

McCulley Messenger

Do your best, do what's right!

SUMMER 2010 NEWSLETTER



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together

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Principal: R. De Luca-Gates
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From the Principal's Desk...

In a few short days, we will begin our summer holidays, a time to renew and refresh. June is often a time for good byes, and this year is no exception. We say farewell to Mrs. Waselovich, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. Falk, and Ms. Burton. We thank them for their work at McCulley, and we wish them all the best at their new schools.

After 21 years at McCulley, Mrs. Butler will be retiring at the end of the school year. She has taught music, kindergarten and library during her time at our school. She has been in contact with most of the students in our school over these years, and is a dearly loved member of the McCulley family. Although we are sad to see Mrs. Butler go, she is beginning a new chapter of her life, giving her more time to spend with her family, particularly her grandson, Finley. We wish her all the best for a long and happy retirement, and we hope she comes back to visit often.

Finally, good bye to all students and their families who will be leaving McCulley, especially our grade 6 students. We wish you good luck at your new school and we hope you do your best to make your years there a success.

At this time of year, we also welcome new staff members to the McCulley family: Ms. Creighton, Mrs. C. Stewart, Mrs. Salierno and Mrs. Winstanley. We look forward to working with our newest colleagues in the fall.

For your information, the office will close on Wednesday, June 30th at 3 p.m. and re-open the week of Aug. 30 to Sept. 3, from 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Class lists will be posted on Friday, September 3rd from 3 to 4 p.m. They will be posted again on the first day of school, Tuesday, Sept. 7, at 8:30 a.m.

I wish all students, staff and parents/guardians of the McCulley community a safe summer, filled with good times with family and friends. See you in September!

Mrs. De Luca-Gates

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION 2010-11

JK/SK a.m.	Mrs. DiDomenico
JK/SK p.m.	Ms. Creighton
SK Full Day	Ms. Favotto
Grade 1	TBA
Grade 1/2	Mrs. Chilcott Mrs. C. Stewart
Grade 2/3	Mr. Bueckert
Grade 3	Mrs. L. Stewart
Grade 3/4	Mr. Davison Mr. Gopal (and phys. ed.)
Grade 4/5	Mrs. Winstanley
Grade 5	Mr. Shanahan
Grade 6	Mr. Hannigan (and music) Mrs. McMahon
LRT	Mrs. Ditto
Literacy Coach / Teacher Librarian	Mrs. McMullen
Priority Schools Teacher Librarian	Mrs. Salierno
E.A.'s	Mrs. Wiens Miss Hopcroft Mr. VanBreda
Secretary	Mrs. Hampson
Caretaker	Mr. Groff
Principal	Mrs. De Luca-Gates

Please note that school organization is subject to change.

**June
Student
Stars**



- ★ JK/SK - A.M. - Najihah, Yash
- ★ JK/SK - P.M. - Iyad, Janiya
- ★ SK-F - Lucas, Daisy
- ★ GR. 1-J - Sarah, Nabeehah
- ★ Gr. 1/2-C - Shawntae, Holly
- ★ Gr. 2/3-B - Jadon, Dryden
- ★ Gr. 2/3-S - Alynn, Brooklyn, Josh
- ★ Gr. 3/4-D - Clayton, Riley
- ★ Gr. 4/5-S - Wayne, Jordan, Dylan
- ★ Gr. 5/6-G - Brittany, Mikayla



**Important Dates
2010/11**

- September 7:** 1st Day of School
- September 24:** Early Release Day
- October 5:** World Teachers' Day
- October 8:** PA Day
- October 11:** Thanksgiving Day
- November 11:** Remembrance Day
- November 19:** Early Release Day
- December 24 - January 7:**
Winter Holiday Break
- January 27:** Kindergarten Open House 4-6
- January 31:** PA Day
- February 21:** Family Day
- March 14-18:** March Break
- April 22:** Good Friday
- April 25:** Easter Monday
- May 23:** Victoria Day
- June 10:** PA Day
- June 29:** Last Day of School



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JUNE NEWSLETTER DRAW

Congratulations to Holly and Zakk who won June's Newsletter Draw

NARROW FOCUS GOAL
 Our narrow focus goal for this year was: **By May 2010, 100% of students will improve their achievement in Reading for Meaning (expectations 1.1 to 1.9 of Ontario Language Curriculum) and Reading Unfamiliar Words (expectation 3.2 of Ontario Language Curriculum) within or by a level, as evidenced by written and oral responses to teacher-prepared reading performance assessment tasks.**

Using the Teaching Learning Critical Pathway (TLCP) as a framework, we targeted specific Reading for Meaning expectations (e.g., to extend understanding of texts students have read by making connections between what they have read to their own knowledge and experience, to other texts they have read, and to the world around them), created a task that assessed these expectations, and worked together to develop precise steps in how we would teach these expectations. This involved regular meetings to discuss student progress, teaching strategies, assessment and intervention strategies.

Eighty-five per cent of students improved their achievement in Reading for Meaning. Through this process, we have reflected on our teaching practice, learning from each other, and we continue to work diligently at improving student learning.

FUN FAIR

We are happy to announce that we had a very successful Fun Fair. The weather co-operated, and there was quite a crowd at the school. There were many positive comments shared by those in attendance. A great big thank you goes out to the Fun Fair Committee, particularly Mrs. Smit, as well as to students, parents and teachers who volunteered their time. We hope to make this an annual event!

NEW BELL TIMES FOR SEPTEMBER

You are reminded that entry in the morning will be 9:00 and dismissal will be 3:20. Please note that our fitness/nutrition breaks will be from 10:40 to 11:20 AND 1:00 to 1:40. See you on Tuesday, September 7th!



TIPS TO ENCOURAGE SUMMER LEARNING

Every June, students look forward to getting rid of their books and heading off to enjoy two months of carefree living. But studies have indicated that continuous learning over the summer months assists students in getting a better start for the next school year. Here are some tips to encourage learning throughout the summer:

- Visit your neighbourhood library once a week to sign out new books.
- Set aside 20 minutes every day for family reading (including parents).
- For younger children, practice the sounds of language by reading rhyming books. Teach your children rhymes, short poems and songs.
- When walking around the neighbourhood, have children read signs and notices.
- Re-read familiar books. Children need practice reading comfortably and with expression, using books they know.
- Hold a yard sale or set up a lemonade stand. Let children set the prices and make change.
- Teach children how to compute gas mileage on a car trip.
- If you have sports fans in your house, encourage them to collect information on player statistics and read about game results in the paper each day.
- If you'll be visiting another city while on vacation, pick up brochures about the city and learn about the history and culture of different places.
- To keep writing skills current, buy a notebook and have children record daily activities and thoughts during their vacation. Ask them to reflect on specific events that happened during the day.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR SEPTEMBER

Below is a list of recommended school supplies. Providing this list early will allow you to take advantage of Back to School sales offered during the summer, and it will eliminate the purchase of any items not needed.

PRIMARY:	JUNIOR:
backpack	backpack
(with child's name inside)	pencil crayons
crayons or pencil crayons	pencils/pens
pencils	highlighter
erasers	erasers
markers	markers
ruler	ruler
glue stick	glue stick
scissors	scissors
pencil case	calculator
head phones (from the dollar store)	pencil case
duotangs	head phones (from the dollar store)
indoor shoes	binder with dividers OR duotangs
box of tissues	indoor shoes
	box of tissues

We do have a limited supply of backpacks at the school. If you are in need of a backpack, please call the office. They will be available on a first come, first served basis.



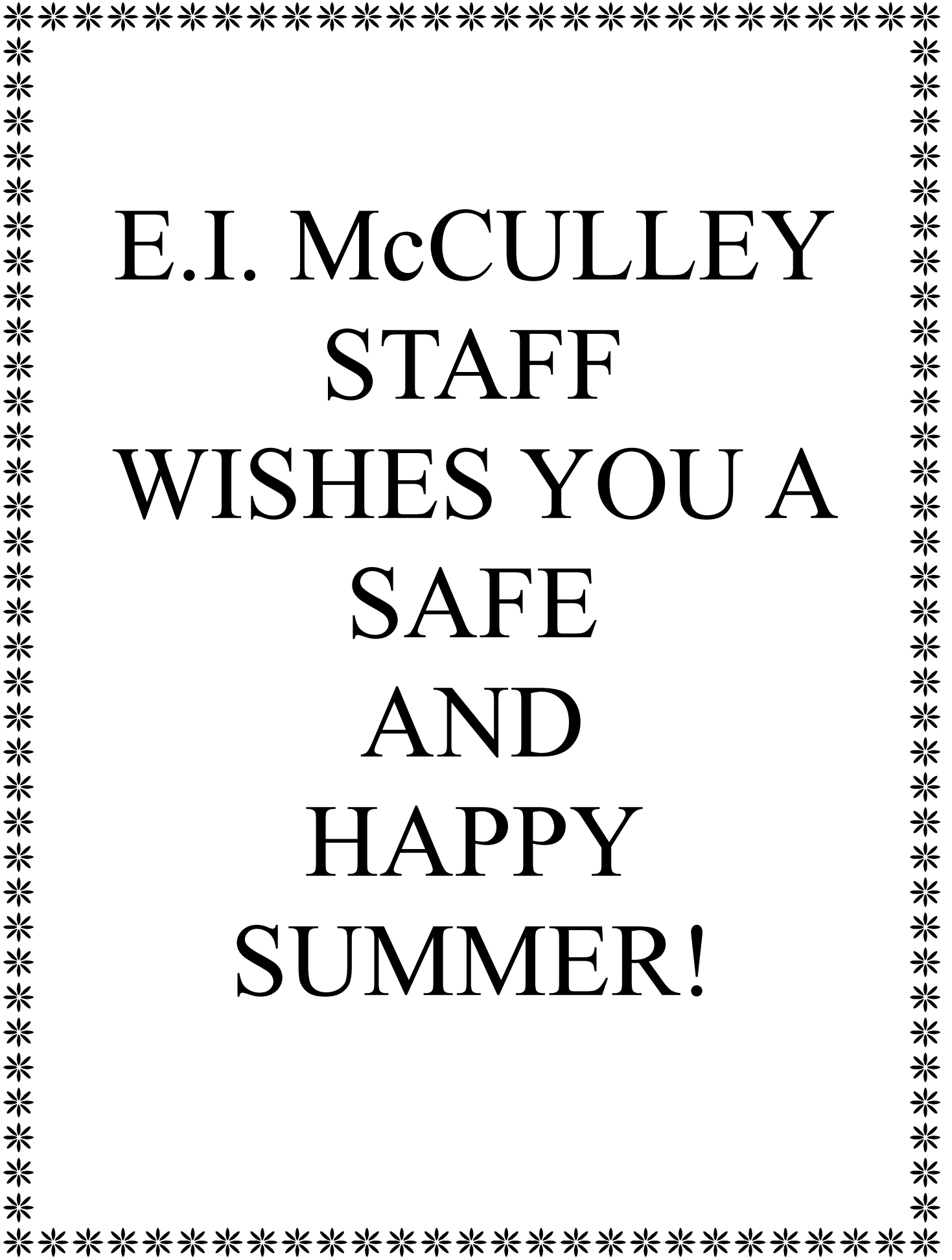
School resumes on Tuesday,
September 7th at 9 a.m. See you then!

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thank you so much to this year's Council Members: Margaret Unruh (chair), Dawn Holmes, Rebecca Smit, Cathy Chorro, Cindi Sonnenberg, Rose Jerry, Alicia McDonald, Tonja Bontoft, and Nancy Mokrzynski (community rep). We have accomplished a great deal this year and our students have benefited from Council's hard work! Please consider joining Council in the fall. Nomination forms will be included in our first newsletter.

SCHOOL VANDALISM

We are very proud of our school building and grounds, particularly our new trees and garden. As such, we ask for your assistance in reducing vandalism to our school. Should you observe unusual activity at the school, **please call 905-682-8065**. Your call will be kept confidential. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.



E.I. McCULLY
STAFF
WISHES YOU A
SAFE
AND
HAPPY
SUMMER!