

McKay School

March 2011

Achieving
Success
Together!!

McKay School students and staff have embraced the cold, snowy month of February by concentrating on numerous activities that have kept us busy and focused on learning!

We have been a part of Public Speaking, Science Fair, Musical Outings, Sports Teams, Skating, Swimming, performances at other schools, Big Brothers and Sisters Mentoring, the French Immersion Road Show, Mad Science at 1st nutrition breaks, EZ Rock 105.7 Salute Your School, trips to Museums, Woodend, St. Johns, Instrumental Music, JK Open House Silver Birch and Red Maple Reading club, Glee Club, Gr. 6FI Dance Club and many more.

Our staff have continued with their Professional Development by being part of Literacy in the Arts, SUMS, attending Conferences (“Reading for the Love of It” in Toronto) as well as planning creative and challenging lessons, focusing on Critical Thinking and timely effective feedback. We are all constantly learning and we enjoy the academic and social interactions with students, parents, colleagues and community members.

Perseverance is our Character Trait for March. We encourage you to reinforce the value of hard work and perseverance at home as well as at school. We need your assistance by helping your child to keep at things, work through the “rough spots” and not to give up just because things get a little hard or uncomfortable. You can model the “persevering” behavior by having your child see you stick to a goal or really work hard to finish what you have started. By showing determination and perseverance, children learn the rewards of this action. Everyone likes praise for doing good things, so remember to praise for the little steps along the way and together we can all demonstrate greater perseverance!

March Break is almost here and we know you and your children will enjoy some “family time” together. There are many “free, fun” activities to participate in with your children in the local community. Check the information for public skating, library programs & swimming pools. Some other activities to consider, might be to take a walk down to the beach and observe the changes in the ice and snow, take pictures, go for a hike and pack a hot lunch in a thermos to enjoy, look for signs of spring, look and listen for birds. **It really isn't about what you do it's about spending time together talking, listening, caring and being there with your child! Kids want your attention and time!**



320 Fielden Ave
Port Colborne,
ON
L3K 4T7
Phone:
905-834-4753
Fax:
905-834-1140



French Immersion Road Show & Open House

Mrs. Grenier and Mr. Watson along with Mr. Chaffart, Mme. Neville, Mme. Vanderlaan and Mme. Clarke had a spectacular time visiting our French Immersion feeder schools from Fort Erie, Stevensville, Crystal Beach, Wainfleet and here in Port Colborne. The teachers thoroughly enjoyed visiting the grade 4 classes and getting everyone excited about learning and speaking in French. The Open House, which was held Tuesday February 22nd was a huge success. With many people interested in becoming part of our McKay family, we look forward to our new lions starting in September.

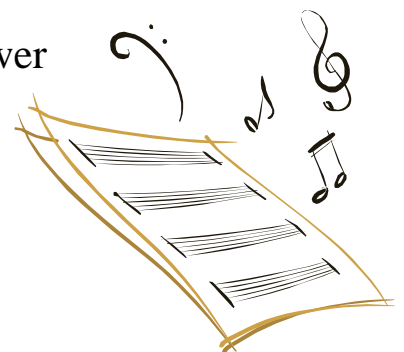


Our Kindergarten Open House at the end of January was a huge success. Meeting with all the new families that will be attending McKay in September was very exciting. We had a draw for our new little lion cubs; the winner of a new McKay t-shirt and pants is Jade Aylward and the winner of a new McKay hat and t-shirt is Damien Reid. We look forward to seeing our new registered JK's at our Kindergarten Orientation May 18th, 2011.

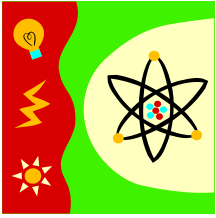


Music Reaches Out to Seniors

Our grade 2 class this month visited the Port Village Seniors on Friday, the 11th to sing Valentine wishes to them and deliver a "Magic Penny" in a heart for each senior. We were treated to cookies, suckers and juice for our Valentine songs. And the McKay Choirs visited another group of seniors having dinner at the United Church on Monday, Valentines Day. Our own soloist, Noah Terfry, was the lone male that day and belted out a fine answer to the girls asking for his hand in marriage during our song "Won't You Marry Me?" A fun time was had by all!



McKay's 5th Annual Science Fair



TOOK PLACE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH. THE GRADE 7 FRENCH IMMERSION CLASS, AS WELL AS SOME STUDENTS FROM THE GRADE 8 FRENCH IMMERSION AND THE GRADE 7/8 CLASS, PARTICIPATED IN THE FAIR AND PRODUCED SOME GREAT PROJECTS. WE HAD 3 JUDGES COME TO MCKAY TO EVALUATE THE PROJECTS. OUR JUDGES WERE MR. HANNA, THE SCIENCE CONSULTANT FOR THE DSBN; MRS. ODREMAN, A SCIENCE TEACHER FROM CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL; AND MR. MURPHY, A FORMER TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL WITH THE DSBN AND A CURRENT TEACHER AT BROCK UNIVERSITY. THE JUDGES WERE VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE PROJECTS!

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WON AWARDS AT THE SCIENCE FAIR:

Most Original Science Fair Idea

LILY RYRES : SUBLIMINAL MESSAGING

ALEXANDER ARTX : HOVERCRAFTS

Most Creative Science Fair Board Display

KARLYN BITNER AND JESSICA DUSSAULT : WATER TREATMENT

Most Attractive Science Fair Board Display

JO JO CARBONE AND HENRY ORFORD : PLANT GROWTH AT DIFFERENT SEED DEPTHS

DEVILIN MAYNE AND NOAH FUACO : MELTING TIME OF DIFFERENT SHAPES

THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WERE SELECTED AS THE TOP PROJECTS AND WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE NIAGARA REGIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR AT NIAGARA COLLEGE IN MARCH:

ERIN HAMILTON : EFFECT OF CHEWING GUM ON MEMORY

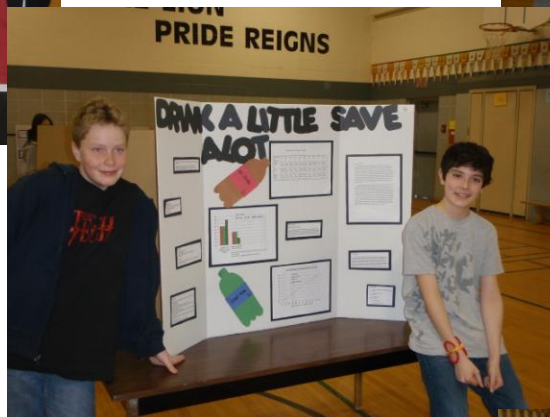
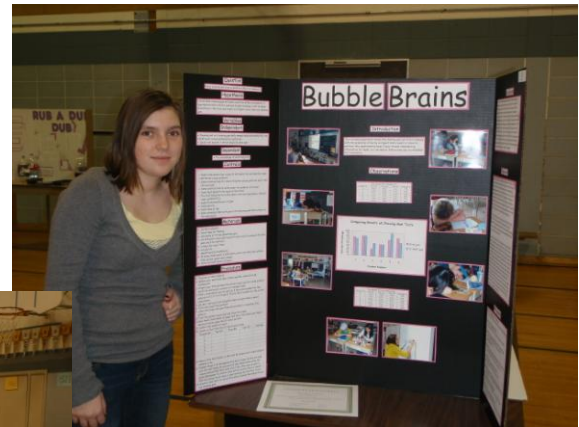
LISA LIANG AND OLLIE ROY : HOW THE TYPE OF RIBBON AFFECTS THE LENGTH OF THE CURL

HANNAH DONOFRIO : ECO-FRIENDLY VS. TRADITIONAL CLEANING PRODUCTS

RYAN DENDY : THE EFFECT OF DIFFERENT AMOUNTS OF BAKING SODA ON SIZE AND TASTE OF A COOKIE



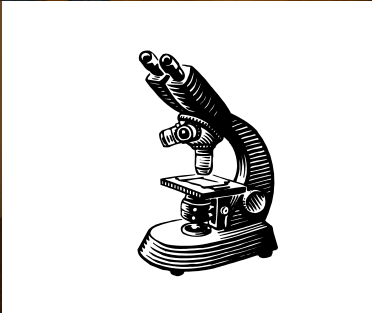
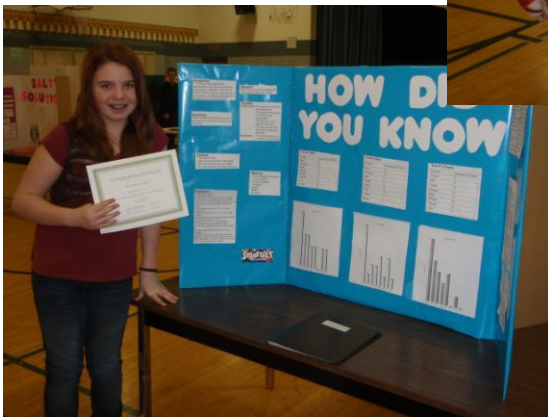
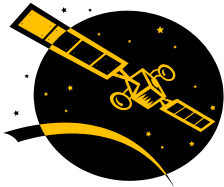
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS!!



Science Fair



2010/2011



Attendance At McKay

If your **child is going to be away**, please call the school. Our answering service is available 24 hours a day, please leave a message for the office at any time, prior to 9 am when the attendance has been taken.



If your **child is coming in late**, please stop by the office to Sign In and take a late slip to the teacher. Our teachers take the attendance at 9 am and 1:40 pm. If your child is coming to class after these times, they will be marked as absent and a phone call home will be necessary.

If your **child will be leaving for the day**, there is a Sign Out sheet in the office. Please notify the teacher you are taking your child and notify the office, by signing your child out.

McKay School Goes Paperless



As you may have noticed, we have been sending automated phone calls home. We are giving parents reminders of important events around McKay school without sending home paper notices. We are also encouraging parents to find school information on the schools website www.dsbns.org/Schools/mckay.

Starting in the new school year (September 2011) we will be minimizing our paper usage even more. A paper copy of our school calendar will go out to every student at the beginning of every month. On the bottom of the calendar you will find the link for our school's website, which we encourage you to check frequently for updates and additions. We thank you in advance for your continued support in helping McKay go green.



Biking to school

We encourage students to bike to school, once it is safe to do so, it is good exercise and better for the environment than having a parent drive. There are bike racks located on the North end of the play yard by the playground where bikes can be stored. Bikes brought to the school are not the responsibility of the school, so, we strongly urge students to bring locks for your bikes to deter any theft. Under no circumstances are bicycles to be left inside as it poses a danger to people coming in and out of the school.



While riding to school, if you are under the age of 18 you are required by law to wear an approved bicycle helmet when travelling on any public road. Cyclists over 18 are encouraged to wear helmets for their own safety, but are not required to by law

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/faq/safety-test.shtml#helmets>). We want all of our students to arrive safe so please, wear your helmet and obey safe road rules!

Prom Project Niagara 2011



On Saturday May 14th, Education Foundation of Niagara will be holding their annual Prom Project Niagara. This project is to assist young people in outfitting themselves for their High school or Elementary School Prom or Grad Ceremony. If you know someone who could benefit from this program please go to Thorold Secondary School from 9:30 am – 2:00 pm on Saturday May 14th. **If you have a gently used suit, dress, accessories or shoes and would like to donate to this wonderful project there are drop off locations across Niagara. In Port Colborne at Lighheart's Dry Cleaners 388 King St. For more information please call the EFN office at 905-641-2929 ext 54103,**

visit EFN's website or email efn@dsbn.edu.on.ca.

The Intermediate boys and girls basketball teams traveled to Port High for the Area 2 Intermediate Basketball Championships. The boys lost their first game to cross town rivals, The Oakwood Eagles, but made an extremely exciting comeback, defeating Winger in the consolation semi finals. The boys battled back from down 16 with 4 minutes to go. The boys ended up losing to Steel Street School in the finals. After playing three games in a row the boys' team simply ran out of energy. Great effort all day from the boys finishing up in 4th place overall.

The girls Intermediate team took their undefeated regular season streak into the Port High Tournament on a roll. The mighty girls continue their streak and took their second championship of the season defeating Dewitt Carter in the final game.

Mr. Benner and Mr. Clarke are extremely proud of all of the basketball players and their hard work and dedication they have shown to represent McKay.

Up next for McKay Athletics:

Junior Boys Basketball grade 5,6 with Mr. Benner

Junior Girls Basketball grade 5,6 with Mr. Watson



Our girls' basketball team has taken the Port/Wainfleet Championship! We enjoyed an undefeated season. We have played a qualifying game Wednesday February 23 and got into the DSBN tournament which will be held Wednesday March 2. McKay is extremely proud. Mr. Clarke has enjoyed coaching the girls and says that our female athletes at McKay are second to none.
Team

*Becca Fuaco
Olivia Regehr
Hannah Donofrio
Savannah Horvath
Breana Harris
Bryanna Hockings*

*Emily Deiter
Emma Beaudin
Erin Hamilton
Starr Lund
Jessica Dussault
Kaitlyn Bitner*



Go Girls!

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds is an exciting mentoring program being offered through Big Brothers Big Sisters for McKay girls in grades 6-8. The girls are provided with information and support to make informed choices about active living, balanced eating and feeling good. The program finishes on March 9 for the girls who took part.



STUDENT COUNCIL CORNER

On Valentine's Day, we successfully sold all the candy grams. Thank you to everyone who gave their friends and staff members the wonderfully made (scrumptious, delicious, appetizing, stomach-filling) candy grams!

Also, thank you to everyone who participated in the candy jar guessing game. Unfortunately we could only have one winner. Therefore, **CONGRATULATIONS TO EMILY CARLSON** for guessing the closest and winning that fun-filled jar of hearts!!

We were scared out of our minds when we saw the freakiest McKay lions **ROARING** around school on Freaky Friday!!! Way to go lions!

On March 25th, we will be seeing some famous celebrities walking down the halls. So....you better be red-carpet ready because it is **CELEBRITY DAY!!!** We could see some Justin Biebers, some Katy Perrys or we might even see some Lady Gagas strutting down the hall. You could even try to create your own brand new celebrity! The paparazzi will be waiting!!!

Lianne Bankert - Deputy Prime Minister
Rebecca Fuaco - Secretary/Treasurer



Skip Team

McKay skip team has started to practice on Friday mornings at first break. Students who regularly attend this club will lead our Jump Rope for Heart kick off assembly in April.

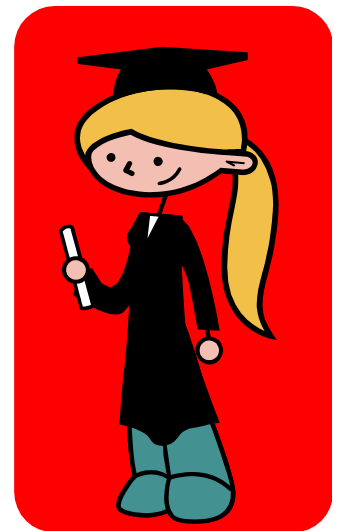


Dsbn Academy Update

Grade 5 & 6 Parents

If you are interested in learning more about the DSBN Academy at Empire School in Welland, beginning the Fall of 2011 and you didn't attend the Info session held at Dewitt Carter, please call the school and we will arrange a session just for McKay families.

The philosophy is that it will be geared for students who want to attend either College or University and will be the first in the family to attend. Call 905-834-4753 and speak to Mrs. Grenier if you would like more information.



DSBN Academy will be a Grade 6–12 public school that focuses on supporting and empowering students to be the first in their families to graduate from a post-secondary institution.



ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH OPPORTUNITY

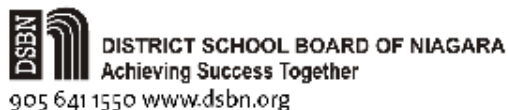
DSBN Academy Strategies for Success:

- School-wide shared beliefs focused on post-secondary preparation
- Committed and motivated students, families and staff
- Single track academic program
- Advisory program support
- After school "encore" programs
- Programming that encourages parent involvement
- Transportation



Applications are due Thursday, March 10.

Please see your Principal for an application form.



905 641 1550 www.dsbni.org

Questions? Contact Tom Reynolds,
DSBN Academy Program
Coordinator
at 641 2929 ext. 54143

the *Fresh Air* fund

serving children since 1877

Contacts: Laura-Ann Morris / (905) 835-2896 or Laura_ann_morris@hotmail.com
Kate Brinkerhoff / The Fresh Air Fund / (900) 367-0003 ext. 8890

For Immediate Release

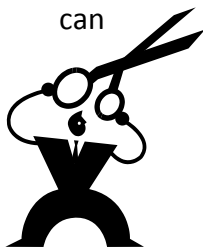
YOU CAN BECOME A FRESH AIR FUND HOST!

It doesn't take much to be a host family for The Fresh Air Fund - just a little room in your heart and your home – but the experience creates friendships and memories that last a lifetime! Since 1877, New York City children growing up in low-income neighborhoods have been able to experience simple summer pleasures in rural and suburban communities in 13 Northeastern states and Canada through The Fresh Air Fund's Friendly Town program. "You see different colours and places. I went to a farm...it was so much fun!" remarks seven-year-old Sidney from Queens.

Last year, close to 5,000 New York City children experienced the thrill of summer pastimes like roasting marshmallows over a campfire and flying kites in backyards and open fields. **The Fresh Air Fund is seeking more host families in the Niagara region to open their home to a New York City child for up two weeks this summer.**

Fresh Air host families can choose the gender and approximate age of their visitor. First-time Fresh Air children are between the ages of six and twelve. Many families find their hosting experiences so rewarding that 65 percent of all children are re-invited to stay with the same host families year after year. In 2011, The Fund will be celebrating its 135th summer of serving children!

For more information on how you can share the simple joys of summer with a city child, please contact Laura-Ann Morris at 905-835-2896 or Laura_ann_morris@hotmail.com or Eileen Lucas at elucas@cogeco.ca. You can also call 800-367-0003 or visit The Fresh Air Fund's website at www.freshair.org.



McKay Public School

March, 2011 "Roaring Lion" Mystery Draw

() Yes, I have received and read the march 2011 newsletter.

Child's Name _____ Gr. _____ Room # _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

(If you have more than one child attending McKay School, please make a copy of this ballot for each student)

Skill Testing Question (answer found in this newsletter).

Where did the choir go to sing for valentines?

Due to office by Monday, March 7, 2011

