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Let me begin by thanking our School Advisory Council for providing delicious cupcakes for staff in honour of World Teachers' Day. The gesture was much appreciated and the cupcakes were enjoyed!

The next time you are in the school, check out the Power of One Bully Prevention Oath. Look for your child's name on our oath and talk to them about what this oath means.

This year's combination Hallowe'en and Danceathon was a "mashing" success. Students enjoyed wearing their costumes for the day and had fun dancing and playing penny games. A great big thank you goes out to Mrs. Stewart who did a fabulous job with the music, to our grade 6 students who created the penny games and to staff for providing the treats for penny games. Each year, we have increased the amount we have raised at our Danceathon, with this year's total being \$2700.00. All students and parents are to be commended for their efforts. Although this amount will not cover the total cost of a school sign, we are moving ahead with the purchase, and looking to finance it over 2 years. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

This month, as we celebrate Remembrance Day, we ask everyone to reflect on how fortunate we are to live in a country such as Canada, where we enjoy many rights and freedoms. Although our children may not fully understand the sacrifice that has been made by many Canadians who have lost their lives at war, and the sacrifice that current soldiers make in keeping peace in various troubled parts of our world, it is important for them to recognize the role these Canadian heroes have had in allowing us to live free. It is also important for all of us to acknowledge the role each of us has in keeping peace in our school, community and world.

Progress reports will be sent home on Tuesday, November 15th. All parents/guardians will be offered an interview time to discuss each child's progress. Please do your best to make the time to meet with your child's teacher.

As always, please feel free to contact me at the school if you have a question or concern.

Mrs. De Luca-Gates



October Student Stars



- JK/SK - A.M. - Nicholas K., Courtney R.
- JK/SK - P.M. - Angel S., Angelo C.
- SKF - Emma-Lee R., Nargis T.
- GR. 1 - Andy L., Ty C.
- Gr. 1/2 - Kya M., Keylee K.
- Gr. 2 - Brady H., Emily O.
- Gr. 3 - Kali H., Samad A., McKenna C.
- Gr. 3/4 - Daniel F., Alexis R.
- Gr. 4/5 - Devon F., Josh H.
- Gr. 5/6 - Leandra L., Brydon R.
- Gr. 6 - Wayne B., Jenny O.



LITERACY GOAL 2011-12

If we use descriptive feedback to indicate what students must do to improve their achievement, then by May 2012, 100 % of students will improve their achievement in Writing (overall expectations 1 and 2 of Ontario Language Curriculum) within or by a level, as evidenced by written responses to teacher-prepared writing performance assessment tasks.

We will be continuing our work with "Bump It Up", focusing on writing — stay tuned for more details in our next newsletter.

NUMERACY GOAL 2011-12

If teachers work collaboratively to develop an understanding of effective instructional strategies that promote conceptual understanding in math, and they implement these strategies, then students will improve their efficacy in math.

This year, we are exploring the use of various manipulatives in math, as well as problem-based instruction in math. We will update you on our progress in future newsletters



COURAGE IS NOVEMBER'S THEME

Courage is a way of life. It is a habit, just like getting up and brushing your teeth in the morning. People often think about soldiers, police officers or those who have suffered because of a disaster, such as an earthquake when they think of those who show courage.

Courage is something that each of us can demonstrate in our every day lives. You can show courage when you speak the truth, even when you know that you will be in trouble. Courage is telling your friends who want to graffiti a wall that you won't do it because this is wrong. Courage is standing up to bullies and bullying. Courage in your classroom is putting your hand up when you are not sure if you have the right answer. Courage is about not taking the easy way out. Courage is standing up for what is right even when it means that you don't agree with your friends.

Mark Twain said, "Courage is not the absence of fear. It is acting in spite of it."

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The next meeting of our Council is Wednesday, November 30th 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:
Jan. 25, Feb. 29, Mar. 28, Apr. 25,
and May 30.

THIS MONTH'S CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY IS ON **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4th AT 1:45 p.m.** AND NEXT MONTH'S IS ON **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6th AT 9 a.m.** STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR THEIR GROUP'S COLOUR.

Decorative border of dollar signs surrounding the text:

MacMILLAN'S FUNDRAISER

The School Advisory Council is sending home information in today's newsletter re the MacMillan's fundraiser. We hope you will support their fundraising efforts.

LEST WE FORGET

- On Friday, November 11th, we will be holding a Remembrance Day assembly in our gym. We will have an earlier fitness/nutrition break on that day so that we can begin our assembly by 10:55.
- Poppies will be available to all students courtesy of the Legion. We are accepting donations for poppies. Please forward your donation to your child's teacher by November 11th. Students who participate in Guides, Scouts, Brownies, Cubs or Air Cadets are invited to wear their uniform to school on that day. All parents and guardians are welcome to join us for our assembly.



SAVE THE DATE — THE HOLIDAY MOOSICAL

Please mark Thursday, December 15th on your calendar as this is the date of our holiday concert. Once again, we will have a matinee as well as an evening performance. More information will be sent home in the December newsletter.



G.R.E.A.T.

(Gang Resistance Education And Training)

Our grade 4 students will be participating in this six-part training offered by the Niagara Regional Police. Welcome Officer Wayne!

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be issued to all SK to grade 6 students on Tuesday, November 15th.

Interviews will be held in the evening on Thursday, November 17th. An interview preference letter will be coming home soon.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DRAW

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

Question: *What is new about our pasta and sub lunches?*

Answer:

Signature:

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

Congratulations to Lucas D. who won October's Newsletter Draw

DOES YOUR CHILD NEED A COAT?

We have several coats and jackets available for any student who may need one. These will be displayed on a table in the front foyer. Parents/guardians are asked to come into the school and have their child try one on for size. Thank you to our community members who have donated these items.



ROOTS OF EMPATHY

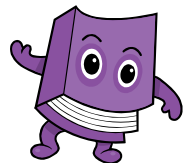
We welcome baby Chase who along with his mother, Mrs. Chilcott, and a trained instructor will be part of the Roots of Empathy programme that is being offered to the students in Mrs. McMullen/Miss Hiscoe's class. The aim of this programme is to build a caring society through developing empathy in children and adults. We look forward to watching baby Chase grow!

SUB AND PASTA LUNCHES ARE BACK

Thanks for your patience as we worked to ensure that the providers of our sub and pasta lunches were able to comply with the Ministry's Food and Beverage Policy. You will notice that some of the choices for subs have changed due to these new rules. This year, we will send home an order form for each lunch, rather than combining the sub and pasta orders. Thanks in advance for supporting our lunch programme.

Give the Gift of Reading

It's coming...a Scholastic book fair is coming to McCulley! Some of the newest and hottest books on the market for kids will be offered at the book fair. Start putting aside your loonies and toonies to give your child the gift of reading this holiday. Each book purchased at the book fair benefits our school by providing free books for our school library.



On **Tuesday November 15th** (during the day), students are welcome to come and preview the Book Fair. You can expect your child to bring home a wish list of a few books that he/she is interested in. Purchases can be made from Tuesday November 15th to Friday November 18th. On Thursday evening, the Book Fair will be open late, so that you can drop by after or before parent-teacher interviews. We will be accepting cash, debit or credit (No personal cheques will be accepted).

With each book purchase, your child has a chance to win \$25 in free books, plus \$25 in free books for his/her class library collection. Stayed tuned for more information from your friendly librarian!

LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Copies of the message note below can be found attached to the SAC mailbox in the front foyer of the school. Please feel free to leave a message, question or comment for our School Council.

MESSAGE FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL

YOUR NAME _____

CHILD'S NAME _____

TEACHER'S NAME _____

COMMENT/QUESTION

I do not require a return phone call

Please call me at _____

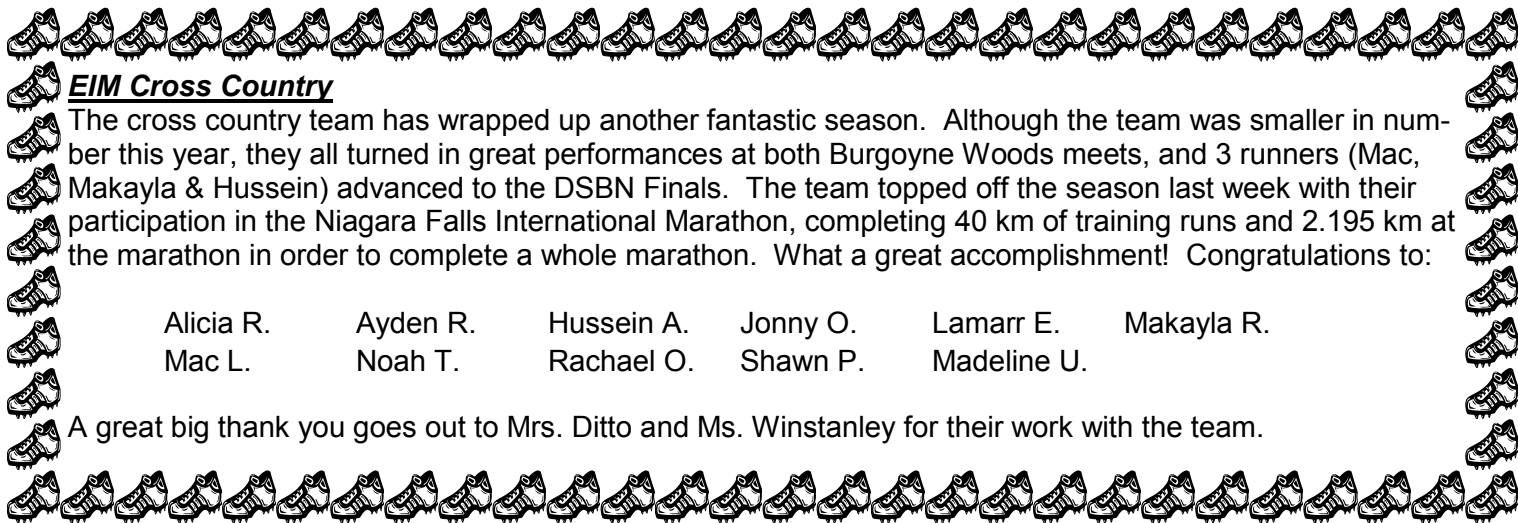
PARKING REMINDERS

Please refrain from parking in the spot reserved for those who are handicapped. If you do have the appropriate sticker, please ensure that it is displayed in a visible location. If you do not have the appropriate sticker, you face the prospect of a \$300.00 parking ticket. Please set an example for our students by following the rules that are in place for the safety of everyone in our community. Thank you in advance for your co-operation in leaving this spot available for those who truly need it.



There is no parking in the laneway of the parking lot that is closest to the school as this is a fire lane. There is a \$75.00 fine for parking in a fire lane.

We also ask that you are careful when parking in the row of parking spots closest to the soccer pitches. There is a pathway marked for walkers who enter the school from the west. Please ensure that when you park, your car is not interfering with this pathway. Thanks!



EIM Cross Country

The cross country team has wrapped up another fantastic season. Although the team was smaller in number this year, they all turned in great performances at both Burgoyne Woods meets, and 3 runners (Mac, Makayla & Hussein) advanced to the DSBN Finals. The team topped off the season last week with their participation in the Niagara Falls International Marathon, completing 40 km of training runs and 2.195 km at the marathon in order to complete a whole marathon. What a great accomplishment! Congratulations to:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| Alicia R. | Ayden R. | Hussein A. | Jonny O. | Lamarr E. | Makayla R. |
| Mac L. | Noah T. | Rachael O. | Shawn P. | Madeline U. | |

A great big thank you goes out to Mrs. Ditto and Ms. Winstanley for their work with the team.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE DSBN ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

There may be times during the school year when 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 to inform them of your child’s absence.

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.dsbn.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

Radio Stations:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines | CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines |
| WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton | CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines |
| CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton | CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie |
| CHML (900 AM) Hamilton | K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton |
| CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton | GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland |
| Y-108(107.9) Hamilton | |

Television Stations:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| CH – Hamilton | CTV Toronto |
| CityTV Breakfast Television | Cogeco Channel 10 |

Making CHAMPions at E. I. McCulley

E. I. McCulley is using a school wide behaviour program called CHAMPS. Here is a short introduction to the program so that you will have a background when your child or his/her teacher refers to the CHAMPS acronym. The program is designed to help teachers and students maintain an effective learning environment that is both preventative and positive. By using CHAMPS, the teachers of E. I. McCulley can help all students use respectful and responsible behaviour that will make them feel and learn like "Champions". CHAMPS is an acronym that represents the "Categories" or "Types" of expectations that teachers need to clarify for students before every major activity and transitions that occur in the classroom. Once an activity is identified the students are taught precisely what the expectations are for that activity. Misbehaviours are reduced and the amount of learning is increased.

C stands for Conversation	Are the students able to talk during the activity/transition?
H stands for Help	How can students get questions answered during the activity/transition? How do students get a teacher's attention?
A stands for Activity	What is the task/objective of the activity/transition? What is the expected end product?
M stands for Movement	Can students move about during the activity/transition? What kinds of movements are allowed during the activity/transition?
P stands for Participation	What does appropriate student behaviour for the activity/transition look and sound like? How do the students show that they are fully participating?

BREAKFAST CLUB



We are seeking financial support for our breakfast programme. Any amount is appreciated, however, any donation of \$20 or more will ensure that you receive a tax receipt. If you wish to do this, please make your cheque payable to "Niagara Nutrition Partners - E.I. McCulley School". Please consider sharing this information with family and friends who may be able to help us. **A great big thank you goes to St. Columba's Church for sponsoring our breakfast programme.**

**Brock University's
Community Learning**

Brock

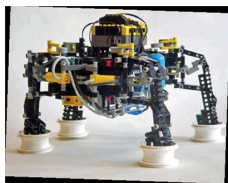
presents: RoboTech Vehicle Challenge

Your family will design and build the fastest, strongest, smallest, largest, heaviest, most manoeuvrable, most durable, and coolest Lego® Mindstorms robot vehicle to accomplish a variety of tasks. Learn how to build and operate your robot vehicles with some help from the pros—your kids.

Saturday November 26, 1 to 4 pm
Brock University
500 Glenridge Ave
St. Catharines

Share in Family Fun

Family Learning Adventures provide opportunities for the whole family to share, experience new things and learn together. Open to mums, dads, grandparents, caregivers and children. Registration fee is \$5 per person or \$18 for family of 4. Call to register.



For more information visit: brocku.ca/community-learning

DSBN STUDENT FAMILIES IN ST. CATHARINES AND SMITHVILLE ARE INVITED TO PROVIDE A ONE-MONTH HOMESTAY FOR AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

International students are participating in
The District School Board of Niagara's
KOREAN WORLD CLASSROOM PROGRAM

International students in participating schools
in St. Catharines are in Grades 7 & 8
International students in participating schools
in Smithville are in Grades 4-6

The homestay timeframe is Jan 11–Feb 7, 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION BEING HELD

Wednesday, November 9 @ 6:30 – 7:30 .pm.
at the DSBN Education Centre
191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines

- open to families in St. Catharines who ideally have a Grade 7 or 8 child themselves (other ages may be considered)
- open to families in Smithville who ideally have a Grade 4-6 child themselves (other ages may be considered)
your child will build intercultural awareness and leadership skills as a host buddy