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DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

**DECEMBER 2011
 COUGAR COUNTRY EXPRESS**

FROM THE OFFICE

We are certain that you feel the excitement of the holiday season nearing, just as we do at school. Volleyball playoffs and tournament games, generous plans to support our community, rehearsals for our Christmas concert, spirit days and the countdown to the arrival of Christmas! It's a challenge to stay focused on curricular learning. But we will! Our teachers will continue to use effective instructional strategies that will support our vision for student success. We are proud to share the goals that we have developed as a staff to demonstrate our commitment to student achievement:

- Reading:** By June 2012, 100% of Campden's students will improve their ability to read for deeper meaning and extend their understanding.
- Writing:** By June 2012, 100% of students will improve their ability to plan, organize, develop and revise their writing.
- Mathematics:** By June 2012, 100% of students will deepen their mathematical understanding and foundations through problem solving.

We look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, December 15th, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**, as we celebrate the magic of the season with our concert, "Twelve Days of Christmas". On behalf of Campden's staff, we extend our deepest thanks for your continued support and our warmest wishes for a joyous Christmas holiday. We look forward to hearing about the fantastic events that you shared with family and friends throughout the holidays, and we are excited to continue the learning journey with you in the new year. **Happy holidays!**



K. Leskiw-Janvary, Principal

S. De Divitiis, Vice-Principal

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

- Dec. 6th** - Poinsettia orders ready for pick-up in the afternoon
- Dec. 9th** - Red/Green/White Day
- Dec. 12th** - Joy Day
- Dec. 15th** - Christmas Concert 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. "12 Days of Christmas"
- Dec. 21st** - PJ Day
- Dec. 19th-23rd** - Carol Singing in Gym
- Dec. 23rd** - Special Visitor @ 9:15 a.m.
- Dec. 26th to Jan. 6th** - Christmas Break! *Happy Holidays Everyone!*
- Jan. 16** - Eden High School Grade 8 Open House 7-9 p.m.
- Jan. 17** - BDSS & GDSS Grade 8 Open House 7-9 p.m.





Holiday Carolling

Monday, December 19th	- 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, December 20th	- 11:10 a.m.
Wednesday, December 21st	- 1:35 p.m.
Thursday, December 22nd	- 11:10 a.m.
Friday, December 23rd	- 9:00 a.m.

School Advisory Council

We hope you will consider joining our next School Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday, January 24th @ 6:30 in our community room. We hope to see you soon.

Kindergarten Registration

Campden's Kindergarten Open House will be held on Thursday, February 2nd, 2012, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Students must be four years old by December 31, 2012 to be eligible for Junior Kindergarten. It is not necessary to register for Senior Kindergarten if your child is already enrolled in Junior Kindergarten at Campden.

Parents and their child will have the opportunity to visit the school and Kindergarten classroom, meet staff and register their child. Proof of your child's birth date (birth certificate, birth registration, baptismal record), record of immunization and health card number are required when you register.

If you are not able to attend the Open House, please contact the school to make arrangements to register.



Public Speaking



This year Campden will be holding a Public Speaking Club for those students who wish to present a speech and compete to move on to the gym and to the legion. The club will meet once a week starting at the beginning of December and will present their speeches sometime in January. Students who join the club will be made aware that they will need to take their speeches home to work on in between meetings.

Wanted: In School Mentor Volunteers

37 kids are waiting to spend time with a volunteer one hour a week during school hours. The program is about motivating kids through playing board games, reading, making crafts and shooting hoops.

1 hour a week, 1 child, 1 big reason to go back to school!

Please contact Brenda @ 905-945-9353 or brendabbbs@aol.com

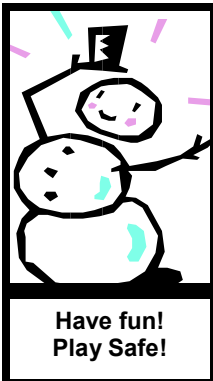




Appropriate Dress for Cold Weather



All students are outside for the morning and afternoon fitness breaks. Please make sure that your child comes to school warmly dressed for winter. Students should have **warm coats, hats, mittens and scarves to keep them warm during outside recesses**. Please remind them to dress properly for the weather. It is also a good time to send a pair of indoor shoes for your child to wear when they remove their outdoor footwear. They must wear shoes inside for their own safety and well-being. Just a reminder about our procedures for inclement weather and emergency closings. The decision to close schools prior to the start of the school day is made before 7:00 am. It is announced by the following radio stations: **Y95.3, CHML 900, CKTB 610, CHTZ 97.7 FM, CKOC 1150, CHRE FM 105.7, CHSC 1220, SPIRIT FM 91.7, K-LITE 102.9 FM, CKEY (RIVER) 105.1**



Winter Play Safety

Safety is our first priority at Campden School. Our rules regarding throwing snow and body contact are in place to ensure the safety of everyone. School consequences for endangering the safety of others range from writing out the Code of Conduct, to detentions, or suspensions. We endeavour to make a clear statement that unsafe behavior is not acceptable. Please review these rules with your children at home and we will continue to remind students of these rules while at school. Our play structure will be closing for the season within the next few days.

Flu And Cold Season

The flu and cold season is upon us. Please help us to lessen the germs being spread around by having your child wash his/her hands throughout the day and by using tissues. The main way that illnesses like colds and flu are spread is from person to person in the form of coughs and sneezes. Sometimes germs also spread when a person touches surfaces like a desk or doorknob that has been in contact with someone with a cold or flu, and then touches his or her own eyes, mouth and nose before washing their hands. Viruses and bacteria can live two hours or longer on these surfaces. Stopping the spread of these germs is as easy as **covering your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough and washing your hands often!** If your child is not feeling well, the best place for them to be is at home getting rest and taking liquids.



Nut Allergy Alert

This is a reminder to all parents/guardians that we have several students in our school who have a severe allergy to nuts of any kind as well as nut products, oils, etc. These allergies, caused from nuts and nut products, can be fatal. Therefore, we ask that you exclude these types of products from your child's nutrition breaks. We thereby encourage nut-free lunches and snacks to be brought by students.

Christmas Concert

Thank you to Mrs. Willms-Reid and Ms. Giesbriecht who have been rehearsing with our student choir during the fitness breaks this month, in preparation for the Christmas concert on **December 15th**.

Also, our student council is asking families to bring a canned donation for your admittance to the concert. *We hope to see you there!*



Character Education

Character Education T-Shirts are Here!

As you know, in October **Campden held it's 1st Annual T-Shirt Design Contest!** All students were encouraged to enter the contest by designing a t-shirt promoting good character and school pride. Clay Elzinga and Lila Laundry-Mottiar's winning designs will be used as Campden's official Character Education logo and will be printed on t-shirts. These t-shirts will be awarded on a monthly basis to students at our celebration assemblies. Campden's got character!!!

Congratulations to the following students who received an award and t-shirt from their homeroom teachers at our Character Ed Assembly on **December 2nd**. They are: K.J. (JK), Nate (SK), Izaac & Matthew M. (Gr. 2), Daniel & Madison G. (Gr. 4), Jenna & Madison O. (Gr. 6), Kathryn & Lucas (Gr. 7).

January's Character Trait is **"Responsibility"**.

Student Council

This year's student council has been hard at work organizing many different events to help build school spirit and connections with our community. Please mark your calendars with these important events.

- Wednesday November 30th** - Students need to find their "twin" and co-ordinate their wardrobe that day to dress as similar as possible!
- Twin Day**
- Friday December 9th** - Can you dress entirely in these colours?
- Red, Green & White Day**
- Joy Day** - Students will participate with their house colour group to create a variety of Christmas crafts to help decorate our gym for our Christmas concert!
- Thursday December 15th** - Each class will decorate their door to show their school and class spirit!
- Due Date for Door Decorating Contest**
- Wednesday December 21st** - Come to school in your warm and cozy PJ's and join us in caroling in the gym!
- PJ Day**

Student Council would also like to help those in our community in need during this time of giving by hosting a food drive over 12 days. Each day will focus on a particular item in need.

Our 12 Days Of Giving

- Thursday December 1 - canned fruits and vegetables
- Friday December 2 - baby items
- Monday December 5 - pasta items
- Tuesday December 6 - breakfast items such as cereal, granola and peanut butter
- Wednesday December 7 - juice items
- Thursday December 8 - crackers and cookies
- Friday December 9 - canned meat
- Monday December 12 - soup
- Tuesday December 13 - rice, Kraft Dinner and instant meals
- Wednesday December 14 - snack foods
- Thursday December 15 - grooming and toiletries items
- Friday December 16 - clothing items such as mittens and hats



The students are also asking for a canned donation to be brought for your admittance to the Christmas Concert!

Thank you for your continued support!

SPORTS

Junior Volleyball

Congratulations to the junior boys volleyball team on a successful season. The boys worked hard throughout the season and improved on their serving and play at the net. This years members of the team are: Clay, Daniel, Trevor, Simon, Nolan, Noah, Ryan, Thomas & David. Keep up the great work cougars! It has been a pleasure coaching you!

Congratulations to our junior girls! It's been a competitive season with wins, a tie and losses. We appreciate the teamwork, effort, and improvement that each girl showed throughout the season! We look forward to continued success! Well done Zoe, Vanessa, Autumn, Peyton, Hannah, Sarah, Madison G., Olivia, Megan, Madison O., Triniti, Jenna & Samantha T.



Mrs. Willms-Reid, Miss Beam & Miss Giesbrecht
Team Coaches

A Big Cougar Thank You

We are very fortunate to have received 15 pairs of brand new knee pads, generously donated by the **Wright Family**. Our team members are grateful to have these for our games. Thank you for your support and thoughtfulness!



Physical Education

Did you know that Canadian children/youth ages six to 19 spend an average of 8.6 hours per day, or 62 per cent of their waking hours, being sedentary?

Here are some ways to help your children meet the recommended 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day:

Limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours per day

Encourage children and youth to play outdoors

Play outside with your children:

Go for walks, hikes, build snowmen, go tobogganing

Introduce your child to skates or skis so they can learn to slide

Play catching games using a wide range of soft objects

For more information go to www.activehealthykids.ca or www.participaction.com



Have A Safe And Happy Holiday Season

School newsletter inserts for your consideration

ELEMENTARY

Parent Involvement leads to student success

Parent engagement matters. Study after study has shown that student achievement improves when parents play an active role in their children's education, and that good schools become even better schools when parents are involved. It is recognized that parent engagement is a key factor in the enhancement of student achievement and well-being.

Students are more likely to be motivated, to earn higher grades, to have better behaviour and social skills, and to continue their education to a higher level when their parents are actively engaged in supporting their success at school.

It is equally important to recognize that parent involvement takes many forms.

- Serving on school councils and Parent Involvement Committees (PICs)
- Volunteering for field trips and school activities
- Making sure there is a quiet place set aside to do homework
- Helping with the homework
- Meeting with the teachers
- Talking to your child about their day at school.



These are all examples of engaged parents. They are all contributing to their children's education. To make it easier for parents to get involved, government funding is available to encourage parent involvement. Find out more about parent involvement in schools at: Parents Reaching out Grants, <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/schools.html>

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Top 10 Tips to Help Your Child with Math

1. **Connect math to daily life** – Let them know the importance of math! Talk about how you use math in your day-to-day life (at the store, in your job, around the house).
2. **Counting can be fun and entertaining** – Show them math can be fun! Sing songs (One, Two, Buckle my Shoe) and play games (card games, hopscotch, board games, Dominoes, chess).
3. **Start Easy and Work up!** – For example, after they've got counting by 1s, talk about skip counting and count by 2s, then 5s and 10s. Don't jump ahead too fast.
4. **Use household items for practice** – Practise adding and subtracting with objects from the house like spoons or pots and pans.
5. **Tap into your child's curiosity** – Go on a number hunt in your house.
6. **Talk about time** – Talk about seconds, minutes and hours, then count days and weeks. Ask them questions: How long until bedtime? How many "sleeps" until the weekend?
7. **Practice mental math using coins** – Count money or have them show you how much an item costs and practise making change for when they're at the store.
8. **Play the estimating game** – Estimate measurements, distances, time and grocery bills and then compare to the actual.
9. **Sports and math** – There is a lot of math in sports such as batting averages, points per game and save percentages (discuss these as you watch the games or read the newspaper).

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH READING AT

When reading a book for pleasure or for information, chances are you will come to a word or two you are unsure of. You probably will use the accuracy strategy of **cross checking** without even thinking about it, because it is second nature to you as a reader to read accurately. Accuracy, is not second nature to children learning to read. It is something that needs to be taught using a variety of strategies.

It is important to slow readers down when they come to a word they don't know and teach them to apply the strategy of **cross checking** so they are able to fix the meaning and not just skip the word. **Cross checking** requires a person to constantly think and monitor meaning. It is a strategy for ensuring the words and pictures read make sense and match the letters on a page.



HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THIS STRATEGY AT HOME?

1. Listen to your child read. When they come to a word they are unsure of, remind them to cross check. Ask:
 - Does the word you are reading match the picture or letters written? (they cross their right arm over their body)
 - Does it sound right? (their left arm crosses over their body making an X)
 - Does it make sense? (both arms come down with hands pointing to the ground)
 - * Doing physical movements with each question helps children to remember the questions.
2. If your child is having difficulty with this strategy at home, break down the process:
 - Have them stop reading when meaning breaks down.
 - Tell them to look at the letters and say the sounds or look for word chunks in words.

Eco-Corner

NORTH AMERICAN HOLIDAY BY THE NUMBERS

- 2.65 billion holiday cards were sold last year (would fill a football field 10 stories tall)
- 200,000: trees are cut down to make all those holiday cards.
- 4 million tons of landfill each year produced from shopping bags and gift wrapping.
- 50 million evergreen trees and about 30 million go to landfill.
- 40% of all battery purchases are made during this season and many are improperly disposed in regular landfill sites.



TIPS TO ENJOYING A SUSTAINABLE HOLIDAY THIS YEAR

- Buy a smaller potted evergreen tree and plant the following spring
- Send electronic greeting cards if possible or reuse cards that you have received.
- Use reusable bags and creatively reduce the amount of wrapping paper by giving gifts inside of reusable containers or bags

<http://1st-ecofriendlyplanet.com/12/christmas-waste/>

<http://www.greenandeasy.co.uk/information/Christmas.aspx>

http://www.nigelsecostore.com/acatalog/Green_Christmas.html

<http://www.storyofstuff.com/>