



# THE TREASURE CHEST



## October Happenings 2017

Port Weller Public School

273 Parnell Road, St. Catharines, Ontario, CANADA, L2M1W4 ♦ Phone: 905-934-3322 ♦ Fax: 905-934-2043 ♦ <http://portweller.dsbm.org/> ♦ Principal: Ms. H. Abbey

### Principal Message

**Dear Parents,**

**We** are very excited about the positive start that we have had to our school year. Teachers and support staff are spending considerable time establishing classroom routines to support student learning. We are very lucky to have a staff that strives to provide an academic program that addresses the needs of children on an individual basis.

**T**hroughout the year, we encourage parents to engage their children in conversations about their learning. Teachers will continue to make daily learning objectives clear and relevant to the world outside school. Please ask your children about what they are learning and why they are learning new skills.

**I**n order to help develop leadership skills within our students, we are in the process of organizing cross-graded "Action Teams" to take on a variety of activities around the school throughout the year. Students will learn about this year's Action Teams in the near future.

**We** would like to welcome two new staff members to the Port Weller learning community. Stephanie Kimberley is a new Educational Assistant at Port Weller and Julie Shad has assumed teaching duties in our grade 3/4 class. Welcome!

### School Council

**T**here was an excellent turnout at our first scheduled meeting on September 26. During the meeting many topics that affect school life at Port Weller were discussed. We encourage parents to join us at future meetings to learn about the fun initiatives that they plan to organize.

**S**chool Council did an outstanding job of planning and running the Open House on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Families and children enjoyed the silent auction, games, bouncer, food and drinks. This was a wonderful community event to get the year started.

**T**he group took time to thank Elsa Pihl who has done an excellent job serving as the chair of School Council. We will miss her leadership and contributions! We thank Patti Jones and Jocelyn Perry for putting their names forward to serve as co-chairs for council for 2017-2018.

**M**inutes from the September 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, which includes information pertaining to upcoming events (such as the October 14 "Pumpkinville" event), can be found on our school website under the School Advisory Council tab in "About Port Weller". Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the computer lab.

### DSBN Parent Involvement Conference (PIC)

**O**n Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> all parents are invited to attend the Parent Involvement Conference at Eden High School. For more information about this conference and to register on-line please go to [www.dsbm.org/pic](http://www.dsbm.org/pic). This conference provides a variety of workshops for parents on topics that relate to school life.



## **LIBRARY**

**W**e are only one month into the school year and already our library is a busy place. The library was excited to be a part of our School Council's open house event, where student volunteers supervised the sale of books that had been weeded from our collection. We are happy that so many books were able to find new homes and want to thank our school community for the \$135.90 in donations as well as the School Council for organizing such a great event. In addition, the first month of the school year has seen students check out 470 books, including 160 picture books, 120 novels, and 75 non-fiction books from the natural sciences and mathematics section.

**S**tudents are using a new check-out procedure this year, which will help to keep our bookshelves organized—each student has their own library card. The card doubles as a shelf marker that can be used to hold the place of a book that students are considering checking-out, so that they can return it to the correct spot on the shelves if they decide to keep searching for a good fit book.

**J**ust a reminder that the library catalog is available online. Students can access the website by clicking the *Online Library* button on the school homepage. Along with searching our library resources, students can also read electronic books and link to online databases. The site has a lot to offer and students are being reminded of its features during their library periods, but you are encouraged to take a look at it at home as well.

**I**f you would like to volunteer in the school library, please contact the teacher-librarian at Jeremy.Thorpe@dsbn.org or @MrJThorpe.



## **High School Open Houses – November 27- 30**

### **Grade 8 Students and Parents: Save the Date!**

**S**tarting high school is a huge step in a student's life. While it's definitely an exciting time, it also brings with it many questions, such as "What's life in high school really like? What programs and options are available to help me achieve my goals?" A great way to have your questions answered is to attend an open house. Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend High School Open Houses from November 27-30. Details about open houses will be shared with parents/guardians mid-October.

### **We are listing our local high schools that we feed into here.**

- \*Eden High: November 30 – 6:30
- \*Governor Simcoe Secondary: November 29 – 6:00 p.m.
- \*Laura Secord Secondary: November 29
- \*St. Catharines Collegiate: November 28 – 6:00 p.m.

## **Chocolate Bar Fundraiser**

**W**e thank our Port Weller families for supporting the current chocolate bar fundraiser. The last day for the fundraiser is October 24 and we will announce draw/prize winners on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Brooke Froese and Lisa Birmingham for organizing this fundraiser.

## **Ice Cream and Popcorn Sales**

**I**ce Cream and Popcorn will be sold Wednesday to Friday at the beginning of the second Nutrition Break. Everything sells for \$1 – cash only. Ice Cream sales will end once the cold weather hits.



## **Terry Fox Foundation**

Port Weller students and staff will be participating in a Terry Fox walk/run on Thursday, October 5th beginning at 2 p.m. We are encouraging families to donate a "Toonie" towards the Terry Fox Foundation which will be used for cancer research. Thank you Mrs. Rosts and Ms. Favotto for organizing this important activity.



## **P.A. Day**

Please note that on Friday, October 6, there will be no school for students as all staff members will be involved in planning activities for the day. Also, Monday, October 9 is Thanksgiving Day and there will be no school.

## **Port Weller Pirate Athletics**

Our intermediate co-ed soccer team was coached by Mr. Reimer and had a great time at their one-day tournament at Pearson Park. The team was very competitive and all of their games were hard fought. Well done!

The Junior co-ed soccer team had a terrific result at their one-day tournament by winning in the championship game! All the players made positive contributions to a fun filled day. Thanks to Mr. Dyck and Mr. Thorpe for coaching and to all the parents who helped with driving and cheering on the players.

Our cross country team is enjoying a very successful season so far. With all the great weather these past few weeks, we have had a lot of practice before school. Our second race is set for October 4 at Burgoyne Woods. After this race, some students may qualify for the district cross country meet on October 16 at Fireman's Park. Parents of qualified runners will be notified. Thanks to Mrs. Venneri and Miss Wood for coaching and to all the parents for their support.



## **Breakfast Club**

We are happy to share that the Breakfast Club will begin on Tuesday, October 10. The program is run by parent volunteers and provides students with a nutritious start to their day. Students are welcome to come to the computer lab between 8:20 and 8:50 a.m. Parents who wish to volunteer on a regular or part time basis should contact the school. Thanks to Julie Rubel and Kathleen Vukovics for all their hard work.

## **Pizza Lunches**

We will be offering pizza lunches to students on the second and fourth Friday of each month. Our first lunch will be Friday, October 13. We are looking for some parent volunteers to help distribute the pizza when it gets delivered to the school. If you are able to help, please contact the office (905-934-3322).

**Please note that our Milk and Lunch Programs are School Cash Online events only.**

## **Important Dates**

Please look over the attached calendar for important October dates.

