

McKay Public School

April 2017

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Port Colborne, ON
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A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...

March was a shorter month, with staff and students enjoying a well-deserved spring break. Nonetheless, we still managed to make time for some great learning and awesome opportunities for our McKay family.

We continue to welcome our community partners into the school so that the students can benefit from a range of programs. Power House has been offering some of our youngsters a chance to learn some helpful life skills and how to build resiliency. Go Girls! Is a group mentoring program for some of our girls ages 12-14 that has been focusing on physical activity, balanced eating and self-esteem. A number of McKay students look forward to Tuesday and Thursday evenings when they participate in the Boys and Girls Club. These beneficial and enjoyable programs are certainly helping our students to become well-rounded citizens.

There has been a bit of a “buzz” about Science and Technology this month. The students participated in the Electricity Safety and Conservation Presentations where they learned some cool scientific facts, as well as some pointers for keeping themselves safe. Mad Science also started in March and some of our students have been involved in some hands-on inquiries into the world of science. Some of our junior students experimented with stop-motion animation; perhaps we have some future film makers amongst us! All of these inquiries proved to be both thought-provoking and enjoyable experiences for the kids!

This has been an exciting month for McKay regarding our commitment to Fair Trade. Some teachers and students representing the Fair Trade Committee were invited to partake in the Top Hat ceremony for the opening of the Welland Canal. We also had representatives spreading the Fair Trade message at our Port Colborne Family of Schools Joint Parent Council meeting. And lastly, Mme Minor and Mme Vanderlaan accompanied some of our staff and students to the Board Meeting at the DSBN Education Centre where they shared their passion for Fair Trade with the Senior Administration and Trustees. With all of these efforts, it's no wonder McKay was Canada's Fair Trade School of the Year! Our McKay students are proof that you can never be too young to be a social advocate!

March also had some of our students thinking about high school. Our junior and intermediate students were entertained by Port Colborne High School drama students in their presentation of “High School Musical.” Grad photos have been taken and we've begun to plan for our Grade 8 Graduation on June 22nd at Brebeuf Hall.

Spring has sprung and there is an energy in the air. Clearly, McKay continues to be a hub of activity! As always, we are so proud of the hard work, enthusiasm, and determination that we see in our students on a day-to-day basis. Way to go Lions!

Mrs. Lott and Mrs. Hurd

Good Friday – April 14
No School
Easter Monday – April 17
No School



Mornings at McKay

This is just a reminder to our families that supervision in the morning begins at 8:40 a.m. Students are asked to remain outside until the bell rings at 8:50 a.m., this is when all students will be permitted to enter the building. In the event that it is raining outside, the doors will be open for students to enter at 8:40 a.m., at which time, they will go directly to their homeroom where there is supervision. Students that are going to the Breakfast Club may enter at 8:40 a.m., which is now located in the Learning Commons.

McKay Spiritwear

McKay Lions Spiritwear is now available for purchase online. We are pleased to be associated with Big Bear Spirit wear from Niagara Falls. Click on the link below to view the page. <http://www.bigbearspiritwear.com/mckay-public-school/>.

All purchases are to be made online and they will deliver items to the school. There are a few order forms available in the school office, if you do not have access to a computer.

Samples sizing is available at the school.



Kindergarten Registration

If you have Junior Kindergarten aged children at home or know someone who does (who live in our school area), please ask them register now for the 2017-2018 school year. Also, please let any new families to the neighbourhood that they should register their children at our school as soon as possible. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Dreambox



Don't forget to support your child's participation in **Dreambox**, an interactive math web site that will promote problem solving and math fluency as well as students' confidence. Each student in kindergarten to grade 8 has an account. If you need assistance, don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher.

McKay School has purchased DreamBox Learning's Math Program. This is an exciting and fun online math program that helps all students achieve better, faster math proficiency. Your child can access DreamBox from any computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is no software to download. All you need is a high-speed internet connection and Adobe Flash. Adobe Flash is free and is included with many internet browsers. The link to use from home is: <https://play.dreambox.com/login/42cv/mckayp> You can also receive additional support by contacting DreamBox Client Care at 877-451-7845 or email support@dreambox.com.

Late Students

In order to minimize our class interruptions and so that students can optimize their learning time; we respectfully request that students arrive on time regularly. Students are required to check in at the office and then independently walk to their classroom. If your child requires assistance to their classroom, someone from the office would be happy to walk them down. Also, if your child needs to be dismissed early, please have Mrs. Buchanan or Mrs. Serabian page your child to the office and wait there until your child arrives. Thank you for your assistance and understanding on this matter.

SATURDAY APRIL 29th
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Centennial Secondary School
240 Thorold Road, Welland

Free admission
with food donation

NIAGARA
FAMILY
FESTIVAL

GAMES!
CRAFTS!
VENDORS!
SILENT AUCTION!

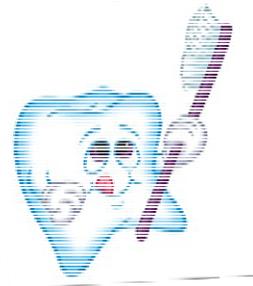
Hosted by
A Child's
WORLD
FAMILY CHILD CARE SERVICES
OF NIAGARA

Keeping your child's teeth healthy

Children can receive a free fluoride varnish application from the Niagara Region Public Health dental program. Fluoride varnish is a protective coating that is painted onto the teeth with a tiny brush. It helps reduce cavities if applied twice a year.

Why do we recommend fluoride varnish?

- Tooth decay is the number one chronic disease of children
- In the 2015/2016 school year over 25,000 school-aged children were screened by Public Health. 39 per cent of those school-aged children were identified having as having cavities.
- Untreated cavities can lead to difficulties eating and sleeping, self-esteem issues, decreased school performance and attendance, pain, discomfort, infection and poor overall health
- Fluoride is not added to Niagara's drinking water



Tips to keep your child's teeth healthy...

1. Brush teeth **two times** per day
2. **Use** a pea-sized portion of **fluoride** toothpaste
3. Spend **two minutes** brushing each time with help from an adult
4. Floss daily
5. Provide a healthy diet and limit sugary drinks, sticky candy and snacks. **Water is best.**
6. Schedule regular dental checkups at least once a year (cleaning, fluoride varnish application and sealants).



For more information on dental services and programs please call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 or visit www.niagararegion.ca/health.

REMEMBER TOOTH DECAY IS A PREVENTABLE DISEASE!

Growth Mind Set in Math

In general, a growth mindset is the belief that intelligence and ‘smartness’ can also be learned and that the brain grows from experience and effort. The opposite, a fixed mindset, is the idea that you are smart, or you are not. In math, that translates into “some people are good at math, and some are not.”

Did you know that praising efforts rather than intelligence or results can impact your child’s ability to persevere in challenges? The goal is to have children thrive on challenges and see failures, not as a sign of low intelligence, but as a learning opportunity. Brain research tells us that making mistakes actually wires more connections into the brain! When a person has a growth mindset, they accept challenges, see their efforts as worthwhile, and are open to learning from mistakes. Students with a growth mindset achieve at higher levels than those with fixed mindsets. How can you help? Some simple ways:

- Adding “yet” when they claim they are “not good at this” (Respond: “You are not good at this **YET.**”)
- Ask questions that focus on their effort and choices and get them to reflect on satisfaction of that effort (e.g., *What did you learn today? What mistake did you make that taught you something? What did you try hard at today?*)
- Model this yourself as you share about your day.

Appropriate Dress Code for Warm Weather

With the warm weather approaching we would ask that you please review appropriate dress at school with your child. You can refer to our school Code of Conduct which is located in your child’s agenda.

Extra Clothing: In an effort to limit calls home and interruptions at work, we encourage parents to consider providing your child with extra socks, pants, shorts, etc., during this time of year.

Although we try to make appropriate decisions to limit the students play on the field when it is extremely wet outside, sometimes accidents happen.

In general, it is expected that clothing covers the student’s front and back and has appropriate covering over the shoulders and midriff, and does not reveal undergarments. Clothing is to be of a length that is appropriate to a school environment and activity and that does not reveal undergarments in the normal range of movement (for example, pants, shirts and shorts).

Dressing for success means that no staff member or student should be showing undergarments/underwear at any time. If the dress attire is not appropriate, then the individual will be asked to change their clothing and/or clothing will be provided by the school. If inappropriate dress remains a problem, parents will be contacted. Thank you for your cooperation.

How can I support my child's mathematics learning?

Everyone can learn math. First and foremost, believe in your child's ability to learn mathematics. Everyone can improve when provided with good teaching, coaching, encouragement and practice.

Do have high expectations for your child. Research shows that when you believe your children can learn, they will rise to the expectation.

Do talk with your child's teacher about how you can help and support your child's mathematical development.

Do talk about mathematics in a positive way. Your positive attitude and valuing of mathematics are infectious.

Do share your day-to-day math experiences with your child, and discuss:

- video and computer games
- television shows, e.g., the learning channel
- travelling (calculating distances, destination estimation, budget, gas prices)
- banking (loans, mortgages, interest rates)

Do encourage personal responsibility for learning. Emphasize that effort is as important as ability.

Do support your child through homework by listening and asking questions:

- Allow your child to struggle through the process of problem solving.
- Discuss mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Help your child by asking questions:
 - What do you need to find out?
 - Tell me what you know...
 - Show me what you started...
 - What can you try first?
 - Can you make a drawing or picture?
 - Will a list or table help?

Do encourage persistence. Some problems take time to solve. Taking a break often provides fresh enthusiasm and alternative strategies.

Do build on your child's strengths and what he/she already knows. Make links between math and daily life.

Do engage in math-related home activities:

- Play games - Chess, Checkers, Cribbage, Bridge, Euchre, Memory Games, Backgammon...
- Make puzzles.
- Involve your child with shopping.
- Engage in the mathematics of cooking and baking.
- Plan and execute home renovations.

Do explore your child's thinking process:

- Why did you...?
- What can you do next?
- Do you see any patterns?
- Does the answer make sense?
- Tell me in a different way...
- What would happen if...?

Do appreciate the value of *not knowing* and use these occasions as opportunities for growth rather than anxiety. Develop strategies and resources for getting help with the problems.

Do encourage your child to experiment with different approaches to a problem. We learn a lot from our errors when we examine them.

Source: EduGains, Ministry of Education of Ontario

For more details:<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/brochure/earlymath/>

SICK CHILDREN

When to keep your child at home.
Please keep your child at home and away from others if he or she has any of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Rash
- Frequent coughing or sneezing
- Yellow or green discharge from the nose, ears, or eyes
- Sore throat



Contact your family doctor for advice about care and treatment. For more information, talk to your school nurse or go to www.niagararegion.ca/health



PROM PROJECT N I A G A R A

Welland Transportation

April 8th, 2017

9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Prom Project Niagara is a one-day fun free formal wear extravaganza for EVERYONE!

In need of an outfit? Is Prom, Grad or a dance coming up? Check us out!
You can select the perfect head-to-toe look for your prom, formal or grad for FREE!



Need a ride?

Transportation to St. Catharines Collegiate is Available!

From Welland Centennial

Centennial – Pick up @ 10:20 a.m.

Return to Centennial @ 1:00 p.m. – Arrive 1:35 p.m.

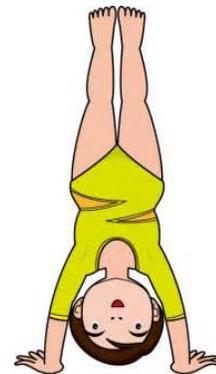
From Eastdale Secondary School

Eastdale – Pick up @ 10:35 a.m.

Return to Eastdale @ 1:00 p.m. – Arrive 1:20 p.m.

Gymnastics at McKay

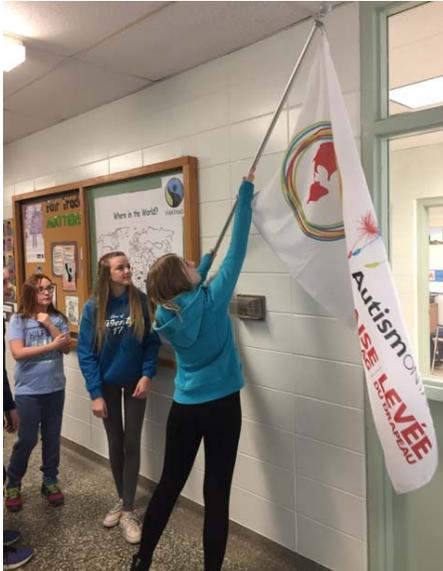
Students in grades 3 through 8 have been invited to try-out for our school gymnastics team. Mr. Clarke-Louie and retired teacher, Mrs. Minor have been working with the students during the lunch recesses on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays in preparation for their competition coming up on April 20 in St. Catharines. The competition includes vault, mat and bench. It has been wonderful to watch the students learn new skills and we are really excited for them to have a chance to participate in this new experience at McKay.



Student Council Corner

Autism Awareness

On April 3rd, McKay students and staff showed support for Autism Awareness by wearing blue. Members of Student Council assisted in Raising the Flag for Autism Awareness. All class reps and Student Council Executive members were part of the flag raising ceremony.



Easter

Student Council will be celebrating Easter at McKay with 2 fun events:

1. We will be selling **Fair Trade** chocolate bunnies and eggs. The chocolates will be sold during both breaks for \$1.00 from Monday, April 10th-Thursday, April 13th. Bring a dollar to support Fair Trade and to get a yummy Easter treat!
2. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for all Kindergarten and Primary classes on Thursday, April 13th. The hunt will be organized and run by Student Council and each child will receive 1 egg filled with Easter treats.

Spirit Day

April's Spirit Day will be held on Friday, April 28th. It will be PLAID DAY!!

DSBN Concours Oratoire

Congratulations to Rebecca Spurrell (grade 8 French Immersion) and Morgan Fenton (grade 7 French Immersion) who participated in the DSBN Concours Oratoire speech competition on Tuesday, March 28th. Rebecca's speech was on perseverance and Morgan's speech was on the importance of listening to the opinions and ideas of teens. Both girls did an excellent job and were fantastic representatives of McKay. Félicitations, les filles!!



Cell Phone Policy

At McKay, we recognize the fact that many of our students bring cell phones to school, and also that parents may prefer that their children have phones with them on the way to and from school, for safety reasons. We certainly support anything that contributes to the safety and well-being of our students. However, we also take into consideration that cell phones can have a negative impact if they are misused in the school environment.

A student with access to a cell phone during a lesson can become distracted from his or her learning, and there have been numerous accounts of students texting one another during class. There have also been accounts of cyber-bullying occurring during the school day through cell phone communication.

With this in mind, our policy is to allow students to bring cell phones to school, provided that they remain out of sight and are not used on school property without teacher approval. If a student needs to call home, they will be allowed to use the school phone. If parents need to contact their child, they may call the school.

Should a student refrain from complying with the cell phone policy by using their cell phone without permission at school, the following steps will be taken:

Initially, the student will be asked to put the phone away.

If the phone is out again, it will be collected and stored at the office for the day. If this happens three times, a parent will be contacted and asked to come pick up the phone in person.



Thank you for helping to support student success.

EQAO Testing

As you may already be aware, EQAO is a mandatory test administered by the Government of Ontario to assess all students at the Grades 3, 6, and 9 levels. Focus is placed on skills in the areas of Language Arts and Mathematics. The students in grades 3 and 6 have been working long and hard to prepare for their upcoming EQAO testing which will take place over two weeks starting May 23 and ending on June 5th. When scheduling special days, appointments, or vacations with your family, please avoid these dates if at all possible. We appreciate your cooperation with this matter. If you have any questions about the assessment, please contact your child's teacher or call the office.

Thanks!

Niagara Region Child Care Registry

One application. One list.



JANUARY, 2017

Dear parent/guardian,

RE: BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

As part of our commitment to helping parent's access quality, affordable child care, Niagara Region maintains a centralized, online registry for licensed child care and before and after-school programs. *The registry is available in both English and French.*

Simply completing and submitting an online application allows you to put your name on the list for any of the licensed child care options in Niagara that meet your family's needs.

The Niagara Region Child Care Registry means you do not have to call multiple child care providers or fill out multiple application forms. With the Niagara Region Child Care Registry, you can choose as many child care programs as you like. The child care program(s) you select will contact you when a space becomes available.

The online form is safe, fast and convenient to use. To find out more or to register, visit <https://niagara.onehsn.com>. For all support inquiries, contact support@onehsn.com or call 1-888-722-1540.

Yours truly,

Darlene Edgar, RECE
Director, Niagara Region Children's Services



niagararegion.ca/childcare

Niagara Region Child Care Registry
One application. One list.



INSTRUCTIONS TO REGISTER ON THE NIAGARA REGION CHILD CARE REGISTRY:

WEBSITE: <https://niagara.onehsn.com>.

1. The registration and login section is displayed at the top/right portion of the screen. If you do not currently have an account click "Create an Account";
2. You will then be asked to input your email...you MUST have an email account to do this. Once you have done this a link will be sent to your email address. Click on this link to continue;
3. You will then be asked to create a passphrase. It will let you know if the phrase is good by changing to a green colour. If it does not change to green, your password will not be accepted. It should be 8 characters and include capitals, symbols and numbers. Click "Set PassPhrase".
4. Click Begin Application;
5. Input your address and click "next step";
6. If you are not employed by an agency you can simply click "Next Step" to continue;
7. Once you have confirmed the information is correct, click "Save and Add Child"
8. Input your child's information. You can put part of the school name and it should give you a drop down box...for the viability test please input "DSBN – school name";
9. If you are not being referred by an agency, you can simply click "Next Step"
10. The next screen asks if you are in need of financial assistance, you have three choices, you must pick one and click "Next Step"
11. Confirm everything is correct and click "Continue and Apply to Programs"
12. Your preferred start date for this year MUST BE September 5, 2017, this is the first day of school; Complete the full screen and click "Next Step"; If you wish to click the other boxes you must click "select all" first in order to remove the check marks from all boxes, you can then choose...it is not mandatory to choose these however;
13. A list of schools/centres will now come up, your school will start with DSBN – "school name"; Click "Next Step"
14. You will then be asked to review the application; If everything is correct you can click "Save and return to home screen";
15. You can add more children at this point;

If you require technical support, please contact the RBB Support line at 1-888-722-1540 or email support@onehsn.com . For all other questions, please contact Jackie Galloway, Program Contract Analyst at 905-980-6000 Ext. 3817.
