

The Eagle's Tale

oakridge.dsbm.org

Oakridge School Newsletter

January 2012



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome to January 2012!

What are the Benefits of Learning a Second Language?

In addition to developing a lifelong ability to communicate with many people, students may enjoy other benefits of learning a second language including a “strengthening of their first language skills, enhancement of problem-solving and reasoning skills, the capacity for creative thinking, and the ability to respect and understand other cultures.” (*The Ontario Curriculum, French as a Second Language: Core French, Grades 4 to 8.*)

Also, it can provide a competitive advantage in the workforce by opening up additional job opportunities. According to *The Impact of Second Language Education* study, there is an urgent requirement for qualified speakers of languages other than English in areas of science, technology, medicine and global commerce. Students of foreign languages develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. It will open the door to the world of art, cuisine, cinema, travel and literature. Some evidence also suggests that children who receive second language instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems. Students who are fluent in two languages score higher in both verbal and non-verbal intelligence. They also have higher test scores in reading, language and mathematics. (*College Bound Seniors: The 1992 Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers*)

By encouraging your children to continue studying a second language, you will be equipping them with the tools they need to succeed in today's growing world.

Students in the DSBM will soon have even more opportunity to immerse themselves in the French language. Beginning in September 2012, the DSBM will offer French Immersion programming starting in grades one and four and continue with grade five and seven entry as well. Briardale/Oakridge will be the site for French Immersion in the south end of St. Catharines. Briardale will offer grades one, four and five while Oakridge will have grades six, seven and eight. Our French Immersion Open House will be on Monday, February 6th at 6:30 pm in our gymnasium. This will be for parents and students who are interested in grade seven entry into the program. Briardale will be having their Open House on Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30 pm. This is for parents and students who are considering grade one, four and five entry.

Online registration begins on January 9th, 2012 and closes February 29th, 2012 at <https://app.dsbm.edu.on.ca/fsl/>
Paper applications will also be available at the school.

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE DATES

School	Day	Date	Time
A.N. Myer Secondary School	Tuesday	January 17	6:30pm - 8:30pm
Beamsville Secondary School	Tuesday	January 17	7:00pm – 9:00pm
E.L. Crossley Secondary School	Wednesday	January 18	6:30pm - 8:30pm
Eastdale Secondary School	Thursday	January 19	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Eden High School	Monday	January 16	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Fort Erie Secondary School	Thursday	January 19	6:30pm - 8:30pm
Governor Simcoe Secondary School	Wednesday	January 18	6:30pm – 8:00pm
Grimsby Secondary School	Tuesday	January 17	7:00pm
Kernahan Park Secondary School	Monday	January 16	6:30pm – 8:00pm
Laura Secord Secondary School	Tuesday	January 17	6:30pm – 9:00pm
Port Colborne High School	Tuesday	January 17	6:30pm
Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School	Tuesday	January 17	6:30pm - 8:30pm
Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School	Monday	January 16	6:30pm
South Lincoln High School	Wednesday	January 18	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Stamford Collegiate Secondary School	Tuesday	January 17	6:30pm - 8:30pm
St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School	Wednesday	January 18	1:00pm – 3:00pm 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Thorold Secondary School	Tuesday	January 17	6:30pm - 8:30pm
Welland Centennial Secondary School	Tuesday	January 17	6:30pm - 8:30pm
West Park Secondary School	Tuesday	January 17	7:00pm – 9:00pm
Westlane Secondary	Tuesday	January 17	6:30pm - 8:30pm

Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School



Invites YOU to our **GRADE 8 OPEN HOUSE - Monday, January 16th, 2012**
6:30p.m. (Auditorium)
 Visit our website: www.sirwinston.ca
We look forward to seeing you at SWC!



FEED THE CHILDREN

Mme Hall and Mme Christie's class collected funds during the week before Christmas, to make a generous donation of \$350.00 to "Canadian Feed the Children," a charitable organization dedicated to reducing the impact of poverty on children. As a class, we decided how to best distribute our funds in order to have a positive impact on those less fortunate than us. With our donation, we provided families with water sources, dental/medical visits, livestock (chickens and a goat), and livelihood (kitchen garden, seeds, gardening equipment and fruit trees). For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.canadianfeedthechildren.ca/>. Great job, 8SEF2!



HUGS FOR HOSPITALS

The Me to We Club would like to thank the Oakridge community for their generous donations of stuffed bears, toys, books and games donated for the recent Hugs for Hospitals campaign. The front foyer of the school was filled with over 250 items. All of the items were delivered to the St. Catharines General Hospital and Community Care for distribution over the holidays.

Thanks

We would like to thank Oakridge School Council for their generous donations they have made over the past few years. They are a group of dedicated individuals who have planned and organized various fundraising events. They work hard to support the staff and students at Oakridge. The following are some examples of what their donations have allowed us to purchase in the last three years and for this year as well:

- Guided reading tables
- Literacy Support – Eric Walters visit
- Mandatory playground repairs
- Oakridge 50th Anniversary Celebration
- Team uniforms
- Gymnasium screen replacement
- Read Naturally computer program
- Wireless listening centres
- Grade Three Literacy Program
- Musical instruments
- Electric winch for the gymnasium
- Water bottle refilling station
- Technology equipment
- Gymnastic uniforms
- Musical instruments

The minutes from the monthly School Council meetings are posted on the Oakridge School website. New members are always welcome. Our next meeting is on Monday, February 13th at 7:00 pm in the library.

DANCE DANCE DANCE



It's that time again. Oakridge is getting ready for its annual Dance-a-thon. Our kick off assembly is scheduled for January 24th. At this time, students will be given their pledge-lopes and all the information they will need to have a successful dance-a-thon. Let's get ready to dance!

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 DSBN, 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. Visit www.dsbnsb.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!



COLD WEATHER ALERTS AT DSBN

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

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.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

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

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

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

There may be times during the school year where 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.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is

available through the following channels: websites: www.dsbn.org or 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:

Television 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)

A MESSAGE FROM OAKRIDGE SCHOOL COUNCIL



This past year, Oakridge School Council has been an active supporter and fundraiser for School projects and program needs such as:

classroom supplies, Grade 8 graduation, playground maintenance, skating events, school uniforms, and purchasing musical instruments.

Our most recent event was Family Fun Night held on Wednesday November 23rd – there were close to 200 students, siblings, parents, grandparents and teachers at the event. The goal was to build “community” and from all reports it was a very successful event.

Several events for the new year are now in the planning phase and will be announced shortly. On behalf of the Oakridge School Council we would like to extend an invitation to be a member of our group. Our next meeting will be on Monday February 13th starting at 7:00 pm in the School library. Please take an active interest in your child's or children's education – we hope to see you there!

Regards, Bonnie Unger and Barry Wright, Co-Chairs

BUS LOADING ZONE AND BACK PARKING LOT

The current Bus Loading Zone has been re-signed to a “No Parking; Pick-up and Drop-off Only” area. Buses will now load and unload along Oakridge Avenue toward Riverview Boulevard. The area of Oakridge Avenue directly across from the bus zone has been designated as a “No Stopping” zone to facilitate traffic along that stretch of road.



A further reminder that we ask that parents using the back parking lot for pick-up and drop-off pull into spots rather than stopping in vehicle lane of the parking lot.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

JK/SK am	Ella B. and Isabelle K.
JK/SK pm	Ezekiel T. and Arleigh K.
Grade 1 / 2	Kai P. and Emily W.
Grade 3	Jordyn R., Geoffrey B. and Orian F.
Grade 3 / 4	Griffen M., Tiahn B., Emma B.
Grade 5 / 6	Matthew G. and Ishan H.
Grade 5F1	Alysha B., Eden S., Makoto A., Ryann S.
Grade 5F2	Samantha S., Carolyn H., Jacob W.
Grade 7	Carlin S., Jared S., Darren A.
Grade 7/8	Tasha E., Austin P., Soo Jin L.
Grade 8	Emily C., Mckenzie F., Jacob V.
Grade 7F1	Sarah K., Esmee S., Alyson M., Matthew G.
Grade 7F2	Lara B., Susan K., Matt P.
Grade 8F1	Gina A., Gillian B., Lindsey G.
Grade 8F2	Casey O., Maya W., Daniel A.
Grade 8F3	Rosie E., Arrin F., Aaron P.



LITERACY DAY/AUTHOR VISIT



Family Literacy Day is Friday, January 27th, 2012. Our staff and students will be involved in various exciting activities

throughout the day. Michael Wade, author of the book series “And Then it Happened” will be here to talk to our students in grades 3-6 on January 31st. As part of his presentation he will talk to students about the writing process and the students will participate in a short, fun writing activity as well. The students and teachers are looking forward to a great day.

For more information about Family Literacy Day, you can check out the website at

<http://abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy-day>

THROW NO SNOW

To ensure the safety of students on our playground during the winter months, it is necessary for us to ban the throwing/kicking of snow/ice. The students are reminded of this rule during in-class discussions, at assemblies, and over the morning announcements. Students are not allowed to throw snowballs at any time or for any reason. Students who throw snow will lose their recess privileges



CELL PHONES

With the beginning of the new year, we would like to remind both students and parents that cell phones should not be turned on or used in our classrooms without teacher direction and/or for instructional purposes. According to the DSBN policy, we require that all cell phones must be turned off as soon as students arrive on school property. All cell phones must be stored in student backpacks. We know that cell phones are expensive and we cannot be responsible for missing or lost cell phones. Students should not be using their cell phones during the day to contact parents. There is a phone available at the office for student use.

“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

Be aware of what your children are viewing and learn which movies have smoking in them.

Updates available every Thursday at facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood.

Talk to your children about tobacco and movies and teach them to be media aware.

Show your support to get tobacco out of youth-rated films in Ontario at smokefreemovies.ca.

Spread the word to other parents and join the discussion on facebook and twitter.

www.smokefreemovies.ca

facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood

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.

