



DECEMBER 2020

Principal's Message

Welcome to December!

Principal

Ms. J. Moore

Secretary

Mrs. S. Reeb
905-358-9121

Email

SIM@dsbn.org

**Check out
the calendar
for important
dates!**

December is always a great time to be grateful for the good things in life. We are grateful for our school community (staff, students, parents and community partners) who have supported each other during an unprecedented time in our history. Your love for your children and the support you give them enables them to shine in their academic work and believe in themselves.

There is so much beauty in the rich traditions of many faiths, during this time. What is truly wonderful about this time of year, is the common bonds we share, regardless of our beliefs. Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas or Diwali, family values and the feeling of kindness and helping others, is what we have in common.

Don't forget that there are many simple gifts to give, like a smile, a kind word or a random act of kindness. On behalf of the Staff at Simcoe Street, we wish you a holiday season filled with joy, peace and good health.

Ms. Moore :)



Bentley is participating in the Horse Cents Riding Program at BNR Stables in Fenwick, every Friday after school! Well done Bentley. We are happy you are enjoying riding!

Winter Clothing and Outdoor Learning

If you need a winter coat, snow pants, boot, hats, gloves or mitts, please contact the school office by phone or email (sim@dsbn.org) to inquire about the support we can provide in getting these much needed items for your children.

Even though we will be re-opening our gym soon, all students will continue to have gym classes outside, in the winter months. Kindergarten children will also continue to have outdoor exploration time during the winter months.

In December, classroom teachers will be opening lockers for student use for outdoor clothing items. Backpacks, lunches, and other personal items will continue to be stored on the back of your child's chair.

Parent's Role in Keeping Schools Safe

Everyone has a role to play in keeping families safe and reducing the spread of COVID-19. It is the responsibility of parents and caregivers to assess their children on a daily basis before sending them to school. We ask parents to use this link: [Ontario Ministry of Education Covid-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/) (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>) to screen their child(ren) daily. The screening tool will provide direction and information to determine if students should attend school, remain home, or seek medical advice. Additionally, parents must have a person available to pick up their child right away, should they become sick during school. **We thank our parents for being diligent with following the screening guidelines and being available to pick up your child when needed.**

School Council 2020-2021

**Our next School Council meeting is Friday, December 4th at
9:30 am.**

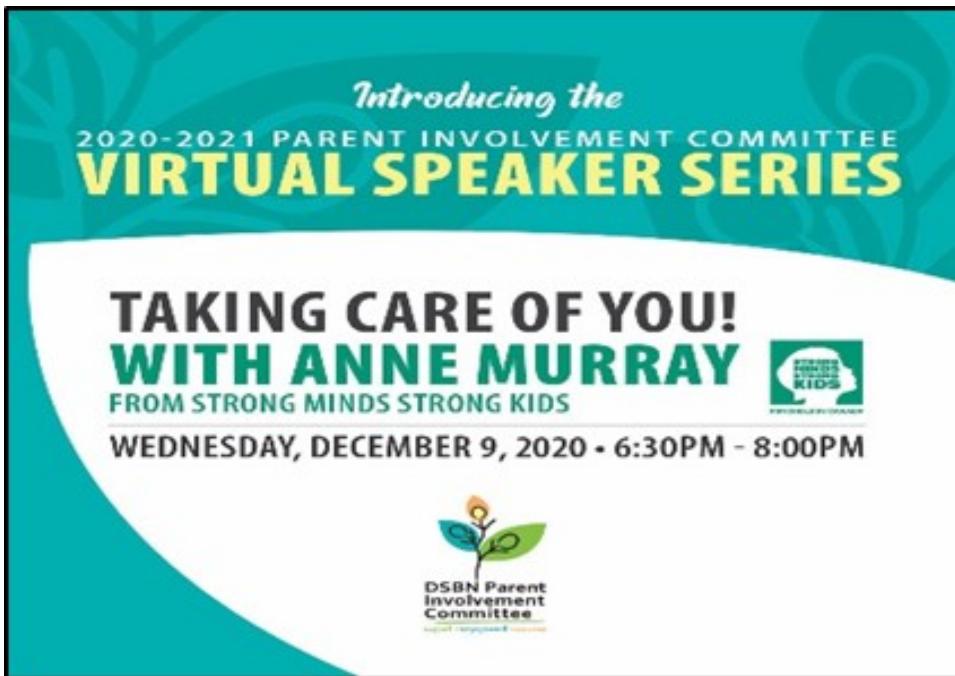
We meet virtually through Microsoft TEAMS.

All parents and guardians are welcome. If you haven't attended a meeting this year, phone our office and let us know and we will get you set-up. It's easy!



Virtual Speaker Series.....

The DSBN is excited to introduce the 2020-21 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Virtual Speaker Series! Parents and families can join these free and interactive presentations over the school year, and hear from influential speakers about a variety of topics that are helpful to families.



The first virtual event of the series will focus on mental health and well-being with Anne Murray from Strong Minds Strong Kids Psychology Canada, presenting, *Taking Care of You!* Anne works with families, educators, and youth to coach and facilitate ways to recognize, reduce, and develop strategies for managing stress.

Anne's presentation will support you to:

Learn more about stress and tools for how to cope

Learn how to better understand and support your child cope with their own stress

Virtual Speaker Series: Topic 1 – Mental Health and Well-Being

Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Registration link: <https://www.dsbn.org/pic/speakerseries.html>



Social Worker Support

Do you have questions about your child's mental health and well-being, such as anxiety, behaviour or self-harm?

Do you need support in accessing supports in the community?

Do you need advice for setting goals to help with regular school attendance?

Do you have any questions or looking for support regarding a certain aspect of parenting?

If these are some questions that you have, please speak with your child's teacher or Ms. Moore. Sue Bennett is a DSBN Social Worker that works with families in Niagara Falls schools, including Simcoe Street, to provide an additional layer of support to help our students and families achieve success. She is an invaluable member of our Simcoe Street team and is looking forward to connecting with families.



French Immersion September 2021

Attention parents and guardians of Senior Kindergarten students: Registration for the French Immersion program (starting September 2021) offered at Prince Philip School (3112 Dorchester Road, Niagara Falls) is open to all students in Year 2 (Senior) Kindergarten. If you want your child to develop a high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer.



**At the DSBN, French Immersion
starts in Grade 1**

**Save
the
Date**

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER
15th
2020

6:30-7:00PM

Please join us for our Virtual
Information Night for families
considering French Immersion!

Go to dsbn.org/fi to register!

Holiday Luncheon



A big thank you is extended to a former Simcoe Street family for their generous donation to our school. This family is extremely grateful of the support they received at Simcoe Street, a few years ago. **Their donation has afforded us the opportunity to have a catered Holiday Luncheon with all of the trimmings, on Thursday, December 17th, for all of our students and staff!**

The luncheon will begin at 12:35 pm and students will be eating with their teachers in their classrooms. The hot lunches are pre-packaged and we will be following the same safety protocols that the DSBN has put in place for our Lunch Angel program. The luncheon will support special diets and allergies (i.e., no nut products).

We are thankful for being able to enjoy the season with this special luncheon.



HUNGER CAN'T WAIT

The festive holiday season is fast approaching and due to COVID, this year will look different for all of us. At the Soup Kitchen, we are presently serving 165 - 200 hot meals daily. A 40 % increase over last year! This holiday season, we are asking community members to please consider donating financially to help us continue to provide warm & nutritious meals to those in need in Niagara.

The Soup Kitchen in Niagara Falls needs your support!

- Is your Annual Office or Family Holiday Celebration Cancelled?
- Looking for that perfect gift for the person who has everything?
- Want to find a special way to honour the memory of a loved one?
 - Looking for different ways to celebrate a special holiday?

Please consider donating to The Soup Kitchen!

Donate Today And Help Make A Difference In Your Community:

\$25 will supply bottled water for our guests for 2 days

\$50 will supply fruit for 1 day for our guests

\$100 will cover 30 meals for one of our guests

\$200 will supply protein for 180 meals

\$600 all meals for a day in your company or family name

\$ amount of your choice

Grocery store gift cards and food donations are welcomed and greatly appreciated!

Donations can be made through CanadaHelps or e-transfer to: nfcotreasurer2@gmail.com

If your donation is in honour of a special person or for more information, [contact Nancy Tester](mailto:nancytester.nfco@gmail.com)

nancytester.nfco@gmail.com • Ask us how to set up a monthly/quarterly donation

Call 905-354-1640 and press 2 for more information

All donations will be recognized through social media and tax receipts will be issued



Math Corner...getting kids to talk about Math!

Asking questions to get your children talking about solving problems in mathematics is a great way to deepen their understanding about what they are currently learning in math. Questions that require children to justify or explain their solutions encourage them to reflect on their learning. The following are just a few examples of questions that you can ask your children at home:

- How did you solve the problem?
- What did you do?
- What strategy did you use?
- Would your strategy work for other numbers or problems? Why or why not?
- What math words did you use or learn?
- What did you do first, next...?
- What did you learn today?

EFN Teacher Tribute!

Are you looking to show your appreciation to your child's teacher or school staff member but not sure how to do that during this time? Please consider making a donation in honour of someone through the [EFN Teacher Tribute Campaign](#). All proceeds provide basic necessities for DSBN students.



Keeping our kids safe!

Please take a moment and think about your child's safety information that is registered with the office.

Have you moved? Did you get a new phone or phone number? Have your contacts changed?

Please send a note (include your child's complete name) or give Mrs. Reeb a call and make sure your information is up to date!

Thank you for helping to keep your child safe.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER

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.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

Websites and Subscription Features

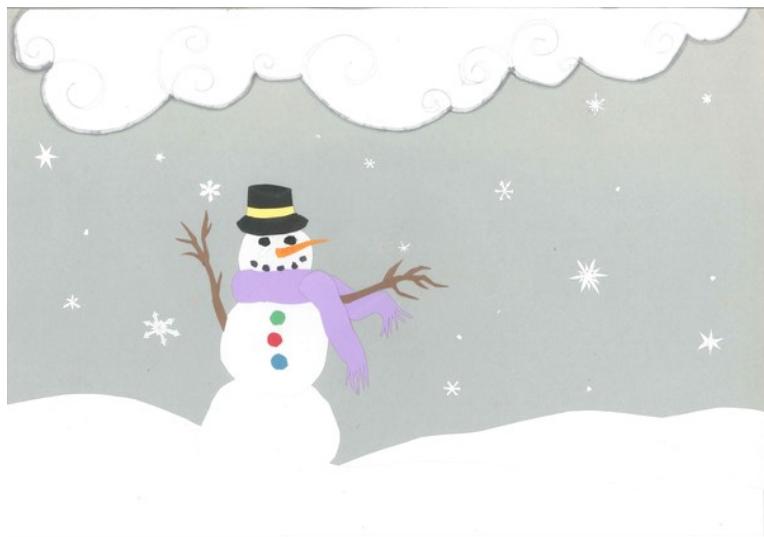
www.dsbn.org DSBN Facebook or Twitter www.nsts.ca NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

Phone:

Niagara Student Transportation Services 905-346-0290 Voice Auto Attendant

Radio Stations:

CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines	CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines	CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines
CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie	WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton	K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton
CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton	CHML (900 AM) Hamilton	Y-108(107.9) Hamilton
CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton	GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland	



MR. H's ARTISAN CARD CONTEST

DSBN Director of Education Warren Hoshizaki, known as Mr. H in schools, would like to give students an opportunity to show off their skill and creativity by designing artisan cards. To enter, create a piece of artwork to commemorate a month of the year and what makes it special.

Mr. H would like to give students another opportunity to shine by designing artisan cards that can be shared with family, friends, and the wider Niagara community.

WHAT'S AN ARTISAN CARD?

DSBN Artisan Cards commemorate what's special about the different months of the year. Each student entering the contest is asked to pick one month and create a piece of artwork about what makes that month stand out. For example, September marks the start of the new school year, in December, many of our thoughts turn to the holidays. Let your imaginations run wild and create artwork that will inspire and delight.

HOW DO I ENTER?

SIMPLE!

- Begin by creating your artwork. It can be any medium you prefer, including digital, mixed media, or traditional drawings or paintings
- Bring it to your school along with a signed permission form

OR

- Take a clear photo of your artwork and permission form and email them to communications@dsbn.org

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the volume of submissions, only winning entries will be returned.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I WIN?

Mr. H is a big believer in celebrating successes big and small. Students whose artwork is chosen to become Artisan Cards will be invited to be recognized at a virtual Board meeting on January 26, 2021. There, Mr. H and the Board of Trustees will congratulate students. A certificate and a package of printed cards featuring the winning artwork will be sent to each winner.

Take a look at some previous winning art!



PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE FORM

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HOW TO ENTER:

- Create artwork
- Send your artwork to your child's school or email with permission form to:
communications@dsbn.org

DEADLINE: MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021

SUBMISSION CRITERIA:

- All artwork must include a signed consent form (below)
- Submissions must be original DSBN student work
- Can be any medium: mixed media and digital artwork will be accepted
- Please note: Due to the volume of submissions, only winning entries will be returned

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

- Students will receive a set of their own cards that include their name, grade and school
- Students will be invited to be recognized at the virtual Board Meeting on January 26, 2021

Student Name (please print): _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Title of Artwork: (Optional) _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Consent: I hereby grant the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) permission to use my child's artwork and to take photographs of my child and use their name for use in any and all media publication in connection with the above identified contest for such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, fundraising and web content. I also authorize DSBN to distribute my child's artwork to third parties for the purpose of accomplishing the goals described above.

I have read and understand the above and agree to the conditions outlined above.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____



