

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

1 “Roaring Lions”

November 2011

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?

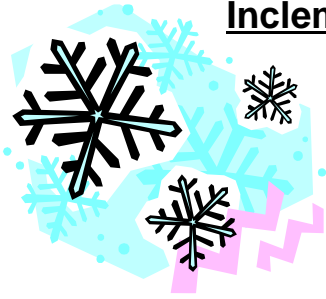
Parents can play an important role in helping their child develop this important school and life skill.

"Look for casual opportunities, especially while reading books, to raise questions that require assessing various alternatives (e.g., Do you think it would be better for the character to do _____ or _____?) have been

"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).





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 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

Progress Report; Go Home – Tuesday November 15

Ontario students will bring home the provincial Progress Report Tuesday November 15. We encourage the parent(s)/guardian(s) of every child to come in for an interview to ask questions and talk about their child's progress. Interview times will be arranged by the classroom teachers and accommodations for multiple children in families will be considered.



ANNUAL LIONS FOOD DRIVE

Once again this year, Port Colborne Lions' Annual Food Drive plans are underway. The Food Drive will be on Saturday, November 5th. They need your help...either during pick up (phone 905-835-8157 if you can help), or by donating food items. Some items needed are: canned meat and fish, peanut butter, jam, coffee and tea, canned tomatoes, canned stew, canned pasta, canned soup, rice, cereal, canned fruits, vegetables, spaghetti sauce, Kraft dinner, pork and beans, kleenex and toiletries. So...next time you are shopping, pick up a few of these items, clearly marked and put them aside and on Saturday, November 5th, put them in front of your



house (by 9:00 a.m) for pick-up.

Bicycles are to be parked and locked up at the bike rack located by the south fence on the play ground. We are not able to keep bicycles inside due to fire regulations. McKay school is not responsible for any lost or stolen items while on our property.

1 McKay's Cross Country Team

McKay had another successful year in Cross Country! Our Lion Runners participated in two area meets this past month. The entire team is to be commended on their hard work and commitment. Congratulations to Abby Donofrio, Gage Clements, Rhiannon Schaub, Ashley Leggett, Victoria Rivers, Wynne Reichheld, Camryn Wade, Brenna Pearson, Caitlyn MacInnis, Kendra Cousineau, Stephen Koiter, and Starr Lund.

Stephen, Starr, Caitlyn, Wynne, and Kendra placed in the top 24, qualifying them to race in the DSBN meet. They put forth a tremendous effort and trained hard until the end! Way to go! *We are LION proud of all of you!*



Halloween for Hunger

Halloween for Hunger is an annual campaign that encourages young people to help alleviate hunger while raising awareness about local poverty. It was started by Professor Jonathan White and then adopted by Free the Children in October 2000. Students from McKay School's Me to We Club will be canvassing homes in Port Colborne on October 31st from 3:15-5:00pm to collect non-perishable food donations to be donated to the local food bank. If families have items at home that they would like to donate, please send them in to the school. All donations will be taken to the food bank next week.



HOT OFF THE TERRY FOX PRESS!!



TERRY FOX WALK

Another successful walk was held on Wednesday September 28th for the McKay Lions. The students and staff raised \$2070.00 for this worthwhile cause and \$200.00 for the Country Breast Cancer Walk. Our donation for Terry Fox was in memoriam of Kevin Bigford, who grew up in Port Colborne and later became a teacher.

The top raising classes were Mme Clarke's Gr. 8 FI -\$682.00, Mrs. Arnold's Gr.3/4 - \$275.00, Mme Vanderlaan's Gr. 7FI -\$212.00. Our own Prime Minister Hannah Donofrio donated \$400.00 from her birthday party instead of receiving presents. These classes will be treated to movie and popcorn parties.

McKay School has now raised over \$30,000.00 in the last 13 years. Thank you to ALL for participating in this important and special event.

Mrs. Arnold, Mme Neville and Mrs. Hemauer

School Advisory Council

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 November 22nd at 6:15. Please respond to your child's teacher if interested in becoming a class rep. Thank you for getting involved!!

Tuesday January 24th at 6:15

Tuesday March 27th at 6:15

Tuesday May 22nd at 6:15



Dieleman Fundraiser

The Diehlman fundraiser, that will be coming home soon, will benefit your child by earning 50% of their sales. These funds will be used to go towards their class trip. For the grade 7 & 8's the money generated will go directly to the student and the balance of their Quebec trip in June. For the remainder of the classes the money generated will go directly to the student and will be used for future trips.

- The Dieleman orders will need to be in to the school no later than Friday November 18th.
- Dieleman also has an option for family members and friends who live far away but would like to purchase some items. Students will be given a PIN number to identify the students account. Purchases can be made on line and the items will be shipped directly to the purchaser. The student will still get 30% of the total cost (50% less shipping fees).
- The class with the most sales will receive a pizza party Friday November 25th.



Do you have gently used toys that could use a new home??

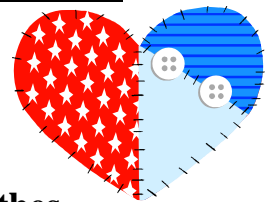
Our Kindergarten classes are looking for gently used indoor and outdoor toys.

HELP...we are in need of riding toys, wagons or scooters for outdoor fun and play centers or toys such as farm, garage and other themes. Christmas is coming, if your child has outgrown some of their toys, McKay's kindergarten would love new additions to our classroom play time.

How about some old buttons, scrap materials or yarn??

We are also looking for the following for our creative centres;

- Buttons
- Scraps of material
- Yarn
- Spools
- Clean Styrofoam trays
- Small pieces of wood
- Dress up clothes
- Wallpaper
- Other art supplies





McKay School
STUDENT RECOGNITION ASSEMBLIES
2011 -2012



“Responsibility” AWARD WINNERS

Class	#1	Gr	#2	Gr	#3	Gr
Mrs. Buck JK/SK	Evelyn Holloway	JK	Tristan Guillion	SK	Mackenzie Smith	SK
Mrs. Edwards JK/SK	Peyton Elliot	SK	Ryland Horrocks	JK	Abby Huisman	SK
Mrs. Bidoski Grade 1 / 2	Matteo Panunte	2	Sadie Serabian	2	Sheydon Beeson	2
Mrs. Robinson Grade1	Emma Haywood	1	Jeffery Yu	1	Hannah Vandermeer	1
Mrs.Hemauer Grade 3	Mason Bird		Keonna Camilleri		Avery Laurin	
Mrs. Arnold Grade 3/4	Eric Marr	3	Leslie Buck	4	Athena Dezenosky	3
Mr. Benner Grade 5/6	Kayla Fournier	4	Stirling Schaub	5	Ella Jeffs	4
Mrs. Hamilton Grade 7	Tyler Petereit	6	Carol Booker	6	Daniel Etty	7
Mr. Clarke Grade 7/8	Victoria Joyce	8	Chris Morin	8	Tracy Barnes Trudel	8
Mr. Chaffart Grade 5FI	Karena Mills		Hayley O'Connor		Taylor Smith	
Mme. Klassen Grade 5FI2	Madison Thomas		Blake Devinney		Mallorey Jackson	
Mme Neville Grade 6FI	Krista Dafoe		Caitlyn MacInnis		Bryan Marr	

Mme Vanderlaan Grade 7FI	Aurora Rosnuk		Sandra Graves		Wynne Reichheld	
Mme Clarke	Paul Slipak		Cidney Gauvreau		Starr Lund	

Intermediate Boys' Volleyball Team is looking forward to a great season.

Team:

Ryan Dendy
 JoJo Carbone
 Adam Augustine
 Michael Fyfe
 Trey Whitwell
 Tyler Latham
 Montana Noonan
 Stephen Koiter
 Richard Morrow
 Jason Thewles



The Volleyball Lions of McKay took on the star studded teachers on wed Oct 19th for an exhibition game with the finest volleyball talent McKay has to offer. Bashing Benner, Killer Clarke, Bombing Bomberry, Maniac MacMillan and the staff beat the girls 2 games to 0. However the boys were able to scoop one game from the teachers and lose one. A great effort from both the boys and girls teams in a very exciting game. Thanks to all the Lion supporters who were out cheering loudly and supporting the McKay athletics program!





The intermediate girls traveled to Eden High School in St Catharines to take on schools from Welland, St Catharines and Niagara falls in the yearly Sheridan Park volleyball tournament. The girls started out slow but then turned it around losing to the first place Beacon Christian by just one pint. The girls dramatically improved throughout the day and had big wins over the DSNB academy and Gordon Public school. Great job girls Mr. Benner is proud of your hard work and dedication to the team!!!!



The Finals in Primary Soccer:

The entire season looked very set: Sentinel was going to win the series without a championship game. **But** Optimus Prime put out in their final game to score a win and ended up in a champion game against Sentinel!

Hard playing on both teams saw a very tight game. Sentinel won the series 1-0. Congratulations to all players in the series and we hope to see you next year playing soccer in September!

Lion Pride Reigns

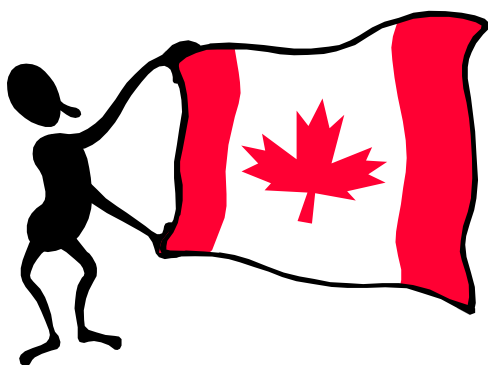
We would like to congratulate and thank our wonderful students and families for the out pouring of love and support for the Morrow family, during their time of need. It is heartwarming to know that we have such a supportive and caring community!! You know our saying, "McKay...where Lion Pride reigns " has certainly made us proud.



Remember that we will be having a bake sale the week from Tuesday until Friday to help raise funds to assist the

Morrow family. If you can help out by baking some peanut free treats to help our one of our lions, we know the family will be truly grateful.

Thank you....you have made a difference.



Michael Mitchell visits McKay Elementary

Friday, Oct 28 saw four public elementary schools come together in the McKay School gym for a primary, then junior concert put on by Canada's own Michael Mitchell all the way from British Columbia. The four local schools, Steele, Oakwood, Dewitt Carter and McKay enjoyed the great entertainment of Michael singing well loved Canadian songs such as *This Land*, *Canada in my Pocket* and *I'se the B'se*. Order forms are still available from Mrs. MacMillan for CD's, music books and stickers.



Student Council Hallowe'en Fun

Our Hallowe'en winners:

Candy jar guessing game - Kolbey Sneek

Our colouring contest winners:

Primary division - Liam Pearce

Junior division - Teaghan Cote

Intermediate division - Aurora Rosnuk

Most Realistic costume – Trey Whitwell

Funniest Costume – Chris Morin

Scariest Costume – Chiara Derraugh

Most Creative Costume – Matt Climenhage



In celebration of public library week at the Port Colborne Public Library, Mrs. Arnold's Grade 3/4 class was fortunate to have Mrs. Bettina Di Guilio share her book with "Clowning with Waffles" with them. The students enjoyed the experience as well as the animal shaped balloons that Waffles the clown aka Joey Crawford made for them. The class learned strategies for writing their own mystery stories that they are preparing for their upcoming Authors Day in December.

Book Fair

Get ready for a “roaring” good time with Scholastic Book Fairs’ collection of Books! You’ll go where no reader has gone before as you explore space the “Final Frontier”. We’ll be debuting this extraordinary reading celebration from November 15th until November 18th at noon.



Name :

Daytime Phone :

Evening Phone :

Please return to Mrs. Augustine (room 8) or the office.

McKay Public School
November 2010 “Roaring Lion” Mystery Draw

() Yes, I have received and read, the November 2010 newsletter.

Child’s Name _____ Gr. _____ Room # _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____

(If you have more than one child attending McKay School, please make a copy 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 8, 2011