



THE TREASURE CHEST



January 2012

Port Weller Public School

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Principal's Message

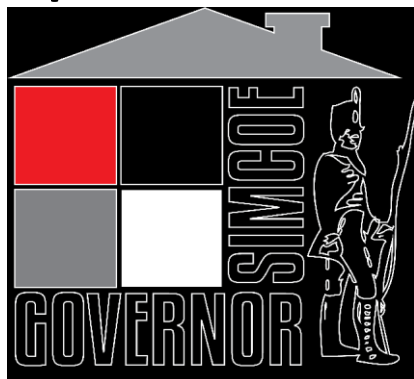
Happy New Year! Welcome to 2012! I hope all of you had a wonderful, relaxing holiday season together with friends, family and loved ones. Thank you to all of our families who came out to join us for our Holiday Concert at the beginning of December. It was a special opportunity to gather together as a community and to celebrate the special school that Port Weller is. I also extend a huge thank you to the parents who dedicated so much time and energy toward our Winter Wonderland celebration. It was such a fun day for the students!



We return to school rested and raring to go! January will be a very busy month. Our students are heading toward the end of the 1st academic term for the 2011-12 school year. Your child's report card will be issued on February 9th. This date is just around the corner! We look forward to "buckling down" and getting "down to learning" right away. We strive to try our best in all that we do and look forward to many events, challenges, and activities, including: new learning opportunities, hoisting the sails, filling buckets, celebrations, basketball season, tech challenge, snow days, and Literacy Day.

New beginnings are a wonderful feeling and a new calendar year is certainly a new beginning! My hope is that as a community of learners we are able to maintain the strong, impressive start that we have had to this school year. I remain so very proud of every single student, staff member, and parent for the part that you have played in making the 2011-12 school year so successful. Keep the momentum going and imagine "the places" that we can get to together!

Open Houses



GOVERNOR SIMCOE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Warmly invites you to attend our

OPEN HOUSE

On Wednesday, January 18th, 2012 Doors open at 6:00 p.m. - Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Proud of our Tradition - Excited About YOUR Future!

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together



Open House Dates 2011

Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend High School Open Houses in January 2012. For a full list of open house dates, times and details, please go to www.dsbns.org

| HIGH 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. |

French Immersion



The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. Grade 5 entry will continue. Grade 7 entry will continue as well for St. Catharines and NOTL. Grade 1 Pilot French Immersion programs will begin September 2012 at 5 locations throughout the board. Registration begins January 9, 2012. Please visit either the school or DSBN website for more information. You may also contact the Port Weller office at anytime to inquire. Our home sites are Sheridan Park (pilot Grade 1 entry Sept 2012) and Dalewood (Grades 4, 5,

and 7 entry Sept 2012). Parent Information Nights will be coming up at the end of January and the beginning of February. You may attend **any** Parent Night for more information. You do not need to attend our home school nights (Sheridan Park on Feb 1 from 6:30 - 7:30 and Dalewood on January 31 from 6:30 - 7:30).

Winter Wonderland

Thank you to the students, staff, and volunteers for making 2011 Winter Wonderland a big success! Tons of fun was had by staff, students, and parents. Thank you to all the volunteers who baked, donated raffle items, and donated their precious time in helping run this special event. The students look forward to this every year and we couldn't have done it without you! \$1500 was raised for our playground up-keeping costs.



Kindergarten Count Down



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.dsbns.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!



Fundscrip Cards

Thank you to all who have signed up and are receiving their Fundscrip cards. This program has the potential to raise significant and much needed funds for our school playground. Signing up for Fundscrip is fast and easy! We raise the funds that we need by using our everyday purchases to make a real difference!

How does it work? All the information you need can be found on the Fundscrip website: www.Fundscrip.com. Simply enter the invitation code TCP92H to register.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Beaudry at beaudrybunch@cogeco.ca

Did you know?

- Mrs. Griese, a parent at our school has been coming into classrooms as a resident artist to help our students explore their creativity.
- Mr. Reimer, Mr. Dyck and Mr. Epp are a dynamic musical trio and they entertained us beautifully during our carol sings the week before school ended.
- Mr. Ferguson has been busy with the Tech Team at Port Weller.
- Our School Council helped us collect hundreds of pounds of food and toys for Community Care.
- Our Grade 7/8 class is very responsible at changing our school sign.
- Our school choir preformed in the Niagara Falls production of Annie.
- Basketball season has begun!
- STAR Pirate stands for **Showing Tolerance And** respect!

Peanut Allergy

This is just a reminder that we do have a young student and a staff member with a life-threatening allergy to peanuts. Thank you for not sending any food that contains peanuts or may contain traces of peanuts to school.



Parking Lot

Our parking lot can become very congested with cars and buses. Please obey the one way entrance and exit. We have had many close calls with parents/grandparents entering the exit space. Let's keep our children safe!



Cold Weather Alerts




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, we 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.

Smoke-Free Movies

“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. Here are some ways to protect our kids:

1. Be aware of what your children are viewing and learn which movies have smoking in them. Updates are available every Thursday at facebook.com/hoodedbyhollywood.
2. Talk to your children about tobacco and movies and teach them to be media aware.
3. Show your support to get tobacco out of youth-rated films in Ontario at smokefreemovies.ca.
4. Spread the word to other parents and join the discussion on Facebook and Twitter.

For more information see:
www.smokefreemovies.ca
facebook.com/hoodedbyhollywood

Skating Dates



As part of our “Heart Healthy” Physical Ed. Program, the students are being given the opportunity to go skating on two dates. The entire school will go to the Seymour-Hannah Centre on Fri., Jan. 27 and Fri., Feb. 24, 2012. Permission forms will be sent home. Junior and Senior kindergarten classes must be accompanied by their parents. Afternoon JK/SK class may join the skating in the morning if parents are willing to drive them. Bussing is not provided for JK/SK classes.



Vaccines

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.



School Closures

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures.

Information about transportation changes and school closures will be available on the websites, social media, radio and television stations listed below as soon as it is available. Please do not phone the school for transportation or school closure information.

Websites/Social Media:

www.dsb.org

http://twitter.com/D_S_B_N

<http://www.facebook.com/DSBNiagara>

Television:

Cogeco Cable 10

CHCH Television

City TV

Radio:

CKTB 610 am

CHML 900 am

EZ Rock 105.7 fm

Htz 97.7 fm

KLite 102.9 fm

The River 105.1 fm

Wave 94.7 fm

Y-108 – 107.9 fm

Z 101.1 fm

At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children go to school that day rests with the parent or guardian. Should you decide not to send your child to school when transportation has been cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call the school to inform them of your child's absence.



Book Fair

Thanks to the wonderful support of students, parents, grandparents and school staff, we were able to generate library funds and new books for the Port Weller School Library. The library received \$286.50 worth of new books that are already being processed. In addition, the school earned over \$400 in commission to continue to spend on new library books throughout the school year. Special thanks to "Clifford the Big Red Dog", Stepanie K., Shania T., Chris M., Darby S., Taylor H., Jordan H., Tessa D., Rachel D., Nicole W., Brooke W., Graham O'Grady, Jenifer Friesen and Natasha Berezcky for their help. We couldn't have done it without you!

Newsletter On-line

In an effort to reduce paper/photocopying cost, as well as be more environmentally friendly, we are asking parents to read the newsletter and information via the school website. This will also ensure that you will receive the school newsletter rather than waiting for it to be delivered home via your child. The monthly newsletter, along with the calendar, will be posted on the school website (generally this will be the 1st Monday of the month). This option is also great for families who have joint custody and may not always receive a copy of the newsletter.

We understand that some families may not have access to the school website and would prefer a hard copy of the school newsletter. Remember there are always copies available at the school office should you wish to pick one up. Just log onto <http://portweller.dsbk.org> where you can find useful information about our school.

If you would like to discontinue receiving a hard copy, just call our office and speak with Mrs. Munn.

