

McKay Public School

320 Fielden Ave.
Port Colborne, ON
L3K 4T7
905-834-4753
Fax: 905-834-1140

Principal: Mrs. Lott
Vice-Principal: Mr. Reynolds
Secretaries: Mrs. Serabian, Mrs. Ilskens
Superintendent: Mr. Dickson
Website: mckay.dsbm.org



February 2018



February

15: Winter Carnival, Intermediate Basketball Tournament
16: PD Day
19: Family Day
21: Pizza Day
22: DSBM Robotics Lego Challenge
23: Spirit Day—Twin Day
27: Joint School Council Meeting @ Port High 6:00 PM
28: Sub Day, Pink Shirt Day

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE...

At this time of year, we reflect on our school goals and measure our effectiveness at Professional Development Days and Staff Meetings. Below are the goals agreed upon by staff that promote Literacy and Numeracy proficiency.

Vision Statement: To develop a positive community of lifelong learners who take ownership for their actions, respect themselves and others, and show resilience when faced with challenges.

School Goals:

School Numeracy Goal: If we provide a comprehensive mathematics program, focusing on intentional tasks and questioning, **then** students will think critically, persevere and communicate efficiently as they become mathematicians that are more confident.

School Literacy Goal: If we provide an engaging comprehensive literacy program, **then** students will be able to think critically and communicate effectively.

School Wellness Goal (Self-Regulation): If we provide a safe, caring, healthy and inclusive environment for all, **then** our community will learn, grow and achieve together.

French Immersion

The French Immersion program (offered at McKay Public School) is open to all students in Senior Kindergarten. If you want your child to develop high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer.

Features of the French Immersion program:

- Develops French language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing from Grades one to twelve;
- Designed to be a second-language program for children whose first language is **NOT** French;
- Current enrolment of over 2,000 elementary students;
- Certificate of French Immersion Studies awarded upon successful completion of the elementary and secondary immersion programs;
- Promotes understanding of different cultures;
- Provides additional opportunities for employment using French as the working language;
- Increases the ability to communicate and interact with confidence in French.

Registration is still open!
Closes: Feb. 20, 2018 at 9:00 AM

For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit www.dsbn.org/fi or speak to Mrs. Lott or Mr. Reynolds.

Students in the French Immersion program take the same subjects as the students in the English program. The students will study the French language and other subjects such as Science, Social Studies and possibly the Arts and Physical Education in French.

Designated school pathways have been developed to ensure that students have a continuation of program from their entry level to the end of Grade 12.

Please note, all students attending Elementary French Immersion schools will be bused if they live 1.6 km or further from the home French Immersion boundary school. Students accepted into the program can access transportation information by mid-August at www.nsts.ca. For more information please call Niagara Student Transportation Services at 905-346-0290.



February 28nd is PINK Shirt day. Students are encouraged to wear pink to celebrate the school's accomplishments towards a more positive school climate.

Safety Awareness

To help ensure the safety of all children, we regularly review our safety guidelines with students. We recommend that, when you have an opportunity, that parents/guardians also discuss these guidelines with children at home.

- Don't talk to strangers
- Always walk to and from school with a buddy.
- Do not take short cuts through alleys, parks, fields, etc. even if they are well lit
- Let someone know where you are and where you are going
- If you suspect someone is following you, RUN! Go to the nearest safe place
- If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, go to the nearest safe place
- Walk confidently and be aware of your surroundings
- 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.



McKay School would like to thank Central Music on East Main Street in Welland for the generous donation of a Jackson electric guitar and a Fender amplifier. These were donated to the music program at McKay for use by all students. Seen in the picture above is store owner Bob and Mr. Tempest.

Dreambox Math:

Students are reminded to log on to Dreambox at home too. This interactive math web site supports the learning that is taking place in the classroom. We will be launching contests that recognize the students that use this program regularly. Any questions about logging in or the lessons, please connect with your child's home room teacher.



Mad Science, the world's leading provider of educational and entertaining science programs for children is coming to McKay School! They will be getting kids excited about science with fun, entertaining and exciting activities and demonstrations. Students and teachers will be thrilled on 09/Feb/2018 when Mad Science comes to the school to do a Spectacular Science show. The assembly will be educational, entertaining and also the kick off to the Mad Science Club.

The Club is a 6-week science enrichment program offered to the students. Students who join the Science Club will go on a voyage of discovery designed to support the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum. The topics will be different this year than when Mad Science was last at the school.

The Club will take place on Tuesday, Mar 20, 27, Apr 3, 10, 17, 24 from 12:50 PM - 1:35 PM.

Mad Science also performs Birthday Parties, Camps and Special Events. Give them a call at 905-937-1878 and watch out for them in Malls, at Fairs, Festivals and Scouts and Guides.

TRY AT HOME ACTIVITY - ZOOM BALL

Materials: • Two 1 litre plastic pop bottles • Scissors • Optional: Coloured construction paper • Masking tape • Ribbons • Two plastic ring six pack holders • Two 2.4 metre strings • An adult helper

- Ask your adult helper to cut the bottoms off of the two plastic pop bottles. 2. Fit the bottles together so there is a neck on either end. Tape the bottles together to form a football shape. 3. Cover the bottles with construction paper and ribbon if you want to decorate your zoom ball. 5. Take the six-pack holders and cut the rings apart to make four two-loop handles. 4. Thread the two strings through the bottles. 6. Tie a set of handles to the ends of each string. 7. Get a friend and you are ready to play.
- Each player holds onto two handles and pulls on the strings until they are tight. Slide the zoom ball to one end. When it is at your end snap your hands apart to send the zoom ball back to your friend. To catch the zoom ball, keep your hands together.

EXPLANATION: The pushing action of the strings sets the zoom ball in motion. When the zoom ball reaches the other end of the strings, an opposite pushing action, your friend snapping the strings, stops the ball for a moment and then sends it in the reverse direction.

From our school nurse...

Anyone can get head lice. Check for head lice weekly as part of your regular routine. The best way to avoid the spread of lice is by avoiding head-to-head contact. Remind your children not to share combs, brushes, hats, scarves or anything used on the head.

Checking for lice

- Use a bright light (a magnifying glass may help)
- Part hair in small sections and look near the scalp
- Head lice are tiny grey/brown insects that live only on the scalp of humans. They crawl quickly but cannot fly or jump. Adult female lice glue eggs on the hair shaft close to the scalp.

If you find lice

- Check all the people that live in your house
- Treat all cases at the same time to stop the spread of lice
- Inform the school and/or daycare so classmates can be checked
- Tell anyone in close contact with your child (family members, friends, baby-sitters)

Getting rid of lice

Treatment products are to be used only on those who have head lice, as they do not prevent lice. Talk to a health professional about products and methods available. Follow instructions carefully. The Wet Combing Method helps find and remove head lice by combing through hair soaked with conditioner, using a fine-toothed comb. For more information on Wet Combing Method or on lice visit:

www.niagararegion.ca/health search lice or

call the Parent Talk Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7555

Also from our school nurse...

Children need 60 minutes a day of physical activity. Keep your children active through winter by getting outside. Try skating, hiking, building a snowman or go tobogganing. Check out Participaction for great winter games ideas:

<http://www.participaction.com/get-moving/bring-back-winter-play/>

Reminder: *February 16 is a PD Day*
February 19 is Family Day



Cold Weather Alerts at DSBN

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel that it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision on whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal. When making this decision, principals will often consult with neighbouring schools, talk with parents as they arrive in the morning, and if the decision to send children outside is made, we will equip yard duty staff with walkie-talkies so that they can communicate with the office to sound the bells to bring students in earlier.

The health and well-being of our students is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region are often good indicators that students will stay inside, or the amount of ice on the tarmac prohibits safe play outside. The climber will be closed until the ground thaws.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside so please ensure that your child has the appropriate winter gear.

Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months:

- * Try to send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending on the weather.
- * Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain.
- * Warm socks and boots will keep their feet warm and dry in the snow and slush.
- * Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep students from losing too much of that essential body heat.
- * Put on a good pair of mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves or mittens will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from being damaged by the wind and chill.
- * If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website: www.dsbn.org, or contact the school.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures.

At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children in school on that day rests with the parent or guardian.

Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.

A key resource in any emergency is the DSBN Emergency Information form that you filled out at the beginning of the school year. Please let the school know of any changes in contact information or procedures you wish to be followed throughout the school year.

For secondary schools it may become necessary to cancel late buses. Notice will be provided via school announcements and on the websites and subscription features by 11:30 a.m.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

Websites:

<http://www.dsbns.org/inclementweather/>

www.nsts.ca

Subscription Features:

DSBN Facebook or Twitter

NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

Phone:

Niagara Student Transportation Services 905-346-0290 Voice Auto Attendant

Radio Stations:

CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines

CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines

WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton

CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines

CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton

2DayFM (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie

CHML (900 AM) Hamilton

K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton

CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton

GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland

Y-108(107.9) Hamilton

Television Stations:

CH – Hamilton

CTV Toronto

CityTV Breakfast Television

Cogeco Channel 10

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 8:35a.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 8:40 a.m., which is located in the Learning Commons.

Snow, Snow, Snow!

The snow has arrived! McKay School's rule is to leave it on the ground. Please reinforce this rule at home. For the safety of all students we ask students not to throw or kick snow.

We have a 1-2-3 policy. Each time a student throws or kicks snow, a letter goes home and the incidences are tracked. A warning and a letter will be sent home when the first incident occurs. The second incident will result in another letter and a loss of recess(es), and the third time will require further parental contact and an in-school time-out. Each situation is dealt with in a timely manner and mitigating factors will be considered. Using progressive discipline, formal suspension could result.



Clean Your Hands

Cleaning your hands is the most effective way to prevent the spread of germs. Regular hand cleaning with soap and water, or an alcohol based hand sanitizer will reduce the risk of getting sick. Cleaning your hands should occur:

- Before preparing meals
- Before eating
- After using the washroom
- After coughing or sneezing
- After blowing your nose
- After playing with pets
- After playing outdoors

Use warm water and soap and lather and scrub for at least 15 seconds if your hands are visibly dirty. For more information, talk to your school nurse or go to www.niagararegion.ca/health.



The MS Read-a-thon fundraiser will run February 19-23. We are collecting:

Feb 19 - nickels Feb 22 - loonies
Feb 20 - dimes Feb 23 - toonies
Feb 21 - quarters





PORT COLBORNE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Joint Parent Council Meeting

YOU ARE INVITED!

COME JOIN US ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27, 2018

6:00PM—8:00PM

At Port Colborne High School

**For INFORMATIONAL BREAK-OUT SESSIONS, DRAWS,
and a
CHANCE TO CONNECT
with folks from our
PORT COLBORNE and WAINFLEET COMMUNITY SCHOOLS!**

