

McKay Public School

March 2017

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A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...

February was an exciting month and we continue to have a lot to celebrate at McKay, as you will read throughout this newsletter.

Our students have excelled in many areas and we are so proud of all of their accomplishments. From basketball to Winter Carnival, our Lions demonstrated perseverance, commitment and excellent leadership.

Although, the weather hasn't been very snowy, it didn't stop the amazing, 'Carnaval de Quebec' from happening at McKay in full swing. With the guidance of Mme. Giliberti and Mme. Minor, our Core French classes planned fun-filled activities to replicate the Quebec Winter Carnival on a perfectly crisp, sunny afternoon. Students had the opportunity to learn about how maple taffy is made (*tire sur la neige*) from Agape Valley Sugar Bush; however, getting to taste it, was the *sweetest* part of the day! Special thanks to all of our staff as well as our intermediate leaders that helped to ensure that the day ran so smoothly.

We had a great showing for our Pink Shirt Day, **hundreds** of people participated with enthusiasm, proudly wearing their pink shirts while participating in some activities planned by teachers in their classrooms. Some of our intermediate students, (led by Mme. Vanderlaan and her WCSS Co-op student, Paul), created and performed a tableau for the whole school that re-enacted the origin of Pink Shirt Day. It was a very powerful and meaningful presentation.

We recently were awarded with an impressive designation, Canada's Fair Trade School of the Year! Mme. Minor (chair) and Mme. Vanderlaan (co-chair) of our school's Fair Trade Committee were invited to Halifax to accept this award on behalf of McKay. These dedicated teachers, also had the opportunity to share their experiences as Ontario's first Fair Trade School with an international audience. Thanks to our Lions for keeping this alive in our school.

Our intermediate basketball teams had fulfilling seasons; both the boys and girls worked hard with their coaches, Mr. Mitchell and Mme. Roy. As always, the teams demonstrated a high level of competition while ensuring that they maintained their sense of fair play and positive attitudes. Thank you to all of the team members and coaches for their sportsmanship and dedication!

Keep working hard, and keep trying to be the best that you can be! So proud of our Lions!

Winter Carnival



Intermediate Semi Formal



Intermediate Semi Formal



Rocks and Rings



Drum Fit



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.

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/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.



March is Nutrition Month

Fruits and veggies are not only absolutely delicious but they are nature's fast food! Ready to eat and most come in their own "to-go" packages, produce makes the perfect snack for kids to grab and go. They need minimal to no preparation and buying ones in season means you can save some money and shop smarter.

Think you can't get much produce on a tight budget? Here are some tips to make shopping for produce more easy and affordable:

- Don't shop when you're hungry and carry a list. You'll be more likely to stick to your budget and nutritious food choices.
- Look for washed and bagged salads, baby carrots, celery hearts, broccoli and cauliflower crowns, cherry tomatoes, and shredded cabbage in your grocery store
- Buy fresh produce, like peaches or bananas, in varying degrees of ripeness to allow for some ripening towards the end of the week
- Canned and frozen vegetables can be convenient choices
- Spend most of your time in the produce, bread, meat and dairy sections
- Use store flyers to help you find specials
- See more at: <http://www.halfyourplate.ca/produce-is-affordable>



Get inspired with recipe ideas from **Cookspiration** and serve up a nutrition tip a day with **eaTipster!**

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google play | Download on the App Store

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.

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.



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.



Fair Trade

McKay's Fair Trade Committee has been working very hard on promoting Fair Trade products, and knowledge throughout this last month. They have been selling banana muffins, bananas, and chocolate in the school store, using all Fair Trade products. The committee has done many announcements as well, giving the students lots of Fair Trade knowledge and fun facts. Our Winter Carnival, that was held here at McKay, featured some delicious Fair Trade hot chocolate, that was given to students to warm them up, after doing some fun Carnival activities. McKay continues to be an active Fair Trade school, encouraging the power to change the world everyday.



All of the committee's great efforts on spreading awareness about Fair Trade, and all of our McKay Lion hark work and support, has resulted in our school being named "Canada's Fair Trade School of the Year." Mme. Minor and Mme. Vanderlaan, both Chairs of the Fair Trade committee, travelled to Halifax for the National Fair Trade Conference to accept the award. This is such amazing and exciting news! A huge thank you goes to all of the staff and students of McKay, for helping accomplish this great success. Great job Lions!

-Written by Avery Reynolds, Grade 8 FI

McKay is Canada's Fair Trade School of the Year



From February 24-26 Mme Minor and Mme Vanderlaan attended the 5th annual Fair Trade Conference held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. At the conference, they were able to take part in several seminars ranging from information on Fair Trade coffee, to information on Fair Trade towns, which Port Colborne is! They also presented during the Fair Trade Schools seminar, teaching about the program and sharing all of the incredible things happening at McKay.

During the conference, the Fair Trade Awards ceremony also took place. During this ceremony, our teachers accepted the Fair Trade School of the Year award on behalf of the staff and students at McKay. Be sure to check it out in the display case in the front foyer. Way to go, McKay lions!!

The conference was an incredible opportunity for Mme Minor and Mme Vanderlaan. They made many invaluable connections in the world of Fair Trade and came back with a renewed passion for this incredible movement. They look forward to sharing this with the McKay community!



Prom Project Niagara 2017 – Free Formal Wear Opportunity

Prom Project Niagara is a one day fun free formal wear extravaganza for girls and guys!

Students can select their perfect head-to-toe look for their prom, formal, or graduation for FREE!

This year, we are offering Prom Project Niagara at:

- St. Catharines Collegiate ***NEW MAIN LOCATION***
- Beamsville Secondary School
- Fort Erie Secondary School

If you know of a student who could use this program, please join us on Saturday, April 8th, from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at one of our locations.

Inviting all students who are in need of formal wear for their special day!

For more information on Prom Project Niagara please call 905-641-2929 ext. 37712, email efn@dsbn.org or visit www.efnniagara.ca

*Note: for Welland and Niagara Falls schools: bus transportation is available to the St. Catharines site! Contact the Foundation to book your spot on the bus!



Grad Photo Day is Wednesday March 29

More Information will be sent home...

Goodbye Mrs. Cormier

You may have heard...



After many years at McKay, Mrs. Cormier, our caretaker has accepted another full-time position at Ross Public School in Welland. We certainly have appreciated her hard work and dedication to our school. Her presence in our halls will be missed, but not forgotten as she was always so kind-hearted and willing to help us all out whenever she could. We wish her the best of luck at her new school and hope that they appreciate her as much as we did at McKay.



Sensei Dayboll visits Mme. Tremblay's Class

Pink Shirt Day Tableau



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.
