



The Crossroads Connection

School Newsletter

December 2014

Crossroads Public School
1350 Niagara Stone Road
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Troy Wallace,
Principal
Steve Holowchuk,
Vice-Principal

News from the OFFICE!

We are excited to share with you that we are planning a Christmas Concert for Wednesday, December 17th with students from JK - Grade 2 performing!

This will most definitely be a highlight of our month! We are doing our best to plan ahead to ensure families have the opportunity to see your kids in action while working within the limits of our gymnasium capacity under the fire code. We will be offering two performances on December 17th:

Afternoon Performance - 1:45 p.m.

Evening Performance - 6:30 p.m.

We realize that certain families may have a large number of relatives wishing to attend our Christmas Concert. We recommend that these family members take advantage of our afternoon performance.

**On behalf of the Crossroads Staff,
we wish to extend our best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!**

Important Information and Dates to Remember:

- Our Character Trait for December is **CARING**
- Tuesday, December 2nd - Vaccination #2 for our Grade 8's
- Wednesday, December 3rd - Hot Lunch Barbecue
- Friday, December 12th - Junior Co-ed Volleyball @ Jeanne Sauve
- Saturday, December 13th - NOTL Santa Claus Parade
- Wednesday, December 17th - Christmas Concert Matinee and Evening Performances
- Thursday, December 18th - Intermediate Dance for those students in Grades 7 & 8 @ 1:35 - Carol sing @ 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, December 19th - Shining Stars Assembly/Carol sing @ 9:00 a.m.
Please join us!



Join Crossroads in the NOTL Christmas Parade

Crossroads Public School is participating in the 2014 NOTL Santa Claus Parade. We truly intend to spread some "Christmas Cheer - Coyote Style" along the parade route as we wear our orange T-shirts, wave orange pompoms, shake bells, blow whistles and sing Christmas Carols.

Parade date: Saturday, December 13, 2014

Time: parade begins at 11 a.m.

Arrival time: 10:30

Meeting & Pick Up location: TBA as soon as the Town of NOTL informs us

Transportation: parent is responsible for transportation to and from the parade



Winter HAS ARRIVED at Crossroads!

Please make sure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for the upcoming winter weather. (warm coat, hat, mittens/gloves, boots, snow pants).

Snack Program

Our snack program is up and running! A free nutritious snack is delivered directly to all students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 at first break Tuesday to Thursday. If you can help with snack preparation and distribution, please call our office.

MENU PLAN FOR EACH MONTH

Tuesdays: **fruit or vegetable** (cucumbers, carrots, salad). Twice a month - cereal and milk

Wednesdays: **grain** (bagels & cream cheese, pita & salsa, breakfast pita, trail mix)

Thursdays: **dairy** (yogurt & granola, cheese cubes & crackers). Twice a month - an assortment of granola bars (nutrigrain bars, gluten free bars etc.) apple sauce, jarred fruit.

Assortments of fresh apples are offered each day as well. All items are nut free.

Crossroads REMEMBERS our Veterans: They are heroes



Veterans, Canadian Forces members and those who have given their lives in the pursuit of peace have made great contributions to our country and the world. Remembering all that these men and women have done during times of war, military conflict and peace helps us understand the country we live in today and how we can build a better future together. Crossroads Public School honoured and paid tribute to our heroes on November 11th through song, poetry, music, drama, speeches and videos. Each homeroom class created a unique wreath and members of each class laid the wreath and candles in solemn tribute to our heroes. Receiving the wreaths and candles this year were WW2 Veterans Quartermaster Jack Hunter, Corporal Jeff Powell along with current-serving military personnel, Sergeant Brandon Honey of the Lincoln and Welland

Regiment and Leading Seaman Jesse Renda of the Royal Canadian Navy. Many thanks to all staff and students for a most memorable Remembrance Day!

TVCogeco was at the ceremony and created a TV segment. You can view the segment at our Crossroads website

<http://crossroads.dsbm.org> or by visiting <http://www.tvcogeco.com/niagara/gallery/the-source/7199-november-source-stories/93700-crossroads-remembers>

BREAKING BARRIERS - An Empathy Building Workshop

On Friday, November 21, an enthusiastic group of Brock University students came to Crossroads Public School to educate our grade five students about physical disabilities and the associated stigma. Through physically challenging activities and facilitated discussion, the students learned about the daily struggles and hardships associated with physical disabilities. The goal of the workshop was to help students develop empathy towards those who live with disabilities, reducing bullying and exclusion while promoting friendship and inclusion.



We're OFF to SEE THE WIZARD

The staff and students at Crossroads are **EXCITED** about the upcoming April presentation of The Wizard of Oz! Wizard of Oz auditions will be held on December 9th and 10th for students in Grades 6 - 8. **STAY TUNED for more information!**

Zones of Regulation

Recently, a few of our classes have had the opportunity to work with our Youth Counsellor on The Zones curriculum. This program is designed to support students in developing self-regulation strategies that can be used both at school and at home. Everyone experiences difficulties in regulation from time to time, and we all can benefit from The Zones of Regulation, not just our students. The Zones curriculum teaches the use of four colours: green (good zone), yellow (increasing anxiety), red (angry) & blue (sad, emotional). When a student starts using The Zones, often parents and teachers find it helps to ask the child two important questions: What colour are you right now? And what is making you feel that way? The Zones encourages several calming techniques such as deep breathing, counting to ten, and moving to a quiet area just to name a few. Teachers who adopt this program often find using these strategies has positive results with their whole class.
(From: <http://www.socialthinking.com/books-products/products-by-age-range/grades-3-5/zones-of-regulation-the-detail>)

School Council News

NOTL Home Show:

Plans are well underway for the 7th annual NOTL Home Show, to be held on Saturday, March 7th, 2015. Thank you to our platinum sponsors **Meridian Credit Union, Bosley Real Estate and Niagara Advance.**

We have added two sponsorship levels! Gold Sponsorship (\$1000) entitles you to a 5x8 booth, a medium sized logo on all print media and the opportunity to put 600 flyers in the gift bags that are handed out at the door. Silver Sponsorship (\$500) gives you a small logo on all print media, as well as 600 flyers in the gift bags. This is a great way to show your support for the home show and showcase your business at the same time! If you would like to participate in our successful home show please contact the school, or email notlhomeshow@gmail.com, so we can start advertising your involvement.

If you, or someone you know would like to be a vendor, please email us! We would love to hear from you!

Magazine Subscription Fundraiser:

The students and staff of Crossroads would like to thank everyone who assisted in making our recent magazine subscription campaign a great success! The campaign generated close to \$3000.00!!

Logs Needed for our Outdoor Classroom:

Our OUTDOOR CLASSROOM is in need of some logs or tree stumps for our coyotes. Please contact the office if you are able to help.

French Immersion Registration

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

Features of the French Immersion program:

- Development of 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 program;
- Promoting understanding of different cultures;
- Providing additional opportunities for employment using French as the working language;
- An increased ability to communicate and interact with confidence in French.

Registration will open January 5th, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. and will close February 17th, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit www.dsbni.org/fi or speak to your school principal. Parent Information evening sessions will be held in January. Parent Visitations to the Grade 1 French Immersion classrooms will occur during designated daytime hours if desired.

*N.B. - With recent revisions to the French Immersion program at the DSBNI, McKay Public School in Port Colborne, is the **only site accepting Grade 4 entry registrations**. Please note, beginning **September 2016**, the DSBNI will be a single entry program with French Immersion starting **only in Grade 1**.

St. Catharines (North) & Niagara-on-the-Lake Dalewood Public School (Grade 1 entry)

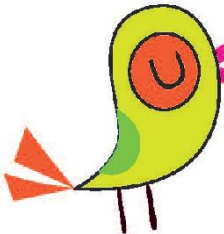
1. Parent Information Night:
Wednesday, January 7, 2015 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
2. Grade 1 French Immersion Classroom Visits (if desired):
Thursday, January 8, 2015 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 14, 2015 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 20, 2015 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.


It's almost time to register for

Kindergarten

at the DSBNI

Do you know a child who will be turning 4 or 5 before December 31, 2015?





Visit a DSBNI Kindergarten Open House from 10 am-6 pm on February 5th, 2015 to register and to help your kindergartener get ready for their first day of school at the DSBNI.

See the classroom, meet the staff and get a gift bag full of fun learning resources and information to help children develop their school readiness

Looking for more information? Visit our website at www.dsbni.org/kindergarten

Shining Stars - November 2014

Kindergarten - Mrs. K. Willms/Mrs. Foley	Spencer T., Aiden R., Sienna S.
Kindergarten - Mrs. Lisi/Miss Thiessen	Levi B., Luke P., Cameron T.
Kindergarten - Mrs. Bartel/Ms. Crawford	Jane B., Lucy B., Carley B.
Kindergarten - Mrs. Whitwell	Jackson D., Nico N.
1 Miss Kent	Kennedy B., Evan S.
1 Mrs. DeBrouwer	Andrew B., Ian D.
2 Mrs. R. Willms	Mika V., Maggie F.
2 Ms. Komandanski	Megan H., Hudson N.
2/3 Mrs. L. Willms/N. Romanowich	Cole F., Hailey P.
3 Mrs. Smith	Liam M., Molly S.
3 Mrs. Anderson	Samantha F., Bryden S.
4 Mrs. Peters	Olivia A., Taylor A., Thomas F.
4 Mr. O'Connor	Ashleen H., Shaelynn L., Samuel W.
5 Mr. Reschke	Jac B., Ayva B., Caitlin M.
5 Mr. Kenworthy	Michael D., Joyce F., Kallie P.
6 Ms. Edmands	Lucas J., Sammy L., Roman M.
6 Mrs. Code	Susana K., Mikey L., Isaac S.
7 Mrs. Kerr	Emma A., Isaiah C., Nicholas L.
7/8 Mr. Tayler	Trinity J., Jacob S., George K.
8 Mrs. Krake	Austin B., Lexi H., Sophia M.
French Mme. Zoccoli	Griffin D., Hunter M., Julia B., Lauren P.
Music Mrs. McMahon	Linnea B., Brooke R.



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.dsbm.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	DayFM (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort E
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



ME2WE - small efforts making a BIG difference in our world!



This past month has been a very exciting month for Me2We. We participated in Operation Christmas Child, a global initiative that supplies toys and hygienic items to needy children in the world. We were able to fill and send 60 boxes with little things such as pens, pencils, notebooks and toothbrushes. On Friday, November 21st, the Local Emergency Medical Services arrived with Santa and Medi-Teddy to pack up and transport our shoeboxes. Way to go Coyotes for helping the children around the world in need!

LINCOLN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

December 1-12

Our new Action Team starts with their campaign to support the **Lincoln County Humane Society**. Leaders, Lexi Hale and Julia Heikoop and their team will be asking the Crossroads community to support them as they collect food and pet supplies to support the LCHS. An information letter will be coming home soon.



KEEPING CROSSROADS KIDDIES WARM!

December 1 - 12

ME2WE is asking our families to donate articles of warm clothing! Many children arrive at school forgetting boots, coats, snow pants, mitts and hats. If you have clothing that you no longer use or have outgrown, please consider donating it to the school. Please make sure that the clothing is clean and in good condition. ME2WE will organize the items into boxes. If a child needs an item, a staff member will be able to look here and help keep these students warm. After all, we all forget but we want all kids to be warm when they play outside. So in the next couple of weeks if you have gently used winter clothes please bring them in to help a boy or girl at Crossroads stay warm this winter.

Free the Children Guest Speaker, Alexandra Dymont, Visits Crossroads

On Monday, November 24, Alexandra Dymont, an Outreach Speaker from the organization Free the Children, visited Crossroads PS to share her message of empowerment. Free the Children is an international charity and educational partner that believes in a world where all children are free to achieve their fullest potential as agents of change. The organization works domestically through We Day and We Act to educate, engage and empower youth to become active local and global citizens. After her presentation to the junior/intermediate students, Alexandra facilitated a planning session with the ME2WE CLUB and helped us to make strategic plans so that we can make a difference in the world! Thank you, Alex!



WERE YOU THERE?

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

If you attended a
District School Board of Niagara
HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
with your Grade 8 child, please fill out our
PARENT SURVEY
using the link below.

WIN
Movie Passes
for two

www.surveymonkey.com/r/JP2XHPQ

www.dshn.org



Cyberbullying Warning Signs

Red flags that a child is involved in cyberbullying



Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D. and Justin W. Patchin, Ph.D.

October 2014

A Child May Be a Target of Cyberbullying If He or She:

- unexpectedly stops using their device(s)
- appears nervous or jumpy when using their device(s)
- appears uneasy about going to school or outside in general
- appears to be angry, depressed, or frustrated after going online (including gaming)
- is oversleeping or not sleeping enough
- becomes abnormally withdrawn from usual friends and family members
- shows increase or decrease in eating
- seems regularly depressed
- makes passing statements about suicide or the meaninglessness of life
- loses interest in the things that mattered most to them
- avoids discussions about what they are doing online
- frequently calls or texts from school requesting to go home ill
- desires to spend much more time with parents rather than peers
- becomes unusually secretive, especially when it comes to online activities

A Child May Be a Target of Cyberbullying If He or She:

- quickly switches screens or hides their device when you are close by
- uses their device(s) at all hours of the night
- gets unusually upset if they can't use their device(s)
- laughs excessively while using their device(s) and won't show you what is so funny
- avoids discussions about what they are doing online
- seems to be using multiple online accounts or an account that is not their own
- is dealing with increased behavioral issues or disciplinary actions at school (or elsewhere)
- appears overly concerned with popularity or continued presence in a particular social circle or status
- demonstrates increasing insensitivity or callousness toward other teens
- starts to hang out with the "wrong" crowd
- demonstrates violent tendencies
- appears overly conceited as to their technological skills and abilities
- the parent-child relationship is deteriorating



Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D. is a professor at Florida Atlantic University and **Justin W. Patchin, Ph.D.** is a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Together, they travel across the United States and abroad teaching teens how to use technology safely and responsibly. They have written six books, including "Words Wound: Delete Cyberbullying and Make Kindness Go Viral" which helps empower teens to be the solution to online cruelty. They also offer comprehensive workshops for parents, teachers, counselors, mental health professionals, law enforcement, and others concerned with addressing and preventing online aggression. The Cyberbullying Research Center is dedicated to providing up-to-date information about the nature, extent, causes, and consequences of cyberbullying among adolescents.

For more information, visit <http://www.cyberbullying.us>.

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