



McCulley Messenger

Empowering Inspiring Making a difference

OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NI
Achieving Success Together

16 Berkley Dr., St. Catharines, L2M 6B8
905-934-7344 (FAX) 905-934-3723
www.dsbni.org/Schools/EIMcCulley

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

Superintendent: S. Mark
Trustee: A. Bradnam



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

There have been two staffing changes at McCulley since our last newsletter. We said good-bye to Mrs. C. Stewart who was able to move to another school for a full-time contract. We wish her well at her new school. We welcome back Miss Hiscoe who will be in the grade 1 class. Also, we welcome a new educational assistant, Ms. Kimblerley, who will be with us every afternoon.

Both curricular and extra-curricular activities are in full swing. In an effort to keep everyone informed of when activities are taking place, we have a posted a calendar just outside Mrs. Hampson's office that shows what, when and where activities are taking place. Encourage your children to participate in all that our school has to offer.

It was great to see many of you at our Open House. If you have not had a chance to come in and meet your child's teacher, please do so as soon as possible. This will help to establish a strong home-school partnership.

We hope to see many parents and guardians at the presentation of the Power of One on Tuesday, October 11th — see page 2 of the newsletter for more information. Also, our Monster Mash will combine our Hallowe'en activities with our Danceathon on October 31st. An information package will be sent home shortly.

Please read the insert in the newsletter on Assessment and Evaluation. It contains important information with respect to your child's report cards.

As the cool crisp days of Fall are upon us, we remind all students to come prepared for the weather. As students are expected to go outside for both fitness breaks, it is important for them to be dressed appropriately.

We thank the parents and guardians who have come forth and offered their services as volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the school, please speak to your child's teacher or to Mrs. Hampson so that you can complete a volunteer form.

Take the time on Thanksgiving weekend to reflect on all of the things in your lives for which you are thankful. Enjoy your time with family and friends!

Mrs. De Luca-Gates

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO
THE E.I. McCULLEY
COMMUNITY!**

(no school on Monday, Oct. 10th)



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7th IS A PROFESSIONAL
ACTIVITY DAY (no school for students)**



September Student Stars



- ★ JK/SK - A.M. - Mahek, Leyton
- ★ JK/SK - P.M. -Victoria, Lucas
- ★ SKF - D.J., Rihanna
- ★ GR. 1 -Aidan, Faith-Elyzabeth
- ★ Gr. 1/2 -Ansh, Taylor
- ★ Gr. 2 - Yi Xin, Aidan
- ★ Gr. 3 - Zana, Madison, Madeline
- ★ Gr. 3/4 -Jessi-Lyn, Parker
- ★ Gr. 4/5 -Carly, Tristen
- ★ Gr. 5/6 -Alicia, Kiefer
- ★ Gr. 6 -Ben, Ivana



SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL 11-12

This year's Council members are:

- Lea McEvoy (chair)
- Ms. Favotto (teaching rep)
- Mrs. De Luca-Gates (principal)
- Laurie Angrove Amber Morris
- Sandra Booker Rebecca Smit
- Cathy Chorro Tom Smith
- Kirsty Durrant Cindi Sonnenberg
- Will Fraser

Meetings are held in the library at 6 p.m. and babysitting is provided. Dates for the year are:

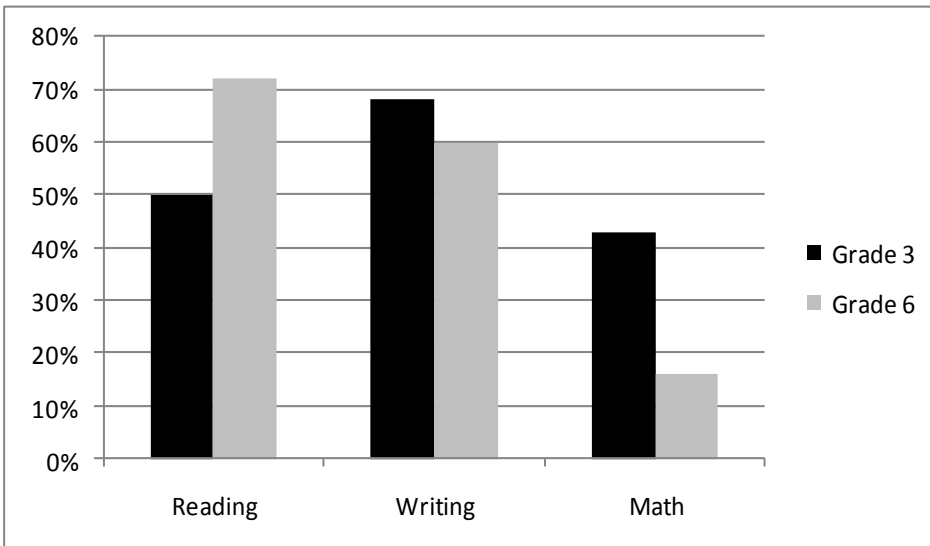
- Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Jan. 25, Feb. 29,
- Mar. 28, Apr. 25, and May 30.

We do have a vacancy for a community rep. If you know someone who may be interested, please have them contact the school.

All parents and guardians are welcome to attend all meetings. Please consider joining one of the committees needing volunteers.

EQAO RESULTS FOR 2011

The percentage of students who achieved level 3 or 4 are displayed below. On our October 7th P.A. Day, staff will be examining the particulars of our students' achievement on EQAO in order to plan for instruction that meets the needs of students.



CROSS COUNTRY
 The Cross Country team has been working hard at practices to prepare for 2 meets at Burgoyne Woods. Although our team is small in number, we had HUGE success at our first meet, and are looking forward to our second meet on October 6th. The team is also training to compete in the Niagara Falls International Marathon, on Sunday, October 23. This is an amazing event, and the team would appreciate any support from fans who want to come out and cheer on our runners. Team members include:
 Makayla R, Jonny O, Hussein A, Lamarr E, Alicia R, Shawn P, Ayden R, Mac L, Noah T, Rachael O, Madeline U.
 Keep up the great work, TEAM!!!
 Thanks to Mrs. Ditto and Ms. Winstanley for their work with the team!

The POWER of ONE
 On **Tuesday, October 11th**, we will have 2 presentations of the anti-bullying show called "The Power of One". The main message of the presentation is "Every child has the Power of One, the power to report and deal with bullying when they see it". The presentation for JK to Grade 3 is at 1:30 and Grades 4 to 6 at 2:30 (the presentation is about 40 minutes in length). We encourage all parents/guardians to attend one of the presentations.

CO-OPERATION IS OCTOBER'S THEME
 Co-operation is working together for the good of everyone. It is a willingness to respect others and to follow rules that keep everyone safe and happy. Co-operation is being helpful to one another as well as joining others in order to do something that needs to be done. When we work together, we can often accomplish more than each of us could do alone.
 "Co-operation is doing with a smile what you have to do anyway." author unknown

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 ENDOURAGED TO WEAR THEIR GROUP'S COLOUR.

TERRY FOX FOUNDATION

We are pleased to announce that our school community raised \$400.00 for the Terry Fox Foundation through our school walk. Thanks to everyone who supported this worthwhile cause.



OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DRAW

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

Question: *What is the Power of One?*

Answer:

Signature:

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

Congratulations to Hailey and Kali H.who won September's Newsletter Draw

DEVELOPING IN YOUR CHILD THE SKILLS & HABITS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS

Helping children develop positive work habits is an important part of their learning. The six learning skills listed on the new progress reports and report cards are a key part of your child's success in school and in their work pursuits after school. In the classroom, teachers work with your child by explicitly teaching these learning skills. Throughout the school year, they provide opportunities to deepen your child's understanding of each skill, guide your child in setting goals for personal growth, and provide feedback about successes and next steps your child might take.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP THESE CRUCIAL LEARNING SKILLS AND WORK HABITS?

RESPONSIBILITY

Students are responsible for fulfilling commitments, completing assignments on time and managing their own behaviour.

Help your child learn to plan ahead by asking questions such as, "What do you need to pack for school tomorrow?"

ORGANIZATION

Students develop and follow a plan and process for completing work and achieving goals. Students complete tasks by identifying, gathering, evaluating and using information, technology, and resources.

Track your child's assignments and activities on a wall calendar. Children benefit from visual reminders.

INDEPENDENT WORK

Students develop independence by following instructions, monitoring progress, assessing and revising plans. Class time is used effectively to complete tasks and meet goals with minimal supervision.

Involve your child in making age-appropriate decisions, such as healthy food choices for their lunches and picking out their own clothes.

COLLABORATION

Students share information and fulfill various roles within a group to achieve goals. The group works together to solve problems while respecting the ideas and opinions of the other group members.

Play interactive games to practise sharing and taking turns.

INITIATIVE

Students seek new ideas and opportunities for learning. The student willingly takes risks and demonstrates a positive attitude while respecting the rights of self and others.

Promote your child's interests and support them by providing them with related experiences such as a nature walk or a trip to the library.

SELF-REGULATION

Students set and monitor individual goals based on strengths, needs and interests. Appropriate learning opportunities are identified and the student perseveres to achieve these goals.

Encourage your child to set goals of personal interest. Help them to make a plan to achieve their goal such as earning/saving enough money to purchase a desired item.

Free Dental Screening Coming to Your School

A Public Health registered dental hygienist is scheduled to visit our school on Friday, October 14, 2011 to provide dental screening to students in grades JK, SK, 2, 4 and 6.

During this time the registered dental hygienist will perform a visual inspection of each child to determine his/her dental needs. Parents will be contacted if their child requires immediate dental care. Public Health dental programs may financially assist children who do not have access to required dental care.

Please contact the Public Health dental program for either of the following:

- If you do NOT wish your child to participate in the dental screening.
- If your child is not in one of the targeted grades and you would like him/her to participate.

Call the Dental Health Information Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 or email dental@niagararegion.ca.

WASTE REDUCTION AND PACKING LUNCHES

Parents, teachers, and students can not only help the environment but also their wallet and their health by making good eco choices when it comes to packing lunches and snacks for school.

TYPICAL/TRADITIONAL LUNCH (DISPOSABLE)

- sandwiches sealed in plastic bags
- fruits and vegetables in plastic bags
- prepackaged chips, cookies, fruit bars, granola bars, cheeses, and fruit leathers
- prepackaged yogurt, applesauce, and pudding
- crackers, pretzels, chips, and other snack foods sealed in plastic bags
- disposable juice boxes, juice pouches, soda cans, water bottles, and milk cartons
- plastic forks and spoons
- paper napkins

A WASTE-FREE LUNCH (REUSABLE)

- sandwiches and other main dishes, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and treats in a reusable lunch container
- cloth napkins
- stainless-steel forks and spoons
- reusable drink containers
- reusable lunchboxes

*With this type of lunch, lunch food items can be bought in larger quantities. The packaging can be left at home for reusing or recycling. Waste-free lunches are not only a wise environmental choice, but they are less expensive as well.

OCTOBER 17-21, 2011 IS OFFICIALLY WASTE REDUCTION WEEK ACROSS CANADA. GIVE WASTE FREE LUNCHES A TRY... GO TO WASTEFREELUNCH.COM FOR MORE INFO AND SUGGESTIONS.

PHOTO RETAKES are Wednesday, Oct. 19th

Halloween Safety

Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe.

- Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.
- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.
- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.
- You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.

**DANCEATHON 2011-12
MONSTER MASH
MONDAY, OCTOBER 31st
MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW**

WELCOME, S.N.A.P.!

We welcome back the John Howard Society of Niagara SNAP® for Schools programme that was designed as a preventative method to keep children in schools and out of trouble. The SNAP® for Schools program delivers effective strategies for managing emotions and gives positive options while dealing with everyday challenges. The program urges students to respond in a way that will make their problem smaller not bigger. Niagara SNAP® for Schools teaches students to recognize body cues, to cope with anger, to deal better with peer pressure, and also how to handle problematic situations. SNAP® advocates students to make friends, to join in and to reward themselves for positive behaviour.

