

January Newsletter Items

Principal's Message

Dear Port Weller families,

Happy New year and welcome back! We are all excited to return to Port Weller and to continue on with our school year.

At our first Monday assembly back, we did talk about goal setting and how students can use their agendas to set goals and to track them. Goal setting is an important life skill that we should all be supporting. When we set goals, we are thinking about the end in mind.

We will be introducing and focusing on our third "Habit" of the year at our next Monday assembly. For the month of January, we will be talking and thinking about Habit #3: "Putting first things first". Putting first things first means organizing and working around our most important priorities. It is living and being driven by the ideas that we value most.

School Council

School Council has recently organized a family night at the January 11th Ice Dogs hockey game. Families were given the option to use school cash online to purchase their tickets; those tickets were sent home with students on Monday, January 7th. Before the game begins on January 11th, families will have an opportunity to enjoy some family skating time. Information about the family skate was included with the tickets.

School Council did an outstanding job of providing our students and staff with a fun Winter Wonderland day on December 7th. The whole school participated in a variety of activities to get us ready for the festive season. Thanks to everyone for supporting this special event!

Our next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 22 at 6 p.m. All are welcome and free child care is provided. At this meeting, school council will begin to discuss plans for the upcoming Trivia Night.

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 DSNB 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

Thanks to our Port Weller community for their generous donations to Community Care. Representatives from this agency were overwhelmed with the positive response from our families.

Primary Christmas Concert

Thanks to our staff and students for presenting such a wonderful Christmas concert. We are very appreciative of Mr. Epp for accompanying us on the piano.

DSBN Art Show Case

Port Weller contributed six pieces of artwork to this year's show case. Congratulations to Zak, Gavan, Tia, Morgan, Sasha, and class 5/6D for being selected to share their art work. We appreciate their artistic talents!

Port Weller Pirate Athletics

Intermediate boys and girls basketball leagues will begin in the second week of January. Permission forms and schedules will come home with our Pirate athletes later this week. As always, we appreciate parent volunteer drivers and the cheering from the stands.

Important Dates

Please look over our January calendar for most upcoming dates.

LIBRARY LINK

As we begin a new calendar year, it is a good time to reflect on the first four months of the 2018/2019 school year. With that in mind, the Library Action Team would like to thank the Port Weller community for:

- **Increased circulation statistics** – The number of books (2 295 in total) checked out since the start of this school year is up 12% over the same time period last year. This is partially due to the growing popularity of graphic novels and we continue to add new publications to the library collection. Thanks to students and teachers for making the library an important part of their school experience.
- **A fantastic Scholastic Enchanted Forest Book Fair** – Total sales during December's book fair were almost \$3000, which meant that we earned approximately \$800 worth of books and cash rewards for our school library. Congratulations to Noah Gabriel (K2), who won the Family Event draw and was able to choose \$25 in books for his classroom and personal libraries. Thanks to everyone for supporting the book fair and the LAT is looking forward to hosting another one in April.
- **Participating in the Primary Book Club** – In December, members of the LAT hosted primary students for a book reading and activity, during Second Fitness Break. There were as many as 45 students at these meetings and we would like to thank each of them for being a part of the book club. In addition, thanks to the LAT members for taking a leadership role and



organizing these events:

- Jonathan Vasilyev
- Cadence Savoie
- Ian Tapply
- Emily Costigan
- Alana Lammers and Juno Mitchell