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Greetings!

On Nov. 15th students in grades one through eight will receive a progress report. The focus for the progress report is to show a student's general progress in working towards the achievement of the curriculum expectation in all subjects. There is a focus on learning skills and work habits. The report will indicate whether students are progressing with difficulty, progressing well or progressing very well. Staff would like to meet with all parents to discuss this report. On November 17th from 4:00 – 7:30 p.m. staff will be available to discuss these reports with you. Please watch for further communication to schedule an interview time.

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.

Please visit our website, <http://oakwood.dsbni.org/> and participate in the technology survey. We would like to determine the number of homes who have the tools needed for us to expand our home/school communication electronically.

Thank you to all students and families who participated in our recent fund raisers. We appreciate your support. Many incentives were offered for participation. Included here is the list of winners.

Magazine fund raiser – winner of the gigantic keyboard play mat: Isabelle Tonnies

Dance – a – thon

Top Collector Each Class (\$10 Harvey's Gift Card):

- Henderson (SKA1) - Hannah Sunday (\$30.)
- Henderson (SKP1) - Rachel Ballantyne (\$35)
- Wright - Jordan Mater (\$74)
- Tonnies - Kennady Clarke (\$25)
- Crumb - Turner Clarke (\$62)
- Schonewille - Mason Klauck
- Nassar - Madison Munday (\$65)
- Bartok - Alexis Bilodeau (\$65)
- Wilson - Michael Benson (\$40)
- Tufts/Summerhayes - Adam Beauparlant (\$25)



Top Collecting Class (Ice Cream Sundaes): Mr. Bartok (6/7) - \$442

2nd Top Collecting Class (Computer Lab): Mrs. Crumb (2/3) - \$422

Top Collector (\$50 Walmart Gift Card): Chris Fairman

2nd Top Collector (\$30 Walmart Gift Card): Lauren Smith

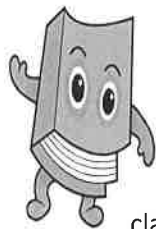
3rd Top Collector (\$20 Walmart Gift Card): Mikayla Marceau

Random Bonus Draw for all students that returned pledges (Walmart Gift Card): Brittany Bruce

Top Collector <small>(not including top 3 school-wide)</small>
Hannah Sunday (\$30.)
Rachel Ballantyne (\$35)
Jordan Mater (\$74)
Kennady Clarke (\$25)
Turner Clarke (\$62)
Mason Klauck
Madison Munday (\$65)
Alexis Bilodeau (\$65)
Michael Benson (\$40)
Adam Beauparlant (\$25)

Free Pizza Lunch:

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) <u>Caitlin Campbell</u> | 7) <u>Carly Sorge</u> |
| 2) <u>Turner Clarke</u> | 8) <u>Maddison Coleman</u> |
| 3) <u>Sidney Skotniski</u> | 9) <u>Parker Grover</u> |
| 4) <u>Adam Poehlman</u> | 10) <u>Kevin Youngblut</u> |
| 5) <u>Jessica Sturch</u> | 11) <u>Chris Fairman</u> |
| 6) <u>Brenna Bohun</u> | 12) <u>Jessica Hearn</u> |



Book Fair

Our Book Fair ran from November 1-3, 2011. Every family that visited the fair had a chance to win a Family Event door prize of \$25.00 in books for their home library plus \$25.00 in books for their classroom. The winner of this prize was Emma Croteau in Miss Wright's classroom.

Grade Eight visit to Port Colborne High School

We know that moving to the next level of education can be a challenge for students. To gain comfort with these changes, PCHS offers a program to expose students to the academic, co-curricular and social atmosphere within our secondary school. Our program on **November 30th** is intended to integrate students into science labs, art/theatre/media production studios, and core and optional classrooms. The goal of the experience is to:

- Develop an awareness of options available
- Inspire participation early in the "spirit" of secondary school
- Generate a network of positive new friendships with other students
- Encourage open dialogue with Grade 8's to resolve any concerns. With the many changes in the various levels of education and training, it is important that both students and parents learn about and experience options that continue to open career pathways.

We look forward to beginning the process with you and your families.

Student of the Month: September, 2011
Character Trait: Respect

Class	Teacher	Student(s)
J/K/SK a.m.	D. Henderson	Derek Koiter, Landen Bitner
J/KSK p.m.	D. Henderson	Kolton Anger, Tyler Vickers
gr. 1	G. Wright	Ireland Worrall, Mya Hallihan
gr. 2	B. Tonnies	Brielle Anger, Dakota Milot
gr. 2/3	K. Crumb	Ashley Interisano, Jordan Denobriga
gr. 3/4	D. Schonewille	Aarti Patel, Ryan Morin
gr. 5/6	J. Nassar	Alyssa Creighton, Justin Gillespie
gr. 6/7	D. Bartok	Alyssa Denobriga, Hailey Madere
gr. 7/8	C. Wilson	Connor Buchanan, Eric Fehr
FSL	J. Mazza	Carson Sorge, Amanda Adam
SESN1	J. Tufts	Adam Beauparlant
SESN2	C. Summerhayes	Chris Gamble

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:

www.dsbn.org
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	CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie
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	

Television Stations:

CH – Hamilton
CityTV Breakfast Television
CTV Toronto
Cogeco Channel 10

Woodend

Update

Issue #1 - Fall 2011

The Living Campus

Outdoor Education: healthy children, engaged learners, critical thinkers, tomorrow's leaders

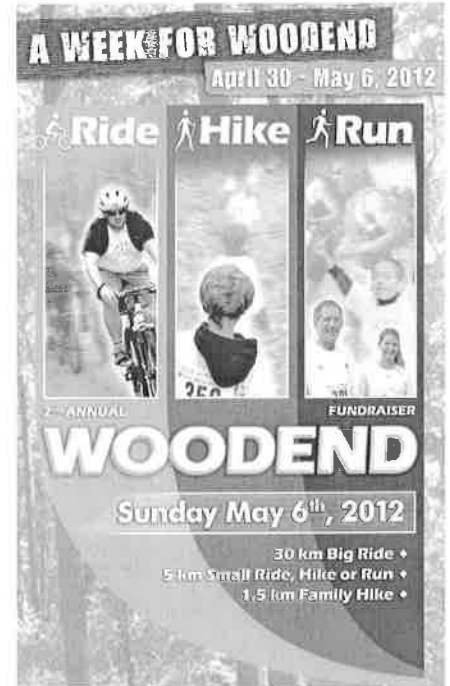
Bringing Learning to Life!

What's Happening at Woodend?

The DSNB is working to transform our Outdoor Environmental Education Centre at Woodend into a Living Campus. The current facilities will be transformed and expanded to create an environment that will empower generations of students, through exploration and discovery, to develop a connection to the earth and understand their responsibility for and impact on it. We will be replacing our old garage (which currently serves as a classroom) with two new innovative, interactive classrooms, that will provide space for more students to experience learning from nature. The new Living Campus will also include indoor washroom facilities and an outdoor classroom. It is an exciting project that will bring numerous benefits to all students of the DSNB for generations to come.

MZE: *Bringing the Campus to Life*

We are happy to announce that the architectural firm of Macdonald, Zuberec, Ensslen Inc. (MZE) have been appointed as the architects for Woodend -- The Living Campus (conceptual drawings below).



A Week for Woodend! Come Out and RIDE, HIKE or RUN...

Help us celebrate The Living Campus by participating in the *Week for Woodend* from April 30 - May 6, 2012. During this exciting week schools will be involved in fundraising activities to help raise awareness and funds for The Living Campus. The week will end with the second annual DSNB Ride-Hike-Run for Woodend on May 6th. More information will be coming out soon about this exciting event. We hope to see everyone there!



Join Us! Woodend – The Living Campus Kids Club and Founders Club

Special thanks to Westmount School (that raised \$300) and Port Weller School (that raised \$1058) and became the first schools in our Kids and BRONZE Level Founders Clubs. If you or your school would like to become members of the Founders or Kids Club please go to our blog for further details. Together we can make the dream a reality!



A huge THANK-YOU to our newest Kids Club member – Cytec Canada Employees – for your recent donation to The Living Campus!

TVCOGECO A very special THANK-YOU to TV Cogeco who have once again shown their tremendous support for DSNB and our community by generously sponsoring a classroom at The Living Campus.

By supporting Woodend – The Living Campus you are providing children with a place that *Brings Learning to Life* by engaging them in hands-on learning and discovery through play. To find out how you can support the children of Niagara **visit us online on Facebook, our blog and website:**



OCTOBER 15, 2011

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

School newsletter inserts for your consideration

ELEMENTARY

GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

The schools of the DSBN welcome parent involvement in their children's learning experiences. Studies have found the greater the support that families provide for their children's learning and progress, the greater the likelihood that their children will succeed at school.

Parent involvement can take many forms:

- Reading newsletters to keep informed about school and classroom happenings that are part of your child's school experience
- Asking questions to better understand how your child is achieving and how you can support next steps
- Working with your child at home, supporting what is happening in the classroom
- Making sure there is a time and place set aside to do homework
- Participating in parent teacher conferences, sharing your insights that will provide a richer knowledge of your child
- Meeting with teachers and taking an interest in their programs
- Serving on school councils and Parent Involvement Committees
- Volunteering for field trips and school activities
- Seeking ways to volunteer from home to support classroom activities

Your involvement will enrich your experience as a parent, and will also benefit your child. Students are more likely to be motivated, earn higher grades, and continue their education to a higher level when their parents are actively engaged in supporting their success at school.

HOMework HELP



Starting in fall 2011, all 600,000 English-language math students in Grades 7 to 10 have access to live, interactive online math help through the expansion of a pilot project funded by the Ministry of Education. Homework Help is free, real-time math tutoring by certified Ontario teachers.

Students can log in from Sunday to Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. EST for 20 hours a week of individualized confidential math tutoring. There are discussion rooms for each grade where students can join in and see what questions other students are asking, watch the tutors draw on the whiteboard – and ask their own question for on-the-spot help.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

CRAWL THROUGH THE STORY

Make it fun!

C – Come Read with Me!

Let your child be the leader while reading a book. Let them look and talk about what they are interested in. It's OK to look at the same pages again and again! Repetition helps to build vocabulary and learn concepts.

R – Remember and Recall

For example, you can ask "What was your favourite part? Who were the characters? Do you remember when....?"

A – Ask questions with the word "THINK"

These questions help your child learn to predict and describe. For example, you can ask "What do you think might happen? Where do you think they might go? Why do you think they did that?"

W – Where is the picture? Where are the words?

Help your child understand that pictures and print are different – the words tell us about the story! Can your child point to the words? Can your child count the words?

L – Link to real life

Ask your child "Do you remember when we...." or "Have you ever....." If you let the child link the story to their real life you can help them to relate new words and concepts to their everyday life.

How we read to children is as important as how often we read to them. Traditionally, when most adults share a book with a child they read and the child listens. Research tells us that children learn best from books when they are actively involved.

To get children involved we want to create a conversation while reading a book. We want both children and adults to move slowly through the story together to explore the book. The best way to help your child is to allow them to become the storyteller of the book. The adult becomes the listener, the questioner and the audience for the child.

To create a conversation about a book, we have created a book mark for you. These are strategies that you can use to help turn book reading into a fun conversation. These techniques encourage children to talk more and give descriptions about what they see.

Information provided by: Speech Services Niagara



ECO-CORNER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: DSBN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

EYE ON WATER AT SCHOOLS...encouraging an environmentally friendly and healthy living initiative

Facts to consider when it comes to water and water bottle use:

- 60 Billion single use water bottles were purchased in North America in 2008.....less than 25% were recycled
- Plastic water bottles are typically the most prevalent source of pollution found on beaches and waterways (rivers, lakes, oceans)
- Plastic water bottles can take up to 1000 years to break down
- No guarantee that bottled water is 'healthier' or 'safer' than tap water
- Drinking water is a much healthier option for students compared to many other options marketed at them (no caffeine, no sugar, keeps them hydrated)
- \$\$\$: bottled water can cost more per litre than the gasoline used in your car

The DSBN Environmental Sustainability committee encourages all students, families and staff to continue to drink a healthy amount of water and consider the following environmentally responsible strategies:

1. Use....and re-use refillable water bottles (many plastic, stainless steel and aluminum options)
2. Provide convenient locations at schools to re-fill water bottles
3. Last year many DSBN schools installed "Elkay EZ-H20" water bottle filling stations that dispense chilled and filtered water using a clean 'touch-less' system
4. Schools, Eco-teams, and parents can receive grants of \$1000 to start an eco-initiative (e.g. purchase of water bottles for school or purchase a bottle filling station) through the Metro Green Apple Grant Program sponsored by Metro Grocery.

<http://www.greenapplegrants.ca/home.en.html>

ORAL LANGUAGE MATTERS

Children who have strong oral language skills often have strong reading and writing skills. The following is a list of specific strategies to help you promote your child's oral language and literacy skills!

Let your child lead the conversation. Children often love to talk about their friends, families, and favourite activities. If your child is less talkative, you may want to start a conversation by telling him/her something about your day that you think would be of interest. Your child may then respond with a comment about his/her day. If s/he does not respond, avoid asking lots of questions; rather, say, "Tell me about _____".

Get close, listen and be animated when speaking with your child. Your child should be able to see your lips and facial expressions, hear your voice clearly, and make eye contact with you. Making sure that you 'get close' helps ensure that your child keeps an interest in what you are saying.

Keep the conversation going. For example, if your child says, "Look at the truck", you might say, "It's a tow truck. I wonder where it is going."

'Think' out loud about what you are doing, using simple language. Activities such as making meals, watching TV, playing or walking outside provide many opportunities for oral language development. For example, when baking, you might say, "Next I'll stir the batter with the spoon. The batter is thick and hard to stir but the more I stir it, the easier it is. The batter is getting smoother and smoother." This type of talk helps children learn vocabulary and conversational skills, and develop sequencing skills. These are all needed at school.

Provide 'toys' that promote oral language. These may include microphones, old telephones, puppets, or even paper towel tubes. Dressing up and pretending to be someone else encourages children to copy the vocabulary, facial expressions, and body language that they see and hear from others.

Remember: the way that you talk to your children influences their ability to talk, think and learn! The most effective way to improve child's language is to let your child lead and keep the conversation going.

Adapted from Prince, Audrey W. (2006) Promoting Oral Language in Young Children: Super Duper Publications.

SUPPORTING THE YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN AT HOME

Success is in the journey, not the destination!

Young mathematicians should be provided with opportunities to explore mathematics throughout their day. Share the times when you are using mathematics in your day so that they see and understand the importance of math in their world. Support them as they begin to grapple with mathematical ideas. Help them understand that success lies not in getting the right answer, but rather in the challenge of solving the problem. Also, let them know that you think math is important, exciting & even creative!

There are many times when mathematical thinking could be discovered while at home or out with the family. Here are a few examples. Be sure to keep it fun!

At home:

- Daily chores: How long will it take us to clean the dishes? Let's time it and see if we were close.
- Cooking: Measure out the flour for this recipe. What if we double the recipe?
- Reading stories: How many elephants are there? How many feet would there be?
- Budgeting: How much will you need to save to be able to buy that bike you want to get?
- Puzzles: How did you know that piece didn't fit there?
- Card Games: What number is that? Is that number bigger than mine?
- Board Games: What roll do you want to get? What are the chances of that happening?
- Video Games: How much is your team winning by?
- I spy with my little eye, something that is smaller than a shoe box...

Grocery store:

- Please pick out 5 apples for the family.
- I have \$20. Will that be enough to buy what we have in the shopping cart?
- That's a lot of pop cases. I wonder if there are more than 100 cases?
- Should we buy the smaller bag or the bigger bag? Which is the better deal?
- I spy with my little eye, something that is more expensive than a loaf of bread...

Restaurant:

- About how much will this meal cost?
- About how much of a tip should we leave?
- I spy with my little eye, something that is a rectangle...

Help support your child as they encounter math in their daily lives. As well, it is very important that young mathematicians have many experiences around a mathematical concept (addition or multiplication) so that they can understand it in depth. While knowing math facts is important, it is more important that young mathematicians have opportunities to deepen their understanding, to reason mathematically, and to use mathematics to navigate their world. Making connections between school math and the math they encounter in the real world will support this learning.

Remember to keep it fun!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE 21st Century Learners: Where Parents Fit In

The DSBN Parent Involvement Committee invites you to join us for an evening of learning, sharing and networking with a focus on ideas to make your School Council bigger and better as you support student learning.

All parents are invited to attend.
Wednesday, November 2, 2011
4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Eden High School
535 Lake St., St. Catharines

Free registration includes a light supper and child care.

Register online at: www.dsb.org > parents > click on the Online Registration link.


PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports for students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be sent home on November 15th, 2011.

Please contact your child's teacher for an interview.



November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Book Fair Day 9	2 p.m. skating grds. 2/3 & % Book Fair Day 10	3 Sharing Assembly period 1, gr. 7/8 to PCHS for basketball game, book fair, pizza day Day 1	4 Photo re-take day Norcard orders due (no late orders accepted) Day 2	5
6	7 Day 3	8 Dairy Farmer presentations grds. 2-6 10:20-11:20 int. girls Go Girls group Day 4	9 p.m. skating grds. 2/3 & % Day 5	10 Day 6	11 Remembrance Day assembly at 10:30 a.m. Day 7	12
13	14 Day 8	15 Go Girls Progress Reports go home Day 9	16 p.m. skating grds. 2/3 & % Day 10	17 Rick Hansen at PCHS Interviews 4:00-7:30 Pizza day Day 1	18 Day 2	19
20	21 Gr. 8 HPV vaccine Day 3	22 Go Girls Day 4	23 p.m. skating grds. 2/3 & % Day 5	24 Sub Day Day 6	25 Day 7	26
27	28 Day 8	29 Go Girls Day 9	30 Gr. 8 to visit PCHS p.m. skating gr. 5/6 & Special Needs Day 10	Character Trait: Responsibility Over the Horizon: Wednesday, December 21 – Christmas Concert at Oakwood School		