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DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

**January 2012
COUGAR COUNTRY EXPRESS**

FROM THE OFFICE

Happy new year and welcome back! We trust that you enjoyed a wonderful holiday and returned well-rested and ready to accomplish more great things. Although we are returning to a new calendar month and year, we are completing the end of our first term. Over the course of the next few weeks, students will continue to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the content that has been addressed throughout term one.

The Junior Kindergarten Progress Report, the Senior Kindergarten Term 1 Report Card, and the new provincial report cards for Grades 1-8, will be arriving home on **February 9th**. On this report card, students in grades 1-6 will receive letter grades (e.g., A, B, C, D) and students in grades 7 and 8 will receive percentage grades (e.g., 84%, 72%, 67%) to indicate how well they are achieving the curriculum in each of their subjects.

The Learning Skills and Work Habits are the same as the ones that were on the Progress Reports. These are essential skills that will help students be successful in both school and also as an active member of their community. The Learning Skills and Work Habits are: Responsibility; Organization; Independent Work; Collaboration; Initiative; and, Self-regulation. If a particular subject or strand is not part of a student's program this term, then the NA box will be checked. This subject or strand will be reported on in June.

K. Leskiw-Janvary, Principal

S. De Divitiis, Vice-Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan. 10th - P. A. Day
Feb. 2nd - 2012 Kindergarten
Registration; 4 - 6 p.m.
Feb. 9th - Term I Reports Sent Home
Feb. 17th - Early Release Day
Feb. 20th - Family Day Holiday
Feb. 28th - Book Fair Begins

GRADE 8 OPEN HOUSES

B.D.S.S. - Jan. 17th; 7 - 9 p.m.
Eden S.S. - Jan. 16th; 7 - 9 p.m.
S.L.H.S. - Jan. 18th; 7 - 9 p.m.

For a full list of open house dates, times and details, please go to www.dsbn.org

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.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN

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 House. 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.

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.

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 your child.

Visit www.dsbn.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for more details!



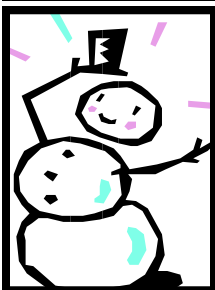
PIZZA DAYS

Our remaining pizza days will be held on the following dates. Order forms must be returned by **Wednesday, January 18th.**



February 3rd, March 2nd & 23rd, April 13th & 27th, May 25th & June 15th

Have fun!
Play Safe!



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.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

January's Character Trait is "**Responsibility**". We exhibit **Responsibility** when we:

Do what we are supposed to do • Plan ahead • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do our best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before we act - consider the consequences • Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes • Set a good example for others.

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. 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.

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.
- 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.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website dsbn.org, or contact the principal. 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**

VACCINES AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Niagara Region Public Health is conducting an annual review of vaccination records for all elementary school children in the Niagara region. **If the vaccination information we have on file for your child is NOT complete, you will receive a letter and questionnaire from us in the mail later this month (January, 2012).**

Please follow the instructions for reporting your child's vaccinations to us, as outlined in the letter. Various options for reporting are available.

If your child is overdue for one or more vaccinations, you will need to make an appointment with your child's doctor to get your child vaccinated. You can also make an appointment for your child at one of Public Health's General Immunization Clinics by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to vaccinate your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document.



“Hey Parents! Do you know what your kids are watching?”

Young people look to celebrities for reassurance about their fashion and behaviour.

The evidence is clear....

The more youth see smoking in movies, the more likely they are to start smoking.

Ways to Protect our Kids

Be aware of what your children are viewing and learn which movies have smoking in them.

Updates available every Thursday at [facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood](https://www.facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood).

Talk to your children about tobacco and movies and teach them to be media aware.

Show your support to get tobacco out of youth-rated films in Ontario at smokefreemovies.ca.

Spread the word to other parents and join the discussion on facebook and twitter.

www.smokefreemovies.ca

[facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood](https://www.facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood)



DECEMBER 19, 2011

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

School newsletter inserts for your consideration

ELEMENTARY

THE DAILY FIVE

You might have wondered what your child is talking about when you hear them mention "The Daily Five." The purpose of this article is to fill you in on what The Daily Five is all about, so you don't have to nod your head while wondering what in the world your child is referring to.

The Daily Five is a way of structuring the reading block so every student is independently engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. These research-based tasks are ones that will have the biggest impact on student reading and writing achievement, as well as help foster children who love to read and write. Students receive explicit whole group instruction and then are given independent practice time to read and write independently while the teacher provides focused, intense instruction to individuals and small groups of students.

When it is up and running smoothly, students are engaged in the Daily Five, which consists of:

- Read to Self
- Work on Writing
- Read to Someone
- Listen to Reading

WORD WORK

There are very specific behaviour expectations that go with each Daily 5 component. The first few weeks are spent working intensely on building reading and writing stamina, learning the behaviours of the Daily 5 and fostering classroom community. The teacher also spends time learning about each student's strengths and greatest needs as a reader in order to best plan for each student's instruction.

Each child is taught to select "Good Fit Books" or books they can read, understand and are interested in, which they read during Daily 5. Students spend most of their time actually reading, which research supports as the number one way to improve reading. Motivation and reading enjoyment skyrocket when students are offered choice, especially when this is accompanied by extended practice and specific reading instruction for each individual child.

Please think of your child's classroom as you visit garage sales or clean your own child's bookcase. A variety of reading materials at various reading levels makes the classroom library as appealing as the local favourite bookstore or library for browsing.

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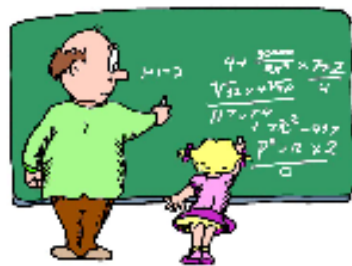


HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH MATH

Keep your eyes open for the many opportunities to discuss the math you encounter every day!

In our classrooms, we are exploring concepts, solving problems, talking about the math and practising the skills we use. To follow up from our classroom lessons, please have discussions with your child about what they learned in math class. Have them show you a problem they did in school and share their solution with you. Listen to their explanations and ask them questions about what they did and why it worked. This will be beneficial for all students in the class!

It is important for you to support your child at their level of understanding. Don't show them more than what they're ready for. Exploring the mathematics that they are doing in class more deeply is usually more beneficial than pushing ahead to get to bigger numbers or to the next concept. For example, if your child is practising adding 2 digit numbers at home ($32 + 44$), it is better to explore a variety of 2 digit numbers ($74 + 19$), rather than worrying about going ahead to 3 digit numbers. Spend time solving the 2 digit numbers in many different ways, so that your child becomes flexible in their thinking about numbers. When helping them practise their math facts, be sure to discuss and explore the concepts behind the math they are doing. Memorizing that $4 \times 6 = 24$ isn't meaningful without knowing that 4×6 represents $6 + 6 + 6 + 6$ or $4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4$ or that it is 4 groups of 6 or 6 groups of 4.



However, finding real world situations to explore the math your child is doing in school is still the best way to help them develop a better understanding of their school math. Ask them how much will it cost them to buy that new video game for \$49 and the batteries they'll need for \$15? Ask them to explain how they got their answer to you.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE?

In addition to developing a lifelong ability to communicate with many people, students may enjoy other benefits of learning a second language including a "strengthening of their first language skills, enhancement of problem-solving and reasoning skills, the capacity for creative thinking, and the ability to respect and understand other cultures." (*The Ontario Curriculum, French as a Second Language: Core French, Grades 4 to 8.*)

In addition, it can provide a competitive advantage in the workforce by opening up additional job opportunities. According to *The Impact of Second Language Education* study, there is an urgent requirement for qualified speakers of languages other than English in areas of science, technology, medicine and global commerce.

Students of foreign languages develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. It will open the door to the world of art, cuisine, cinema, travel and literature. Some evidence also suggests that children who receive second language instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems. Students who are fluent in two languages score higher in both verbal and non-verbal intelligence. They also have higher test scores in reading, language and mathematics. (*College Bound Seniors: The 1992 Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers*)

By encouraging your children to continue studying a second language, you will be equipping them with the tools they need to succeed in today's growing world.

FRENCH IMMERSION

"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)

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).

ECO-CORNER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: DSBN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

ECO-TIPS FOR OUR GREAT CANADIAN WINTER



Air Quality: Feeling stuck inside this winter? So is the air inside your home.

Recent research has found that air inside homes can be just as polluted as the air in many large industrialized cities. Indoor air pollution is caused by a lack of ventilation and can lead to more frequent colds, respiratory problems, and other ailments and diseases. Here's a tip to keep your home and your family healthy.

Keep the house clean and use exhaust fans. House dust mites, pollens, animal dander, and other pollutants can be reduced through regular cleaning. Install and use fans vented to the outdoors in kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry rooms to improve fresh air circulation.

Thermostats: If you have a manual thermostat or no thermostat at all, one way to save energy and money this winter is to install an ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat. When installed and used with the four pre-programmed temperature settings for weekend and weekdays, you can save about \$100 each year while staying comfortable.

Solar Energy: Use the sun to your advantage. Open shades, blinds and curtains that have southern exposure during sunny days in winter and close them all at night to make the most of all that free light and heat provided by our sun.

Use Better De-icers: Try to steer clear of rock salt (sodium chloride) and urea-based de-icers. Not only can they pollute habitats with plant-killing runoff, but they can also corrode concrete, destroy your lawn (even a snow-covered one), and contaminate water supplies. Better bets? Sand, which provides traction without damaging salt-sensitive landscapes, and look for 'green' alternative melters on your next trip to the hardware store.

Check out the following websites for tips/resources:

<http://www.earthshare.org/green-tips.html>

<http://www.wholeliving.com/133880/winter-green-ecofriendly-ways-stay-healthy-season>

<http://sustainablepersonalfinance.com/365-green-tips/>

The DSBN Environmental Sustainability committee wishes all students, families and staff to enjoy a safe and sustainable winter season.