

# McKay Public School

January 2017

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Port Colborne, ON  
L3K 4T7  
Phone: 905-834-4753

Superintendent: Wes Hahn  
Principal: Patti Lott  
Vice-Principal: Mamie Hurd  
Web site: [mckay.dsbnschools.org](http://mckay.dsbnschools.org)

Secretaries:  
Cherie Buchanan  
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## A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...

December has been an exciting month in our school with many activities going on, including: our amazing choir performances, our school initiatives that sponsored families and charities, and our family holiday skate. It was so wonderful to see so many families at all of our events supporting the students. Special activities are successful because of the leadership of staff as well as the support and generosity of our families, thank you!

Many teachers continue to work extremely hard to ensure that our students are always thinking of others; providing them with rich experiences both inside and outside of the classroom. All of the extra time spent planning, organizing and running all of the 'extras' for students is sincerely appreciated. We are so proud of our students, as they continue to represent McKay School so well in the community.

We would also like to acknowledge our support staff members that work hard to keep our school looking clean and running so smoothly (i.e., secretaries, educational assistants, caretakers, early childhood educators and lunch room supervisors). We also appreciate all of the volunteers in our building: helpers that assist with reading programs and support in the classrooms, breakfast club helpers, and volunteer drivers. Thank you for putting our students first.

Special thanks to our dedicated School Advisory Council members. Their passion and suggestions for our school are welcomed and appreciated.

On behalf of the McKay staff, we wish you all a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year! As a staff, we feel honoured to be part of the students' lives and appreciate your ongoing support. All the best for 2017!



## **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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**Closes: Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 at 9:00 AM**

For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit [www.dsbn.org/fi](http://www.dsbn.org/fi) or speak to your school principal.

**A Parent Information evening will be held on January 12 at 6:00 PM at McKay Public School.**



## Is DSBN Academy a good fit for your child?

DSBN Academy is a Grade 6 to Grade 12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university.

The faculty and student body are committed to excellence and the belief that, with hard work, they can achieve their dreams. Come learn how our unique program prepares students to succeed at college and university and how your child can benefit from the opportunities offered at DSBN Academy. All families are invited to attend a parent information session in your community. Please see below for dates, times and locations.

<b><u>Parent Information Sessions</u></b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Diamond Trail, Welland	January 12, 2017	6:30 - 7:30pm
<b>McKay, Port Colborne</b>	<b>January 19, 2017</b>	<b>6:30 - 7:30pm</b>
Peace Bridge, Fort Erie	January 26, 2017	6:30 - 7:30pm
Open House at DSBN Academy	January 31, 2017	6:30 - 8:00pm

### **Admission Requirements**

DSBN Academy recruits and enrolls students from all 13 municipalities within the Niagara Region. Eligible applicants must meet the following requirements, both at the time of application as well as at enrollment:

- Student must be entering Grades 6, 7 or 8 in September.
- Student would be the first in their family to graduate from a college or university program. If a sibling of the student has attended a post-secondary institution but the parent(s)/guardian(s) have not, the student is still considered a First Generation Student.
- Student must be achieving current grade level expectations or just below.
- Student has demonstrated the potential for achieving "good" or "excellent" learning skills, particularly initiative, independent work and responsibility.
- Student must be willing to attend a school location that may be out of his/her community.
- Student understands that there is a mandatory after-school program which includes enrichment opportunities and academic supports.
- Families must understand that it is a single track pathway beginning in grade 9 (Academic Level Only).
- Families understand that there is a parent engagement requirement of 15 hours each year.
- Applicants must submit a completed application by February 6, 2017.

# Pink T-Shirt Order

Please have your order form returned to your school's Pink T-Shirt Organizer by **Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

All T-shirts will be delivered directly to your school on **Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Size							Quantity	Cost	Total
	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	XXXL			
Youth T-Shirt									\$8.00	
Adult T-Shirt									\$8.00 Adult XXL & XXXL add \$1.00	

\*\* Adult shirts will be pink with a white imprint  
 \*\* Youth shirts will be pink with a white imprint

**Please use School Cash Online to order. Hard copies are available in the office by request only.**

## From our school nurse...

Anyone can get head lice. Check for head lice weekly as part of your regular routine. The best way to avoid the spread of lice is by avoiding head-to-head contact. Remind your children not to share combs, brushes, hats, scarves or anything used on the head.

### Checking for lice

- Use a bright light (a magnifying glass may help)
- Part hair in small sections and look near the scalp
- Head lice are tiny grey/brown insects that live only on the scalp of humans. They crawl quickly but cannot fly or jump. Adult female lice glue eggs on the hair shaft close to the scalp.

### If you find lice

- Check all the people that live in your house
- Treat all cases at the same time to stop the spread of lice
- Inform the school and/or daycare so classmates can be checked
- Tell anyone in close contact with your child (family members, friends, baby-sitters)

### Getting rid of lice

Treatment products are to be used only on those who have head lice, as they do not prevent lice. Talk to a health professional about products and methods available. Follow instructions carefully. The Wet Combing Method helps find and remove head lice by combing through hair soaked with conditioner, using a fine-toothed comb. For more information on Wet Combing Method or on lice visit:

[www.niagararegion.ca/health](http://www.niagararegion.ca/health) search lice or

call the Parent Talk Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7555

## Also from our school nurse...

Children need 60 minutes a day of physical activity. Keep your children active through winter by getting outside. Try skating, hiking, building a snowman or go tobogganing. Check out Participaction for great winter games ideas:

<http://www.participaction.com/get-moving/bring-back-winter-play/>



## Book Fair

A big thank you for your continued support with McKay's Book Fair. From our sales we received over a \$1000 in Scholastic books for our library. A special thank you to Jackie Gagnon and Kate Tolliver for their help.

**Reminder: January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is a PD Day**

## **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](http://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.

## Lunch Room Supervisor

We are currently looking for a lunch room supervisor. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact the office.

## Snow, Snow, Snow!

The snow will soon arrive! 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](http://www.niagararegion.ca/health).



## Power House

We are thrilled to tell you about a new program at our school to support children at McKay in grades 6, 7 and 8 who have special challenges in their home aiding a family member who needs some kind of assistance or supervision. The Powerhouse Project is offering us a FREE program during our first break to help empower our caring students through social skill building and providing emotional support strategies so students develop the inner strength necessary to better help the younger and older members of their families.

### **What is a Young Carer?**

A Young Carer is a child that has the potential and interest to help support their family in a caregiver role. It could be helping to supervise younger siblings or someone in the family who has a chronic illness, disability, mental health or health, language barrier or other reasons that may give them added responsibilities at home.

Our grade 6, 7, and 8 students will be invited to listen to a presentation on January 16, 2017 at 11:15 a.m. They will offer an 8-week program teaching self-esteem and life skills through social and recreational activities for interested students, starting Feb. 6, 2017.

If you have any questions feel free to contact the school at your convenience or check out their web site at: [www.powerhouseproject.ca](http://www.powerhouseproject.ca) for more information on other services they provide for children.



YOU & YOUR CHILD ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A

# KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, February 2, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

During your visit you will:

- See a Kindergarten classroom
- Meet the Kindergarten Team
- Register for school
- Get a fun goodie bag with learning resources

**JUST WATCH ME!**  
KINDERGARTEN AT THE DSBN

Children who will be turning 4 before December 31, 2017 are eligible to start Kindergarten in September 2017.



## School Council Corner

### Me To We Club

Throughout the month of December, the Me to We Club organized a snack and hygiene item drive for the McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton. We partnered with the local organization, Jace Wars, to help deliver the items to the hospital and the Ronald McDonald House. Thank you to all the McKay families for your generosity during the Holiday Season!

*Your Me to We Club*

## 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.dsb.org](http://www.dsb.org) or contact the school.