

**McKay Public School**  
**320 Fielden Avenue**  
**Port Colborne, ON L3K 4T7**  
**Tel. (905)834-4753**  
**Fax (905)834-1140**

# “Roaring Lions”

November 2009



## Literacy - Critical Thinking

### What is Critical Thinking?

Critical thinking is the act of thinking through a problematic situation about what to believe or how to act based on relevant criteria.

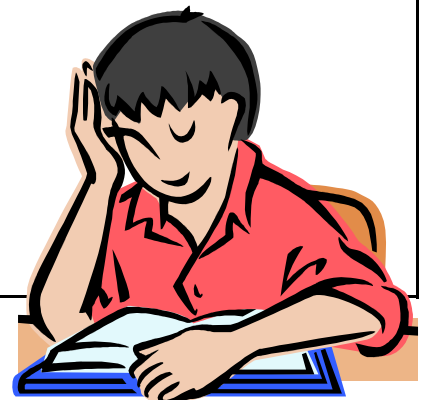
### What does critical thinking look like in the classroom?

Our goal is to help students approach issues in an open-minded manner, to look carefully at the various options, and to reach reasonable conclusions based on careful assessment of relevant factors. Teachers nurture critical thinking by asking questions that are often open-ended and require thoughtful consideration of evidence. Students are expected to make up their own mind – not simply taking someone’s word for things. They are asked to provide reasons or examples in support of their observations and conclusions. Students are encouraged to consider other perspectives on an issue and alternative approaches to a problem before reaching a firm conclusion.

### How can you encourage critical thinking at home?

Parents can play an important role in helping their child develop this important school and life skill.

- Look for casual opportunities, especially while reading books, to raise questions that require assessing various alternatives (e.g., Do you think it would have been better for the character to do \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_?)
- Encourage your child to explore positions from different points of view, especially from perspectives that he/she does not personally hold (e.g., How might your brother feel about ...?)
- Help your child identify the relevant factors or criteria to consider when making a particular decision (e.g., when selecting a bicycle, children might consider the cost, how often they will use it, whether it suits their needs).



## McKay School Narrow Focus Goal

Recent EQAO data has revealed that we continue to need work in understanding “Reading for Meaning” and “Improved Critical Thinking”. We are committed to moving 100% of our students forward by one level or within a level in Reading for Meaning using a variety of styles of text, as measured using written and or oral responses to reading during a variety of diagnostic, formative and summative assessment by may 31, 2010. Special attention will be provided for our students through the support of future “Tutors in the classroom”, Homework clubs, after school programs, home book reading program and additional school programs.

### Inclement Weather

Parents are reminded that decisions for school closings are made by the board office and that announcements for school closings will be made on the 7:00a.m. newscast on local radio stations. The District School Board of Niagara website [www.dsbni.edu.on.ca](http://www.dsbni.edu.on.ca) will also provide up to date information about school closings. Please do not call the school, as we will need to keep the phone lines available for emergency calling.



#### Local Radio Stations:

91.7 FM

610 AM

105.7 FM

97.7FM

1220 AM

## Term 1 Report Cards - December 2, 2009

School wide report cards for grades 1 - 8 will be issued on Wednesday, December 2, 2009. We encourage the parents(s) of every child to come in for an interview to ask questions and talk about their child’s progress. Interview times are on the evening of Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:30 - 8:15 and during the day of Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 12:15 -3:30. An interview schedule will be generated in the week proceeding the report card.

## McKay Spiritwear Update

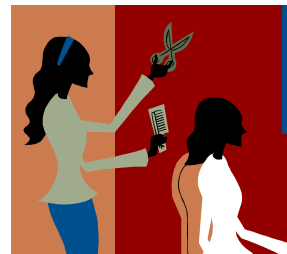
Thank you to the many families who have purchased our “cool” Lion Spiritwear. Orders have been placed and should arrive in about 2 weeks. Items will be distributed to the students upon arrival at the school. We have some items in stock, so please drop by the office if interested. These items will also be available during Parent/Teacher Interviews and may be ordered again if you are looking to buy spiritwear for Christmas!.

## Fundraisers

The Magazine Fundraiser was a great success. At this time we don’t have a total of the money raised.

### Cuts for Breakfast: November 30, 2009

Through a generous donation of their time and talents, professional, licensed stylist will be available to give you, your family members or friends a cut, style and perhaps a whole new look. You are invited to come out to First Lutheran Church Hall, 688 Elm St from 12 p.m. until 6 p.m. and have your hair cut by professional hairdressers who are donating their time to help a good cause. A financial donation of your choice is welcomed!! All proceeds to benefit McKay’s Breakfast Club.



## Up Coming Events

Tuesday November 3: Officer Orcutt Visits Mr. Benner's grade 4 class to speak to them about Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T)



Wednesday November 4: School Council Liaison Committee presents "Engaging in Student Success: Parents and Community Partners in Action" held at Westlane Secondary School 5960 Pitton Road, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration required by October 23, 2009.

Thursday November 5: Mme Neville's grade 6ef class will be going to War Plane Museum all day, parent drivers will be taking our class to Hamilton and return.

Wednesday November 11: Remembrance Day Ceremony. Assembly in the gym at 9:30 - 10 20am. Certain classes are walking to H.H Knoll Park to attend the Cenotaph for a separate ceremony.



Thursday November 12: McKay Choir will sing at the Port Colborne Hospital's 'Ribbon of Lights' from 7:00 p.m - 7:30 p.m. Students are expected to arrive at 6:45.

Friday November 13: Professional Activity Day - No School

November 16 - 20 Drug Awareness Week

November 16 - 20 Child Advocacy Week

Tuesday November 17: Take A Stand Program at Port Colborne High School

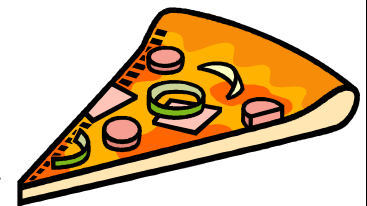
Wednesday November 18: Picture Retakes 9am



Friday November 19: International Child Day: Parents of grades 1 - 8 are invited to come and join our family sn in the gym 1:10 - 1:35

Friday November 19: Student Recognition Assembly for November: Integrity

Monday November 30: The HPV shot will be made available for the grade 8 girls.



: The Book Fair arrives today and lasts all week.

Pizza Days are every Wednesday,  
each slice is \$1.00.

# “Responsibility”

## AWARD WINNERS

October 2009



| Class                       | #1                    | G r    | #2                 | G r    | #3                     | G r    |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|------------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Robinson<br>A.M. JK/SK | Sadie<br>Serabian     | S<br>K | Sheydon<br>Beeson  | S<br>K | Mackenzie<br>Andrews   | J<br>K |
| Mrs. Robinson<br>P.M. JK/SK | Julia<br>Holloway     | J<br>K | Jeffery<br>Panunte | S<br>K | Blaine Parent          | S<br>K |
| Mrs. Bidoski<br>Grade 1     | Courtney<br>Fretz     |        | Sarah<br>Serabian  |        | Abby<br>Donofrio       |        |
| Mrs. McMahon<br>Grade 2     | Cherilyn<br>Augustine |        | Tate Davies        |        | Matthew<br>McIntee     |        |
| Mrs. Buck<br>Grade 3/4      | Mallorey<br>Jackson   |        | Patrick Vout       |        | Hayley<br>O'Connor     |        |
| Mr. Benner<br>Grade 4       | Tyler<br>Petereit     |        | Wes Poole          |        | Kaylee Young           |        |
| Mrs. Arnold<br>Grade 5      | Curtis Bell           |        | Martin<br>McIntee  |        | Makayla<br>Bissonnette |        |
| Miss Bonisteel<br>Grade 6/7 | Hannah<br>Charuk      | 6      | Austin<br>Stastny  | 7      | Kaitlyn Bitner         | 7      |
| Mr. Clarke<br>Grade 8       | Katie<br>Manni        |        | Sydnee<br>Thomson  |        | Alysha Reece           |        |
| Mr. Chaffart<br>Grade 5EF   | Morgan<br>Davies      |        | Laura<br>Ferreira  |        | Stephen<br>Koiter      |        |
| Mme Neville<br>Grade 6EF    | Jo Jo<br>Carbone      |        | Hannah<br>Donofrio |        | Alyssa<br>MacPherson   |        |
| Mme Vanderlaan<br>Grade 7EF | Rebecca<br>Fuaco      |        | Lisa Liang         |        | Olivia<br>Carlson      |        |
| Mme Clarke<br>Grade 8EF     | Calder<br>White       |        | Darcy<br>Feagan    |        | Shawna<br>Hopper       |        |
| Mrs. Edwards<br>Room 1      | Carolanne<br>Booth    |        |                    |        |                        |        |



## School Advisory Council

We are pleased to welcome our new executive Co-Chairs Mr. Lee and Mrs. Regehr replacing past Chair Mr. LaPlante, Mrs. Feagan Secretary, Mrs. Beaudin Treasurer and Mrs. Chastelet our fundraising Co-ordinator. Your attendance at SAC meetings is vital for sharing ideas and brainstorming ways to enhance the educational opportunities for our students. We are looking for one parent representative from each class to attend our next meeting on Tuesday December 1st at 6:15 - 8:00. Please respond to your child's teacher if interested in becoming a class rep. Thank you for getting involved!!

Wednesday November 4: Parent Conference @ Westlane High School 5960 Pitton Rd Niagara Falls (pre-registration required).

Friday November 27: The SAC is sponsoring our first Family Movie Night to be held at the school. Please mark the date and be looking for additional information closer to the date!

## Student Council

Wednesday November 11: Wear Red and Black

Thursday November 26: Wacky Hair Day

## Sports

Congratulations to the following girls. They will be representing McKay on the Junior Girls Volleyball team this year: Emily Frumusa, Daphne Mowat, Hannah Donofrio, Jessica Riel, Starr Lund, Sky Lund, Cynthia Richardson, Tracy Barnes, Hailey Payne, Alexandra Day-Maxner, Sierra Konig, Brooke Pirson,. Thank you to all the girls who tried out. We wish our Junior Girls the best of luck during the 2009/2010 season.

# Book Fair

Get ready for some out-of-this-world excitement with Scholastic Book Fairs' Galaxy of Books! You'll go where no reader has gone before as you explore the coolest array of books in the cosmos. We'll be launching this stellar reading celebration on December 1<sup>st</sup> to December 4<sup>th</sup>.

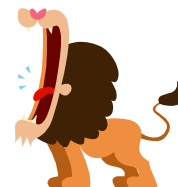


|   |
|---|
| Name: _____                             |
| Daytime Phone: _____                    |
| Evening Phone: _____                    |
| Dates & Times I Can Volunteer:<br>_____ |

*Please return to Mrs. Hamilton (room 17) or the office.*



McKay Public School  
November, 2009 "Roaring Lion" Mystery Draw



(    ) Yes, I have received and read the November, 2009 newsletter.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gr. \_\_\_\_\_ Room # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

(If you have more than one child attending McKay School, please make a facsimile of this ballot for each student and return to McKay School.)

Skill Testing Question (answer found in this newsletter).

What are we looking for to help us with the Book Fair?

\_\_\_\_\_

Due to office by Tuesday, November 10, 2009