

McKay Public School

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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, Gymnastics, Breakfast Club, Basketball, Technovation, Heritage Fair, Music Festival, Recycling Program, Pizza & Sub Days, and Track and Field, etc.), just to name a few. THANK YOU!

EQAO

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 4. 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 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, and 31). Grade 3 students will write during the first block instructional block (9:00 - 10:35 am) and Grade 6 students will write during the second (11:15 am - 12:50 pm). 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

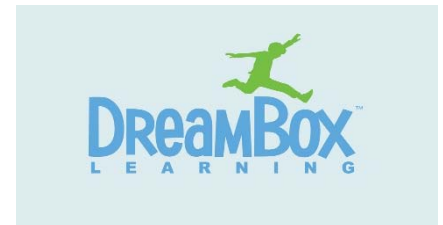
We are excited to announce that our annual Fun Fair was held on May 10 and it was another huge success. All of the fantastic games and activities were back for families and friends to enjoy. Sincere thanks to all of our volunteers that helped make the night a great success. Special thanks to Mrs. Serabian, all of staff members and our School Advisory Council for all of their efforts and support with this event!

Mornings at McKay

This is just a reminder to our families that **supervision in the morning begins at 8:35 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 8:35 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 8:35 a.m.**, which is now located in the Learning Commons.

Dreambox Challenge!

The Dreambox competition continues! 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.



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.



Summer HEAT 2018

We are pleased to offer SUMMER HEAT, a primary Summer Learning Program, again this year. The program will run from Monday, July 9th to Friday, July 27th for students entering JK to grade 4 in the fall of 2018. 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.dsbns.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

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.



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.



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 27th — August 31st. 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 2018-2019

Kindergarten with DECE

French Immersion

Kindergarten with DECE

Gr. 1

Gr. 1

Gr. 2

Gr. 2

Gr. 3

Gr. 3/4

Gr. 3/4

Gr. 4

Gr. 4/5

Gr. 4/5

Gr. 5/6

Gr. 5/6

Gr. 7

Gr. 6/7

Gr. 8

Gr. 7/8



MCKAY MAKERS' CHALLENGE TEAM

This year was the first year that the DSBN had a Maker's Space Challenge. It was a competition for schools to work in teams to create a Rube Goldberg machine. The machine will deposit a quarter into a piggy bank. McKay sent a primary team consisting of Carter Ford, Mason Mercuri, Hayden Royer and Tyler Sibbald. They used outstanding teamwork to solve unforeseen problems and remarkable communication to complete their machine. In the end, the team won the category for "Longest Operating Time" and were awarded an Ozobot (a creative robot that students of all ages will have fun programming). This was a great opportunity for the team and we are looking forward to expanding it to other divisions next year.



- Mrs. Hamilton and Mr. Faragalli

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 **Tuesday, June 26th, 2018.**



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.**

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.

♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

Kindergarten Spring Open House

Wednesday June 13th, 4 - 6pm

First Ride Program 5:00 pm

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 2018-2019 school year. Also, please let any new families to the neighbourhood that they should register their children at our school as soon as possible.

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 inappropriate cell phone use occurring during the school day. 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.

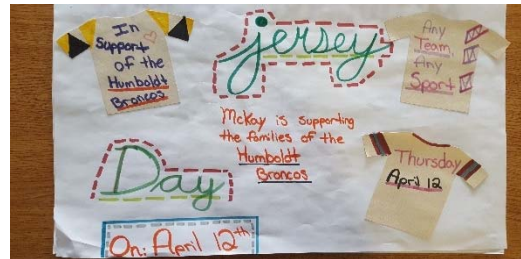
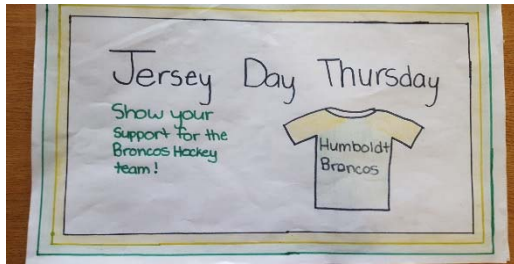
Student Council Corner

From Wednesday, April 11th to Friday, April 13th, the McKay Student Council organized and ran a bake sale to raise funds for the Humboldt Broncos. In total, we raised an amazing \$1328.00!! Thank you to all families who donated baked items and funds!



In addition to the bake sale, McKay participated in the Canada-wide Jersey Day to show our support for the families affected by the Humboldt tragedy. Below are some pictures from the week. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Our Spirit Day for May is Hat Day! As part of our school goal of raising \$1000 for the Ryan's Well School Challenge, we are "Tipping our hats to clean water" and asking students to contribute \$1.00 each to wear their hat. Hat Day is taking place on Friday, May 25th.



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 Icaridin (follow manufacturer's instructions)

Reduce the risk of Lyme disease:

- Wear light coloured clothing to help spot ticks
- Use insect repellants containing DEET or Icaridin (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

Niagara  Region

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

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.

Heritage Fair 2018

The McKay Heritage Fair took place on April 6, 2018. Three students presented projects on Canadian Heritage to judges from the Port Colborne Museum: Silas Smits-Talving, Bailey Kullercupp and Lillie Rozic. The DSBN Heritage Fair took place on Tuesday, April 24 at the Old Fort in Fort Erie. McKay was able to send two participants: Silas and Bailey. Here the students had a chance to present the results of their research to a panel of judges, to attend workshops, participate in "battle" and extend their knowledge of Canadian history. Results will be announced at a later date. Good Work Lions!



McKay Coding Club

McKay's Coding Team attended the Connect Conference at the Scotia Bank Centre on Wednesday, April 25. This year the coders created two apps: Homeless Help Niagara (HHN) and Ontario Angler's Alert (OAA). At the conference, the coders had an opportunity to share their research about a problem in our community and present the apps that they designed in order to help solve the problem. The girls have been working very hard since the Fall on these projects and they did a fantastic job. We look forward to the Regional Pitch competition on May 5 at the Hilton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls. Bravo coders!

