



4760 Simcoe Street, Niagara Falls, ON

October 3, 2011

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Cross Country meet - Oct. 5th
- Monthly Assembly & Spirit Day (orange & black day) - Oct. 6th
- Picture Day - Oct. 6th
- PD Day - Oct. 7th
- Thanksgiving - Oct. 10th
- Fundraiser Orders due - Oct. 11th
- DSBN Cross Country meet - Oct. 12th
- School Council mtg. - Oct. 18th at 6:00 p.m.
- Halloween Parade - afternoon of Oct. 31st

October NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Simcoe Street students, parents and staff for a great start to the year. Wow!

On September 20th, we held our Meet the Teach / Open House. I was very pleased to see so many interested parents and families visit our school and meet their child(ren)'s teachers.

As you are aware, we had to reorganize our classes due to enrolment numbers. The students appear to have adjusted well to the changes that were made. Our staff has worked very hard to make the transition as smooth as possible. If at any point you have an issue here at Simcoe Street School please make an effort to contact your child(ren)'s teacher so that we can help.

SCHOOL COUNCIL



Our next scheduled School Council meeting is set for **Tuesday October 18th at 6:00 p.m.**

If you would like to take a more active role in your child's school, please consider coming out. We encourage any and all interested parents to attend.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Individual pictures will be taken on **Thursday October 6th**.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

A reminder that there is no school for students on **Friday October 7th**. Teachers will be spending the day analyzing our most recent EQAO results and using that data (as well as other data) to help identify areas of need. From there we begin to develop our School Growth Plan for this coming year.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

There will be no school on **Monday October 10th**, as we celebrate Thanksgiving.



HALLOWEEN PARADE



Children are invited to dress up for our Halloween Parade on the afternoon of **Monday, October 31st**. We will parade through the school and around the neighbourhood (weather permitting) and then back to homeroom classes. We will start about 1:40 p.m.

Contact us at:
Phone: 905-358-9121
Fax: 905-358-1768
E-mail:
sim@dsbn.edu.on.ca

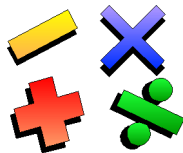


SEPTEMBER 2011



JK a.m.	Caleb Putzman	Leah Tremblay
JK p.m.	Bobia Yao	Ava Admiral-Gates
SK	Connor Lessard	Sky Joseph
Grade 1	Nimra Qureshi	Ayden Hitchcock
Grade 1/2	Houmam Heraki	Olivia Mayer
Grade 2/3	Chelsea Ryan	Olivia Raspal
Grade 3	Danielle Meissner	Satteva Olatunde
Grade 4	Hamna Malik	Milica Medakovic
Grade 5/6	Cyrell LaForme	Breanna Kuhlberg
Grade 6/7	Chris Webb	Morgan Thompson
Grade 8	Katy Wilcox	Skye Hicks
ELL	Bert Zhen	(English Language Learner)

GRADE 4 CCAT TESTING



All Grade 4 students in the school will take the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test this September/October. This test helps to identify individual student needs and abilities, so we can ensure appropriate programs are provided. It also provides a benchmark we can use to judge how well our school should be expected to do on achievement tests - whether these tests are teacher-generated, board-wide, provincial or national. Further, the test provides information indicating particular strengths in verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal reasoning.

NEWSLETTER DRAW

YES, I/WE HAVE READ THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER.
PLEASE ENTER OUR NAME(S) IN THE NEWSLETTER DRAW.

Student's Name / Family Name

Parent Signature





PHONE THE SCHOOL

To ensure the accountability and safety of our students, it is imperative that parents call the office when their child is going to be absent. There is an answering machine if you wish to leave a message before the school opens. Any unexplained absence will be checked using our callback system. This means, with any unexplained absence, we will be calling home to find out where the child is.

PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE OFFICE:



Please remember, when visiting the school, to report directly to the office. All guests of Simcoe Street School, *including parents*, are asked to sign in and wear a name badge. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

LATES

Being on time for school is an important habit to teach your child. We stress the need for every student to be at school on time in order to not miss important lessons or information being shared. *Students who are late must report to the office to obtain a late slip for their teacher.*



HEAD LICE

This is the time of year that head lice seem to be most active. Please check your child's scalp regularly and treat immediately if you discover any eggs. Please be sure to notify the school so that other children may be checked as well. Our procedure at the school will be to check any student suspected of head lice and send children home for treatment upon discovery of head lice. Letters

will also be sent home with children in the affected class.

Please use an appropriate shampoo as recommended by a pharmacist. The Niagara Regional Health Unit has informed us that the careful removal of all eggs is important and that shampooing alone will not necessarily kill all eggs. **PLEASE REMOVE ALL EGGS!** Thank you for your support. It is the best way to keep this nuisance under control.

WHAT CAN I HAVE TO DRINK?

The best thirst quencher is water. Canada's Food Guide recommends that you "satisfy your thirst with water!" Parents often send juice to school with their children not realizing that the "drink", "beverage", or "cocktail" that they send contains very little juice. Only those juice boxes that specify 100% fruit juice actually contain pure juice and not a combination of a small amount of juice and mostly sugar and water. Have vegetables and fruit more often than juice, and enjoy a variety of options. For most children at least two cups of milk is recommended daily. Milk is another good option for quenching thirst. Pop, energy drinks, sports drinks, and juice should be limited and offered occasionally.

BE A GREAT PARENT

Parenting is about making the best choices. No one said it was going to be easy but we are here to help. **beagreatparent.ca** has been designed to help you feel more confident in your parenting role. It will help answer parenting questions that you have around communicating, guiding and relating with your child. Enjoy your journey!

For more information, please call the Parent Talk Information Line at:

905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7555



beagreatparent.ca

communication • guidance • relationships

Niagara Region
PUBLIC HEALTH

GROWING SUCCESS: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

The primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning.

The following seven fundamental principles lay the foundation for rich and challenging practice. When these principles are fully understood and observed by all teachers, they will guide the collection of meaningful information that will help inform instructional decisions, promote student engagement, and improve student learning.

The Seven Fundamental Principles

To ensure that assessment, evaluation, and reporting are valid and reliable, and that they lead to the improvement of learning for all students, teacher use practices and procedures that:

- are fair, transparent, and equitable for all students;
- support all students, including those with special education needs, those who are learning the language of instruction (English or French), and those who are First Nation, Métis, or Inuit;
- are carefully planned to relate to the curriculum expectations and learning goals and, as much as possible, to the interests, learning styles and preferences, needs, and experiences of all students;
- are communicated clearly to students and parents at the beginning of the school year or course and at other appropriate points throughout the school year or course;
- are ongoing, varied in nature, and administered over a period of time to provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate the full range of their learning;
- provide ongoing descriptive feedback that is clear, specific, meaningful, and timely to support improved learning and achievement;
- develop students' self-assessment skills to enable them to assess their own learning, set specific goals, and plan next steps for their learning.

(Ontario Ministry of Education, *Growing Success*, p. 6)

We know that parents have an important role to play in supporting student learning. Studies show that students perform better in school if their parents or guardians are involved in their education. This is the basis for the principle that students and parents should be kept fully informed about the student's progress. Our schools have procedures in place to ensure that parents are aware of the expectations for their child in the various grades.

2011-12 School Year Reporting Timelines

November 15, 2011	Grades 1-8 Elementary Progress Report Senior Kindergarten Progress Report
November/December	Junior Kindergarten Parent/Guardian Observation and Follow-up
February 9, 2012	Grades 1-8 Term 1 Elementary Report Card Junior Kindergarten Progress Report Senior Kindergarten Term 1 Report Card
June 25, 2012	Grades 1-8 Term 2 Elementary Report Card Junior Kindergarten Term 2 Report Card Senior Kindergarten Term 2 Report Card

At any time throughout the year, parents/guardians are invited to communicate with the school about their child's progress and achievement.

CLOTHES FOR KIDS

Simcoe Street School now has a "Clothes for Kids" room. We currently have a selection of coats & snowpants, winter boots, backpacks and other warm winter wear for students who need them. Please contact your child's teacher if you need warm winter wear or a backpack and we can arrange to fit your child. We want all of our Simcoe Street students to be warm and dry this winter!

STUDENTS VOTE!



On October 5, the Grade 5/6 class will participate in the authentic voting process at Simcoe Street School. Students will register and vote for a political candidate campaigning in Niagara Falls for the upcoming provincial election. Students will vote on real ballots, behind voting screens and deposit their votes in a ballot box... just like their parents will be doing on Election Day! Our school results will be tallied, sent to studentvote.ca and shared on TV and in the local newspapers after the real election results are released. The students also got to meet and ask questions of some of our local candidates, such as Byrne Smith of the Green Party, Kim Craitor of the Liberal Party and John Jankovic of the Family Coalition Party. How exciting!

SKATES FOR KIDS

A huge thank you to Pen Financial Credit Union for selecting our school for the *Skates For Kids* program. Pen Financial not only collected and donated countless pairs of skates, they got PowerPlay Sports on board to sharpen the skates for us, and got Front Row Sports to donate countless NEW hockey helmets to our school. This donation enables ALL students at Simcoe Street School to be able to participate in our skating programs. Thanks to the generosity of these organizations we had a GREAT day skating at the Gale Centre Arena with the Niagara Falls Canucks & Niagara Ice Dogs. A huge thank you to both hockey clubs also for giving our students FREE tickets to their hockey games. We are fortunate to live in such a great community!



SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS

The "Me to We" Club is holding Spirit Days again this year. Our spirit days are a fun way to boost school spirit while raising a little bit of money to put back into our local and global community. Last year, money AND food raised by the club went to Project SHARE, the Niagara Regional Native Centre, the Red Cross, Lyric's fundraiser and our school snack program. We hope to continue this tradition this year, too! Thank you for your support!

OCTOBER 6th - orange & black day

MARCH 2nd - favourite sports team day

NOVEMBER 4th - pajama day

APRIL 5th - "twins" day

DECEMBER 2nd - red & green day

MAY 4th - mismatched clothes day

JANUARY 13th - crazy hair day

JUNE 1st - Stinger spirit day (school colours/dress like a bee)

FEBRUARY 3rd - hat day

Please donate a quarter on Spirit Days (if you are able) to continue to support our "Me to We" charities!

**Opportunity for SIMCOE Families to
provide a **short 1-mo. Homestay****

January 11 to Feb 7, 2012

**Two Grade 8 South Korean students
are being placed in Mr. Bos' Grade 8 class in our school
for a Canadian Cultural and English Language Experience**

RSVP asap or by October 30, 2011



Looking for:

DSBN Host Families with
Gr 7 or Gr 8 children (preferred)
or other ages (acceptable) in a
Niagara Falls school

A preference for hosting two
visiting international students
(hosting one is also accept-
able).

Compensation:

Host families will be compensated
for food, lodging, and transpor-
tation to school in the mornings
as well as from after-school ac-
tivities (after-school activities run
Mon-Thu and finish at 5:00 or
6:00 p.m.)

**For more information or to indicate your interest, please contact
ligia_tobon@hotmail.com or 905-354-6916 asap or by Oct 30, 2011**

Experience the joy and excitement of hosting an international student