

Winger Public School Newsletter

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On February 9th, 2011 all students will bring home their elementary report card for term one, September to January. The Progress Report in November provided you with information about how your child was learning in the classroom at that time and gave an indication of progress towards achieving the curriculum expectations for all subjects.

Learning Skills and Work Habits are an important focus of the new report card. These are critical life skills that students will work on from Grades 1 to Grade 12. Teachers evaluate how well students are achieving these skills for their grade level and include a comment about each student's strengths and some next steps for continued growth.

For each subject being taught this term, your child will receive either a letter grade (Grades 1-6) or a percentage grade (Grades 7-8). If a subject is only being taught in term two, then the teacher will check NA (not applicable) for that subject on this report card. For each reported subject, there will be a comment that describes your child's strengths and some next steps that will support learning in term two.

You may notice some minor changes regarding the physical layout of how the subjects are reported. For example, some subject areas are now reported separately. These include: Music, Drama, Dance, and Visual Art; and Health Education and Physical Education.

Communication between teachers and parents/guardians is a very important support for student success. We encourage all parents/guardians to discuss the report card with your child. All parents/guardians are invited to contact the school if you would like to schedule an opportunity to discuss your child's achievement and next steps for learning with his/her teacher. You will notice that the Response Form on the report card provides you with an opportunity to comment on student achievement goals and/or to request a conference to discuss the report card. Even if parents and students do not wish to discuss the report card, thank you for signing this Response Form and returning it to the classroom teacher as soon as possible after February 9th.

Communication between school and home is one key ingredient of a successful school experience. Please do not hesitate to contact the classroom teacher if you have any academic or social concerns or contact the principal if you have any school concerns. Our staff are dedicated to assist you and above all to support our Winger Public School students.

Term 1 Report Cards



Term 1 Report cards will be issued to students on Wednesday, February 9th.

Please sign and return the Response Form promptly to the school. Parents and students have the opportunity to comment on student achievement and/or request a meeting with the teacher.

Playground Committee Meeting



The minutes from the recent Playground Committee Meeting are enclosed with this newsletter. The next Playground Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the School Library.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next School Council Meeting will be on March 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. The minutes from our last meeting are enclosed in this newsletter.

All parents are welcome.

FAMILY DAY FEBRUARY 21st



Monday, February 21st is Family Day and all schools will be closed on this day. Take time to enjoy the day with family and friends.

D.S.B.N. PRACTISE FOR E.Q.A.O. PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENTS

The Provincial Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics for grade three and six students will be scheduled for March 1st, 3rd and 4th. Further information will be sent home with the students involved as the assessment date approaches.

Winger Mega Super Stars

Winger Mega Super Stars have character!
Winners for the month of January include:

Brennan Kiss - Grade 1

Aliyah Lambert - Grade 2

Hugh Reichheld - Grade 2

Mya Tinney - Grade 3

Connor Aylesworth - Grade 4

David Heffner- Grade 4

Mackie Sider - Grade 5

Jaimie Houtby - Grade 6

Julia Gilmore - Grade 7

JT Stavinga - Grade 7

Melissa Gerryts - Grade 7

Wesley Mann - Grade 8





Campbell Soup Labels

We are still collecting Campbell Soup Labels. The UPC symbol must be in good condition. All sizes of Campbell Soup, Goldfish Crackers, Gardennay Soup, Chunky Soup, Hearty Noodles, Soup at Hand, Prego Sauce, Habitant Soup and V8 are eligible for points.

Indoor Shoes



It is important that students bring a pair of indoor shoes during the winter months. They can be left at the school and brought home when the weather no longer requires students to wear boots. Students are not permitted to wear boots in class for safety reasons.

New to the Tuck Shop

- Veggie Chips
- Cheese Strings
- Fruit to Go Fruit Snacks
- Craisins Fruit Snacks
- Christies Thinsations Cookies

JANUARY NEWSLETTER WINNER

Congratulations to Sheridan McCreedy . She is the winner for the January Newsletter draw. If you want to be a winner, please cut out the form and send it in completed to the office as soon as possible.

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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

Student : _____

Parent : _____

Empty Printer Cartridges Dropped off at Staples

Please bring in your empty printer cartridges to any Staples store and let them know that they are for Winger Public School. We will receive a rebate cheque at the end of the year. This rebate allows us to purchase items at Staples for school use.

Vaccines and Elementary School Children

At this time of year, Niagara Region Public Health conducts 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 suspension letter in the mail from Public Health next month (March 2011).

Please take a moment to ensure that your child's immunizations are up-to-date and that you have reported your child's vaccinations to Niagara Region Public Health using ONE of the following:

WEBSITE: www.niagararegion.ca

TELEPHONE (Immunization Report Line):

905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7459

FAX (a copy of your child's Immunization Record):
905-688-8225

In most cases, we are missing vaccination information about your child's: booster dose of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and polio (DTP/Quadracel) between the ages of 4 and 6; **and**, second dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to immunize your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document (i.e., a statement of medical exemption, or a statement of conscience or religious belief affidavit).

Please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 if you have any questions or concerns.

Head Lice

Parents are an important part of controlling head lice. Children are especially prone to these pests as they often play close together where heads may come in close contact.

- Remind your children to put their toques and other headgear in their school bags in the classroom, not to leave them hanging around.
- Long hair should be braided or pinned close to the head.
- Hats, combs, brushes should not be lent or borrowed, and should be washed regularly.
- Check your school age children once weekly for head lice.
- Please notify the school immediately if head lice or nits are found.

When students are found to have lice or nits, parents will be contacted and students will be sent home. **We are seeking dedicated volunteers who are willing to assist with our head lice checks.** The school has an information package that is available to parents to assist in the treatment of head lice and in addition, our school nurse will train volunteers.

Lunch Hour Supervisor Needed

Winger Public School is looking for an alternate Lunch Hour Supervisor. The hours of supervision will be:

12:35 to 12:55 (indoor supervision)

12:55 to 1:20 (outdoor supervision)

If you are interested in joining the lunch hour supervision staff, please contact the Principal.

Wainfleet Address Changes

There are 2100 addresses in Wainfleet that will be changing during the Wainfleet Readdressing Project. If your address has changed or will be changing, please contact the secretary so that we can update our school records.

MAKE CHANGE FOR CHILDREN CAMPAIGN 2011 -February 22 – 25

The Education Foundation of Niagara is the DSBN charity and all funds raised go directly back to our students for program enhancements and poverty relief. The Poverty and Emergency Relief Fund supports the extraordinary, emergency, personal and school related needs of individual students brought about by financial hardship.

Since 2008 over 3000 DSBN students have been assisted with \$65,000 in support.

We all know at least one of these children... torn windbreaker that is worn as a jacket throughout winter, worn shoes, no lunch, absent from every field trip. And, all too often, a tragedy touches one of our students by the way of fire, illness, or death in the family.

To continue to do our best at helping children in need we are engaging in this year's campaign from February 22nd to February 25th. and invite you to participate in a small way. During the week's campaign, please send a **Toonie** with your child or just **make some change** and do what you can to help us help the kids. Email efn@dsbn.edu.on.ca or visit www.efnonline.ca for more information on how they support our youth. We look forward to working with you to raise the funds needed to support students-in-need!

Mad Science (12:35-1:20)

Mad Science Class Dates:

February 3

February 10

February 17

February 24

March 3

March 10

March Break 2011

A reminder to parents that our March Break Holiday will be the week of March 14th to March 18th. There will not be any school on those days and the school will be closed. We wish our families a safe and enjoyable week.

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.

- 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, while blocking the wind.
- 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 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, or contact the principal.

Transportation

There may be times throughout the school year where inclement weather or other situations could potentially cause transportation cancellations or school closures. The DSBN will communicate information as soon as it is available. Messages will be posted on the DSBN website at www.dsbn.org and on the Niagara Student Transportation website at www.nsts.ca.

You may also tune into the following radio stations:

CHCH Television

CKTB 610 AM

CHML 900 AM

CHSC 1120 AM

HTZ-fm 97.7 FM

The River 105.1 FM

City T.V.

K-LITE-FM 102.9 FM

EZROCK 105.7 FM

Y-108 107.9 FM

WAVE 94.7 FM

The key resource in any emergency is the DSBN Emergency information form that you fill 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. You can help prepare for emergencies at home by making an emergency plan with your children. This will ensure a common understanding of arrangements in the event of school closures.



BOOK FAIR

Thank you to the Winger Families that came out to support our Book Fair. Congratulations to Lauren Cudmore who won the draw for \$25.00 in free books for herself and her classroom. Our Book Fair profits will be used to upgrade the furniture in our library. Special thanks to the Book Fair helpers: Alysha Gilmore, Samantha Martin, Megan VanVliet, Melissa Gerryts, Julia Gilmore, Tessa Sherk, and Maggie Sider.

Your help was greatly appreciated.
Ms. Young

Cell Phones/Technology Concerns

Although we support the use of cell phones and technology, we must adhere to school rules with the usage of this technology at Winger. Please note, that if parents wish their children to carry cell phones for safety reasons we certainly support this decision. We must however insist that cell phones cannot be carried or used in the classroom.



Of late, we are noticing that some of our older students are carrying and using cell phones for calls, texting and photos during class time and on the playground. Needless to say this unauthorized usage causes issues for classroom instruction and privacy concerns. We are supporting our students with reminders of our school rules and would certainly appreciate your assistance in this matter. If your child is calling/texting you on his/her cell during class time, we have a problem!

Please remind your children of the importance of following school rules that these devices must be kept secure in backpacks and cannot be carried or used during class or on the playground. If we find that students cannot follow our school rules, the electronic device will be taken to the office for security and parents will be called to pick up the device.

If students need to use their cell phones they may certainly come to the office at Nutrition Break and with permission call from the foyer. In addition, as always, our secretary is willing to assist/allow calls on the school telephone for students needing to contact home.

The D.S.B.N. Policy number G-26 states that the D.S.B.N. recognizes that students may have in their possession personal electronic devices while at school or at school related activities. This policy governs the acceptable use of personal electronic communication devices by students while at school or at school related activities.

It is the policy of the D.S.B.N. that cellular telephones, pagers, and similar types of communication devices owned and/or carried by students are to be turned off and are not to be used on school property, with the exception that school administrators shall designate one or more areas of the school property appropriate for the use of electronic communication devices provided it takes into account the provisions mentioned above.

With consideration to their restricted area, they are not to be used in private areas such as locker rooms and washrooms nor are they to be used where it interferes with the learning, privacy or safety of staff, students or others. School administrators shall include in the school organizer/agenda information on appropriate use of electronic communication devices.

Thank you for your support and assistance in this matter.

Fantastique! DSBN to Offer Expanded French Immersion Programming

Students at the District School Board of Niagara will soon have even more opportunity to immerse themselves in Canada's other official language. Beginning in September, 2011, Oakridge, Dalewood, Alexandra and Parliament Oak Public Schools will offer French Immersion programming beginning in Grade 5. Queen Mary Public School will continue offering a Grade 7 entry to the French Immersion program. Trustees approved the changes at their regular meeting on January 11, 2011.

Currently, Dalewood and Oakridge offer a Grade 7 entry into the program, while no program exists at Parliament Oak. "We know there is significant community interest in French Immersion programming," said Carol Germyn, Superintendent of School Support Services. "By creating a system-wide Grade 5 entry point, we will be able to offer even more students access to this program and make it easier for families who move from one school to another within the DSBN. From a staff perspective, this decision will also facilitate better sharing of best practices and resources amongst French Immersion teachers."

Superintendent of Schools Sue Mark adds that the decision by Trustees will enable students in Niagara-on-the-Lake to access French Immersion in their own community. "This is an extremely positive development, which many parents in NOTL have been advocating for. We are very pleased to be able to expand our programming to support these students and their families," said Mark.

"Learning French opens up many exciting opportunities for students," said DSBN FSL and International Languages Consultant Lorraine Gower. "Becoming literate in a second language improves one's ability to read, write, and think, making it easier for students to learn additional languages."

French Immersion students also have the ability to take part in a wide variety of co-curricular activities. Schools offer a range of fun and challenging exercises including French speaking contests, French plays, exchange programs, science fairs, Historica fairs, French camp and bilingual debating.

Parents interested in enrolling their children in the expanded programs will be able to access applications online from the DSBN website www.dsbni.org beginning on January 24, 2011.

First Student Bus Expectations

We have been asked by our transportation provider, First Student Canada, to once again publish the expectations for students who have the privilege of riding the school bus to and from school each day. Of late, there have been a number of concerns regarding inappropriate student behaviour on our buses. When this happens, the students involved receive Bus Reports from their First Student Driver, which are sent home to their families. Safety is of our utmost concern and we wish to stress that below are listed the bus rules for safe transportation back and forth to school. Repeated infractions of school bus rules by a student may result in the student's suspension of bus transportation for a period of time. Let's always be safe!

- 1. ALWAYS OBEY THE DRIVER. (This is the number one rule!!)**
- 2. Never run to and from the bus.**
- 3. Remain on the curb.**
- 4. Wait for the driver to signal before crossing to/from the bus.**
- 5. Always cross in front of the bus, never behind the bus.**
- 6. Do not push or shove.**
- 7. Stay in your seat at all times.**
- 8. Keep all body parts inside the bus.**
- 9. Do not block aisles.**
- 10. Do not yell or shout.**
- 11. Do not eat or drink on the bus.**
- 12. Keep the bus clean, use the garbage pail.**
- 13. Do not cause damage to the bus.**
- 14. No arguing or fighting on the bus.**

