

# THE TREASURE CHEST

## Port Weller Public School

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<http://www.dsbns.edu.on.ca/Schools/PortWeller/>

DECEMBER, 2011  
H. Abbey, Principal

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Port Weller Families:



I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students for their hard work and for the commitment that they have demonstrated toward their learning throughout the first 3 months of school. I read every Progress Report Card and was most impressed with the evidence of success and achievement that was recorded throughout, from SK to Grade 8. The definition of success is unique for each individual student. What we want and expect from every learner is the motivation to challenge themselves while putting forth their best effort each and every day. I am certain that as parents and caregivers, you hold true the same wants and desires for your children. I remind you that we are a TEAM! With your support, we work hard to understand the needs and the learning styles of your child(ren) so that we are able to reach them in the best way possible. It is here where the most meaningful learning occurs, where the "sparks" are ignited and where we celebrate when we hear a student utter the words "I get it!" It is so exciting when this happens and it does many times, every day!

I also extend a sincere thank you to all parents and caregivers who were able to attend an interview with your child's teacher, either in person or by phone. The interview process is extremely critical to the academic success of your child. If you have not had this opportunity, please contact the school this week to make arrangements, PLEASE! We do appreciate busy schedules, especially this time of year and we will accommodate your calendar and agenda.

It is the personal connection that you make with your child's school and teacher that will have a significant impact on learning. Every time you take a step into the school building or make an attempt to reach out to teachers and school personnel, you are demonstrating to your child that school is an important place to be. Thank you for all that you do to support your child's learning.

### Staff Focus at Port Weller

Every year, it is important that staff determine a focus for growth. This decision is based on evidence that is largely made up of student academic achievement. This year one of our main foci will be helping students to self assess their learning and to set next steps for themselves. In order for students to be able to assess their learning they must have a clear understanding of the "target" (what the task/assignment is expecting of them). Students learn best by making their best attempt, and then once feedback has been received, they require the opportunity to explicitly understand what they can do differently next time in order to improve on their success. We use the term "Hoist the Sails" at Port Weller. This means that we are working with our students and giving them plenty of chances to grow as learners. I remind the students that "if better is possible then good is NOT enough". It is recommended that as parents and caregivers you ask your child once in a while about what they have done to "Hoist the Sails" at school.

## De-Bugging System

HELP your child to manage being “bugged”. Please review these strategies at home as this is what we use at school to help our children work through problems with others. We call them the De-Bugging Strategies.



IGNORE .... If that doesn't work ....

MOVE AWAY ... If that doesn't work ....

TALK FRIENDLY ... If that doesn't work ....

TALK FIRMLY (STOP, I'm not playing) ... If that doesn't work ...

GET AN ADULT!!!



Naturally, we teach students about immediate safety concerns and when they must go directly to the last step GET AN ADULT! You might review these ideas with them as good practice. We have been particularly emphasizing with our OLDER students the right to say STOP! All students at ANY time have the right to go to the office for immediate help should they require it ... always!

## Math Connection

### What tips can I use to help my child?

- Be positive about math.
- Let your child know that you think math is important.
- Point out ways in which you use math in your job and at home.
- Let your child know that EVERYONE can learn math.
- Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and understands something for the first time, and share in the excitement when you and your child solve a problem together.
- Encourage your child to be persistent when a problem seems difficult.
- Make math part of your child's day.
- Point out to your child the many ways in which math is used throughout his or her day.
- Encourage your child to tell you or show you how he or she uses math.
- Play games and do puzzles with your child that involve math.
- Encourage your child to give explanations.



When you and your child are trying to solve a problem, have your child share his or her thinking aloud and talk about strategies that he or she used to reach a solution. If some of your child's ideas are puzzling, ask your child to explain further. As children talk about their ideas and how they reach solutions, they are learning to reason mathematically.

## Homework Club

Homework Club is now available Monday to Friday from 3:20-4:00. Students in Grades 3-8 are always welcome to attend homework club to work in the computer lab or library. Students can easily arrange to safely get together for group work or find a quiet place to finish homework and projects after school. Ms. Carruthers, Mrs. Elver, and Mrs. Flemming are available to assist any students who would like some extra support as well.

This year, Homework Club will be offering some workshops after school for any Jr/Int students who are interested in learning about specific software programs that may help them with assignments or projects. Our first workshop will be held on **Monday, December 12, 2011**. This workshop will focus on learning how to use the program *Audacity*. Students who attend this free workshop taught by DSBN tech support, will learn to create slideshows, add music and graphics to enhance their presentations. They will have the opportunity to work on the computers during the workshop to create their very own movie trailer! Snacks will be provided.

Parent permission forms are necessary for students to attend homework club or after-school workshops. These forms will be kept on file for the 2011-2012 school year. Students may request forms from Mrs. Elver. Thank you for your continued support.

## **A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR INVALUABLE HELP!**

*We appreciate your time and the gifts you share with our students!*

### **Did you know?**

- That two Grade 8 students (**Abby and Shania**) help out at the Breakfast Program once a week!
- That every Monday morning we do our announcements “live” in the school gym.
- That we welcome Mrs. Epp as our new evening caretaker. She, along with Mrs. Langile, will continue to work very hard in the evenings to keep our school ready for learning the next day.
- That we are looking for volunteers for Winter Wonderland on December 16<sup>th</sup>. We need volunteers to help set up in the evening of December 15<sup>th</sup> and volunteers during the day of December 16<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the office if you think you can help!
- Our coaches have been very busy at Port Weller. Thank you to Mrs. Pearson, Mr. Davidson, Mrs. Crowther, Mrs. LeRose and Mrs. Rosts.
- Our students went to Ina Grafton Village on Remembrance Day to remember with the residents. Thank you for Mrs. Cuttriss and Mrs. Violante for this opportunity
- Our primary students are busy readying themselves for a Holiday Production on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to collect clothing and outerwear to help support students at Lincoln Centennial School. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

### **New EASY Fundraiser at Port Weller!**

During the summer months over \$6000 dollars was needed to repair the playground in order for it to be safe and ready for our students on the first day of school. The Port Weller School Advisory Council needs to raise this money over the course of the next three years.

Parent Council is embarking on a new venture in fundraising. They are excited to launch the Fundscrip Program. Fundscrip is a program that encourages you to pay for your everyday purchases, or shopping for special events like Christmas and birthdays, with gift cards bought through Fundscrip. A percentage of every card that you purchase will raise funds for our school.

- It does not cost you anything extra.
- You do not need to change where you shop or what you buy.
- Your every day purchases add up to make a difference very quickly.
- This program has and continues to be very successful in many other DSBN schools.
- It is safe and easy to use.

To participate in the program, follow the instructions located at the website

[www.fundscrip.com/LoginOrSignUp.aspx](http://www.fundscrip.com/LoginOrSignUp.aspx)

The invitation code for Port Weller School is TCP92H. Feel free to share this with friends and family!

Orders will be shipped directly to the school. They are ready for pick up on the Tuesday following the order due date. Once you have registered online you will receive reminders of when the order due date is. If you wish your cards to be sent home with your child, or you wish further information, please contact the school office OR Kristi-Anna Beaudry at [beaudrybunch@cogeco.ca](mailto:beaudrybunch@cogeco.ca) or 905-646-5307

### **Junior Girls Volleyball**

Congratulations to the Junior Girls volleyball on completing a successful season at Port Weller. The girls finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in their pool and advanced all the way to the semi-finals in the playoffs. They worked hard all season and did a great job for their team and coaches. Go Pirates!!

Thank you to Mrs. Crowther and Mrs. LeRose for coaching the team.

Thank you to Mr. Davidson and Mr. Ferguson for helping out.

## High School Open House Dates 2011

SCHOOL	OPEN HOUSE DATE
Eden	Mon., January 16 – 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Governor Simcoe	Wed., January 18 - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Kernahan Park	Tues., January 16 – 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Laura Secord	Tues., January 17– 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
Sir Winston Churchill	Mon., January 16– 6:30 p.m.
St.Catharines Collegiate	Thurs., Jan.18 – 1:00 -3:30 p.m. & 6:00-7:00 p.m.

### Terry Fox Walk/Run

Thank you to the Port Weller community and all the students who brought in money for the Terry Fox Walk/Run. The event took place this past fall on the canal pathway. The students enjoyed the beautiful weather and exercise. The school raised \$595 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Great Job Pirates!!

### Port Weller Spelling Bee

This year the students in Grades 4 to 8 took part in a class spelling competition. The class winners had the option of taking part in a school Spelling Bee that took place in the gym on Nov. 30.

The contestants were:

**Eric G., Braeden R., Taylor K., Hailey K., Michaela R., Emma H., Nicole W., Katie M., Lauren M., Holden M., Desmond M., Alex S.**

The students did a great job of spelling their words, even under the pressure of competing in front of the whole school.

Congratulations to **Emma H.** who finished in third place and **Holden M.** who finished in second place. **Katie M.** took home the first place trophy by spelling all the words she received correctly. Great job Katie!

All the students who competed are to be commended and congratulations to the three finalists



### Primary Christmas Concert



Primary staff and students invite you to come out and enjoy our production of “Melton the Warm Hearted Snowman” on Wed., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the school gym. The Kindergarten classes will perform in the concert as well. Students should arrive at the school by 6:15 p.m. for the performance. Morning Kindergarten students performing in the afternoon concert are asked to return to the school at 1:30 p.m.

Food and toy bins for Community Care will be set up in the school lobby. We welcome your donations to help make Christmas brighter for those less fortunate.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open before and after the afternoon and evening performance.

### Zehrs Save-A-Tape Program

Please save your Zehrs receipts and deposit them in the box located near the office. Each \$450 worth of Zehrs or Zehrs Foods Plus cash register tapes is worth \$1.00 towards our school. An easy way to raise money for Port Weller!!



### Time for our annual Winter Wonderland !

We will be holding our annual Winter Wonderland activities for the students on Dec. 16. This is a fun day for your children to shop for the family, buy some treats and play some games. Parents are more than welcome to stop by and purchase tickets for our penny raffle, treat table or any of the other fun activities. A note has been sent home looking for parent volunteers to help out that day and donate items.





## Book Fair

Mark your calendars! **Port Weller will be hosting another Book Fair this year from Tuesday, December 6th to the morning of the 9th.** Looking for Christmas ideas? Give the gift of books. Not only your children will benefit, so will our library! Consider supporting the library with many purchases this year. Roughly, for every three books you buy, the school can buy one for free! Happy Shopping! **The Book Fair will be open before and after the afternoon and evening performances of the Primary Concert.** Parent volunteers are still needed to help with the book fair before and after the evening performance.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

As part of an outreach focus for this year's Student Council, Port Weller students will be helping those less fortunate this season by participating in St. Catharines Community Care "Tree of Angels" program.



Each class is encouraged to choose an angel or two from our Angel Tree *or* choose another worthy cause such as donating to Mr. Wilson's cause in Guatemala. Each teacher will decide with their class upon a fundraising activity to raise money to purchase gifts for their "angel's" boys and girls in need. Parents may also wish to contribute any money or donate warm mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and necessities. We will also accept donations of canned goods.

Thank you for supporting our initiatives.

Sincerely

Student Council 2010-2011

Student Council will also have two Spirit Days :

Fri., Dec. 16 – wear red, white, green

Fri., Dec. 23 – Movie Morning and Pajama Day

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Did you know that Canadian children/youth ages six to 19 spend an average of 8.6 hours per day, or 62 per cent of their waking hours, being sedentary?

Here are some ways to help your children meet the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each day:

- Limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours per day
- Encourage children and youth to play outdoors
- Play outside with your children:
  - Go for walks, hikes, build snowmen, go tobogganing
  - Introduce your child to skates or skis so they can learn to slide
  - Play catching games using a wide range of soft objects

For more information go to [www.activehealthykids.ca](http://www.activehealthykids.ca) or [www.participaction.com](http://www.participaction.com)

# Movember

MMXI



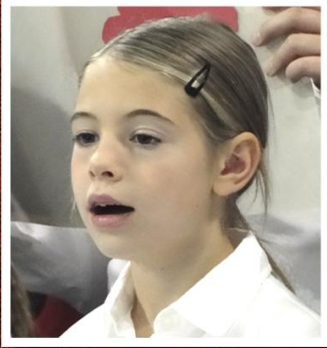
## Mo Sistas



## Mo Bros



**Port Weller  
Public School**



*We Remember*

# We Remember

