

McKay Public School

320 Fielden Ave.
Port Colborne, ON
L3K 4T7
905-834-4753
Website: mckay.dsbni.org

Principal: Mrs. Lott
Vice-Principal: Mr. Reynolds
Secretary: Mrs. Serabian
Superintendent: Mr. Dickson



Special Dates:

Dec. 13: McKay Christmas Choir at Seaway Mall @ 11:45am

Dec. 15: Gr. 8 Course Planners completed, Grade1 French Immersion play in our Learning Commons

Dec. 16: McKay Christmas Choir at Guild Hall 7:00pm

Dec. 18: Crazy Hair Day, Shopping Days begin in the LC

Dec. 19: Decoration Day

Dec. 20: Carol Day

Dec. 21: Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, Family Skate (5-7pm)

Dec. 22: PJ Day

Pizza Dates: Dec. 6, 13

Sub Day: Dec. 20

December 2017



A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...

On behalf of all of the staff at McKay, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season! Hopefully you will find some time to take part in winter activities and spend some quality time with friends and family members.

We sincerely hope that we see all of our families at our annual Holiday Skate that will be held at the Vale Centre on December 21 from 5:00 - 7:00pm.

More information that includes pertinent details has been sent home already. If you need another copy, please contact the office.

The last day of classes will be held on Friday, December 22, 2017. Classes will resume on January 8, 2018. We would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy New Year!

Thanks to our community of volunteers...

The support from our community and parent volunteers has been overwhelming. We would like to thank the many individuals that help our students every day. We are blessed with a variety of volunteers that read and work with our students on a regular basis. Every day, we see parents working with students in the hallways and in classrooms; we sincerely appreciate you taking the time to support our students' confidence and literacy skills. It really makes a difference!

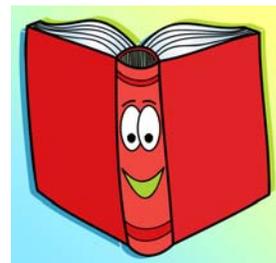
Many thanks to the parents that take the time to drive to all of our sporting events. Without your help, student participation would be limited. Special thanks as well to our coaches that give countless hours of their personal time in order to provide the students with a well-balanced school experience that fosters cooperation, perseverance, respect, and responsibility.

We also have staff, parents, and grandparents that assist with our daily breakfast program. This program plays an important role in the well-being and success of our students. All of the time spent shopping, prepping, serving and cleaning is appreciated; because of this support, so many students are able to start their day off right.

We would like to thank all of our community members for their generous donations for our initiatives that have helped many important programs in our community.

Book Fair

A big thank you for your continued support with McKay's Book Fair. From our sales we received \$1200 in Scholastic books for our library. A special thank you to Crystal Brophy for her help.



Grade 1 Entry for French Immersion at McKay

Attention Year 2 Kindergarten (SK) families... Please join us for an information night for you and your family to learn more about this exciting program.

Our Gr. 1 French Immersion Open House will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018 (6:00—7:00pm).

We will be accepting online applications for French Immersion beginning Jan. 8, 2018

Website: www.dsbm.org/fi

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

DURING YOUR VISIT YOU WILL:

See a
Kindergarten
classroom

Meet the
Kindergarten
Team

Register for
school

Get a fun
goodie bag
with learning
resources



KINDERGARTEN
KICKSTART

Thursday, February 1, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

FAIR TRADE

The belief in Fair Trade and equal living keeps shining in the Lion's Den. McKay's great staff, student body and Fair Trade committee continues to sell Fair Trade bananas, chocolate, and banana muffins. Our school is spreading the word about Fair Trade and the great things it does for people around the world.



On November 22nd, McKay partnered up with the Fair Trade Town Committee of Port Colborne to hold a documentary night at Port High. It focused on the *True Cost* of fast fashion. Popcorn and Fair Trade chocolate was sold. The night was engaging and an eventful evening for those who attended.

Gearing up for the holidays, McKay hosted a Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 25th with many local vendors, including Casa Relief, a retailer of Fair Trade fashion and accessories based out of Beamsville.

On November 28th, our school was fortunate to have Ryan Hreljac give a presentation about his foundation, "Ryan's Well". Mr. Hreljac explained how the foundation helps people around the world get a clean drinkable water supply. It was a fantastic, eye-opening speech that the entire school enjoyed. To contribute to "Ryan's Well", McKay is taking part in this year's School Challenge to raise funds to provide much needed resources and access to clean water for a community in Kenya. McKay and Ryan share a global equality mindset, and we're excited to be a part of this year's challenge!

On Saturday, December 2nd, McKay Public School took part in the Port Colborne Annual Santa Claus Parade. Walking with the the Fair Trade Town Committee, we distributed samples of Fair Trade chocolate. Fair Trade hot chocolate was also served during Santa's visit at the Guild Hall in the afternoon, as well as after the parade.

Throughout the week of December 11th, we will be hosting a sale of Fair Trade items from Ten Thousand Villages during first break outside the office. Prices will range from \$5-\$30. Be sure to check it out, and get something special for someone while supporting producers in developing countries!

Stay tuned for more Fair Trade events and activities happening at McKay in the New Year!

Written by Rebekah Hofstee (Grade 8 FI)

Fitness and Nutrition Breaks

The second Nutrition Break is considered the lunch break and students are welcome to stay for lunch provided that they follow our simple rules:

- Remain in your seat, no walking around during the eating portion of the break;
- No loud talking, be respectful of your neighbours;
- Clean up after yourself, dispose of garbage and make sure that your desk is clean;
- You must have written permission from your parent/guardian to leave the school property.

Students that leave school property are expected to return on time (1:30pm). Failure to be responsible for their timely return, may result in students losing this privilege, temporarily or permanently, depending on the severity of the problem.

Stop the spread of Infection

- ◆ Stay home if you are sick and return when you are well
- ◆ Wash your hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer
- ◆ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or in your sleeve
- ◆ Keep your distance
- ◆ Get a flu shot



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

Visiting? Say hi at the office!

Whenever you are coming to McKay, please be sure to stop in the office first to say hi. The safety of every student in this school is important to us. As a part of our Safe School policy all visitors **MUST** sign in at the office.

Student pick-up and drop-off

Regardless of whether students are late or leaving early, we ask that all students check in at the office. This enables the office staff to ensure that all students are arriving safely to class or being dismissed to the appropriate person.

Furthermore, we would like to request that parents/adults wait at the office at all times. If your child requires assistance getting to class, one of the office staff would be happy to escort them. Any information you would like to convey to teachers can also be conveyed by the office or through your child's agenda.

Once classes have started we want to minimize the disruption to other students that are participating in the instructional day.

DREAMBOX LEARNING MATH PROGRAM

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/mckay>. You can also receive additional support by contacting DreamBox Client Care at 877-451-7845 or email support@dreambox.com.

Connecting to our community... So proud of our Lions for thinking of others outside of our school.



Mme Vanderlaan and the Student Council did an amazing job raising funds and awareness in the fight against prostate cancer. This year, over \$400 went to the Ride for Dad campaign on behalf of McKay. Thanks to our students for buying the delicious chocolate mustaches.

Mme. Minor invited Ryan Hreljac to McKay to share his amazing journey and the importance of clean water in countries that have been devastated by disaster.



The gift of music! Mr. Tempest and our amazing choir stopped by Steele St. School to share the joy of music with an impromptu outdoor carol singing.

Thank you to Tree Canada and Staples Advantage!

It was a busy November with lots of activities going on at McKay, including tree planting! Through the tireless work of Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Royer (parent), we received a generous grant from Staples Advantage, sponsored by Tree Canada. We had Chris DiRaddo from Sassafras Farms, not only do our landscaping, but he generously donated his services and products to enhance our green space at school.

We would like to thank the amazing students that helped with the planting (kindergarten to grade 8) for all of their hard work. During our ceremony, we learned a lot about the importance of trees in our community from Celia Johnstone, representative from Tree Canada. Special thanks to Mrs. Doherty for assembling the snacks, and thanks to Mrs. Smits-Talving for baking our celebration cake made from Fair Trade products. It was a great day and we are so pleased to have this project completed at our school so that many generations of McKay students will be able to enjoy the benefits of our new green spaces!





Come and celebrate
Christmas with us at our
McKay Family Skate

Thursday, December 21st from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

at the

Vale Centre in Port Colborne

Ice Times (Rink 1)

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. – Primary Students (JK-Grade 3)

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Junior/Intermediate Students (Grades 4-8)

Special musical performance by the McKay Choir

Important Reminders:

- ❖ Permission forms to participate are available at the arena entrance (registration tables organized by last name), and must be signed by a parent/guardian
- ❖ Only students with CSA-approved skating helmets will be permitted on the ice. **NO BIKE HELMETS**
- ❖ Parents/Guardians are responsible for the supervision of their children at this event

Need skates and/or a helmet?

Extra skates and helmets will be available onsite. First come, first served. No guarantees.

Please consider bringing a donation for McMaster's Ronald McDonald House and Treats for Treatment. Drop-off bins available at registration tables.





This holiday season McKay would like to collect donations for

McMaster Children's Hospital Treats for Treatment

Ronald McDonald Family Room Hamilton

Wishing Tree

Wishing for a way to help our Family Room?

We are in constant need of food items and supplies to ensure our families are well taken care of. Please help us by donating any of our much needed items listed within the hearts on this wishing tree!

Gift cards are especially helpful for our families!
(Wal-Mart, Target, President's Choice, Metro, Canadian Tire, Home Depot, The Bay, Costco)

Ronald McDonald House Hamilton • 1510 Main St. W. • Hamilton, ON • L8S 1E3
Phone: 905-521-2283 • web: www.rmhh.hamilton.ca • email: info@rmhh.hamilton.ca

We will be collecting various items to donate to McMaster Children's Hospital during the McKay Family Skate on Thursday, December 21st. Items can be given to staff at the registration tables.

Thank you for your support!

Other Donation Items Needed:

Gift Cards:

- Gas Stations
- Visa & Mastercard
- Tim Horton's

Ronald McDonald Family Room:

- Coffee/Tea
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Bar Soap/Liquid Body Wash

Toys for Patients:

- New toys in original packaging
- Character Band-Aids for finger poke room
- Video games and movies (new or used) for PS 3, Wii, Xbox
- Stickers
- Puzzles
- Colouring books and crayons
- Crafts

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

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

At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children in school on that day rests with the parent or guardian.

Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.

A key resource in any emergency is the DSNB Emergency Information form that you filled out at the beginning of the school year. Please let the school know of any changes in contact information or procedures you wish to be followed throughout the school year.

For secondary schools it may become necessary to cancel late buses. Notice will be provided via school announcements and on the websites and subscription features by 11:30 a.m.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

Websites:

www.dsnb.org
www.nsts.ca

Subscription Features:

DSNB Facebook or Twitter
NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts



Phone:

Niagara Student Transportation Services 905-346-0290 Voice Auto Attendant

Radio Stations:

CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines
WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton
CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton
CHML (900 AM) Hamilton
CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton
Y-108(107.9) Hamilton

CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines
CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines
CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie
K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton
GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland

Television Stations:

CH – Hamilton
CityTV Breakfast Television

CTV Toronto
Cogeco Channel 10