



The SIMCOE STREET Public School ...

4760 Simcoe Street,
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 1V6
905 358-9121
Our website: simcoestreet.dsbnschools.org

DECEMBER 2016



NEW THINGS HAPPENING

Our newsletter is usually ready during the last week of the month. We do put out a SYNERVOICE message through to your telephone/cellphone just to let you know that it will be posted on our website simcoestreet.dsbnschools.org soon. In each newsletter you will find a mystery 'BUZZ word' and all you need to do is let your child know what the BUZZ word is for the month and ask him/her to print it on some GOOS paper (which really means GOOD ON ONE SIDE) at school and bring it to the office to place in the bag by the first school day of the month. Your child could win a pizza ticket or even a milk ticket or even a...SURPRISE! We would love to hear from you as to whether our newsletter is keeping you informed about what we do at Simcoe Street Public School.

We had our very first CELEBRATION assembly on November 4, 2016 at 12:15 p.m. and realized that our community loves to come and hear all the wonderful things we do here. Parents have even given us the idea that instead of having it at 12:15 p.m. we will have it right after the morning announcements. Our next Celebration Assemblies will be in January, March, May and the last day in June with our AWARDS assembly. We hope that you received a copy of the AWARDS brochure for students from K-Grade 7 as well as the special Graduation brochure. Thank you for celebrating our student success with us.

Our WELCOME ROOM is now open! Parents may drop in on Tuesdays and Thursdays and enjoy coffee, tea or hot chocolate and goodies we have provided. Bring your preschool children and play with them or you may wish to access our computers. Details about what will be happening on Wednesdays and Fridays will also be shared. We have many partners who believe in us and the Niagara Falls Community Centre and Niagara Regional Health Unit have been working alongside us to support you in any way that they can. On Friday December 2, 2016 our students will have a vision screen and details are in this newsletter. Just a sneak peek to December 9, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. please join us for a presentation about **"Oh those nasty pests: lice, bed bugs, rodents."** and then stay at 2:30 p.m. for a community drop in to ask questions or chat with our community partners!

Sincerely, Genny Weerdenburg (Principal) and Jennifer Poirier (Vice Principal)

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE!

YOU & YOUR CHILD ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, February 2, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



During your visit you will:

- See a Kindergarten classroom
- Meet the Kindergarten Team
- Register for school
- Get a fun goodie bag with learning resources

JUST WATCH ME!
KINDERGARTEN AT THE DSBN

Children who will be turning 4 before December 31, 2017 are eligible to start Kindergarten in September 2017.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN DECEMBER?

December 2, 2016: Vision Screen for all of our students. Details in this newsletter.

December 5, 2016: Grade 7 students immunizations (Round # 2) of Menactra.

December 8, 2016 Educational Foundations of Niagara (EFN) has generously provided funding for an acappella group called CADENCE to perform for us. Acappella means unaccompanied by musical instruments and their voices make the instrument sounds. Please join us if you can! Thank you EFN!

December 23, 2016 is the last day before our Holiday break. Please join us at 9:15 a.m. for a holly, jolly sing along in the gym with all of us!





**Niagara Falls
Community
Health Centre**

Outreach Services

An Outreach Worker will be available:

Simcoe St. Public School

Welcome Room

Every Friday

1:15pm-3:15pm

We can help to connect with programs,
activities and services in the community!

- **Housing resources**
- **Birth certificate applications**
- **Applying for income assistance**
- **Community resource information**
- **Connecting you to health services**
- **Advocacy**

We are also available at Niagara Falls CHC:
Call us to make an appointment— 905-356-4222
4481 Queen St., Niagara Falls ON

LET'S GET CREATIVE

A Christmas Crafting Session @ Simcoe Street Public School

December 14th 1:15-3:15pm

Free! All supplies & snacks included.

Dress for mess.

**All Simcoe Street Public School
Parents and Caregivers are welcome!**

Registration is required.

**Call Nicole to register
905-356-4222 ext. 292**

Outreach & Information *at Simcoe Street Public School*

An Outreach Worker will be available
at Simcoe Street Public School

December 9th 1:15pm - 3:15 pm

1:15-2:15pm: Outreach services available (connecting to programs, community resources, assistance with forms and applications, birth certificates & much more!)

2:15-3:15pm: Common Household Pests Presentation
Free snacks and beverages offered.

**We look forward to ongoing
Outreach Services from The Niagara
Falls Community Health Centre
every Friday at Simcoe Street Public
School in the New Year!**



NFCHC NIAGARA FALLS
COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTRE
905-356-4222 | nfchc.ca

IT'S GETTING COLD OUT THERE

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW but let's not throw any of this stuff!

The bottom line is: there are **no excuses** for throwing snowballs! We want to make sure our school yard *and* the walk to and from school are SAFE for all our students. Should your child have an excuse for throwing a snowball, we just won't accept it. We will not 'judge' whether this was a 'good' excuse or not since there are no excuses. We only know that a snowball was thrown and that in itself jeopardizes the safety of our students.

Please be advised that students going outside for fitness break will be the rule rather than the exception. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate clothing for the weather. If your child is in need of warmer outdoor clothing, please let us know so that we can help you in any way that we can. Also sometimes parents will send a note requesting that their child remain indoors because they have a cold however, if a student is ill, the best place for your child is to be at home.

IF WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU

It is absolutely important that we have all the correct information in our Trillium data base in case we need to reach you during the day. Please let us know *immediately* if you

- Have a new telephone number either at your home or place of employment
- Have lost your phone or have no more minutes on your cell phone so that we could adjust our contact information accordingly
- Have moved addresses or
- Are planning to move anytime during the school year so that we can have your emergency contact numbers updated as well

A quick call to the school or dropping in to let us know will be fine for us. If we continue to have difficulty contacting you then we panic a little.!

REMINDER CHECKLIST FOR YOU



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- ◇ Remind myself that I am welcome at any School Council meeting and the next one is scheduled for Thursday January 19, 2017 at 9:15 a.m. in our WELCOME ROOM at Simcoe Street Public School
- ◇ Remind myself that Friday, December 23, 2016 is the last day of school before our Holiday Break.
- ◇ Remind myself to enjoy the holiday break with family, friends and even enjoy reading a good book!

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 behaviours 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 Simcoe Street Public School Council
- Meeting with the teachers
- Talking to your child about "what they are learning" (WALT) or ask about what their "learning goals" were during their day at school

These are all examples of engaged parents. All these ideas are contributing to your children's education .



(holiday)

OUR FITNESS AND NUTRITION BREAKS

Our first FITNESS BREAKS begin at 10:35 am and children check out the washroom on their way outside and 20 minutes later when they enter the school, they may also check out the washroom and/or wash their hands before they head inside their classroom RESTAURANT to eat their food. Yes, we believe in instilling life skills by using our classroom as a restaurant and expect three (yes 3) things. We expect ALL students to :

- ◇ use an inside voice and that may be Level 1 (which is silence), Level 2 (which is whispering) or Level 3 (which is a classroom voice)
- ◇ remain in their seats while they eat and they can discard their apple cores etc. when the nutrition break finishes and
- ◇ food remains on the desk and is not to be thrown around the room or at each other

These expectations are exactly the same that you would expect if you took your family to McDonalds etc .or even in your own home. Throwing peas or mashed potatoes around the dinner table may not go over very well in your family.

Well, let it be known that our students do not like these expectations and get themselves in trouble. By trouble, we mean that they are no longer welcome in their classroom restaurant and need to eat their lunch in another classroom restaurant for a predetermined amount of time.

Please remind your child about the importance of this life skill. Our students don't like the expectations of lining up (which we call CHAMPING the line or stairs) and prefer to run in the hallways, jump down the stairs and bowl everyone over. When we shop at Walmart, we have to line up and we can't run up and down the aisle with a shopping cart. And definitely we cannot bowl people over in the aisle! So we practice at our school.

VISION SCREENING AT OUR SCHOOL COMING SOON



Your child will be given a vision screening by nurses from the Niagara Falls Community Health Centre on **Friday, December 2, 2016**. You will be notified after the Vision Screening whether your child passed or failed the screening and you will be given follow up instructions. In either case, this screening is not a substitute for an eye exam. Only an eye exam by an eye doctor can identify eye and vision problems and prescribe treatment.

Should you not want to have your child screened, please contact the school at 905-358-9121 to let us know before December 1, 2016.