

McKay Public School

February 2017

320 Fielden St.
Port Colborne, ON
L3K 4T7
Phone: 905-834-4753

Superintendent: Wes Hahn
Principal: Patti Lott
Vice-Principal: Mamie Hurd
Web site: mckay.dsbno.on.ca

Secretaries:
Cherie Buchanan
Penny Serabian
Fax: 905-834-1140

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...

At this time of year, we reflect on our school goals and measure our effectiveness at Professional Development Days and Staff Meetings. Below are the goals agreed upon by staff that promote Literacy and Numeracy proficiency as well as Self-Regulation.

McKay Public School Goals

To develop a positive community of lifelong learners that take ownership for their actions, respect themselves and others, and show resilience when faced with challenges.

School Numeracy Goal: If we provide an engaging comprehensive math program using math tools, **then** students will take risks, persevere, value mistakes and engage in math talk.

School Literacy Goal: If we provide an engaging comprehensive literacy program, **then** students will be able to think critically and communicate effectively.

School Wellness Goal (Self-Regulation): If we provide a safe, caring, healthy and inclusive environment for all, **then** our community will learn, grow and achieve together.

Pink Shirt Day (and Everyday)

Here is a snippet of the Globe & Mail article:

“David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied [for wearing a pink shirt]...[They] took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school. ‘I learned that two people can come up with an idea, run with it, and it can do wonders,’ says Mr. Price, 17, who organized the pink protest. ‘Finally, someone stood up for a weaker kid.’ So Mr. Shepherd and some others headed off to a discount store and bought 50 pink tank tops. They sent out a message to school-mates that night, and the next morning they hauled the shirts to school in a plastic bag. As they stood in the foyer handing out the shirts, the bullied boy walked in. His face spoke volumes. ‘It looked like a huge weight was lifted off his shoulders,’ Mr. Price re-called. The bullies were never heard from again.”

McKay School challenges its staff and students to commit to a bully-free lifestyle and to consider wearing pink on Feb. 22, 2017.

Problem-Based Mathematics Instruction - Gallery Walk, Bansho, and Congress

Problem-based instruction provides a context that grounds abstract mathematics. It allows students to engage in mathematical reasoning and critical thinking that leads to questions and understanding of important and foundational mathematical ideas.

Prior to working on a mathematical problem, students are engaged in a short activity that leads mathematically to the problem. During problem-based mathematical instruction, students solve mathematical problems, often with a classmate or group of students. The solution illustrates what students know and understand. The teacher will encourage students to explore, notice patterns, develop efficient strategies, and generalize mathematical ideas. New learning is acquired as students view, discuss, make connections, and see mathematical relationships in the solutions that are presented.

During a gallery walk, students look at the solutions of their peers. This may include asking and answering questions or writing comments and/or questions. Bansho comes from the Japanese lesson study. It means board writing. A math congress comes from research of Cathy Fosnot. In both instructional strategies, student work forms the foundation for mathematical learning. Students explain their mathematical ideas to the mathematical community and justify and defend their thinking. Students see themselves as part of a mathematical community in which all thinking is both honoured and productive.

RESOURCE

The Ontario Education Resource Bank (OERB) is an online resource that has over 24,000 items to support all subject areas for k to 12 plus 8700 Learn360 resources. The OERB can be accessed by students and parents. To access the OERB, go to <http://resources.elearningontario.ca>

Student login, the USER ID is: **DSBNStudent** and the PASSWORD is **oerbs**

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.bigbearspritwear.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.

Reminder: February 17th, 2017 is a PD Day

February 20th, 2017 is Family Day - No School

KINDERGARTEN COMMUNICATION OF LEARNING

On February 10, the new Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document developed by the Ministry of Education will be sent home for our Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten students.

The new Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document will provide parents/guardians with comments about their child's strengths and growth in relation to the overall expectations of The Kindergarten Program (2016). The overall expectations are connected with the following four frames: Belonging and Contributing; Self-Regulation and Well-Being; Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours; and Problem Solving and Innovating. Since September, our Kindergarten educator teams have been observing and documenting a wide range of evidence of each child's thinking and learning within a play environment. The documentation gathered will reflect your child's key learnings, recognize growth and possible next steps for learning. The next steps will provide parents/guardians with information about how we will support your child's new learning at school as it relates to the Kindergarten Program's expectations.

We recognize and appreciate your continued support throughout the year.



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.

Lunchroom Supervisor

It is with a heavy heart that we say good-bye to Miss Kelly, our lunchroom supervisor for several years at McKay. We sincerely wish her the best. We will see her occasionally throughout the year, however, we will all miss her very much. Thanks for taking such excellent care of the McKay students, Miss Kelly.



STOP
THE SPREAD OF
INFECTION!

Niagara  Region

Stay home if you are sick
~ 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

905-688-8248 ext 7330 or 1-888-505-6074 | www.niagararegion.ca

The infographic features a blue background with a large white circle on the left containing the main message. On the right, five circular icons are arranged vertically, each with a corresponding text instruction. The icons are: a house with a bed (stay home), a hand sanitizer bottle (wash hands), a tissue box (cover cough/sneeze), a hand with distance lines (keep distance), and a syringe (get a flu shot).

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.



French Immersion

The French Immersion program (offered at McKay Public School) is open to all students in Senior Kindergarten. If you want your child to develop high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer.

Features of the French Immersion program:

- Develops French language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing from Grades one to twelve;
- Designed to be a second-language program for children whose first language is **NOT** French;
- Current enrolment of over 2,000 elementary students;
- Certificate of French Immersion Studies awarded upon successful completion of the elementary and secondary immersion programs;
- Promotes understanding of different cultures;
- Provides additional opportunities for employment using French as the working language;
- Increases the ability to communicate and interact with confidence in French.

Registration will open January 9th, 2017

Closes: Feb. 21st, 2017 at 9:00 AM

For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit www.dsbni.org/fi or speak to your school principal.

Mad Science

Mad Science, the world's leading provider of educational and entertaining science programs for children is coming to McKay School! They will be getting kids excited about science with fun, entertaining and exciting activities and demonstrations.

Students and teachers will be thrilled on 24/Feb/2017 when Mad Science comes to the school to do a Spectacular Science show. The assembly will be educational, entertaining and also the kick off to the Mad Science Club. The Club is a 6-week science enrichment program offered to the students.

Students who join the Science Club will go on a voyage of discovery designed to support the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum. The topics will be different this year than when Mad Science was last at the school. The Club will take place on Tuesday, March 21, 28, Apr 4, 11, 18, 25 from 12:50 PM - 1:35 PM. Mad Science also performs Birthday Parties, Camps and Special Events. Give them a call at 905-937-1878 and watch out for them in Malls, at Fairs, Festivals and Scouts and Guides.

TRY AT HOME ACTIVITY - ZOOM BALL

Materials:

- Two 1 litre plastic pop bottles
- Scissors
- Optional: Coloured construction paper
- Masking tape
- Ribbons
- Two plastic ring six pack holders
- Two 2.4 metre strings • An adult helper

1. Ask your adult helper to cut the bottoms off of the two plastic pop bottles.
2. Fit the bottles together so there is a neck on either end. Tape the bottles together to form a football shape.
3. Cover the bottles with construction paper and ribbon if you want to decorate your zoom ball.
5. Take the six-pack holders and cut the rings apart to make four two-loop handles.
4. Thread the two strings through the bottles.
6. Tie a set of handles to the ends of each string.
7. Get a friend and you are ready to play. Each player holds onto two handles and pulls on the strings until they are tight. Slide the zoom ball to one end. When it is at your end snap your hands apart to send the zoom ball back to your friend. To catch the zoom ball, keep your hands together.

EXPLANATION:

The pushing action of the strings sets the zoom ball in motion. When the zoom ball reaches the other end of the strings, an opposite pushing action, your friend snapping the strings, stops the ball for a moment and then sends it in the reverse direction.

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 DSBN 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:

<http://www.dsbns.org/inclementweather/>

www.nsts.ca

Subscription Features:

DSBN 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

CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines

WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton

CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines

CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton

2DayFM (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie

CHML (900 AM) Hamilton

K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton

CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton

GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland

Y-108(107.9) Hamilton

Television Stations:

CH – Hamilton

CTV Toronto

CityTV Breakfast Television

Cogeco Channel 10

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 8:55 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.

Snow, Snow, Snow!

The snow has arrived! McKay School's rule is to leave it on the ground. Please reinforce this rule at home. For the safety of all students we ask students not to throw or kick snow.

We have a 1-2-3 policy. Each time a student throws snow, a letter goes home and the incidences are tracked. The first time is a warning, the second time is parent contact with the loss of recess, and the third time is parental contact and an in-school time-out. Each situation is dealt with considering mitigating factors.

Using progressive discipline, formal suspension could result.



Clean Your Hands

Cleaning your hands is the most effective way to prevent the spread of germs. Regular hand cleaning with soap and water, or an alcohol based hand sanitizer will reduce the risk of getting sick. Cleaning your hands should occur:

- Before preparing meals
- Before eating
- After using the washroom
- After coughing or sneezing
- After blowing your nose
- After playing with pets
- After playing outdoors

Use warm water and soap and lather and scrub for at least 15 seconds if your hands are visibly dirty. For more

information, talk to your school nurse or go to www.niagararegion.ca/health.



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.onehscn.com>. For all support inquiries, contact support@onehscn.com or call 1-888-722-1540.

Yours truly,

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

Niagara  Region

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.

Student Council

Student Council has some fun events planned for February! Here's what happening this month:

1. Valentine's Day Candy Grams

Heart-shaped chocolate suckers will be sold during both breaks from February 6th-10th for \$1.50 each. They will be delivered on Tuesday, February 14th.

2. Intermediate Valentine's Day Semi-Formal Dance

Student Council is hosting a Semi-Formal Dance on Valentines Day for students in grades 7 and 8. The dance will take place during the first 2 periods of the day (9:00am-10:30am). Students are invited to dress in more formal attire (ex: dress, shirt and tie etc.) for this event.

3. Spirit Day

The February Spirit Day is on Friday, February 24th. This month, it's Twin Day! Come as twins, triplets, quadruplets...just make sure you're hard to tell apart!

Fair Trade

We have been busy throughout the past few months keeping the Fair Trade culture alive and well at McKay! We kicked off the New Year with a presentation from Ellery Penner of Ten Thousand Villages, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Ellery talked to students and staff about the different types of Fair Trade products available, where Fair Trade products come from, and how purchasing Fair Trade products has far-reaching impacts on the lives of others. Her main message: when you have the choice, choose Fair Trade!

In keeping with this theme, we have been striving to provide the choice to purchase/use Fair Trade products within our school. Here are a few ways we do this:

- providing Fair Trade sports equipment (ex: volleyballs, soccer balls, pinnies)
- selling Fair Trade bananas at the school store
- selling Fair Trade banana muffins at the school store
- selling/offering Fair Trade Hot Chocolate during special events (ex: at our December Family Skate, for the January Hot Chocolate Day, our upcoming Winter Carnaval)

Due to the hard work of both staff and students, we are SO proud to announce that McKay has won **Fair Trade Canada's Fair Trade School of the Year Award!**

Two of our teachers, Mme Minor and Mme Vanderlaan, will be travelling to Halifax, Nova Scotia during the last weekend of February to attend the National Fair Trade Conference. While there, they will be learning more about Fair Trade practices, how to create a lasting Fair Trade culture and will be helping to facilitate a Fair Trade Schools workshop. During the conference they will also be accepting the prestigious Fair Trade School of the Year award on behalf of the staff and students at McKay. We are so honoured to be receiving this award!

Way to go, McKay! We did it!!

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:

The first time, the student will be asked to put the phone away.

The second time, the phone will be taken away and returned to the student at the end of the day; parents will be informed.

The third time, the phone will be taken away and the parent will be asked to come and pick up the phone.

Thank you for helping to support student success.

Water Does Wonders Pledge Campaign

As part of the Healthy Kids Community Challenge (HKCC), Niagara has teamed up with communities across Ontario to launch the www.waterdoeswonders.ca Pledge Campaign to encourage organizations and families to make it easier for children to choose water over sugary drinks.

Why Pledge? To be part of the solution! Kids are drinking way too many sugary drinks, which has a negative impact on their health and on the environment. We can all help by making water easier to access and by reducing the amount of sugary drinks we serve and sell to children. By taking the pledge, you are affirming your commitment to help children sip less sugar.

What can you do?

- Sign the pledge at www.waterdoeswonders.ca. Your pledge will help Niagara earn Top Community status on the Hall of Pledges.
- Print your pledge certificate and display it prominently
- Check out the resources available at www.waterdoeswonders.ca
- Spread the word using #WaterDoesWonders to inspire others

If you have questions or would like to learn more, please contact:

Judith Rudoler

Project Manager, Healthy Kids Community Challenge
Niagara

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention Division, Public Health
Niagara Region

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold L2V 0A2

Phone: 905-688-8248 ext. 7412 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215

Fax: 905-688-7024

www.niagararegion.ca

HYPERLINK "<http://www.healthykidsniagara.ca/>"www.healthykidsniagara.ca___



Kids Are Sweet Enough Without Added Sugar

The Niagara Healthy Kids Community Challenge (www.healthykidsniagara.ca) has teamed up with communities across Ontario to launch the Water Does Wonders Pledge Campaign. Why Pledge? To be part of the solution! Kids are drinking way too many sugary drinks, which has a negative impact on their health, their teeth, and their minds. We can all help by making water easier to access and by not serving sugary drinks to children. By taking the pledge, you are affirming your commitment to improved health for our kids.

Sign the pledge at www.waterdoeswonders.ca!

If you choose to be recognized, your family will be featured on our Hall of Pledges. Your pledge will also help Niagara earn Top Community status on the Hall of Pledges.

Port Colborne / Wainfleet Bilingual Family Literacy Committee

presents:



A free literacy event where families can...

Build with Materials * Eat Scrumptious Snacks * Read a Book
Listen to a Story * Create with Playdough * Take a New Book Home

Saturday February 4, 2017

For more information call 905-834-9071

12pm to 3pm

Interactive Drumming

12pm
&
1pm



**Vale Health &
Wellness Centre**

550 Elizabeth Street, Port Colborne

Sponsored by:



Cold Weather Alerts at DSBN

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 that it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with 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 on 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, or the amount of ice on the tarmac prohibits safe play outside. The climber will be closed until the ground thaws.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside so please ensure that your child has the appropriate winter gear.

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 snow, sleet and rain.
- 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 mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves or mittens will keep kids' hands dry and warm and protect their skin from being damaged by the wind and chill.
- If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website: www.dsbni.org or contact the school.