



# McCulley Messenger

*Empowering Inspiring Making a difference*



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA  
Achieving Success Together

SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

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

Superintendent: S. Mark  
Trustee: A. Bradnam

## From the Principal's Desk...

It really is hard to believe that in a few short days, we will begin our summer holidays, a time to renew and refresh. We have enjoyed another year of learning and playing together. Thank you to all students, staff, parent/guardians and volunteers who have helped to make this another wonderful year at E.I. McCulley!

The end of June means it is time to say good bye to some staff members. We say farewell to Mr. Hannigan, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Buchanan, Miss Hiscoe, Ms. Byberg, and Mrs. White. We thank them for their work at McCulley, and we wish them all the best at their new schools. We also wish Mrs. Chilcott a wonderful year-long maternity leave and we look forward to meeting baby Chilcott in the fall.

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: Mrs. Upton, Ms. McKnight, Ms. Merritt, Ms. Clarke and welcome back to Mrs. Falk. Mrs. Upton invites you to visit her website at <http://web.dsbns.edu.on.ca/~sonja.upton> We look forward to working with our newest colleagues in the fall.

For your information, the office will close on Thursday, June 30th at 3 p.m. and re-open the week of Aug. 29 to Sept. 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Class lists will be posted on Friday, September 2nd from 4 to 5 p.m. They will be posted again on the first day of school, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 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 2011-12

JK/SK a.m.	Mrs. DiDomenico
JK/SK p.m.	TBA
SK Full Day	Ms. Favotto
Grade 1	Mrs. McMullen Mrs. C. Stewart
Grade 1/2	Mrs. Resney
Grade 2	Mr. Bueckert
Grade 3	Mrs. L. Stewart
Grade 3/4	Mr. Davison Mr. Gopal (and phys. ed.)
Grade 4/5	Ms. Winstanley
Grade 5/6	Mr. Shanahan
Grade 6	Mrs. Upton (and music) Mrs. McMahan
LRT	Mrs. Ditto
Teacher Librarian	Mrs. McMullen
Priority Schools Teacher Librarian	Mrs. Falk
E.A.'s	Miss Hopcroft Mrs. Friesen Ms. McKnight Ms. Merritt
Youth Counsellor	Ms. Clarke
Secretary	Mrs. Hampson
Caretaker	Mrs. Gardner
Principal	Mrs. De Luca-Gates

Please note that school organization is subject to change.

**June  
Student  
Stars**



- ★ JK/SK - A.M. - Christopher, Noah
- ★ JK/SK - P.M. - Riley, Tyler, Kya, Iyad
- ★ SK-F - Sarah, Hilda, Xander
- ★ GR. 1 - Emily, Sierra
- ★ Gr. 1/2 - Owen, Hailey
- ★ Gr. 2/3 - Ethan, Alpha
- ★ Gr. 3 - Lucas, Brytt, Austin
- ★ Gr. 3/4 - Britny, Dryden
- ★ Gr. 4/5 - Justine, Alicia
- ★ Gr. 5 - Shaila, Lamarr, Ivy
- ★ Gr. 6 - Tiffany

**NARROW FOCUS GOAL**

Our narrow focus goal for this year was: **By May 2011, 100% of students will improve their achievement in Reading for Meaning (expectations 1.1 to 1.9 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 expectations, created tasks 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. This year tasks reflected our work in critical thinking, and strategies for students to improve their work included the "Bump It Up" method.

Eighty-four 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. Next year, we will continue to refine our understanding and use of "Bump It Up" and Critical Thinking strategies.



**Important Dates  
2011/12**

- September 6:** 1st Day of School
- September 23:** Early Release Day
- October 5:** World Teachers' Day
- October 7:** PA Day
- October 10:** Thanksgiving Day
- November 11:** Remembrance Day
- December 26 - January 6:** Winter Holiday Break
- January 20:** PA Day
- February 2:** Kindergarten Open House 4-6
- February 20:** Family Day
- March 9-16:** March Break
- April 6:** Good Friday
- April 9:** Easter Monday
- May 18:** PA Day
- May 21:** Victoria Day
- June 8:** PA Day
- June 28:** Last Day of School



[www.dsbns.org](http://www.dsbns.org)

**FUN FAIR**

We are happy to announce that we had a very successful Second Annual Fun Fair. The weather cooperated, and there was a very large crowd at the school. We made a modest profit of \$200, but I know you all agree that you received great value for the money spent that evening. A great big thank you goes out to the Fun Fair Committee, as well as to students, parents and staff who volunteered their time. We look forward to next year's event!

**SCHOOL VANDALISM**

We are very proud of our school building and grounds. 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 cooperation.



**JUNE NEWSLETTER DRAW**

**Congratulations to Aidan, Carly and Brennan who won June's Newsletter Draw!**

School resumes on Tuesday, September 6th at 9 a.m. See you then!

### SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

A great big thank you goes to this year's Council Members who had another successful year of accomplishments:

Margaret Unruh (chair)  
Dawn Holmes                      Rebecca Smit  
Cathy Chorro                      Sandra Booker  
Cindi Sonnenberg                Kirsty Durrant  
Lea McEvoy

We appreciate your hard work on behalf of McCulley students! Please consider joining Council in the fall. Nomination forms will be included in our first newsletter.

### DSBN SUMMER HEAT

Our primary summer literacy learning program, Summer HEAT, will again be running in various places within the District School Board of Niagara. It is for students entering junior kindergarten to grade 3 and will be happening from July 11 to July 29 (five days a week). The program runs from 8:30 am with a light breakfast to 12:15 pm from Monday to Friday. Parents wanting their children to be part of this program must agree to participate in the home reading program and three parent engagement sessions. The cost is \$80.00 for the three week program. Pamphlets have been sent home. For more details visit: [www.dsbni.org](http://www.dsbni.org) under community.

### 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:**

**(grades 1 to 3)**

backpack  
(with child's name inside)  
crayons or pencil crayons  
pencils  
erasers  
markers  
ruler  
glue stick  
scissors  
pencil case  
head phones (from the dollar store)  
duotangs  
indoor shoes  
box of tissues

#### **JUNIOR:**

**(grades 4 to 6)**

backpack  
pencil crayons  
pencils/pens  
highlighter  
erasers  
markers  
ruler  
glue stick  
scissors  
calculator  
pencil case  
head phones (from the dollar store)  
binder with dividers **OR**  
duotangs  
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.

### SUMMER READING IS IMPORTANT!

Noted educational researchers such as Stephen Krashen and Jim Trelease have found repeatedly that access to books and frequent practice in reading is the single most significant factor in improving student success and in creating a lifelong enjoyment of reading. An important time for our children to be exposed to reading for pleasure is during the summer months. What a great time to start a new routine of reading to your child on a daily basis! As well, all of our local libraries take the opportunity during summer months to offer additional reading clubs with the same purpose in mind. Stop by your local library to enquire about these programs.

Throughout the Niagara Peninsula, our many public libraries are offering the TD Summer Reading Club Program entitled Splash! Celebrate Summer! The goals of the program are to promote the lifelong love of reading and learning, increase reading abilities and prevent summer learning loss.

To contact your local public library for individual dates and times, a complete list of Niagara Region libraries can be found at: <http://dsbn.org/schools/supportservices/ICT/library/community.html>



### KEEPING KIDS ACTIVE FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS

- Go for a family walk, or hike after dinner a few nights a week after the daytime sun and heat has cooled down.
- Go on a family bike ride through the neighbourhood, along a recreation trail, or the Niagara Parkway.
- Create sidewalk art with chalk and play hopscotch.
- Fly a kite, or throw a frisbee on a grassy field at a local school or park.
- Enjoy a trip to the playground
- Try and use the summer months to introduce positive changes to your household. Limit time spent in sedentary activities, such as watching TV, playing on the computer or playing video games to no more than one hour a day.
- Encourage and role model healthy habits, such as eating plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, drinking enough water throughout the day, wearing sunglasses, hats, and using sunscreen on sunny days, and wearing bike helmets while biking, rollerblading, or skateboarding.