



The *SIMCOE STREET* Public School ...

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

OCTOBER 2016



NEW THINGS HAPPENING!

We had our very first **SCHOOL COUNCIL** meeting on Thursday, September 29, 2016 in our **WELCOME ROOM**. School Council members act as an advisory council to the Principal/Vice Principal about issues that concern our school. School Council members represent the voices of our entire school population. The School Council has the best interests of **ALL** of **SIMCOE STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL** with the focus to make our school a better place. We may be seeking ideas about our nutrition programs at our school and seek input regarding our Code of Conduct and/or Parent Guide to Safe Schools. On Thursday, parents/guardians shared that they would welcome a **MILK** program at our school. So, we have started to make plans and we will begin one this week! Details will be included in this newsletter! Thank you for this idea.

We will be scheduling our School Council meetings during the morning since this seems to be the best time to meet. The following dates have been set: October 20, November 17, January 19, February 16, April 13, May 25 and June 8 all beginning at 9:00 a.m. Anyone is welcome to join us and we hope to see you then.

Please be reminded that children play on our grass on our school property and it isn't very pleasant when there are animal feces around. If you see anyone walking their dog or using our property as a dog run, please speak up and remind them of their responsibility to clean up after their dogs using bags. We cannot supply doggie bags but we will be looking into placing signage regarding the picking up of feces. Please help us keep our school clean for our students.

Sometimes you will get an automated voice message from the school just to keep you up to date about important events happening at our school. We call this our 'BLAZECAST' system and it is just one more way that we communicate with you.

Hallowe'en is on Monday, October 31, 2016 this year and we welcome parents to bring their lawn chairs, Tim Horton's coffee/tea, hot chocolate and just set up in the middle of our tarmac beginning 1:00 p.m. Our students and staff will be walking around the perimeter of our tarmac (probably twice!) so that you can see all of us. If it rains that day, parents may line up along the hallways as we wander through our halls. Students will be getting ready in the classroom with their teacher at 12:30 p.m. with our parade beginning at 1:00 p.m. We understand that parents will want to come into the school to help their child get dressed, however for the safety of everyone, we invite you to meet us at the tarmac when our parade begins. Keep your fingers crossed that it doesn't rain. See details about Hallowe'en in this newsletter.

Please note parents/guardians that regardless of the weather conditions outside, supervision outside for our students in Grades 1-8 begins at 8:35 a.m. The office cannot let students in prior to that time either. This is very important. Please make sure that your child arrives to school between 8:35 a.m. and 8:50 a.m.. If you drop your child off at school before 8:35 a.m., please note that there is absolutely no supervision outside.

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

OUR CARETAKER AND EVENING CLEANERS

I would like to highlight our caretaking staff who work so hard behind the scenes. Our Head Caretaker, Mr. Felton, is with us during the day to attend to our cleaning and maintenance needs. Mrs. Knox and Mrs. Carr are our Evening Cleaners who work during everyone's supper hour getting our classrooms ready for the morning. We always receive so many compliments as to how clean they keep our school, not only from our staff, but from our parents/community as well! You will enjoy their cheerful nature just like all of us do! They truly work as a team and we are glad they are at our school!

HALLOWE'EN CELEBRATIONS

Each classroom teacher will be deciding what Monday, October 31, 2016 celebrations will look like for the afternoon. Teachers will provide you with details about the afternoon. Please note, that Mrs. Poirier and myself will be waiting on the school front door step for our little ghosts and goblins from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. handing out treats and treasures for our students who stop by. We hope that you will visit us at the front veranda of our very own school! Yes, I know. This sounds pretty spooky!

HALLOWE'EN COSTUMES

Please be respectful of our "violence free costumes" for Hallowe'en. We understand that students like to show off their pirate costume with a sword or possibly a hooked hand. However for the afternoon at our school, a pirate costume would be just perfect. **Please save the blood, gore and any weapons for after school trick or treating.** Please try to be creative about a costume. I understand that a toy gun in a holster for a cowboy costume would be what cowboys wore on television. However the holster would be perfect without the gun. We are not going to personally inspect each and every costume that the children wear, but should the teacher find that the costume weapons that are brought to school 'take over' the meaning of the costume, your child will be asked to place it in their locker. You may be thinking that 'what is the grim reaper if they can't have their scythe'. Our response to this would be 'the grim reaper costume is perfect without the scythe'. Once, again, please be respectful of our 'violence free costumes' expectations.

SAFETY AT OUR SCHOOL

We are concerned about student and parent safety when walking home from school through our parking lot and not realizing cars are backing up or coming into our parking lot. Mrs. Weaver will be standing at the parking lot gate opening and directing parents and students to use the sidewalk. Please be respectful of our intentions for your safety.

We are awaiting to open the fence to allow for students/parents to walk through onto our school property from Armoury Street. Until that happens, the gate will be open for student/parent walk through for the morning and after school, hopefully to ease congestion in our parking lot. Once the opening in the fence is made, our gate will be closed.

The City of Niagara Falls transportation has moved our bus drop off and pick up area for students to a location that is past the parking lot entrance to the school so students no longer need to walk across the sidewalk that leads into our parking lot. Once again, we are doing this for student safety.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Please be reminded about the following:

MEDICATION: Should your child require ORAL/TOPICAL medication that is prescribed by a doctor, then we will provide you with a form to complete and the medication is dispensed from the office. If your child requires ASTHMA puffers and you prefer to have your child keep the puffer in his/her locker for quick and easy access, please ask the office for a form requesting this. Please contact the office for any additional information.

CELL PHONES: It is the District School Board of Niagara's policy that students do not bring cell phones into the school. We understand that parents provide cell phones for student safety on the way to school and back from school and we respect that. However, once students arrives at their locker, students must keep their cell phones in their locker until the end of the school day. The school is not responsible for any lost, damaged or stolen cell phones and staff/office do not store student cell phones for safe keeping. Students continue to bring their cell phones and use it during the school day. **If students use their cell phone during the school day it will land at the Principal's or Vice Principal's office and parents will be informed to pick it up at the school at a later date.** Thank you for your attention in this important matter and supporting our expectations.

PIZZA AND MILK TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!

You may wish to purchase PIZZA or MILK tickets at the office . We will also be selling MILK (chocolate or white), or ice cream during the FIRST nutrition break only. The MILK program will be available for the first 10 minutes of this nutrition break. MILK tickets may be purchased at the office:

6 tickets for \$5.00 12 tickets for \$10.00 18 tickets for \$15.00 24 tickets for \$20.00

Parents have requested lactose free milk however we are still awaiting news from our supplier as to this possibility. Stay tuned!.

PIZZA day is scheduled EVERY WEDNESDAY of this school year and our supplier is Little Caesar's Pizza. Pizza will be available to our students during the second nutrition break ONLY which begins at 1:15 p.m. PIZZA tickets may be purchased at the office for the following amount:

5 tickets for \$5.00 10 tickets for \$10.00 15 tickets for \$15.00 20 tickets for \$20.00

The tickets have your child's last name on them so that they are never lost and , THEY NEVER EXPIRE. Now this is great news! Please note parents that tickets will only be sold as above and not one , two , three or four tickets at a time.

Niagara Nutrition Partners

We are so fortunate to once again, continue our partnership with Niagara Nutrition Partners (NNP) BREAKFAST PROGRAM. NNP provides funds to provide a breakfast program for our students who have eaten their breakfast and are still hungry or just haven't had enough to eat in the morning. Mrs. Gilmour develops the menu ensuring that we provide food from 3 food groups. Each classroom has a FOOD BIN and Mrs. Gilmour and a few students deliver the food during the first period each and every day to each classroom and once again for the afternoon. Niagara Nutrition Partners promotes the connection between healthy food choices and improved learning through the provision of breakfast at our school. Currently, Niagara Nutrition Partners supports 208 schools and community based programs, nourishing 13,000 children and youth.

What's Happening in OCTOBER ?

- October 7: Professional Activity: There will be no school on this day
- October 10: THANKSGIVING DAY: Enjoy this l-o-n-g weekend.
- October 11 and 12: DENTAL SCREEN for all student
- October 20: at 9:00 a.m. SCHOOL COUNCIL Meeting. Please consider joining us in our WELCOME ROOM.
- October 31: Hallowe'en Parade. Parents requested to wait for us outside on the tarmac at around 1:00 p.m. If it rains, we welcome you to line our hallway and watch our wonderful parade.

SNEAK PEEK FOR NOVEMBER!

- November 9: Photo retake day for those students who missed photo day.
- November 10: Progress reports go home today for Grades 1-8
- November 29: High school OPEN HOUSE at STAMFORD COLLEGIATE 6:30 p.m.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

The primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. Teachers use **assessment** to gather information about your child's strengths and needs as a learner and to provide feedback to improve his/her learning. **Evaluation** is used to judge how well your child is meeting the curriculum expectations. Marks are assigned during the evaluation process and these are included in your child's report card grade. Evidence of your child's achievement for evaluation is collected over time from three different sources - **observations, conversations, and s your child's products**. or what he/she produces as the final product of his/her learning. Your child's products could include tests or assignments for evaluation. Assignments for evaluation do not include ongoing homework that your child may have completed in order to consolidate their knowledge and skills or to prepare for the next class. At our school this year, the only homework your child should be involved is reading for pleasure, reading for fact finding, reading for the love of reading and just ANY KIND of reading even if it is reading cereal boxes.

Determining a Report Card Grade - Grades 1-8

Before making a decision about the grade to be entered on the report card, teachers consider:

- all evidence collected through observations, conversations, and your child's products;
- equity for all students, by ensuring that test and assignments for evaluation are completed whenever possible, under the supervision of a teacher;
- assignments for evaluation must not include ongoing homework that students do in order to consolidate their knowledge and skills or to prepare for the next class;
- assignments for evaluation may involve group projects as long as your child's work within the group project is evaluated independently and assigned an individual mark, as opposed to a common group mark;
- when appropriate, the impact that missing assignments will have on your child's grade when they fail to submit major assignments; and,
- that bonus marks may not be included when determining report card grades.

Late and Missed Assignments for Evaluation (Grades 7 and 8)

Your child must understand that he/she is responsible not only for their behavior in the classroom and the school, but also for providing evidence of their achievement of the curriculum within a time frame specified by the teacher, and in a form approved by the teacher. There will be consequences for not completing assignments for evaluation or for submitting assignments late.

Each teacher will use his/her own professional judgment, including the consideration of specific individual circumstances, when determining if a late penalty will be applied. Before a late penalty is applied a teacher will use strategies to support your child to meet their responsibilities including, for example:

- asking your child to clarify the reason for not completing the assignment;
- helping s your child develop better time-management skills;
- taking into consideration legitimate reasons for missed deadlines;
- providing alternative assignments or tests where, in the teacher's professional judgment, it is appropriate to do so;
- deducting marks for late assignments; or,

the full value of the assignment may be deducted if the assignment is not submitted.

Deduction of Marks

For major assignments for evaluation, teachers may impose mark deductions for lateness, after considering your child's circumstances. A 5% per day deduction **up to a maximum of 15%** of the assignment may be deducted. For example, if your child earns 80% on a major assignment for evaluation, and it is handed in one day late, the mark on that assignment is 75%. If the assignment is two days late, the mark becomes a 70%. If the assignment is three days late or more, the mark becomes a 65%.

REPORT CARDS

PROGRESS REPORTS AND REPORT CARDS

Please note the following:

Progress Reports (Grades 1-8) will be going home on Thursday, November 10, 2016 and details about **Parent/Teacher Interviews** and the interview process will be sent home closer to the end of October.

Term 1 Report Cards (JK Progress report) and (SK - Grade 8) will be going home on Friday, February 10, 2017. Parent teacher interviews will be scheduled only on an 'as needed' or requested basis before or after these report cards go home.

Term 2 Report Cards (JK- Grade 8) will be going home on Wednesday, June 28, 2017.

Details regarding Kindergarten reporting/ interviews and parent observations will be shared through the Kindergarten Program newsletters.

CROSSING GUARD MESSAGES

Our Crossing Guards would like to send the following messages to all of our students. This will also be announced during the morning announcements:

Please dismount and walk bicycles, skateboards, scooters.

Hold on to all sports equipment (balls, skipping ropes etc.) and remove ear buds/headphones while crossing.

Please stand two to three big steps back from the edge of the roadway.

Please do not run or fool around while crossing.

Please listen and show respect for the School Crossing Guard. They are there to keep everyone safe.

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

NOV. 28th - DEC. 1st 2016

I GOT THIS!



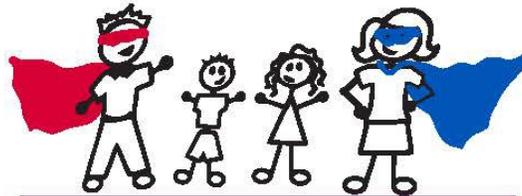
#IMatterAtDSBN

Hey Super Parents!

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER!

Join us for an evening of learning with
FREE workshops for DSBN parents

REGISTRATION, FOOD &
CHILD CARE are FREE!



PARENT POWER!
DSBN PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE 2016

Mark It On Your Calendar:

WED. NOV. 2, 2016

4:00 pm - 8:15 pm at Eden High School
535 Lake St., St. Catharines

Register online at www.dsbm.org/pic
OR speak to someone in your school office for assistance



Register Before October 3, 2016
and you could WIN \$500 of support
for your School and School Council!



**I Matter
At DSBN**