FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

It is very hard to believe that we are reaching the end of the school year. The remaining two months of school will be extremely busy with academics, as well as special events.

Sincere congratulations to our musical Orff groups and our choir who performed exceptionally at the Festival, bringing back to Winger three gold and one silver certificates, as well as outstanding comments about their performances. At the end of April, some students will be attending the DSBN Arts Showcase to demonstrate their abilities. In addition, at the end of April we are also sending a group of students to the Math Olympics.

Our Playground Committee has been working extremely hard and is sponsoring a Family Pasta Night on May 13th, to raise funds to provide playground equipment for our students. More information regarding this event is in this newsletter and we hope you will set that evening aside for a delicious spaghetti dinner.

The month of May will be a busy time for sports at Winger, with upcoming Badminton and Track and Field events. In addition, as you read our newsletter you will learn about the end of year excursions that we have co-ordinated, as well as the information about involvement in a program with the Niagara Regional Conservation Authority to provide some trees or “Canopies for Kids” on our playground.

The provincial EQAO assessments in grade 3 and grade 6 will be at the end of May/ beginning of June and we are asking for parental support to ensure that our grade 3 & 6 students are at school during that time period and that they are able to work confidently to show their academic strengths.

Soon our grade 8 students will be moving on to high school and we are planning their Graduation Ceremony for Tuesday, June 28th, to be followed by a dinner at the Wainfleet Restaurant. We wish our grade 8 students all the best in their future endeavours!
Graduation 2011

The Grade 8 Graduation Awards Ceremony will again be held at Winger Public School on Tuesday, June 28th at 6:00 p.m. with a dinner to follow at the Wainfleet Restaurant for students and staff. The grade Kindergarten graduation will take place on June 23rd in the afternoon at Winger Public School.

End of the Year School Excursions

- JK/SK students are going to Marineland on Tuesday, June 7th.
- 1/2 Class and 2/3 Class will be going to African Lion Safari on Tuesday, June 7th.
- Grade 4 students will be going to Medieval Times on Thursday, June 16th.
- The 5/6 and 6/7 classes will be going to Brock University for the PALS Program on Monday, May 16th.
- Grade 7 and 8 students will be leaving for Ottawa on Wednesday, June 15th and returning home on Friday, June 17th.

Students have been fundraising to help them with the cost of their school trip. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Winger Mega Super Stars

Winger Mega Super Stars have character!
March character trait .......Optimism
April character trait .......Perseverance

Winners include:

JK/SK - Addison Waterman
Sierra Kievit

Grade 1/2- Isabel Waterman
Kyah Gaylord

Grade 2/3- Jairus Fair

Grade 4- David Heffner

Grade 5/6- Matthew VanVliet
Anna Rose

Grade 6/7- Ara Rizzo
Steven Elgie
Devon Lepp

Grade 7/8- Nathan Fletcher

Congratulations to all our Mega Super Stars!

Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart

The annual Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart Campaign is under way at Winger Public School. The event date is Friday, May 20th. The classes from Kindergarten to grade six will be participating in the Jump Rope event and the grades seven and eight classes will be participating in the Hoops for Heart. Thank you in advance for your donations in our efforts to raise funds for The Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Pasta Night Playground Fundraiser

Please join us on Friday, May 13th at the Winger Church of Christ (Disciples) from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Presale tickets are available at Winger Public School.

Adults- $8.00, Child- $5.00,
Families of 5 or more- $28.00 and free for children under the age of 3.
**STOP BULLYING**

Has your child been a victim of bullying?

It’s an increasing problem in all grade levels—children repeatedly harassing or intimidating other children. Boys tend to use ridicule or physical threats. Girls more often use rejection. Kids also use e-mail, online chat rooms and websites to victimize their targets.

The effects of bullying can last a lifetime for both victims and bullies. Studies link bullying to depression, low self-esteem and even suicide among victims. Bullies have higher rates of alcohol and drug abuse, criminal behavior and domestic violence when they grow up.

How can you tell if your child is being bullied?

A child may feel alienated from classmates, dread school, and become depressed or anxious. First, teach your children to recognize bullying—forced exclusion and isolation as well as verbal and physical abuse.

In addition:

- Look for signs of a problem in your child and discuss it.
- Let your children know bullying is unacceptable behavior.
- Teach children to report bullying to school authorities.
- Get help from your child’s school counsellor.

**Canopies for Kids**

In March of this year, the Eco-Team at Winger entered a contest called Canopies for Kids. Canopies for Kids is a shade and biodiversity tree planting initiative coordinated locally by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. The goal of the program is to engage children and volunteers in the planting of large and small trees in school playgrounds across the Niagara Peninsula. Our school was selected as one of 10 sites where trees will be planted to help create shade areas for the students. The trees will be planted in June of this year.

The Eco-Team

**THINK PINK**

Winger Student Council did an absolutely spectacular job of making April 13th, International Day Against Bullying and Discrimination a reality here at Winger Public School. All of our classes participated in various writing activities that focused on what each individual student could personally do to help put an end to bullying and discrimination. Some of these wonderful works were shared during our school assembly. Anyone walking into our school on this day was immediately surrounded by a sea of pink as our students wore pink to school as a way of saying that bullying and discrimination is not acceptable here at Winger Public School.

Thank you to Student Council for their hard work on this event.

**MAY NEWSLETTER**

Yes, I have read the May Newsletter. Please add my child's name to the monthly draw.

Student: _____________________________
Mrs. Whiteford on Maternity Leave

Mrs. Whiteford, the grade 5/6 teacher is on maternity leave. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Whiteford on the birth of Derek Christopher. Mr. Alex Ring is teaching in the grade 5/6 class in her absence.

EQAO Testing

There will be EQAO Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics for students in Grade 3 from May 30th to June 1st with catch up days on June 2nd and June 3rd. Also, there will be EQAO testing for students in Grade 6 from June 6th to June 8th with a catch up day on June 9th.

Grade 3 and 6 teachers are responsible for establishing a positive atmosphere for the assessment so that students feel encouraged and supported to do their very best. Parents are partners with the teacher during the assessment period.

Parental attitude towards the EQAO assessment will have a significant impact on the students’ approach, and degree of success in the assessment. Please make sure that your child comes to school well rested each day of the assessment and remember to provide encouragement and support every morning and every evening.

If you have any questions, please call your child’s teacher or you may call EQAO at 1-888-327-7377.

School Council

Our next School Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. All parents are invited to attend.

Update from your School Council

Enclosed you will find the minutes from the April 6th meeting. If you have any questions about the council or any issues about what’s happening at Winger please feel free to contact me at 905-899-4343.

Thank you,
Penny Charlebois -School Council Chair

Easter Chocolate Raffle

The grade 7/8’s in Ms. Cunningham’s class were able to raise $340.00 towards Grade 8 Graduation through the sale of raffle tickets. Thank you to all those who sold and bought tickets. Congratulations go out to Lynn Dean who won the Easter Chocolate Basket.

Moving

If you will be moving from the Winger Public School area prior to the start of school in September, please let the office know as soon as possible. This will assist us in planning for next year.
Preparations for the upcoming track and field season will take place during April and May. Early in April, a runner’s club has been organized during the lunch hour. The list of track meets and their dates are included for your information.

Winger School Track and Field meet will be held on Monday, May 9th.

Rain Date - Tuesday, May 10th

Regional Track Meet at Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School - Tuesday, May 17th

DSBN Track Meet at West Park Secondary - Monday, June 13th

The grade 5/6 and 6/7 classes will participate in the PALS program at Brock University on Monday, May 16th.

Miss Stuart and Mrs. Jones would like to congratulate all members of Winger’s Chess Club for a successful season. We hope to see all participants again next year. We held our first Winger Chess Tournament this year. Congratulations to:

Ezra Scott- 1st Place
Steven Elgie- 2nd Place
J.T. Stavinga- 3rd Place

The Winger web site has been updated with access to the newsletter and monthly calendar. We are currently trying to update the Winger web site with activities and events that have taken place at Winger and valuable information for parents and students.

Thank you to our Parent Volunteers

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all parent volunteers who have helped out a Winger Public School throughout the school year. Your continued support truly enriches our school community and educational environment.

Badminton at Brock

The intermediate students participated in the DSBN Badminton Tournament at Port Colborne High School on April 28th and they will be participating in the upcoming tournament at Brock University on Tuesday, May 3rd.
Winger Public School participated in the Niagara Elementary Choral Music Festival on April 6th with the Winger Glee Club and sang "The 59th Street Bridge Song" and "Don't Stop Believin'". They earned a GOLD standard of excellence for their performance. On April 7th, 3 Orff groups performed at the festival and the results are as follows: Grade 4 Music Class played "The Wind Blew East" and won SILVER. Grade 5/6 Music Class played "Mountains High and Rivers Wide" and earned GOLD! The Junior/Intermediate Orff Ensemble Group played an arrangement of "Carol of the Bells" and won GOLD!

We are so proud of these musicians and of their achievements. The grade 4 and 5/6 music classes will be attending the Niagara Performing Arts Showcase Concert on Friday, April 29th where we will perform our Orff. The Winger Glee Club will be off to Princess Elizabeth School to see the musical "Annie jr." on Thursday, May 5th.
Character in Action

Respect
We show positive regard for and acceptance of others’ thoughts, opinions and feelings. We are inclusive and fair in our treatment of others.

Responsibility
We demonstrate self-discipline, self control, reliability and are accountable for our choices, words and actions. We take care of others and our environment.

Integrity
We are honest, trustworthy and genuine in that our actions match our words.

Caring
We show kindness, compassion, empathy and friendship towards others.

Optimism
We have positive attitude, the resiliency to bounce back from adversity, and hope for the future. We do our part to make the world a better place.

Perseverance
We demonstrate the effort and determination to complete a task to the best of our ability and to stick to that task even when it is difficult.

Courage
We have the strength and ability to face challenges even when it might be difficult or unpopular. We take initiative in that we act without being prompted by others.

Cooperation
We work together as a team to achieve a common goal or purpose.