

McKay School

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October 2016

Achieving
Success
Together!!

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...



September has passed so quickly with staff and students already engaged in great learning opportunities. The team at McKay would like to thank the parents, community, and students for a very successful start-up. We look forward to learning and growing together this year and it is our commitment to share information, strategies and suggestions to help our students achieve success through the newsletter. Your child's academic and social development are important to us and we encourage open communication. Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions or concerns.

In consultation with many stakeholders, the District School Board of Niagara launched an unprecedented effort to engage every student, every staff member and every member of our surrounding educational community. As a result, a strategic plan that is progressive and responsive to the needs of students and staff has been developed. It affirms our core values: respect, relationships and responsibility. The plan also charts out new ways that we can all bring our individuality into the expression of our core values, to ensure that we continue to inspire, empower and support all learners to reach their full potential. We encourage you to learn more about "I Matter at DSBN" by visiting the website: dsbn.org/imatter. It is our pleasure to be able to educate your child and provide the best possible educational environment, together.



Hooray for our Volunteers!

We have been very fortunate to have had so many volunteers in our building already. Our volunteers have assisted in so many ways (i.e., reading programs, breakfast volunteers and sporting event helpers) that enhance our students' experiences here at McKay. Your time and efforts are greatly valued and sincerely appreciated. Without your support, many programs would not be offered to our students. Thank you!!! We are currently seeking a volunteer to help with Breakfast Club on Friday mornings. If you're interested in helping out with this or volunteering in general at McKay, please call the office or connect with your child's teacher.

Thank you!



Halloween Safety

Some pointers to keep the trick-or-treaters safe:

- Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.
- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.
- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.

Reminder:

Friday, October 7th is a PA Day and Monday, October 10th is Thanksgiving, there will not be any classes on these days.



Staying Healthy...

At a young age, we all learn to share. We share our belongings, thoughts and ideas.

Although we usually encourage children to share, there is one thing that we'd prefer that doesn't get passed around this year: germs!

While being back at school gives children more opportunity to interact with each other and play together, there are some simple steps we can all take to help each other avoid coughs, colds and more serious types of infections.

Wash those hands! We recommend that students, and even parents, wash their hands with soap and water regularly. If there isn't a sink nearby, using a good hand sanitizer should do the trick.

Cover all coughs and sneezes. This will cut down on the number of icky things floating around in the air and landing on surfaces, making it less likely that children will breathe them in or touch them. If you have to cough or sneeze, do it into a tissue or onto your upper sleeve.

If you're sick, stay home. Although it's important to be in class, take some time, feel better and then come back when you're healthy, alert and ready to learn!

At McKay, we follow an infection control program to help keep both our students and staff healthy and in class. Our staff will be reinforcing proper hand washing techniques as well as cough and sneeze etiquette. In addition, all classrooms are equipped with hand sanitizers and our caretaking staff will disinfect our commonly used areas, such as desks and doorknobs, regularly.



Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club at McKay opened its doors on September 12th, thanks to the support of our teacher and parent volunteers. Every day we offer a nutritious breakfast in the gym from 8:40—8:55 a.m. We would greatly appreciate any donations from the McKay community. If you're available to help serve on Friday mornings, please inform the office. Thanks for your continued efforts. With your support, a lot of our students go to class with fuel for their bodies and brains.

Picture Day will be Friday Oct. 14th



Make sure to come to school ready to smile!!!

October is International Walk to School Month

Lace up your shoes or snap on those bike helmets for an active trip to school.

If you live far from school, park a few blocks away and walk part of the trip.

If you ride a bus take part by walking to your bus stop.

Here's a quick trivia question to have fun with at the dinner table tonight. Walking and wheeling to school can improve:



- A) Health
- B) Happiness
- C) Stress Level
- D) Grades
- E) Safety
- F) All of the above

If you said F, you're correct! Walking and wheeling to school has many benefits and those are just a few.

(Source: activesaferoutes.ca)

Tips to remember when walking or biking:

- Look left, right and left again when crossing the street
- Never run or dart out into the street or cross between parked cars
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them and watch out for cars that are turning or backing up
- It's always best to walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible
- Cross streets at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks
- Watch out for cars coming out of driveways and alleys
- If what you are doing has wheels, protect your brain – always wear a helmet
- When riding your bike, ride in the same direction as the cars are driving

Tips from www.parachutecanada.org

Emergency Action Plan For Students with Anaphylaxis



Please inform the office (if you have not already) if your child is at any risk for an anaphylactic reaction to any allergens.

Anaphylaxis is the most severe of the allergic diseases. A child with this condition is not only allergic to peanuts (any form of nuts, items made with peanut oil (e.g chocolate), or residue of peanut oil or peanut products), it can also be caused by bee stings or other allergens. "Its onset is so swift that from time of exposure to death can be as short as 15 minutes"

Student Safety First - Leaving School at Lunch Hour

We are very concerned about student safety and we will take all necessary precautions to ensure that we provide a safe environment for our students.

Please take note of the following:

1. Students will be asked to produce a note signed by a parent if they wish to go off school property for lunch (unless the blanket form, included in the first day package, has been signed.)
2. Students are expected to use extreme caution when off school property and must return on time for class.
3. Parents are asked to discuss expectations with your child. Be sure to give your child guidelines as to what kind of food you wish them to buy. Please refrain from sugary drinks and candy, as on many occasions, that is what we see.
4. We also expect children to use the crossing guard provided at the corner of Fielden Ave. and Killaly St. The other option would be for the children to cross the streets at the lights, the corner of Steele St. and Killaly.



MEET THE TEACHER OPEN HOUSE

We had our “Meet the Teacher” open house on Tuesday September 20th. We had a fun, casual night where families enjoyed some pizza together, met new friends and were introduced to the McKay Staff. Thank you!

McKay’s Milk and Store Program

Students are encouraged to drink milk. Statistics show that many school-aged children do not get the recommended amount and this is an excellent way to help.

Milk (chocolate and white) is sold at the School Store for 75 cents on a daily basis. We are providing other “Heart Healthy Snacks” at the store including rice cakes, popcorn, cheese and crackers, Nutri-Grain bars, bottles of water and frozen yogurt pops.



Reminder



Parents and guardians are reminded to finalize any necessary arrangements with their children before they leave for school each day or have it written in their organizers. Given our enrollment, the volume of requests asking us to deliver telephone messages to students is often overwhelming. Your understanding and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Intermediate Soccer

The Intermediate Boys soccer team enjoyed a sun-filled tournament on Tuesday, September 20th. They fought hard in their first few games, tying Princess Elizabeth 0-0, losing to Westdale 0-1 and Fitch Street 0-1, but had trouble scoring. They rallied for their fourth round robin game and beat Diamond Trail 4-0 to make it into the Consolation Final. Playing for third place, they beat Westdale 4-2, ending the tournament on a great note! Congratulations on a fun day! Team members included: Connor Pelletier, Matteo Panunte, Jeffrey Panunte, Kyle Ross, Daniel Nadeau, Nico D'Amelio, Taylor Korten, Nolan Lubeck, Sawyer Prokopetz, Dylan DeVinney, Jordan Jacobi, Tyler Isherwood, Cole Vanduzen, Andrew Leblanc, Jacob Leblanc, Nicholas Detenbeck, Chase Kish, Zayn Dehghan and coach Mlle Walinga.

Congratulations to the Intermediate Girls Soccer team on their Championship at this year's tournament! This year we were undefeated throughout our round robin and playoff games. The final game was a nail biter, which included overtime and a shootout. Thank you to the girls for being great ambassadors for McKay Public School while at the tournament.

Mrs. Rodrigue

Junior Co-ed Soccer



On Friday, September 23, the junior co-ed soccer team participated in the DSBN Area 2 soccer tournament. The players worked hard during their four games and had a great day. The co-ed soccer team was placed in tier A where they faced some very skilled competition. The junior athletes can be very proud of how they came together and became a team. They showed steady improvement throughout the day.

During the second and third game in particular, the team had some great shots on goal.

Our junior co-ed soccer team:

Ian L., Cole P., Paige G., Eryn B., Dustin K., Coleman C., Summer S., Reece M., Dominic T., Austin C., Lillie R., Madi B., Carley S., Landen G. and Dylan G.

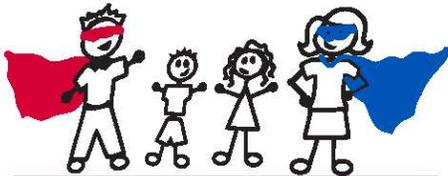
The team made McKay Lions proud!!! Great job junior athletes!

Hey Super Parents!

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!

Join us for an evening of learning with FREE workshops for DSBN parents

REGISTRATION, FOOD & CHILD CARE are FREE!



PARENT POWER!
DSBN PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE 2016

Mark It On Your Calendar:

WED. NOV. 2, 2016

4:00 pm - 8:15 pm at Eden High School
535 Lake St., St. Catharines

Register online at www.dsbm.org/pic
OR speak to someone in your school office for assistance



Register Before October 3, 2016
and you could WIN \$500 of support
for your School and School Council!



**I Matter
At DSBN**

The DSBN Parent Involvement Committee invites you to join us for an evening of learning, sharing and networking with a focus on ideas for all DSBN parents and School Councils.

Session Topics Include:

Mental Health, Special Education, Mathematics, Kindergarten, Transitions to Secondary & Post Secondary... and so much MORE!

4:00 - 5:15 Light Dinner and Vendor Fair
Cafeteria and Gym AB

5:15 - 5:25 Opening Remarks
Cafeteria

5:45 - 6:45 1st Session

6:45 - 7:15 Vendor Fair and Refreshments
Gym AB and Cafeteria

7:15 - 8:15 2nd Session

Information about Child Care:

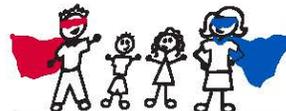
PRESCHOOL CHILDREN: Certified Early Childhood Educators will be available at Sven H. Dohnberg Centre. Enter the Eden High School parking lot (facing Lake St.), the child care centre is on the right.

SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN: Children will be supervised by qualified teachers in the Eden Gymnasium.

★ CHILD CARE IS AVAILABLE BY PRE-REGISTRATION ONLY. ★

★ Child care will be provided from 4:00pm to 8:15pm. ★

★ A light dinner will be provided for the children. ★



PARENT POWER!
DSBN PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE 2016

Register online at
www.dsbm.org/pic



Terry Fox Run

The school participated in the Terry Fox Run again this year, on Thursday, September 29, 2016; despite the rainy conditions. Our older classes had a good walk to the park while the younger classes stayed closer to the school and walked in and around the school community. All students had an opportunity to learn more about Terry Fox. Remember to do your part in the fight against cancer. Donations are still being collected. Thank you for your participation!

Visitors to the School

- Just a reminder that **all visitors** are asked to check in at the office when you enter the school. Parents should be entering the school through the front doors (off Fielden Ave.) and sign in and out at the office. It is for the safety of all students that we encourage entering the school to sign in at the office.
- **If you are picking up your child due to illness or for any other reason during the school day it is necessary for the office staff to be notified by writing the child's name and reason in the sign out book in the office.**
- At the end of the day, if parents wish to pick up their child, we ask that you wait **outside your child's exit door** and not in the hallway near the classroom. The hallways are narrow and the teachers are trying to get all of the students ready to go home with jackets and backpacks (and soon boots). We ask that buggies and wagons remain outside for safety reasons. We thank you for your cooperation in looking out for the safety of all our children.

Street Crossing

The City of Port Colborne hires Crossing Guards to ensure the safety of your children while crossing some of our busy streets coming to and from school. Please remind your children to cross with our crossing guard. We also encourage parents who pick up their children from school to use the crossing guard, especially if the busses are in the Bus Loading Zone. Students are reminded to walk their bikes and refrain from cell phone or headset use when crossing. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



School Cash On-line

Just a reminder to all families that October 1 we are going cash-free. All hot lunches, trips, etc. will all be paid through School Cash Online. Please make sure you register online for this. Information was sent home last week.



Ontario's First Fair Trade School

McKay is very excited to start a brand new school year as Ontario's First Fair Trade School! What does that mean? That means our school has committed to joining a worldwide movement - a movement where young people learn that, whatever their age, they have the power to make a difference in the world. As part of this commitment, our whole school learns about Fair Trade throughout the year during class lessons and activities, and school-wide events. We are committed to selling, promoting and using Fair Trade products at McKay. Our commitment to Fair Trade shows solidarity with children in poorer countries. When Fair Trade certified products are used, farmers' children get a chance to go to school while their families have a brighter future. That connection brings us together in a powerful global movement for change, and McKay is very proud to be a part of that change. For more information, please visit <http://fairtrade.ca/>.



Mme Minor spent some time in Two Hill Tribe villages in northern Thailand this summer, and has enjoyed sharing her Fair Trade experiences with McKay staff and students this month.

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

NOV. 28th - DEC. 1st 2016

I GOT THIS! 😎

#IMatterAtDSBN

Grade 8 Students and Parents: Mark Your Calendars!

Starting high school is a huge step in a student's life.

While it's definitely an exciting time, it also brings with it many questions, such as "What's life in high school really like? What programs and options are available to help me achieve my goals?"

A great way to have your questions answered is to attend an open house. Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend High School Open Houses.

High School Open Houses

Tuesday, November 29

Port Colborne High School

Thursday, December 1

Welland Centennial Secondary

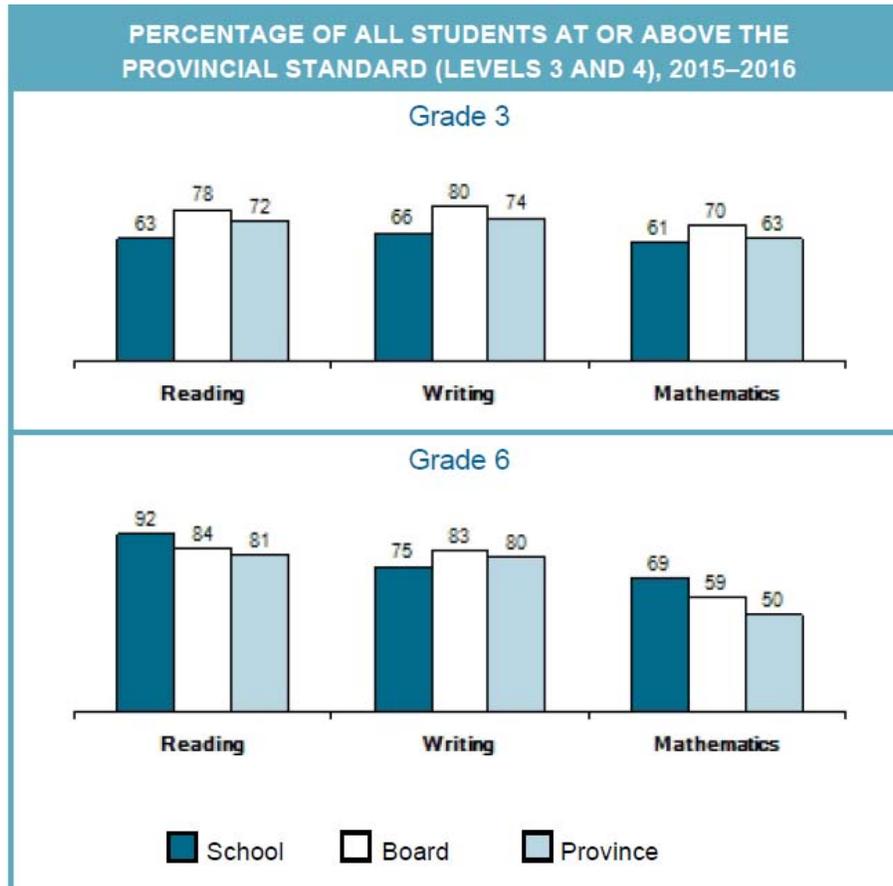


Orange Shirt Day at McKay

Every Child Matters...On Friday, September 30th, many staff and students joined others across Canada in honouring Orange Shirt Day to recognize the harm done to generations of children by Indian Residential Schools, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that every child matters. This initiative called for people to wear an orange shirt to honour those who survived Residential School and in memory of those who did not. It was an excellent opportunity to continue this discussion in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

EQAO at McKay

EQAO Results 2015- 2016 for our Grade 3 and Grade 6 students have been sent home. For a detailed summary of our results and additional information regarding EQAO, please visit the web site at: EQAO.com



Individual Student Records will be sent home on October 14th.

Cross Country

Cross Country season is here! Our Lion runners have been training hard these past few weeks preparing for the running season! Our first meet was scheduled for September 29, but was cancelled due to the weather. The next meet will be on October 6 with the DSBN race on October 18th. Wishing all of our runners the best of luck!!!

Results will be posted in November's newsletter.

