



Principal's Message

Principal

Ms. J. Moore

Secretary

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

Welcome back! We hope that your holiday season was filled with many happy moments. Have you made any New Year's Resolutions?

A new year provides us with a wonderful opportunity to start fresh and commit to making positive changes in our lives like eating better, going to bed earlier or exercising more regularly. Remember...small steps can lead to big changes:).

This is also a chance to talk to your children about ways that they can work toward academic goals. Why not make a New Year's school resolution? Try brainstorming good work habits, ideas for organization, or ways to overcome pitfalls encountered in the early part of the term. With report cards coming out in early February, this is a great chance to see first hand that hard work and focused effort really make a difference!

On behalf of our entire staff, we look forward to working with you this year. Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2019!





Family Literacy Day and Spirit Day

Family Literacy Day is officially Sunday, January 27th. In the spirit of promoting literacy skills at Simcoe Street, we would like to have a **Pajama Day on Friday, January 25th**. Students/staff are invited to wear pajamas to school this day as they celebrate by participating in various literacy activities. **Note:** Our code of conduct rules still apply for dress code, on this day:). Also, we ask our students to put on a fresh pair of pajamas in the morning, before they come to school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lunch Angels

We are very fortunate to have the Lunch Angels visit our school **every Wednesday** and provide our students with a free healthy lunch. If you would like to have your child participate in this program or would like more information, please contact our office.

The Lunch Angels lunch is delivered at second fitness break. Just a reminder that students will still need a snack for first break.



School Council 2018-2019

Our next School Council meeting is Wednesday, January 16th, at 9:15 am, in the Welcome Room! All parents and guardians are welcome. If you have a toddler– bring them along. The Welcome Room has lots of toys and books available for our young friends!

Updates: Thank you to Mrs. Patterson and her team of parents and volunteers who organized our 2nd annual **Holiday Bazaar**. The Holiday Bazaar was a huge success. Thank you to everyone in our community who donated items. Every item was on sale between 25 cents to a dollar. It was a win-win because we were able to provide our students an opportunity to give to their relatives and friends and we also raised \$375 for our school!

Thank you to our School Council for organizing our **December Bake Sale**. Thank you to everyone who donated items.

Our School Council is supporting our school's initiative to support our classrooms with technology resources. **THANK YOU!!!!**

December Highlights!



Friends



Family



Gratitude



Community



Giving Back



Kindness



Parent Breakfasts

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 9th at 8:30 pm in our Welcome Room**, for our Parent breakfast! Simcoe Street School partners with the Niagara Falls Community Health Centre to offer topics of special interest to our parent community. Topics in the past have included healthy eating and how to shop on a budget, healthy living using yoga and karate. This month we will be exploring the topic of ***gratitude*** and how this simple practice can change your life.

All parents/guardians are welcome and a free breakfast is provided. Please bring your toddlers because the Welcome room is equipped with toys, books and games for our young friends.

French Immersion

The French Immersion program offered at Prince Philip Public School 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.



FEATURES OF THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM:

- Development of French language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing from Grades one to twelve;
- Designed to be a second-language program for children whose first language is NOT French;
- Current enrolment of over 2,000 elementary students;
- Certificate of French Immersion Studies awarded upon successful completion of the elementary and secondary immersion programs;
- Opportunity to challenge the Diplôme d'études de langue française (DELFF) exam in Grade 12 ;
- Promotes understanding of different cultures;
- Provides additional opportunities for employment using French as the working language;
- Increased ability to communicate and interact with confidence in French.

Registration will open January 7th, 2019

For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit www.dsbni.org/fi or speak to your school principal.

A Parent Information evening will be held on January 9, 2019 date at Prince Philip Public School from 6 pm to 7 pm.

Crossing Guard

Our school's crossing guard schedule will now be 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm, starting on Monday, January 7th (at Victoria Street and Simcoe Street).

This shift time change has been made in order to better accommodate our school families active travel times. We thank transportation services and the city of Niagara Falls for this time change!



School Climate Survey

DSBN School Climate Survey 2018-2019

Information for Parents

What?

The DSBN School Climate Survey is an opportunity for students in Grades 4-12 and parents to provide information about their experiences of well-being, acceptance, inclusion and school safety. It is a web-based survey that is designed to be anonymous. A summary report will be available for schools to use for goal-setting and planning purposes.

Why?

A supportive, accepting, inclusive and safe school creates an environment for students to do their best in the classroom and beyond. Hearing the student and parent 'voice' is key to the development and implementation of school and board level improvement plans.

When? Where?

The DSBN will be surveying all parents and students in Grades 4 to 12 from **February 1 - March 8, 2019**.

Students will be surveyed in school. The parent survey will be available via a "**School Climate Survey**" link on the school's website.

Questions?



Math— How can you help?

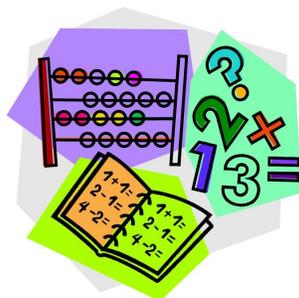
The following is an excerpt from ‘A Parent’s Guide to the Fundamentals of Math’ (Ontario Ministry of Education, August 2018) and was shared at our November School Council meeting.

Math is everywhere and you can help your children make connections between what they are learning in school and everyday experiences at home and in the community, such as at the store, cooking at home, or managing money.

Here are some ideas about how math can be part of your regular day to day routine.

- **Math games**— Math puzzles and games can show that math is fun. They also require trial and error thinking, enhance numeracy and logical thinking and promote discussion.
- **Math on TV**— Watch educational television programs. Many offer websites with activities to do together, including free games, apps, math crafts and songs.
- **Math at the grocery store**— You can talk to your child about how to weigh fruit on a scale or how to estimate the total cost of items as you fill your cart.
- **Math with money**-Help your child manage money by creating a budget together or saving to make a special purchase. Or you could go shopping together and help with estimating the amount of a purchase, calculating the tax and checking the change.
- **Math in computer games**— If your child enjoys the computer, introduce them to fun and educational web-based games and activities.
- **Math in the kitchen**-Bake, cook and prepare food with your child. There are many great math opportunities in the kitchen, such as measuring ingredients.

By making math a priority and finding ways to help your child with math at home and in day-to-day life, you are helping to inspire a love of learning and a better understanding of math.



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

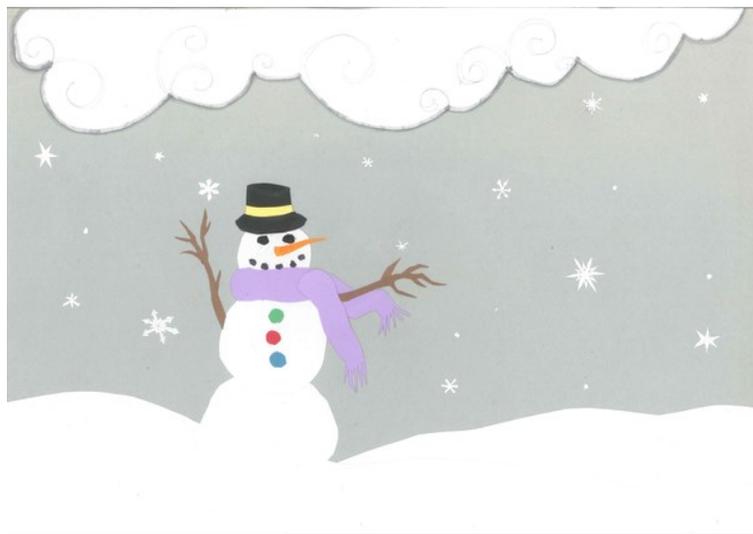
www.dsbn.org DSBN Facebook or Twitter www.nsts.ca NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

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	





Sip n' Chat

with Sue Bennett
SIMCOE STREET's Social worker

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?

Drop in and chat with Sue Bennett to discuss some questions or concerns you may have.

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.

Please drop in between 8:30 and 9:30 am on the following dates (excluding Jan. 11th):

December 7, 2018

January 11, 2018

2 pm to 3 pm

February 1, 2018

March 1, 2019

April 5, 2019

May 3, 2019

June 7, 2019



Head Lice

Head lice continues to be an ongoing issue, especially in school-aged children. Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with whether you have clean or dirty hair, or the cleanliness of your home. Head lice will continue to spread at school and during after school activities causing a frustrating problem, unless we have every family's co-operation to get rid of them completely. To combat this problem, we need your help. Please check your child's head once a week.

For more detailed information contact Niagara Region Public Health at 1-888-505-6074 Ext 7371.

When to keep your child home— a message from Public Health

Please keep your child at home and away from others if he or she has any of these symptoms:

- ◆ Fever
- ◆ Diarrhea
- ◆ Vomiting
- ◆ Rash
- ◆ Frequent coughing or sneezing
- ◆ Yellow or green discharge from the nose, ears, or eyes
- ◆ Sore throat

Contact your family doctor for advice about care and treatment. For more information, talk to your school nurse or go to www.niagararegion.ca/health

Attendance Matters-Winter Weather Obstacles

This is the time of year when winter weather and children's illnesses can take a toll on school attendance. But it's important to get your children to school every day possible. These tips are adapted from attendanceworks.org.

- Children who miss too much school in kindergarten are less likely to read well by third grade. By grades 6 through 8, absenteeism can predict who will graduate from high school.
- A study of weather-related absences in Massachusetts found that each missed day affected a student's test scores and grades. This was especially true on snowy days when school stayed open but some students missed class.
- There's not much we can do about the weather, but there are two key steps every parent can take to help avoid absences this year: Make back-up plans for bad weather and keep your children healthy.
- It's important to find a way to get your child to school even when the weather is bad.
- If your children are sick, see the message "When to Keep My Child Home" earlier in this newsletter.
- Do what you can to keep your children healthy. Dress them warmly for the cold weather and make sure they've got hats and gloves. Encourage them to wash their hands regularly.
- Help your child learn to persevere. Today, they learn to overcome a snowdrift. In the future, they will have the grit to triumph over even greater obstacles to their dreams.

If you require some assistance improving your child's attendance, please contact your child's teacher or the school office.