

December Newsletter Items

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of our parents and staff for taking the time to hold conferences to discuss student progress reports. These conversations help to identify both student strengths and areas for growth. The ability for children to set and work towards a specific goal is a very important life skill that adults can support. As we move towards our February 8th Term One report card, it will be interesting to see how students are progressing towards their goals.

Our school Action Teams have been very busy initiating and supporting school wide activities. Below is a brief summary of our actions:

Fundraising: Terry Fox, Community Care, Winter Wonderland

Spirit Days: Pajama Day, Crazy Hair, Red and Green Day (December 7th)

Bulletin Boards: Weekly interactive messages and challenges in the hallway

Sports Management: Intramurals – European Handball

Decorating: Halloween, Winter Wonderland

Technology: managing technology equipment, Hour of Code

Library: Primary reading club, Book Fair

Recess Games: Winter Wonderland

Random Acts of Kindness: Random Acts of Kindness Day, Community Care

Environmental: Recycling presentations, trip to Malcolmson Park

In December, we will be focusing on Habit #2 of, "Begin with the end in mind". Begin with the End in Mind means to begin each day, task, or project with a clear vision of your desired direction and destination, and then continue by flexing your proactive muscles to make things happen. One of the best ways to incorporate Habit 2 into your life is to develop a Personal Mission Statement. It focuses on what you want to be and do. It is your plan for success. It reaffirms who you are, puts your goals in focus, and moves your ideas into the real world. Your mission statement makes you the leader of your own life. You create your own destiny and secure the future you envision.

School Council

School Council held their last meeting on Tuesday, November 27th. As with all meetings, we reviewed past school council initiatives, the school council financial account, school-based activities, and spent time looking ahead at future projects. The next Council meeting will be held on January, 22 at 6pm in the computer lab; child care will be provided.

Winter Wonderland

School Council is now focused on planning and organizing for Winter Wonderland which will take place in the Port Weller gym on Friday, December 7. Thanks to Joscelene Perry for all of her efforts in leading this fun activity. An information note went home to all families on Tuesday, November 27th. The note provided an overview of the day's activities and what children can expect when visiting the gym (Winter Wonderland) with their class.

School Council is looking for parents to volunteer during the day and/or to provide donations for: bake table, mystery bags, items for the raffle table. If you can help out, please send back the return slip (printed on blue paper) to the school.

On Tuesday, December 4th, primary students will be bringing home a detailed "Fun List" of Winter Wonderland activities and the classroom schedule so that parents can help them decide what to do when it's their turn to visit Winter Wonderland. Parents are encouraged to send the Fun List page back to their child's homeroom teacher before December the 7th. Parents are welcome to come to Winter Wonderland while their own child is in the gym (refer to the classroom schedule for the correct time).

Ice Dogs Family Night

School Council is planning a fun, family Port Weller night at a Niagara Ice Dogs game on Friday, January 11, 2019. Please mark this down on your calendar. An information note will come home to families on December 10th.

Parking Lot Safety

Everyday our parking lot fills up with cars and people before and after school. It is during this time that we all need to continue to take our time, be patient and put student safety first. We do have routines in place that when followed properly, allow for the safe movement of children while maintaining a flow for cars to enter and exit the parking lot.

Routines and Reminders:

Space must always be left for our bus loading area – please do not block buses by leaving your cars in this space. Instead, drive out of the parking lot and come back in again or park across the road at the church.

Use the "kiss and ride" drop off area marked by our orange pylons and supervised by a staff member. By pulling your car all the way up to the front BEFORE dropping your children off, children can leave your car at a safe location and we can fit more cars into the parking lot. Please have your children ready to get out of the car (backpacks, coats, etc.) so that people can keep moving up and out of the parking lot in a timely way.

Never leave your car unattended in the driving areas. Please always find a parking spot first before leaving your car.

Do NOT let your children out into the parking lot and have them walk towards the school between moving cars and/or buses. Instead, either use the “kiss and ride” drop off area or park your car and walk them to the safe areas beyond the parking lot.

When parking at the church across the street, please make use of the crossing guard. Please do not cross the road and walk between cars.

When bringing your car into the parking lot, please only enter at the east end nearest the canal. The openings to our parking lot are clearly marked, “enter” and “exit”. Having cars entering the exit opening to the parking lot causes confusion, delays, and makes things unsafe for children.

Always slow down when approaching the school and crossing guard and maintain speeds that comply with our school zone. Remember to obey the directions and signals of the crossing guard. They are there to keep all of us safe.

When possible, why not consider walking to school? Fewer cars in the parking lot eases congestion.

Your help is always appreciated!

Kindergarten Registration

Families can register their children at Port Weller on any day in the year. We do ask that you bring in proof of your home address so that we can confirm that you live in the Port Weller boundary.

On January 31, 2019, we will hold our DSBN Kindergarten Open House here at Port Weller from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. We encourage our families to come in for a visit to learn more about our wonderful staff and program. During this day, parents can bring their children right into our classrooms to get a better understanding of our program.

For our existing Port Weller families, please encourage your neighbours and friends who have children entering kindergarten to come in for a visit.

Early On Centres

The DSBN houses two different Early On Centers here in St. Catharines. There is one located in Lincoln Centennial Public School and another at Connaught Public School. The Early On Centers are free drop in centers for families with children who are aged anywhere from birth to six years old. The centers offer literacy programming and child development activities. They are also a great place for parents to make connections in the community. More information is posted on our community board near the gymnasium.

Community Care

Community Care bins will be delivered to Port Weller School on Monday, December 3. Port Weller has always been a generous community helping others who are in need. The bins will be ready to accept non-perishable food items and new, unwrapped toys. Thank you for your consideration.

Primary Christmas Concert

Our primary students and staff are working towards presenting a fun and entertaining Christmas concert on Tuesday, December 18. There will be two concert times from which parents can choose: 1:45 p.m. and 6 p.m. Families are encouraged to bring a donation for the Community Care bins.

Port Weller Pirate Athletics

Junior volleyball began in November with Mrs. Perrier coaching the girls and Mr. Enns with the boys. The Junior girls and boys volleyball teams have been practicing hard over the past month and they have been showing much improvement. With the majority of our players having never played volleyball before, it is amazing to see how far they have come in such a short period of time. Their confidence and skills have grown with every practice and game. We are very proud of each and every player for their commitment, effort and enthusiasm. A very special thank you to Ruby, Zidania and Aiden for all of their help assisting in practices and refereeing and scorekeeping at our home games. Thank you to Miss. Stricko and Miss Muir, our Brock Teacher Candidates, for their help coaching the teams. We will conclude our season this month on December 17.

Intermediate boys and girls basketball will begin later in December with league games in January.

Primary Chess Club

The Primary Chess Club has been a big success at Port Weller with over 20 grade 2's and 3's practicing and playing after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. We thank Mrs. Chilcott for running and supervising this wonderful club. Our last Primary Chess Club meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5.

Dance Club

New this year at Port Weller is our Dance Club. Thanks to the initiative of some of our older students, we are holding recess sessions when students in grade 4 to 8 are putting together some routines that we hope to share at future assemblies. Thanks to Mrs. D. Nesbitt and Mrs. Venneri for helping to supervise our student dancers.

Environmental Action Team

Despite the rain, the Environmental Action Team had a great time collecting native seeds at Malcolmson Park earlier this month. The Friends of Malcolmson Park were great hosts and returned to organize and identify the seeds. A special “Thanks” goes out to Tara Laing, who stayed to help with all the seed sorting after our soggy trip! We are planning to use these seeds for planting in the spring for some restoration work in the park.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be available for viewing on Tuesday, December 4th and will run until Friday, December 7 (in conjunction with Winter Wonderland). Home room teachers will schedule a time to take their students down to the Book Fair to have a look at the collection of books, posters, and fun items that are on sale. Primary students will be given a slip of paper to record a “wish list” to share with parents. A Book Fair flyer with times and information has already been sent home.

Important Dates

Please look over our December calendar for most upcoming dates.