

# January 2012

Achieving  
Success  
Together!!

As we get ready for our holiday break, we would like to thank all of our students, staff and families for the tremendous support throughout this busy and productive month.

Our "Lions" have been given numerous opportunities to demonstrate their learning by participating in not only academic challenges but in the arts and athletics as well.

Thank you for the over whelming turn out at our "Holidays around the World" family night. Everyone enjoyed the music, French play and the interesting learning about celebrations in countries around the world. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoy the evening together. Congratulations to our students who performed the French play "the 3 little pigs"-Brona Mayne, Madilyn Torok, Ashley Leggett, Ayesha Chaudary and narrated by Sierra Miller. Congratulations also goes out to our excellent Band members - Margaret and Henry Orford, Madison Thomas, Emmee VanHelvert, Jade Anderson-Pfaff and Noah Terfry. Who performed as everyone entered the building. Their performances added so much to the evening.



We wish everyone a peaceful holiday and a happy, healthy New Year!

Please take time to sit and read with your children throughout the holidays.

## Grade 4 French Immersion at McKay!!

We are extremely excited to be offering Grade 4 French Immersion in addition to our Grade 5 French Immersion, starting September 2012. Registration will begin in January for more information see page 3 or go to [www.dsbns.org](http://www.dsbns.org).

## McKay's New Library!!

McKay's new "learning commons" (library) is near completion! Our goal is to be able to have it up and running in January. Stay tuned for the date of our "Family Literacy event" where we will cut the ribbon!

## Skating



As more of our classes start going to the West Side Arena for skating, we would like to remind everyone to dress warm, bring your skates and a helmet. The cost to students will be \$1.00 per skating trip.



We are counting down to Kindergarten!!

Children who will be **four years of age or older** by December 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

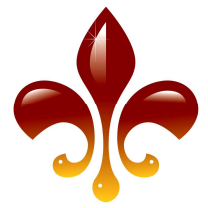
Going to school for the first time is a major step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the 'Kindergarten Countdown' open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit [www.dsbni.org](http://www.dsbni.org) and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!





## *District School Board of Niagara Expanding French Immersion for 2012*



The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. In addition, as of September 2012, we will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations. As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year (Grade 7 entry will continue in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake).

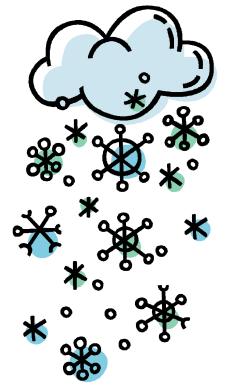
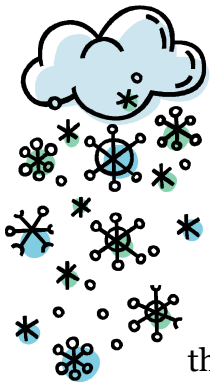
Information re: entry levels and the application process is on the DSNB website [www.dsbni.org](http://www.dsbni.org). Click on the Parent Tab, under Programs, click on French and International Languages, click on French Immersion Registration. Applications for Grades 1, 4, 5 and 7 (at select schools) will be online. Application packages will also be available at your child’s school starting January 9, 2012. Further program information will be sent home with your child in January.

“The ability to communicate in French is a valuable skill, because French is **one** of Canada’s two official languages and because it is a language used widely around the world. Research confirms that knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills and that the ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances reasoning and problem solving skills, as well as creative-thinking skills. Learning a second language not only strengthens students’ ability to communicate, but also develops their capacity to understand and respect other cultures. In this way, second-language learning prepares students to participate more effectively in the workplace and in the global economy, and provides them with a distinct advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally.” (pg 3 of the E.F./F.I. Curriculum Document (C.D.) 2001)

Parent Information Evenings will take place during the weeks of January 30 – February 10<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to find out more details about the French Immersion program, please attend one of the Information Evenings listed below or call your school.

Central	January 30, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Alexandra	January 30, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Parliament Oak	January 31, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Dalewood	January 31, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
McKay	January 31, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Prince Philip (Niagara Falls)	February 1, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Sheridan Park	February 1, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Gordon	February 6, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Princess Elizabeth	February 6, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Oakridge	February 6, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Briardale	February 7, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Queen Mary	February 7, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
John Marshall	February 8, 2012 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

# Bienvenue!



## Information about 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 it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their 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 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, 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.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

- 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, while blocking the wind.
- Warm socks and boots are a must to keep their feet warm and dry in the snow.
- 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 gloves or mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill. If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website [dsbn.org](http://dsbn.org), or contact your local school principal.

# Where can I go to find out about school closures?

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

Information about transportation changes and school closures will be available on the websites, social media, radio and television stations listed below as soon as it is available. Please do not phone the school, Niagara Student Transportation or the bus company for transportation or school closure information.



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

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

## Websites/Social Media:

[www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org)

[http://twitter.com/D\\_S\\_B\\_N](http://twitter.com/D_S_B_N)

<http://www.facebook.com/DSBNIagara>

## Television:

Cogeco Cable 10

CHCH Television

City TV

## Radio:

CKTB 610 am

CHML 900 am

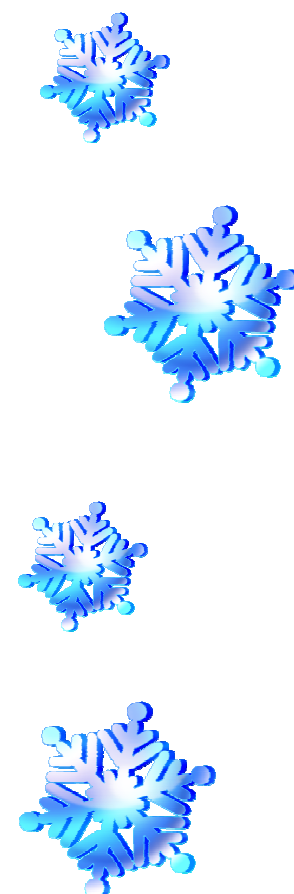
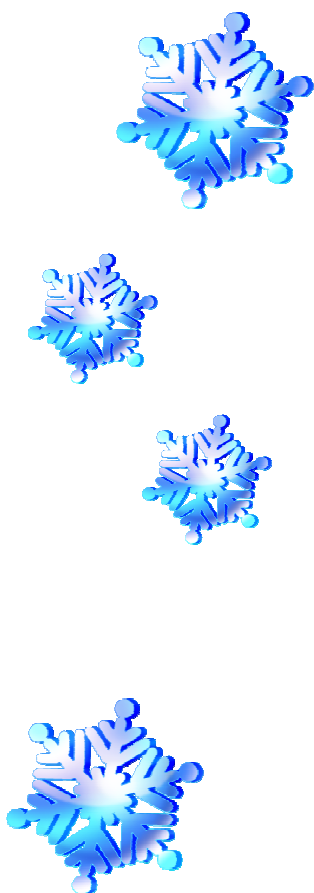
EZ Rock 105.7 fm

Htz 97.7 fm

KLite 102.9 fm

The River 105.1 fm

Wave 94.7 fm



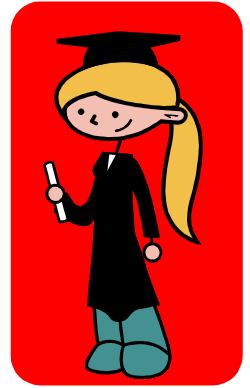
# **Your Future is Here!**

## **Your Future is Here!!**

Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend High School Open Houses in January 2012.

On **Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30**, students currently in grade 8 *French Immersion* and their parents, are invited to come to **Centennial Secondary Schools Open House, located at 240 Thorold Rd W. in Welland 905-735-0700.**

Port Colborne High School will also be holding their open house on **Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30** the students in grade 8 and their parents are invited to visit Port High, located at **211 Elgin St. Port Colborne, 905-835-1186.**



For a full list of open house dates, times and details, please go to [www.dsbns.org](http://www.dsbns.org)

### **Vaccines and Elementary School Children**

Niagara Region Public Health is conducting an annual review of vaccination records for all elementary school children in the Niagara region. **If the vaccination information we have on file for your child is NOT complete, you will receive a letter and questionnaire from us in the mail later this month (January, 2012).**



- Please follow the instructions for reporting your child's vaccinations to us, as outlined in the letter. Various options for reporting are available.
- If your child is overdue for one or more vaccinations, you will need to make an appointment with your child's doctor to get your child vaccinated. You can also make an appointment for your child at one of Public Health's General Immunization Clinics by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.
- If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to vaccinate your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document.

Students under 18 years of age attending Ontario schools must have proof of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles). We are required to have this information by law (*Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990*). **Please provide us with your child's missing vaccination information by March 8, 2012 or your child may be suspended from school.**

For more information, please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.



Mad Science, the world's leading provider of educational and entertaining science programs for children is coming to McKay School. Their mission is to spark the imagination and curiosity of children everywhere by providing them with fun, entertaining and exciting activities that instil a clear understanding of what science is really all about and how it affects the world around them. They use exciting activities and spectacular demonstrations to capture the attention and imagination of children as we found out during our assembly.

Both the students and teachers will be thrilled on 13/Jan/2012 at 9:00 AM 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. They will explore various topics in science including Optical Illusions, Sonic Sounds, Tantalizing Taste, Harnessing Heat, Lights Colour Action and Magnetic Magic. The Club will take place on Monday Lunch, Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 27, March 5 from 10:30 AM - 11:10 AM.

For those of you who have been in the Mad Science Club before, this is a different club than last year with exciting experiments, cool demonstrations and amazing take home activities.

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.

[www.madscience.org/Niagara](http://www.madscience.org/Niagara)

## TRY AT HOME ACTIVITY

### ZOOM BALL

#### Materials:

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



#### Instructions:

1. Ask your adult helper to cut the bottoms off of the two plastic soda 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.
4. Thread the two strings through the bottles.
5. Take the six-pack holders and cut the rings apart to make four two-loop handles.
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:

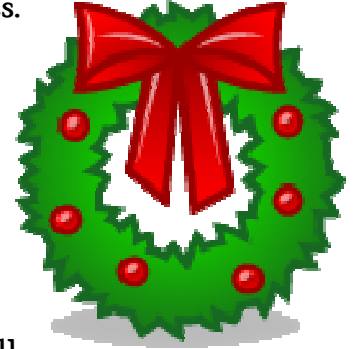
The pushing action of the strings sets the zoom ball in motion. When the zoom ball reaches the other end of the strings, an opposite pushing action, this is your friend snapping the strings, stops the ball for a moment and then sends it in the reverse direction.

## McKay's 2nd Open House Celebration

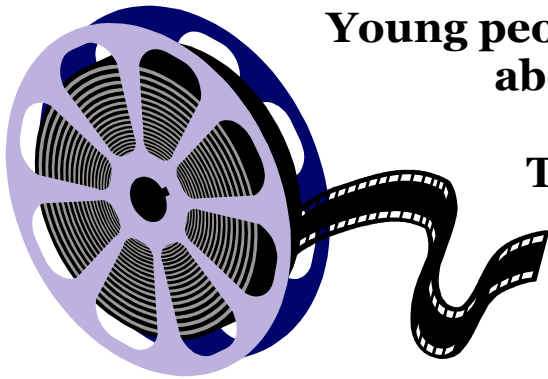
Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House celebration was a big success.

The halls doors and many decorations gave the school a very festive feel. We had a wonderful turn out and enjoyed seeing everyone and their families. The winner of our holiday treat basket was Faith Dehghan and her family. The winner of the coffee pot (graciously donated by the Booker family) was Laura Pante and her family.

Thank you to all of our staff members who helped to create such a fabulous evening for all to share. A special thanks to Mrs. Buck for all her planning and hard work.



## “Hey Parents! Do you know what your kids are watching?”



**Young people look to celebrities for reassurance about their fashion and behaviour.**

**The evidence is clear....**

**The more youth see smoking in movies, the more likely they are to start smoking.**

### Ways to Protect our Kids

- 1. Be aware** of what your children are viewing and learn which movies have smoking in them. Updates available every Thursday at [facebook.com/hoodedbyhollywood](https://facebook.com/hoodedbyhollywood).
- 2. Talk to your children** about tobacco and movies and teach them to be media aware.
- 3. Show your support** to get tobacco out of youth-rated films in Ontario at [smokefreemovies.ca](https://smokefreemovies.ca).
- 4. Spread the word** to other parents and join the discussion on facebook and twitter.

[www.smokefreemovies.ca](http://www.smokefreemovies.ca)

[facebook.com/hoodedbyhollywood](https://facebook.com/hoodedbyhollywood)

## Grade 7 & 8 After school tutoring!!

We are very pleased to be offering FREE tutoring to the Grade 7 & 8 students after school, 2 nights a week. Mr. Benner and Mrs. Gardiner are running the program and we over 30 students who faithfully attend! Way to go Lions!



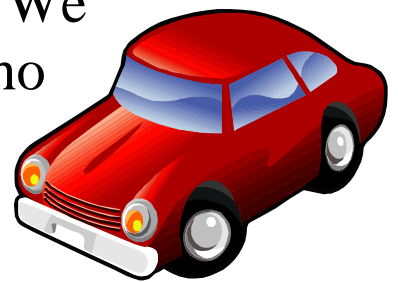
## Food Drive

We have partnered up with City Auto and encouraged families to donate food items to be delivered to port cares for the holidays.

Students who bring items in have their name place in a draw for a chance to win an oil change for

their parents car!! The draw was held on Tuesday December 20 and the winner is Kendell Perchaluk. Congratulations to

Kendell and her family. Thank you to City Auto for their great idea and assistance for a great cause. We would like to thank our McKay families who donated food to help others in need.





# Port Colborne /Wainfleet



## Family Literacy Event

# Out of this World and into this place!

Entertainment for families with young children!

The Centre for Community Living,  
100 McRae Avenue, Port Colborne  
(Located between Bell Street and Killaly Street East)

**Saturday, February 4, 2012**

12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**Hear Silly Stories and Laugh Your Heart Out with  
Story Teller, Dez Sargeant**

(Interactive Performance from 12:30pm - 1:15pm)

**Explore Slime with Mad Science**

(1:30pm - 3:30pm)

Create Amazing Art  
Eat Scrumptious Snacks  
Get Your Face Painted  
Meet Author, Toni Ferrara  
Pet a Furry, Friendly Dog  
Bring Home a Brand New Book

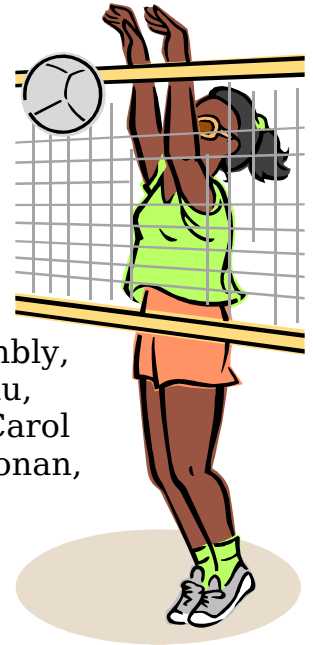
**For more information call: Ontario Early Years Centre 905-834-9071**

Crew's Quarters

## Junior Girls Volleyball News

Our Lady Lions had another ROARING volleyball season this year! McKay dominated the volleyball court taking First Place in Area 2A. The Junior Lions qualified for the DSNB finals. It was an exciting day of volleyball! Despite the tough competition, they continued to work

hard until the end. The girls put forth a tremendous effort this season. The team showed great improvement over the season. Their skill development was impressive over the past few months. We are LION proud of these fine young ladies! Congratulations to: Addie Hambly, Maggie Deiter, Sierra Prokopetz, Celena Harris, Kendra Cousineau, Victoria Rivers, Mollie Crago-Ruffett, Robyn Ferri, Camryn Wade, Carol Booker, Cherilyn Augustine, Leslie Buck, Teaghan Cote, Hunter Noonan, & Taylor Smith.



## Musical McKay

December has proven to be our busiest month yet. Our choirs have had a workout! We started Dec 3rd with our annual caroling at the Harbour Master's House heralding the arrival of Santa to Port Colborne by tugboat from the Lake down the Canal! A truly unique experience! After much singing to a large audience Santa arrived and led everyone down West Street to activities set up in the Rossman's store location. Our efforts were rewarded with a generous cheque from Port Colborne downtown BIA, to go towards our music program.

Dec 4th a small choir met at the Port Museum to sing carols to visitors wandering about the grounds. Again we were rewarded with a packet of candy canes each! On December 12 the entire school traveled to Niagara Falls to see the musical production of *Annie*. We listened to our McKay choir perform beautifully. The many recess rehearsals paid off. We performed very well and loved it!

December 16th saw the choirs walk downtown to sing carols at market, City Hall- where Santa handed out candy canes!- The Hub, and TD-Canada Trust for more candy.

The final week of school saw the junior choir perform at our annual carol singing in the gym to the tune *On The Roof*, a 50's poodle skirt number, while the primary choir stole our hearts with a pajama clad song, *When I Kneel at the Manger Tonight*. I am proud of all choir members who put so much effort into our performances.

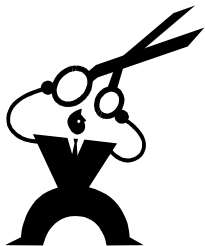
Thank you,  
Mrs. MacMillan

Student Council

Candy Grams have been on sale for 2 weeks. We have lots of deliveries to make on the December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

It's PJ Day on January 23<sup>rd</sup>! Remember to wear your clean and comfy pjs!

The Student Council would like to wish all teachers, staff, students and families a very happy Holiday Season!



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McKay Public School

January, 2012 "Roaring Lion" Mystery Draw

(    ) Yes, I have received and read the January 2011 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)

Skill Testing Question (answer found in this newsletter).

What is should you do to find out if the school or transportation is not available due to weather?

\_\_\_\_\_

Due to office by Friday, January 13, 2012

