



The Crossroads Connection

School Newsletter

October 2014

Crossroads Public School
1350 Niagara Stone Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON, L0S 1J0
905-468-7793
crossroads.dsbns.org

Troy Wallace,
Principal
Steve Holowchuk,
Vice-Principal

News from the OFFICE!

Starting September 16th, we welcomed two staff members who accepted a long term teaching position to the Crossroads community. Please join us in welcoming to our school, Ms. Code (Grade 6) and a familiar face, Mr. Kenworthy (Grade 5)!

Also, we were able to secure a fourth kindergarten section. Mrs. A. Whitwell will be joining our team, however until she returns, we thank Mrs. T. Fairchild who will be taking on this role.

We would also like to congratulate Ms. Ho on a fantastic opportunity as she fulfills the temporary role of Science and Environmental Consultant at School Support Services. In her absence we welcome Mr. T. Mannella to Crossroads.

The Crossroads staff would like to make families aware that we are busy planning an outdoor co-operative games day for Thursday, October 9th. Our entire school will be going to the Virgil fairgrounds for a fun-filled day of co-operative games and team building activities that will foster friendships. Teams of cross-grade groups will be created with our grade 8 students serving as team leaders. We would love to have you join us, if you are interested in volunteering please contact your child's homeroom teacher.

Below you will find important dates and information of happenings here at Crossroads. As always, feel free to visit or call the office if you have any questions.

- Our Character Trait for October is **COURAGE**.
- Friday, October 10th is a Professional Development Day for staff, and there will be no student attendance.
- Photo Re-take Day is Monday, October 20th.
- Pizza Days will be held on Thursdays this year, beginning October 2nd.
- Halloween Activities will be held on the afternoon of October 31st. Detailed information will be sent home later in the month.
- We have many students in our school with a life threatening allergy to peanuts and nut food products. Please discuss this issue with your children and discourage the sharing of potentially dangerous snacks.
- If your son or daughter is ill or away from school for any reason, please call the school office. Crossroads has voicemail, so calls can be made at any time during the day or evening. We are very conscience of the safety of the students. Regular phoning by parents will inform us immediately of the whereabouts of students not in school, and it will save us time in getting this information. We will call the homes,



workplace and, if necessary, the emergency number of parents whose children do not arrive at school and about whom we do not receive a telephone call.

Before and After School Traffic Safety at Crossroads



We are continuing our efforts to improve traffic flow through our parking lot while ensuring that student safety is always our first priority. Starting in October, our double bus lane closest to the school will be closed to car traffic and open to buses only in the mornings from 8:35 a.m. to 8:55 a.m. and in the afternoons from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. During these times we are asking all families to use our Kiss N' Ride lane. Families wishing to walk children into school will be able to use parking spaces available or can pull into the Kiss N' Ride drop-off area located by our school stop sign. School staff will be present in the Kiss N' Ride lane

each morning and afternoon to assist with pick-up and drop-off.

NEW THIS YEAR!

To be more environmentally friendly and reduce our footprint on the environment, our monthly newsletters will be available online only. On the first of every month you can visit www.crossroads.dsbm.org and click on the "CALENDARS AND NEWSLETTERS" tab and select the appropriate month.

Lunch room supervisor needed!

We are currently looking for lunch room supervisors. If you are interested, please phone the office as soon as possible.

Lice Checks

As there have been many cases of lice, we will be checking affected classes to minimize the spread. Should there be anybody who wishes to volunteer to help, please contact the office.

Parent Lending Library

Our Parent Lending Library is ready for your reading pleasure, and is located in the front foyer of our school. We have a full range of almost 100 titles on varying topics dealing with parenting from preschool to the teenage years. These books are available for our parents to borrow and use at their leisure. We hope you will find it a useful resource.



Snack Program

Our snack program is up and running. A free nutritious snack is offered to any interested 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.

Thank you to Brad and Vanessa Nickel for providing fresh and delicious grapes to our snack program. Our students loved them!

Cross Country

We're excited to have a team of students representing Crossroads in Cross Country. Good luck to our runners and Coaches Reschke and O'Connor.

Atom Girls: Taylor A., Katelyn D., Ellery S., Molly S., Rachel D., Evie L., Elise B., Ava R., Ingrid E., Samantha F., Sarah L., Olivia B., Mischa D., Rachel M., Megan H., Elena S., Amelia H., Ashleen H., Shaelynn L.

Atom Boys: Nicholas D., Elijah B., Ty K., Kody J., Christopher W., Daniel C., Sebastian M., Sam W., Ayden Z., Luke M., Wesley N., Griffin D., Isaac A., Andrew E., Ethan P., Kyle K., Sam W.

Pewee Girls: Olivia M., Ella D., Aria S., Sarah J., Caitlin M., Maddie D., Alison K., Abby H.

Pewee Boys: Lukas K., Mitchell B., Owen K., Ethan C., Roman M., Reid A., Keaton B., Michael L., Tristan M., Jaedon L.

Bantam Girls: Felicia M.

Bantam Boys: Tyler J.

Midget Girls: Leah K., Kayleigh V., Maddie B., Lexi H., Emma M.

Midget Boys: Nick K., Reuben E., Ben M., Robbie F.



Lockdown Drill

As part of our Emergency Response Preparedness Plan, in October, Crossroads Public School will be involved in a practice (simulated) lockdown procedure in line with the District School Board of Niagara Emergency Response Protocol.

Similar to fire drills, classroom teachers will review the procedures that students must follow during a lockdown. A practice drill is expected to take approximately two to five minutes. The goals of practicing a lockdown include:

- to react in a predictable way to an unpredictable situation
- to have students and staff in a safe and secure area
- to keep hallways clear, and to move quickly and quietly
- to develop and refine a specific plan based on the needs of our school

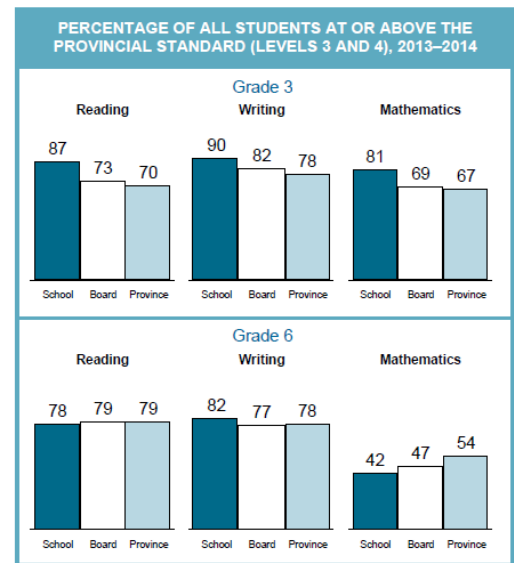
Each classroom teacher will be spending time talking with students about the procedures to be followed in the event of a lockdown situation. They will present situations such as extreme weather or facility issues (i.e., electrical/plumbing problem) as reasons for a lockdown to occur. There are two basic types of lockdown drills. During an "internal lockdown", staff members will ensure that all students remain inside a classroom, gym, library or other designated area with the door locked. During an "external lockdown" drill, staff members will ensure that all students remain outside the school in a designated safe area (similar to a fire drill).

Our practice lockdowns in years past have gone smoothly, and we expect the same this year. While we sincerely wish that no event causes us to enact these precautions, we feel that practicing these procedures, just as we practice fire drills, prepares our students and staff to react appropriately in case of an emergency, making our school safer for all. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the school.

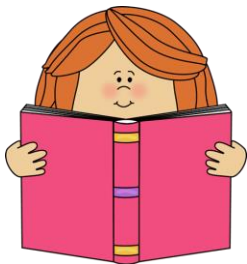
EQAO Results

The 2013/2014 EQAO test results for grades 3 and 6 have been released by the Ministry of Education. You will find summary graphs indicating the percentage of participating students who achieved levels three or four - at or above the ministry standard. The charts to the right are a summary of results for our school, board and province, but you can find more detailed information at www.eqao.com. Individual student results will be sent home with all Grade 4 and 7 students.

It is important to remember that these results are only a "snapshot" of performance on a given set of tasks on a few days last spring. The Crossroads staff have examined the results of this assessment and will use the data to program for individual student needs and in the formulation of our school improvement plan. The plan will contain specific measures which will be put into effect for the balance of the school year. You are also welcome to contact your child's teacher, Mr. Wallace or Mr. Holowchuk with any questions or concerns pertaining to this or any other assessment.



Library Update



Your child has started to use the Crossroads Learning Commons and is bringing library books home. We have been talking about taking care of our books and finding a safe place to keep our books, so your child may ask you for suggestions. Thank you for your help in encouraging your child to use the library and read his/her library books. The loan period is 10 cycle days; which allows students to return books on their regularly scheduled library day. Students who have not completed their book in this time period should remember to bring their book in to renew it. Students may exchange books more frequently as desired. The library will be open regularly for book exchanges during first break.

Overdue or Lost/Damaged Books:

Students with overdue books will not be able to check out a book until the book has been returned. There are no fees for overdue books, but students with overdue books will not be allowed to check out books. Lost or damaged books may be replaced, or there is a charge of \$5.00 for paperback books and \$10.00 for hardcover books. While this fee usually doesn't cover the replacement value it does help us to purchase some new items and helps students to learn about responsibility. If you receive an overdue notice and have already returned the book, please send in a note so we can try to locate the book and check it in.

Crossroads Online Library:

You can access the Crossroads School library catalogue from home by connecting to the following website, <http://destiny.dsbns.org> and clicking on our school name or you can click the "Online Library" link on the School website. The Crossroads Destiny home page can be your starting point for research by searching our collection, the DSBN digital resources, or by using the links to public library resources and student-friendly online research databases. The catalogue tab allows you to search the school library database or click on Destiny Quest for a student friendly interface. You will be able to view the entire library collection, along with a brief synopsis of each resource and additional features; such as student-created reviews. Your child will be able to login to this site, using their school username and password. Students can then find out what books they have currently checked out and their due date, check out electronic books, recommend a book to someone and review a book. Reviews or recommendations are moderated prior to appearing online.

Volunteers:

The library is ready to welcome new parent volunteers to join our wonderful group that assists with the task of shelving books, organizing shelves, processing books, etc...The library is a great place to volunteer! You make your own schedule and no prior experience is required.

If you are interested in volunteering please leave your name at the office or see Ms. Andres.

School Council Update

The Crossroads School Council met for the first time in September to discuss regular business, hold elections and plan for the future. We are very pleased to have such a great group of parents volunteering their time and energy to become involved in and informed about school life. Our next meeting Tuesday, October 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the Crossroads Learning Commons. We're going to roll up our sleeves for discussions about things like budget and fundraising. You are always welcome!

2014/2015 School Council Executive & Committees

Chairs:	Jolene Klassen and Carrie Makins
Secretary:	Sherrie Gonta
Treasurer:	Amanda Fretz
Home Show:	Kimberley and Cory Abt
Hot Lunches:	Lisa Laughton
Magazines:	Kimberley Abt and Melissa Saxton
Shop & Support:	Lianne Lambert
Outdoor Classroom:	Lianne Lambert

Magazine Fundraising

The Crossroads School Council would like to invite you to participate in our upcoming magazine fundraiser. We will be using the profits to support our school programs (i.e., resources, extra-curricular activities, playground fund, etc.)

The incentive gifts will be delivered and distributed to the students in 6 - 8 weeks after the fundraiser ends.

Please remember that all fundraising is strictly voluntary. If you would prefer to support the school without fundraising, you can make a one-time donation by writing a cheque payable to the "District School Board of Niagara" with Crossroads on the memo line. Such donations are tax deductible (receipts issued by the DSBN), and of course, greatly appreciated.

Visit crossroads.dsbni.org under "Support for Crossroads" for more information.



**Working Smoke Alarms
Save Lives**

Test Yours Every Month!
Fire Prevention Week • October 5–11, 2014



Flu season is here!

Washing your hands prevents the spread of germs and reduces your risk of getting sick. Wash your hands after:

- coughing or sneezing
- blowing your nose
- using the washroom
- playing with pets
- playing outdoors
- and before preparing meals and eating

Use warm water and soap, lather and scrub for at least 15 seconds. Have children sing the ABC song, so they scrub for long enough. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are safe for children and can be used when you don't see any dirt. For more information, talk to your school nurse.



Triple P - Positive Parenting Program in Niagara

Kids don't come with an instruction manual, so when it comes to parenting, how do you know what's best and what works? Triple P - Positive Parenting Program is one of the world's most effective parenting programs. For more than 30 years, Triple P has helped families around the world deal with issues ranging from temper tantrums to disobedience, bedtime dramas to homework battles, schoolyard bullying to teenage rebellion.

Whatever your parenting needs - no matter how simple or how complex - Triple P can help. To learn more about seminars and group sessions visit www.niagararegion.ca search: Triple P or talk to your school nurse.

Host Families Needed in DSBN communities

for short-term visiting
International Students to the
District School Board of Niagara

3 weeks - January 5-23, 2015
To host 1 or 2 students in Grades 5-8

Apply Now!

For more information, please contact:

Niagara Homestay & International Student Services
289-219-4769
info@niagarastudentservices.com

Compensation is offered

Touch a Truck



Children, come and experience over 50 mighty machines!

Also enjoy food and a book sale!

Saturday October 4, 2014

10am - 2pm

Niagara College

Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus - exit QEW at Glendale
Corner of Glendale & Taylor



\$2.00 per person

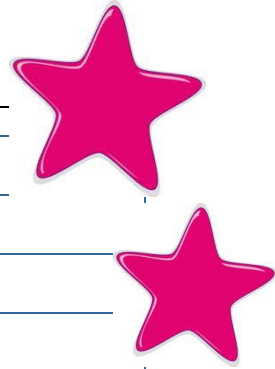
Children under one are FREE!



Proceeds to support children's literacy



Shining Stars - September 2014



Kindergarten - Mrs. K. Willms/Mrs. Foley	Amelia C., Jacob F., Linda W.
Kindergarten - Mrs. Lisi/Miss Thiessen	Parker C., Peter N., Franz U.
Kindergarten - Mrs. Bartel/Ms. Crawford	Damien G., Briar C., Felix V.
Kindergarten - Mrs. Fairchild	Jacob B., Isabella M.
1 Miss Kent	Riley S., Ellarie U.
1 Mrs. DeBrouwer	Finnegan C., Ellie G.
2 Mrs. R. Willms	Joshua P., Kristina F.
2 Ms. Komandanski	Miriam A., Logan R.
2/3 Mrs. L. Willms/N. Romanowich	Danny D., Lauren D.
3 Mrs. Smith	Nicholas D., Ben F.
3 Mrs. Anderson	Gertruda F., Logan R.
4 Mrs. Peters	Andrew E., Emma H., Trudy K.
4 Mr. O'Connor	Sophie H., Kyle K., Brooklyn M.
5 Mr. Reschke	Reid A., Larson R., Berlin W.
5 Mr. Kenworthy	Madison D., Baley G., Alison K.
6 Ms. Edmands	Abby H., Sammy L., Ben T.
6 Mrs. Code	David E., Josh K., Lauren P.
7 Mrs. McNarry	Colby C., Tiana H., Katharine L., Abe W.
7/8 Mr. Mannella	Maddie C., Andrew Y., Griffin D.
8 Mrs. Krake	Rebecca H., Eva L., Zach M., Ethan S.
French Mme. Zoccoli	Madison D., Baley G., Hunter S., Trinity J.
Music Mrs. McMahon	Zoe P., Griffin D., Mary K.



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

Approximately 40-50 Crossroads students in grades 4-8 are ready to make a difference in their school, their community and the world! At this year's initial planning meeting, the group met to talk about the variety of charities/causes that exist and they discovered that the need is so great! ME2WE is in the process of selecting a local focus. Our global charity will continue to be Burundi Africa. ME2WE club members will have the opportunity this year to not only fundraise, but also to volunteer their time for charity.
Stay Tuned for more information.

Me2We coordinators: Mme. Zoccoli, Miss. Kent, Mrs. Olsen and Mrs. DeBrouwer.

WALK IN THEIR SHOES

The last two weeks in September the ME2WE CLUB sold flip flops with all proceeds raised being donated to the Muramvya School in Burundi, Africa. The Hiebert Family (former Crossroads family) is living and working in Burundi, Africa to teach, minister and support the people of this community. The 150 children in this community are in desperate need of flip flops to protect their feet when walking to and from school.

Thank you for those families who generously donated.

Terry Fox

Congratulations to the Crossroads community for their involvement in this year's Terry Fox Run. It was wonderful to participate in a fun event in support of such a great cause. We managed to continue a strong tradition of generosity with many pledges for the Terry Fox Foundation. We have raised \$760.00 for this great charity! Thanks also Me2We Club for all their hard work coordinating the event, and our entire Crossroads community for your support.

Harvest for Hunger

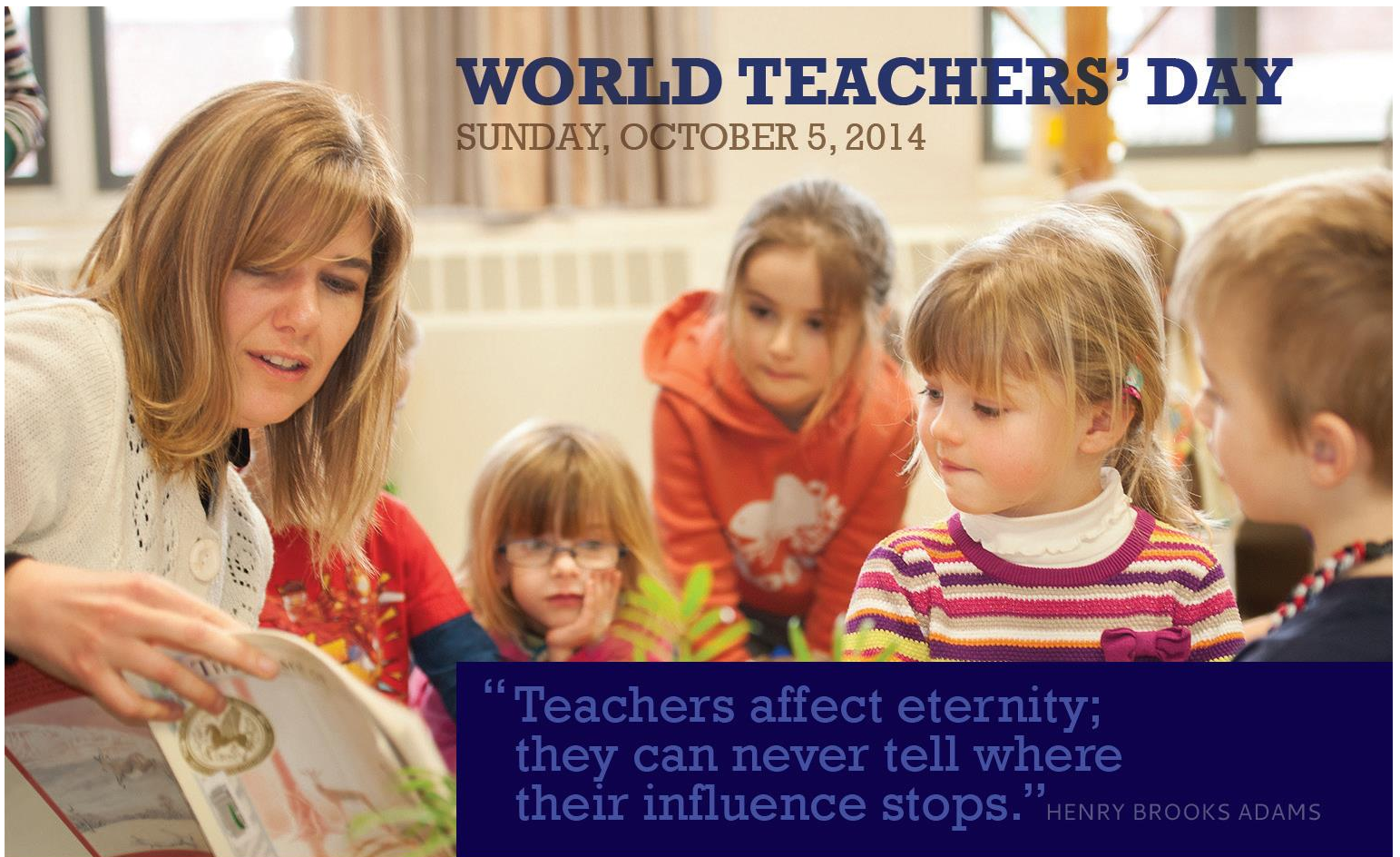
Thanksgiving is almost here and we have so much for which to be thankful. There is a great need at local food banks to stock the shelves with food. ME2WE encourages all members of the Crossroads community to donate non-perishable food items to the Harvest for Hunger Food Drive.

Items needed include: cans of tuna, cans of meat, peanut butter, jam, cereal, rice, pasta, soup, vegetables, fruit, pasta sauce, brown beans, crackers etc. The food drive will run from Monday, September 29 - Friday, October 3. Collection bins will be located in the main floor hallway next to the office.

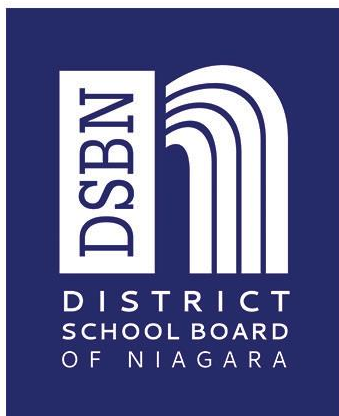


WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2014



**“Teachers affect eternity;
they can never tell where
their influence stops.”** HENRY BROOKS ADAMS



www.dsbni.org

World Teachers' Day represents the appreciation displayed for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development.

The DSBN would like to sincerely thank our educators for those moments in which you truly and profoundly shape a child's life, and for your dedication and commitment to student success.