

# McKay Public School

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Principal: Mrs. Lott  
Vice-Principal: Mr. Reynolds  
Secretaries: Mrs. Serabian, Mrs. Ilskens  
Superintendent: Mr. Dickson  
Website: [mckay.dsbns.org](http://mckay.dsbns.org)



## APRIL 2018



### April 2018

**April 10:** Dental Fluoride  
(JK/SK only)

**April 12:** Jersey Day (in support of Humboldt Jr. Hockey team)

**April 13:** Dreambox pizza party for students in Mme Suk and Mme Jinks' classes

**April 16:** Gr. 7 Immunization

**April 18:** Bear Cub Fit Club  
(Gr. 4 – Faragalli/Rodrigue)

**April 24:** School Council

**April 25:** PCHS Pasta Night

**April 26:** K to 1 Math Games Night (4-6pm)

**May 4:** Recognition Assembly (J/I—9:00am, Prim. 9:45am)

**Pizza Days:** April 11, 18

**Sub Day:** April 25

### Message from the Office...

March was a shorter month, with staff and students enjoying a well-deserved spring break. Nonetheless, we still managed to make time for some great learning and awesome opportunities for our McKay family. We continue to value and model our character traits. This month we are focusing on Courage.

There has been a bit of a “buzz” about Science and Technology this month. The students participated in the Mad Science assembly which kickstarted the weekly lessons that started in March. As a result, a lot of our students have been involved in some hands-on inquiries into the world of science. Some of our junior students experimented with stop-motion animation; perhaps we have some future film makers amongst us! Even some of our primary classes have been building creations that support makerspace activities. All of these inquiries proved to be both thought-provoking and enjoyable experiences for the kids!

We are very proud to continue to offer great opportunities for our students to engage in activities that foster literacy skills, inquiry in science, musical appreciation, and cooperation through the Forest of Reading, Coding Club, Art Club, and guitar lessons. As you know, these opportunities enrich students' experiences during recesses, as well as before and after school.

Spring has sprung and there is an energy in the air. Clearly, McKay continues to be a hub of activity! As always, we are so proud of the hard work, enthusiasm, and determination that we see in our students on a day-to-day basis. Way to go Lions!

### 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 Language Arts and Mathematics. The students in grades 3 and 6 have been working long and hard to prepare for their upcoming EQAO testing which will take place over two weeks starting May 22 and ending on June 4th. When scheduling special days, appointments, or vacations with your family, please avoid these dates if at all possible. We appreciate your cooperation with this matter. If you have any questions about the assessment, please contact your child's teacher or call the office.

Thank you!

## School Council and the Fun Fair

At our last meeting on March 27th, the School Council turned their attention to planning the upcoming McKay Fun Fair which is scheduled for Thursday, May 10th from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. Please note that our next meeting is on Thursday, April 24th at McKay Public School beginning at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend; we hope to see you there!

### McKay Fun Fair:

Thursday, May 10th, 2018!

School Council is very excited to bring you our Annual McKay Fun Fair. This event will have great entertainment, food, raffles, and prizes for all ages.

The School Council is working hard to get ready for this awesome evening. Currently, we are looking for prize donations for our raffle table. If you are able to donate a prize or have a contact to a local business that could help out,

please call the school. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the games and events.



## Prom Project Niagara—Free Formal Wear

Prom Project Niagara 2018 – 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: • DSBN Academy • Beamsville Secondary

School • Fort Erie Elementary School (Central Ave.).

If you know of a student who could use this program, please join us on Saturday, April 21st, 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](mailto:efn@dsbn.org) or visit [www.efnniagara.ca](http://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!



## Student Safety at McKay

Keeping students, staff, and visitors safe at McKay is our most important priority. The staff interacts with students daily and try to support students with concerns when they arise. We encourage students to be independent problem solvers and to speak to staff in the moment when they feel the support of an adult is required. Students are also encouraged to speak with their parents as sometimes it is easier for parents to

advocate for children with certain situations. Let's continue to keep the lines of communication open to make for a safe and happy school. In addition, we want to remind parents to use the front door and continue to sign in at the office when visiting McKay. Although we know many of our parents, it is important that we always know who is in the building. This



is especially true when dropping students off in the morning. **We ask that you please refrain from coming into the school at the back of the building with your children.** For this same reason, we ask that parents wait outside for pick up at the end of the day so that we can dismiss students in an orderly fashion. Your continued support with keeping children safe is always appreciated.

## World Autism Day—Light McKay Up Blue!

Each April 2nd (April 3rd at the School), Autism Ontario kicks off its signature campaign, Light It Up Blue, in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day. Thousands of iconic landmarks, buildings, and homes around the world "light it up blue" in support of people living with Autism. Autism friendly events and educational activities will take place throughout the month of April to increase

understanding and acceptance of people with Autism. Here at McKay we have some special activities planned for our school community. Monday, April 3 is our day to wear blue! Show your support by dressing in something blue. Children will have opportunities during the day to parade our Autism Awareness Flag throughout the school and

## Kindergarten to Grade 1—Math Games Evening!

We are excited to offer our McKay families a fun Family Math Games Night for students in Kindergarten and Grade 1. This special evening will take place on Thursday, April 26th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. We have some amazing games that your children will be able to play at school and home. We want students to recognize that Math is fun! After, your family will walk away

with some pretty cool math games that you can try at home throughout the school year and during the summer months. During the evening, parents and children will be able to move between different stations where we will feature math games, technology, and fun challenges. We will be serving complimentary pizza as well. In addition, we will be giving away some cool door prizes. Keep an



eye open for the order form coming home soon. You don't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy some pizza, family games and a chance to win our Mastermind door prize. We hope to see you there!

## The Relationship Between Quality Sleep and Growth Mindset by Harold Penn

The benefits of quality sleep go way beyond physical health. Getting quality sleep helps you develop and strengthen a growth mindset, which is vital to maximize your potential. While it may seem easy to forgo sleep for work or school, studies have shown that sufficient rest can actually help your learning abilities and skill development.

Having quality sleep consistently will enable your mind and body to function properly as well as absorb new information. In turn, absorbing new information and becoming smarter provides evidence that intelligence is malleable and can be changed through our own actions. Here are some other ways sleep is important for learning and development:

1. **Enhances creativity and problem solving skills**
2. **Boosts memory**
3. **Encourages self-discipline**
4. **Helps manage your emotions**



## Lion Athletics

Our Junior basketball program is well underway with Mr. Clarke-Louie coaching the boys and Mr. Tempest leading the girls team. The students are very excited about the opportunity to improve their skills and to represent McKay Public School. We also say thanks to Mme Jinks for her help behind the scenes.

## Gymnastics at McKay

Students in grades 3 through 8 have been invited to try-out for our school gymnastics team. Mr. Clarke-Louie and a host of teachers from our school have been working with the students during the lunch recesses on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays in preparation for their competition coming up on April ? in St.

## Chess Club & Tournament

On April 4th, 2018 we will be sending the members (grades 3-8) of our dedicated Chess Club to DeWitt Carter Public School for the annual Chess Tournament. These candidates have been practicing at Breaks for the

## Grade 8 Graduation

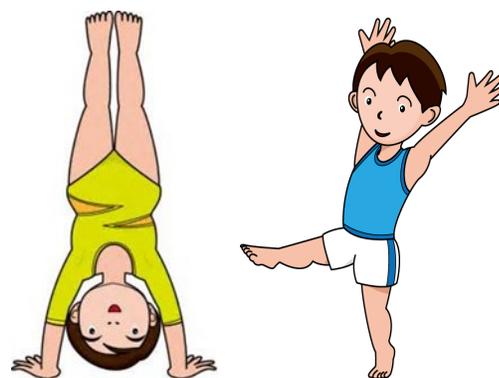
Our Grade 8 Graduation ceremony will take place in our own McKay Public School gymnasium on the evening of Tuesday, June 26, 2018. More detailed information will come home well before this special date.



Catharines. The competition includes vault, mat and bench. It has been wonderful to watch the students learn new skills and we are really excited for them to have a chance to participate in this new experience at McKay.

## PCHS Connections

We continue to have very positive visits to our school from McKay graduates who now attend Port Colborne High School. These students consistently tell us about the wonderful experience that they are having there, both academically and socially. We will be inviting some of our Port High Blue Bears to come back to McKay to help with our May 10th Fun Fair.



last number of weeks. Mme Walinga wants to thank these students for demonstrating extraordinary commitment and sportsmanship over this past season and wishes you all the best in your Chess challenge.



## Keeping Our Teeth Healthy!



### Keeping your child's teeth healthy

Children can receive a free fluoride varnish application from the Niagara Region Public Health dental program. Fluoride varnish is a protective coating that is painted onto the teeth with a tiny brush. It helps reduce cavities if applied twice a year.

### **Why do we recommend fluoride varnish?**

Tooth decay is the number one chronic disease of children. In the 2015/2016 school year over 25,000 school-aged chil-

dren were screened by Public Health. 39 per cent of those school-aged children were identified having as having cavities.

Untreated cavities can lead to difficulties eating and sleeping, self-esteem issues, decreased school performance and attendance, pain, discomfort, infection and poor overall health.

Fluoride is not added to Niagara's drinking water.

### **Tips to keep your child's teeth healthy...**

1) Brush teeth **two times** per day; Use a

pea-sized portion of **fluoride** toothpaste

- 2) Spend **two minutes** brushing each time with help from an adult
- 3) Floss daily; Provide a healthy diet and limit sugary drinks, sticky candy and snacks. **Water is best**
- 4) Schedule regular dental checkups at least once a year (cleaning, fluoride varnish application and sealants).

For more information on dental services and programs please call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 or visit [www.niagararegion.ca/health](http://www.niagararegion.ca/health).

## READ THIS! What's Happening In Our Learning Commons!

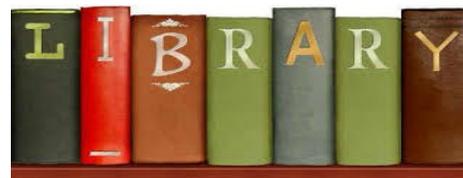
During their Learning Commons periods, students use a variety of techniques to search for books. Some students scan the shelves for book covers that grab their attention. Others dig through the books-to-be-shelved cart in search of the perfect book. Still others enlist the help of classmates, who remember where they found a certain book during a previous library period. And finally, there are students that access the online catalogue to search the

collection for a book that interests them. In the month of February, the top search terms were:

1. Jedi Academy
2. Lego DC
3. Math
4. Minecraft
5. Plants Zombies
6. Birds
7. Paw Patrol

The school's library catalogue is available by clicking the Online Library link on the

school's homepage. This is an excellent tool and can be used by parents and/or students to search for books before a scheduled library period. Whether it is from home, in the computer lab, or in the school library, students are encouraged to take advantage of the online library catalogue.



## Communicating With Your Children Using Math Language

### **Talking About Math:**

Talking about mathematics with your child – whatever his or her age – helps strengthen his or her mathematical reasoning and understanding. Some ways to keep the talk engaged and focused while you support your child include:

1. *Revoice* - Repeat what you heard your child say, then ask for clarification.
2. *Repeat/Restate* – Ask your child to restate your reasoning.
3. *Reason* – Ask your child to apply his or her own reasoning to someone else's reasoning.
4. *Adding On* – Prompt your child to participate further.
5. *Think Time* – Wait several seconds (try five) to give your child time to think. You may be surprised by how hard it is to stay silent in that time!

## Dreambox

Don't forget to support your child's participation in **Dreambox**, an interactive math web site that will promote problem solving and math fluency as well as students' confidence. Each student in kindergarten to grade 8 has an account. If you need assistance, don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher.



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 at: [dreambox.com](mailto:support@dreambox.com).

Congratulations to the students in Mme Jinks and Mme Suk's classes for their impressive growth in math learning on Dreambox. Each class will be awarded with a pizza party on Friday, April 13th.

## 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. Serabian or Mrs. Ilskens page your child to the office and wait there until your child arrives. Thank you for your assistance and understanding with this matter.

## DSBN Concours Impromptu

All students did an excellent job and were fantastic representatives of McKay. Félicitations...Tristan Chevalier, Braxton Clark, Miranda Little, Riley Babin, Carly Wade, Morgan Fenton and Aidan Barron.

Braxton C. from McKay moves on to the big competition to represent McKay and DSBN in Toronto on May 5th. Bonne chance, Braxton!

## Kindergarten Registration

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 know that they should register their children at our school as soon as possible. Your help is greatly appreciated. Please register with the Niagara Region using the OneList if you require child care next year. See instructions on the next page.

### SICK CHILDREN

When to keep your child at home. Please keep your child at home and away from others if he or she has any of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Rash
- Frequent coughing or sneezing
- Yellow or green discharge from the nose, ears, or eyes
- Sore throat



Contact your family doctor for advice about care and treatment. For more information, talk to your school nurse or go to [www.niagararegion.ca/health](http://www.niagararegion.ca/health)

# 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](mailto:support@onehsn.com) . For all other questions, please contact Jackie Galloway, Program Contract Analyst at 905-980-6000 Ext. 3817.