



January News 2012

Oakwood School learning goals for 2011-2012

Literacy SMART Goal:

Technology will be used as an instructional strategy to increase student engagement and improve student achievement in reading and writing by 15% as evidenced on grade 3 and 6 EQAO, the Ontario Writing Assessment, CASI and PM benchmarks.

Numeracy SMART Goal:

Problem Solving will be the context for teaching mathematics concepts in order to improve student achievement in mathematics by 15% as evidence on grade 3 and grade 6 EQAO, the Ontario Numeracy Assessment Package.

Greetings!

It was great to see so many of you at the concert. Our students worked very hard to prepare, memorizing their lines and their songs, dressing up in their costumes ready to perform for you. Thank you for making the effort to attend at such a busy time of the year. Thank you to Mrs. Schonewille, director, Mrs. Tufts costume and sets and to all staff who took a part in creating our Christmas concert this year.

I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and hope that you are able to spend time celebrating this holiday season. Look forward to seeing all of our students back on January 9th, 2012.

Report Cards – Term 1

Staff will be busy preparing term 1 report cards throughout the month of January. You will receive a term 1 report card on February 9th, 2012. The provincial report card is designed for teachers to provide feedback in the form of comments on students' 'Strengths' and 'Next Steps for Improvement' with respect to both their achievement of curriculum expectations and their development of learning skills and work habits.

We are Counting Down to Kindergarten!

Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

Going to school for the first time is a major step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the 'Kindergarten Countdown' open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit www.dsbn.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!

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.

Your Future is Here!

Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend High School Open Houses in January 2012. For a full list of open house dates, times and details, please go to www.dsbni.org

Port Colborne High School Open House January 17th, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Look forward to seeing you there.



DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD
OF NIAGARA

www.dsbn.org

District School Board of Niagara *Expanding French Immersion for 2012*

The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. In addition, as of September 2012, we will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations. As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year (Grade 7 entry will continue in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake).

Information re: entry levels and the application process is on the DSBN website www.dsbn.org. Click on the Parent Tab, under Programs, click on French and International Languages, click on French Immersion Registration. Applications for Grades 1, 4, 5 and 7 (at select schools) will be online. Application packages will also be available at your child's school starting January 9, 2012. Further program information will be sent home with your child in January.

“The ability to communicate in French is a valuable skill, because French is **one** of Canada’s two official languages and because it is a language used widely around the world. Research confirms that knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills and that the ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances reasoning and problem solving skills, as well as creative-thinking skills. Learning a second language not only strengthens students’ ability to communicate, but also develops their capacity to understand and respect other cultures. In this way, second-language learning prepares students to participate more effectively in the workplace and in the global economy, and provides them with a distinct advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally.” (pg 3 of the E.F./F.I. Curriculum Document (C.D.) 2001)

Parent Information Evenings will take place during the weeks of January 30 – February 10th. If you wish to find out more details about the French Immersion program, please attend one of the Information Evenings listed below or call your school.

Central	January 30, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Alexandra	January 30, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Parliament Oak	January 31, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Dalewood	January 31, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
McKay	January 31, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Prince Philip (Niagara Falls)	February 1, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Sheridan Park	February 1, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Gordon	February 6, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Princess Elizabeth	February 6, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Oakridge	February 6, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Briardale	February 7, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Queen Mary	February 7, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
John Marshall	February 8, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Bienvenue!

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Day 8	10 Day 9	11 Gr. 5/6, Spec. Needs skating 1:35 p.m. Day 10	12 Pizza Day Day 1	13 Day 2	14
15	16 Day 3	17Port High Open House 7:00 p.m. McKay French Immersion visit to Oakwood 9:45- 10:25 a.m. Day 4	18 Day 5	19 Sub Day Day 6	20 P.D. Day – no classes Day 1	21
22	23 Day 7	24 Day 8	25 Day 9	26 Pizza Day Day 10	27 Day 1	28
29	30 Day 2	31 McKay French Immersion Open House 6:30-7:30 p.m. Day 3	Character Traits: Integrity and Caring			