Message from the Principal

Our recent professional development day provided the staff at Butler and Virgil a wonderful opportunity to dialogue about student success, and to develop learning goals related to assessment results (i.e., EQAO testing, classroom assessments, teacher observations, etc.). Our improvement plans consist of divisional goals related to literacy such as the use of guided reading, shared reading, differentiation and technology. We are excited about these instructional strategies and how they can enhance student success.

But student success certainly isn’t only academic. To be successful in life requires so much more! Character traits such as optimism, integrity, perseverance, cooperation, responsibility, caring, courage and respect are the foundation for a happy and productive life. Spend some time talking about these traits with your children and showing them every day examples of situations where they are required (i.e., perseverance to finish a difficult assignment, cooperation when working with others, courage to do the right thing, etc.). You are an important part of our Character Campaign!

Early next month, Term I report cards will go home, and interviews times will be offered to all SK to grade 8 parents. We look forward to meeting with you to talk about your children and how we can work together to help them reach their potential. Detailed information will be sent home later this month. Until then, thank you for your continued support of student learning.

Marian Reimer Friesen,
Principal

A Point to Ponder ...

“Failure is often that early morning hour of darkness which precedes the dawning of the day of success.”
Leigh Mitchell Hodges

Special Event: Second Annual Home Show!

Our school council fundraising committee will be hosting its “Second Annual Home Show Event” on Saturday, November 21st between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. A flyer with all the details is attached. Also, we are looking for volunteers to bake for our bake sale. Things like nut free loaves, squares and cookies, wrapped and priced to sell, would be ideal. Please indicate your willingness to help on the Newsletter Draw ballot. Thanks in advance for your support of this initiative!

Did You Know That ...

- The Carr family won our October Newsletter draw.
- Photo retakes will happen on Thursday, November 12th at 9:00 a.m.
- The grade 7/8 classes won our Polka Dots, Checks and Stripes Spirit Day.
- Our QSP Magazine Fundraiser raised over $2500 for our school! The grade 4/5 class sold the most orders and Riley Lepp and Devon Hunt were our top sellers.
- Our annual Remembrance Day Ceremony will be held on November the 11th beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the Butler School gym. You are all welcome to join us for this time of reflection and remembrance.
Students of the Month

Kindergarten  Lukas Klassen  Owen Hildebrandt

Grade 1/2  Tyler Jenkinson

Grade 2/3  Colin Pederson  Robbie Falk

Grade 4/5  Rachel Frena  Ashley Hunt  Kendra Rogg  Savanna Schnierle

Grade 6/7  Brook Falk  Olivia Hamlyn  Dakota Schnierle

Grade 7/8  Mahenoor Jadgal  Brooke Danychuk  Kendra Wormald

Music/Drama  Isabel Frolick  Katie VanEgmond  Kendra Goertz

A Christmas Carol

Earlier this year, the staff at Butler School were approached to put together a choir of children to perform in the Silvermist Theatre Production of “Ebenezer Scrooge: A Carol for Christmas. Mrs. Willms auditioned a number of fine singers, and chose the following children to form the “Scrooged Choir”:

Maddie Neufeld  Kyla Willms
Olivia Hamlyn  Kendra Rogg
Brook Falk  Christina Suarez
Abi Willms  Hannah Siemens
Carly Botbyl  Jessica Falk
Kendra Wormald  Jordan Krause
Briana Klassen  Taylor Wiens

Our choir will be performing on Monday, December 7th at the 11:00 a.m. show in Niagara Falls.

Later this month, all our students, staff, parents and even extended family will be offered the opportunity to purchase tickets for the show at a significantly reduced rate. Details will follow, but mark your calendars for this special event!

School Council Update

Earlier in October, the School Council met and enjoyed an informative meeting which included the formation of an executive as listed below:

Co-Chairs  Gina Snary & Lisa Klassen
Secretary  Deste Lepp
Treasurer  Cheryl VanVliet
Parent Fundraising  Chris Wormwell, Georgina Keller & Jolene Klassen
Special Lunch Day  Mary Vanderveen, Gina Snary, Carol VanEgmond, Christina Galanis
Head Lice Prevention  Jolene Klassen, Chris Wormwell, Christina Galanis
Student Recognition  Gina Snary
Graduation Committee  Georgina Keller, Chris Wormwell, Deste Lepp, Sherri Willms, Dorothy Wiens
Landscaping Committee  Catherine Jones, Julie Hunter, Carol VanEgmond, Christina Galanis, Lisa Laughton, Doug Wilson
Christmas Parade  Christina Galanis
Yearbook Advertising  Chris Wormwell

Of course, many other members will be working on each of these committees, as well as participating in regular council meetings. A complete membership list can be found on our school website at: www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/schools/CoJohnButler by clicking on the school council tab and viewing our September minutes.

At our last meeting, the Council also discussed financial priorities within the school and approved a budget for the year. The plan includes funding for:

- graduation
- Carousel Players performance
- year end awards
- teacher’s discretionary fund (i.e., for stickers, certificates, prizes, decorations, etc.)
- skating
- Christmas concert fund
- class trips
- school gardens
- website maintenance
- physical education equipment
- athletic subsidy (i.e., referees, tournament fees, etc.)
- Forest of Reading books
- playground repair

We encourage all interested parents to join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m. Our discussion will include a review of the 2008/2009 EQAO results. You are always welcome!
Health Nurse

The Youth Connection Nurse assigned to our school is Sara Argiropoulos. She will be promoting optimal health among our students and assisting us to develop a healthy school environment. For further information she can be reached at the Regional Niagara Public Health Department at 905-356-1538 x226.

Cross Country Wrap Up

The Cross Country also wrapped up their tremendously successful season. We were very proud of all our runners and their commitment to giving 100% effort and sportsmanship.

In a particular way, we congratulate the runners who made their way all the way up to the highest level of competition, the DSBN Meet: Isabel Frolick, Robbie Falk, Jake Neufeld, Emily Klassen, Isaac Hendriks, Justin Wormald, Evan Snary, Sam VanEgmond, Emily Bucalova, and Carter Lepp.

Congratulations to all our runners and Coach Reschke for a super season.

Junior Volleyball

Both our boys and girls junior volleyball teams have been hard at work during the month of October practising skills and playing games:

Girls: Jeniah Wiens, Olivia Botbyl, Katie VanEgmond, Kylie Rogg, Kendra Rogg, Ashley Hunt, Savannah Schnierle, Alexandria Carr, Karilyn Klassen, Abi Willms, Catherine Gavaris, Emily Klassen, Sarah VanEgmond, Olivia Hamlyn, Mackenzie Botbyl
Coach: Mrs. M. Tompsett

Boys: Justin Reimer, Bailey Nevestuk, Kyle Delledonne, Daniel Klassen, Scott Falk, Riley Lepp, Justin Wormald, Jake Vanderveen, Nick VanEgmond, Isaac Hendriks, Dean Thibodeau, Travis Gagnon, Thomas Wilson, Noah Krause, Adam Dingman, Jeffery Maude (subs Kyle Gagnon & Talon Carr)
Coach: Mrs. L. Plett

Terry Fox Run

A great big congratulations goes out to the whole Butler community for their involvement in this year’s Terry Fox event. We managed to continue a strong tradition of generosity with an overwhelming $2171.00 donation to cancer research. This is an amazing contribution from a small school and we want to extend heartfelt thanks to the following:

- Mrs. Plett and Mrs. Tompsett (along with Ms. Edmands from Virgil) for organizing the event,
- the "top pledge collectors" from each division: Isabel Frolick, Nick VanEgmond, and Evan Snary,
- our entire student body for showing such enthusiasm for the event,
- and of course all the wonderful folks who donated their money to this worthwhile cause.

Wonderful Website

Wondering what time the students begin their lunch break? Lost your monthly newsletter? Not sure if your child has a practice tonight? Looking for helpful links to educational websites? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, you should check out our Col. John Butler School website! www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/Schools/ColJohnButler

We are hoping that you will find this website a useful information tool. Happy surfing!

Eco Update

(Submitted by Butler’s Student Eco Team)

The Eco Team is very excited about the 2009/2010 year. We have lots of great ideas including Boomerang Lunches. These will take place once a week and we will turn the garbage bins upside down so that students have to take all their garbage home on that day. This will ensure that students and families know how much they are regularly throwing out.

We have also restarted the GOOS paper program - Good On One Side paper. Also, we are composting and monitoring lights and computer monitors.

We hope to achieve our goal of receiving gold status again this year. Please discuss how you can be more environmentally friendly in your home!
November Newsletter Draw!

To encourage students to promptly deliver each newsletter to parents, the attached ballot could earn your family a free medium pizza from Pizza Place. This will be drawn the week after the newsletter goes home. We value your input!

Family Name:__________________________________________

Student Name(s):

_____________________________________
_____________________________________
_____________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature

Question of the Month
Can you donate baked goods for our First Annual Home Show Event on November 21st?
[ ] Yes  [ ] No
If yes, please indicate what you might be able to donate and your telephone/email address.

Comments:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

For additional comments, please use the reverse or attach another page.

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Forestview Tour

In October, School Council Members and Staff from both Virgil and Butler had the opportunity to tour Forestview School in Niagara Falls. This is the newest DSBN school (a little over a year old) and likely the same design of the new NOTL elementary school. It was a great opportunity to take a peek into what the future may hold for our students!

on the bus ... road trip!

Forestview Principal, Todd Bright, our tour guide

parents and staff walk and talk ... so much to see in a new school!
Until what age did your parents read aloud to you? 5? 8? 10? Did your parents ever read to you with a purpose other than putting you to sleep? Here’s betting that the majority of you were lulled to sleep with a ‘night time’ story and that, once you were able to ‘read’ (decode) yourself, you read yourself to sleep.

Current research informs us that we, as 21st century parents, can do better. Not to place blame on our parents - it’s a simple fact that we know more now than we used to about how to create effective readers. One conclusion that all kinds of researchers can agree on is the importance of reading with children of all ages at home on a daily basis.

Certainly, ‘reading time’ with a 4 year old will look and sound different than ‘reading time’ with a 13 year old. What’s key is that children and parents understand that reading is thinking, not merely ‘calling words.’ Any reader of any age can struggle with specific texts (Ever try to read and comprehend tax forms? How about IKEA directions? A 19th-century poem by Baudelaire?). Reading at home can help all students consolidate both decoding (‘calling’ words with automaticity) and comprehension (understanding the message of the text) skills.

Why don’t you give one of the suggestions below a try tonight?:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-K to Gr.1</th>
<th>Grades 2/3</th>
<th>Grades 4, 5 &amp; 6</th>
<th>Grades 7 &amp; Up</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- model reading (show your child that you are a reader too...magazines, newspapers, novels, etc.)</td>
<td>- model adult reading</td>
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<td>- read a variety of types of text to expose children to both fiction and non-fiction (explain the difference)</td>
<td>- encourage children to read alone and with you every day</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ask children to point out: letters, words, sentences and remark the different types of punctuation</td>
<td>- read a variety of types of text to expose children to both fiction and non-fiction (ask your child about the difference)</td>
<td>- determine texts of interest to your children and engage him/her by selecting those text types. Every once in a while, introduce something new or different</td>
<td>- ensure text types that interest your child are in the house (graphic, magazines, poetry, etc.). Every once in a while, introduce something new or different</td>
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<tr>
<td>- when reading ‘repetitive’ texts, have children ‘chime in’ when appropriate</td>
<td>- ensure children get lots of decoding practice, but also spend time asking questions and modelling how to draw inferences</td>
<td>- depending on the decoding ability of your child, you may want to read the text separately and discuss it after (if fluency is an issue, continue to read ‘out loud’ with each other)</td>
<td>- read texts individually and chat about them after OR read quotes aloud (e.g. from a newspaper article) and discuss</td>
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<td>- identify the cover, title, author, and back cover of the text</td>
<td>- ask children to point out different uses of punctuation and different text features (e.g. italics, bold print, glossaries, etc.)</td>
<td>- discuss the author’s craft and how the author made specific choices to enhance his/her message</td>
<td>- talk about which reading strategies you use to understand texts you’ve both read; discuss similarities and differences (e.g. “It helped me to visualize this scene. What strategy did you use?”)</td>
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<td>- use the pictures to make predictions and have children try too</td>
<td>- practice using a variety of reading strategies to improve comprehension (ask your child’s teacher for ideas)</td>
<td>- practice using a variety of reading strategies to improve comprehension (ask your child’s teacher for ideas)</td>
<td>- model how to ‘stick with’ difficult texts (e.g. a science text book) and how to ‘abandon a book’ (a novel from the public library) when you don’t like it</td>
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<td>- encourage school-age children to identify ‘word wall’ words (is, at, she, him, etc.)</td>
<td>- ensure you discuss the author’s message</td>
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<td>- ‘think aloud’ about the author’s message (i.e. “I think the author was trying to tell us...”))</td>
<td>- broach difficult topics by selecting appropriate texts</td>
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