

McKay Public School

May 2017

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A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...

Well it is hard to believe that it is already May. Time is flying by with lots of exciting events coming up and with lots of learning going on. We are so proud of all of our students and all of their accomplishments. Our students are working diligently on many exciting learning activities in their classrooms, as well as participating on many teams and clubs.

Special thanks to our staff members and volunteers that coach, supervise, and organize the extra activities at McKay. Because of their dedication, our students continue to have a fun and well-rounded school experience (i.e., Coding Club, Badminton, Breakfast Club, Basketball, Spelling Bee, Heritage Fair, Music Festival, Recycling Program, Reading Club, Hot Dog lunches, and Track and Field, etc.), just to name a few. THANK YOU!

EQAO Testing

As you may already be aware, EQAO is a mandatory test administered by the Government of Ontario, to assess all students at the Grades 3, 6, and 9 levels. Focus is placed on skills in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. The students in Grades 3 and 6 have been working hard to prepare for their upcoming EQAO testing which will begin on May 23—June 5. When scheduling special days or vacations with your family, please avoid these dates if possible.

All students will write the assessment on the following days (May 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, and 31). Grade 3 and Grade 6 students will write during the first instructional block (9:00—10:35 am).

It is very important that all students attend school and arrive on time on these days. Please remember that students perform to the best of their ability with lots of sleep and a good breakfast. Thanks for your continued cooperation and support.

Fun Fair

We are excited to announce the return of our Fun Fair, scheduled for May 11 (5:30 -7:30 pm). All of the fantastic games and activities are back for families and friends to enjoy. Volunteers are still needed. Please call the office if you are able to help. Special thanks to our School Advisory Council members for all of their efforts and support with this event!

We hope to see many of you there! Thank you.

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.

Dreambox Challenge!

The Dreambox competition is on! We have challenged all of the classes to log as many hours possible on Dreambox at home and school throughout the month of May. The class with the greatest amount of hours **and** lessons completed will receive a class pizza party. This web-based math tool is proven to improve students' math confidence. To access Dreambox simply go to the DSBN website, click on Schools, click on McKay. On the bottom right side of the page, you will see a Dreambox icon. Click on the icon. Your child simply clicks on their class and enter their assigned password or click on their assigned picture to allow access to the program.

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 done 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.

Moving?

If you plan to move from the McKay area, please inform the office as soon as possible so that we can adjust class assignments accordingly. Thank you.

Student Class Placements

The staffing process for the next school year has started and it will continue throughout the month of June and the summer. We will be working on class lists next month. The final lists will be produced during registration week (the week before school opens), August 28—September 1st. As a staff, we work collaboratively to organize class placements to ensure our students are placed in the best academic environment to promote student success. We use the following criteria to guide our decisions for placements: learning style/needs, gender, and social blending. If your child has significant needs that could affect placement, please forward a **letter** to the office stating these factors by May 29th. Thank you for your cooperation.

TENTATIVE Class Organization for September 2017-2018

<u>Kindergarten with DECE</u>	<u>French Immersion</u>
Kindergarten with DECE	Gr. 1
Gr. 1/2	Gr. 2
Gr. 1/2	Gr. 3
Gr. 3	Gr. 3/4
Gr. 3/4	Gr. 4/5
Gr. 4/5	Gr. 5
Gr. 6	Gr. 6
Gr. 7	Gr. 7/8
Gr. 8	Gr. 7/8

Spelling Bee

The McKay Spelling Bee Team used tremendous brainpower on Monday, May 1st, while competing in the Annual Optimist Club Spelling Bee. By correctly spelling words such as, "upholsterer", "occasionally", and "miscellaneous", the team was able to achieve 108 points, securing a first place win for McKay! Congratulations to our competitors, Rhianne R (Grade 5), Layla W (Grade 5), Mackenzie A (Grade 6), Phoenix D (Grade 7), Kristen H (Grade 8) and Leah M (Grade 8).



Skateboards, Scooters, and Rollerblades

Long-boards, skateboards, scooters and rollerblades, etc., are not to be used on school property. If these items are brought to school, they must be walked on to school property, and must be stored securely (i.e., bikes and scooters locked up at the bicycle rack). Please remember that the school is not responsible if items are lost or stolen.



School Climate Survey 2016-2017

STUDENT AND PARENT SURVEY INFORMATION

What?

The school climate survey is an opportunity for students and parents to provide information about their experiences of school safety, acceptance, inclusion, and well-being. It is a web-based survey that guarantees anonymity of the respondents. A summary of results will be shared with staff, School Councils, and Safe Schools Teams for planning purposes.

Why?

A safe, inclusive and accepting school creates an environment for students to do their best in the classroom and beyond. Hearing the student and parent 'voice' is key to the development and implementation of school and board level improvement plans. Students and parents participating in the survey will not be asked for any personal information that will reveal their identity.

Who? When? Where?

Students:

- The DSBN will be surveying all students in Grades 4 to 12 from **April 24 to May 19**.

Parents:

- The parent survey will be available via a "**School Climate Survey**" link on the school's website from **May 1 to May 19**.
- Parents will be required to enter the Survey Access Code **1-DJZ-427-V** to participate in the school's survey.
- The survey must be completed in one sitting.

Additional Information:

For more information about the school climate surveys, please visit:

- The Learning Bar at www.thelearningbar.com for student survey information
- The Ministry of Education at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/climate for parent survey information

Questions?

If you require further information, please contact your child's school.

We value your voice and we thank you in advance for your participation!

Bicycle Safety

As the nice weather approaches, we are aware that older students are excited about riding their bicycles to school. It is important to remember bike safety and proper use of the safety regulations and school practices when traveling to and from school.

- Walk your bike at busy corners and intersections and on to school property;
- Obey all traffic signs and signals;
- Drive on the right-hand side of the road;
- Carry parcels in a carrier;
- Never ride with two on a bicycle;
- Be sure to use correct hand signals when you are going to stop or turn;
- Lock your bicycle to the bike rack, preferably with a combination lock;
- Stay away from parked bicycles during the school day;
- Safety helmets are required by students riding to and from school.



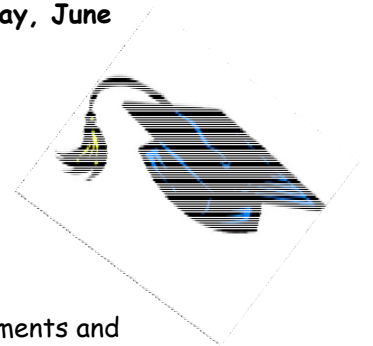
Graduation... Save the date!

It is hard to imagine, but it is already that time of year when we need to make plans for the Graduation of our Grade 8 Students. This year's event will be held on **Thursday, June 22, 2017**.

The program will be as follows:

(Times are approximate)

6:15 p.m.	Arrival and entry of graduates and families
6:30 p.m.	Graduation ceremony begins
8:30 - 9:00 p.m.	Reception/photo opportunities - Light refreshments and cake



Location: McKay Public School (gymnasium)

Even though the gymnasium can accommodate a few more people than a local hall, with 59 students graduating, we will still need to limit seating. **Tickets will be sent home with the graduate a few weeks before the ceremony.** A separate form will be sent home at the beginning of June to remind parents of the upcoming event and to confirm the final number of attendees.

The Blue Spruce Club

Since January, all of the primary students have been participating in the Blue Spruce Reading Program. This program helps primary students develop the skill of evaluating a picture book based on the story and the pictures. Children vote to determine the winning book of the Blue Spruce Award after they have read or have been read to all the titles! This year, our favourite book title at McKay was "Stanley at School" written by Linda Bailey. On April 27th, the Primary division celebrated our reading success with a Blue Spruce Celebration Day. The students had a wonderful day rotating through 10 workshops based on all of the book titles we read throughout the program. A big thank you also goes out to the Grade 4 Silver Birch participants who helped run the workshops. It was a great day full of fun and learning!



The Silver Birch and Red Maple Club

Since January, many students from Grades 4-6 have been participating in The Silver Birch Reading Program. The reading club met once a week to share and talk about the book titles nominated for the program. We had 20 participants that successfully read 5 titles and were eligible to vote for their favourite book title.

The Red Maple reading Program is for students in Grades 7 and 8, and encourages Canadian writing and authors. This year we had 12 Red Maple participants.

On May 5th, all participants in Grades 5-8 will be attending the Silver Birch/Red Maple conference. They will join 1000 students from the DSBN in book-related workshops and have the opportunity to meet Silver Birch and Red Maple authors.

A big congratulations goes out to all the participants this year for all your hard work and dedication to reading!

Summer HEAT 2017

We are pleased to offer SUMMER HEAT, a primary Summer Learning Program, again this year. The program will run from Monday, July 10th to Friday, July 28th for students entering JK to grade 4 in the fall of 2017. Kindergarten Kick Start is for students entering junior and senior kindergarten in the fall, while Funshine Kids is for students entering grades 1, 2, 3 and 4. This three week program is entirely FREE, but space is limited so please be sure to register early. Registration can be done online and will open shortly. The program will begin at 8:15 a.m. with breakfast provided, and it will end at 12:15 p.m. Students will be involved in a variety of learning opportunities throughout the morning, with a focus on literacy, numeracy and active living. We are excited about being able to offer this amazing program to our families. Check it out on the DSBN website at www.dsbnn.org/summerheat

Summer HEAT will be offered at the following sites:

Welland - Diamond Trial, Princess Elizabeth

Port Colborne - De Witt Carter

Fort Erie - Peace Bridge

McKay Family Fun Night

Thursday May 11, 2017



Carnival Games **Bouncy Castles** **Cake Walk**

COTTON CANDY **MAC SCIENCE** **Draws** **BOOK FAIR**

5:30pm - 7:30pm

TICKET SALES: \$1 each OR \$20 for 25 tickets
Hotdogs water, popcorn=1 ticket ... Hamburgers,
Cotton Candy=2 tickets
All games/bouncers=1 ticket

... Volunteers Needed ...

- Yes, I would like to be contacted about volunteering my time during fun night (Student Name: _____)

Parent Name _____

Phone _____

Please return this portion of the note to your child's teacher.
Thank you for considering to volunteer.

♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

Kindergarten Registration - Spring Open House

Tuesday June 13th, 4 - 6pm

First Ride Program 5pm

If you have Junior Kindergarten aged children at home or know someone who does (who live in our school area), please ask them register now for the 2017-2018 school year. Also, please let any new families to the neighbourhood that they should register their children at our school as soon as possible.

Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair will be arriving this month - Tuesday May 9 to Friday May 12. We invite you to share in this celebration of books and reading with us. Students and parents will have the opportunity to pick up some great reading materials at great prices directly from Scholastic.

The book fair will be open Thursday during the Fun Fair for family viewing and purchases.

All proceeds will go into new books for our library.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the school with dates and times you are available.



Volunteers Needed

Name:

Phone #:

Date/Time available:

Appropriate Dress Code for Warm Weather

With the warm weather approaching we would ask that you please review appropriate dress at school with your child. You can refer to our school Code of Conduct which is located in your child's agenda.

Extra Clothing: In an effort to limit calls home and interruptions at work, we encourage parents to consider providing your child with extra socks, pants, shorts, etc., during this time of year. Although we try to make appropriate decisions to limit the students play on the field when it is extremely wet outside, sometimes accidents happen.

In general, it is expected that clothing covers the student's front and back and has appropriate covering over the shoulders and midriff, and does not reveal undergarments. Clothing is to be of a length that is appropriate to a school environment and activity and that does not reveal undergarments in the normal range of movement (for example, pants, shirts and shorts).

Dressing for success means that no staff member or student should be showing undergarments/underwear at any time. If the dress attire is not appropriate, then the individual will be asked to change their clothing and/or clothing will be provided by the school. If inappropriate dress remains a problem, parents will be contacted. Thank you for your cooperation.

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:

Initially, the student will be asked to put the phone away.

If the phone is out again, it will be collected and stored at the office for the day. If this happens three times, a parent will be contacted and asked to come pick up the phone in person.

Thank you for helping to support student success.



Student Council Corner

On Friday, April 28th, the Student Council hosted Plaid Day! We had lots of participation! Here are some photos from the day:



On Friday, May 26th, we will be having Hawaiian Day!! Students are invited to wear their hula skirts, leis and hawaiian clothes. Fruit smoothies will also be sold. Order forms for these will be sent home closer to the date.

We're looking forward to seeing all the awesome Lion spirit!

Coding Club

On April 26th, McKay's Coding Club, the Techno Lions attended the Connect Conference at the Scotiabank Centre in Niagara Falls. The Connect Conference is a 4 day event which welcomes Canada's latest in educational technology. The Coding Club is a group of five girls ages 10 and 11 who have designed an Android App called Fair Trade Frenzy. The app is part of a global competition called the Technovation Challenge where girls from around the world design apps that align with the United Nations Goals to improve the world. At the conference, the girls had an opportunity to present their app to a wide range of professionals. It was an exciting opportunity for everyone who attended. Good luck to the Techno Lions as they proceed to a regional competition at IBM in Toronto on Saturday, May 13!



Front Left- Right: Emma Sauer, Sophie Clarke, Sophie Hillhouse
Back Left to Right: Leia Porth, Abigail Welch, Lille Rozic

To download the app go to the Google Play Store. You could wine a prize valued over \$50!



Fight the bite!

Ticks, mosquitos and rabid animals have no boundaries and can be a risk to you and your family when walking to and from school or work, waiting at the bus stop, family trips, and while playing in the yard at home or at the park.

Protect yourself and your family from West Nile Virus:

- Reduce standing water where mosquitoes breed
- Cover up, wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, hats socks and shoes
- Repair any damaged window screens
- Use insect repellants containing DEET or Icardin (follow manufacturer's instructions)

Reduce the risk of Lyme disease:

- Wear light coloured clothing to help spot ticks
- Use insect repellants containing DEET or Icardin (follow manufacturer's instructions)
- Check yourself, your children and pets for ticks after being outdoors
- Cut your grass and dispose of leaf litter where ticks can live

Prevent rabies:

- Vaccinate your pets
- Do not feed or approach any wild, stray or strange animals
- Do not trap, transport, keep or pet any wild animals
- Do not try and nurse sick animals back to health



Presently, all of these diseases exist in Niagara. For more information, contact Niagara Region Public Health. 905-688-8248 ext. 7767 or 1-888-505-6074

Hat Day Fundraiser...MAKE CHANGE FOR CHILDREN CAMPAIGN

We are looking forward to the upcoming Hat Day in support of the **Make Change for Children Campaign for the Poverty and Emergency Relief Fund.**



On **May 18**, our students will participate in a **hat day** to donate \$1 each towards this valuable cause. Over 75% of our DSBN schools are participating this year and it is outstanding that so many are supporting the important fund that helps thousands of students in need. Your donations are supporting some very important causes, like medications, food, clothing and swim programs. For more information, please visit www.changeforchildren.ca!





SAFETY RULES...

One of the most exciting things about the weather warming up is all the opportunities children have to enjoy outdoor activities such as sports, games and time with friends. With children spending more time outdoors, we would like to remind all students about the importance of staying safe.

To help ensure the safety of all children, we regularly review our safety guidelines with students. We recommend that, when you have an opportunity, parents/guardians also discuss these guidelines with children at home.

1. Don't talk to strangers.
2. Always walk to and from school with a buddy.
3. Do not take short cuts through parks, fields, etc. even if they are well lit.
4. Let someone know where you are and where you are going.
5. If you suspect someone is following you, RUN! Go to the nearest safe place.
6. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, go to the nearest safe place.
7. Walk confidently and be aware of your surroundings.
8. Never, ever get into a stranger's vehicle.

We appreciate your help! By working together, we can help students enjoy their time outdoors safely and responsibly.

McKay School – Track & Field Schedule

Order of races: Atom Boys, Atom Girls, Peewee Boys, Peewee Girls, Bantam Boys, Bantam Girls, Midget Boys, Midget Girls. Heats run quickly. Please be at the starting line when called.

100m: Overall Top 5 times will compete in the finals. Finals will take place *immediately* after heats. **Check the board posted at the score table to see if you qualify for the finals.**

Relay teams will be determined after our school meet.

200m & 400m are timed finals

800M & 1500M will run on a different day (during phys.ed class or on our rain date May 9th)

Track events take precedence over field events. Athletes must report to his/her field event to check-in, then he/she may leave to go to his/her field race.

High jump will be completed at McKay. There will be a boys' pit, and a girls' pit.

**Peewee Girls will be using McKay's sand pit for both long jump and triple jump.

** Atom Girls will be using McKay's sand pit for triple jump

Ribbons will be handed out at the field events, immediately after the event.

Track ribbons will be handed out at the score table.

*****Top 2 in each event will advance to the Group 1 Regional Meet on Tuesday , May 16th @ NOC (beside DSBN Academy), St Catharines.**

** Students may only advance for 3 events, plus relay.

Proper physical education attire is required. (loose clothing, McKay spiritwear/jersey proper running shoes, no jewellery)

ATHLETES – PLEASE KNOW YOUR SCHEDULE!

BBQ Hotdogs and water will be sold at the track for \$1.00 each.

Track Time	TRACK EVENT	Field Event Time ↓	LONG JUMP	TRIPLE JUMP	HIGH JUMP	SHOT PUT
9:10am	100m Heats & Finals - all groups	9:25am	Midget Boys	Bantam Boys	Atom Boys Atom Girls	Bantam Girls
		10:00am	Midget Girls	Bantam Girls		Bantam Boys
10:20am	200 Timed Races - all groups					
		10:35am	Atom Boys	Pee wee Boys @Port High Pee wee Girls @ McKay	Midget Boys Midget Girls	Midget Boys
		11:10am	Atom Girls			Midget Girls
11:50pm- 12:35pm:	<i>Lunch Break Back @ McKay</i>					
12:45pm	400 m Timed Races - all groups	12:45pm	Pee wee Boys @ Port High Pee wee Girls @ McKay	Midget Boys	Bantam Boys Bantam Girls	
		1:20pm		Midget Girls		
		1:40pm 2:00pm	Bantam Boys	Atom Boys Atom Girls @McKay	Pee wee Boys Pee wee Girls	
		2:15pm	Bantam Girls			

DSBN Heritage Fair

On Tuesday, April 25, three McKay students: Catharine Boitor, Sophie Clarke and Jack Anderson, attended the DSBN Heritage Fair at Fort George in Niagara- on- the-Lake. Students from DSBN schools presented their projects to a team of judges from various professions. The Heritage Fair team prepared some fabulous workshops for the students. There were interactive musket demonstrations, period costumes, and a guided tour of Fort George. After lunch, the students boarded a bus and visited The Landscape of Nations , a new monument at Queenston Heights, commemorating the contributions made by First Nations during the war of 1812. Results of the competition will be announced at the end of the year awards assembly in June.

