

# The Gator's Tale



Mrs. Fay Vanden Beukel- Principal

February, 2012

## From the Principal's Desk:

Hello again!!

Welcome to winter and the mid-point of our school year. On February 9<sup>th</sup> we will have been at school for 100 days. The students in grades one, two and three will be recognizing the half way point by celebrating 100's Day with lots of planned math and language activities. Also on February 9<sup>th</sup>, all students will be receiving their first term report card. Thank you for taking the time to review your child's report card with them in order to celebrate their successes and to help them plan their goals for second term.

In true Greendale style, it has been a very busy first few weeks back at school with lots happening from - after school reading clubs to sports. The newsletter is filled with upcoming events, as well as, some highlights from the first month of 2012. With so much going on, your children will need your support and guidance to reach their full potential as students. Please continue to help them by insisting on regular and appropriate bedtimes, practicing and developing skills and celebrating their successes.

Mrs. F. Vanden Beukel



Reminder



Early Release: There will be an early release day on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Family Day: Just a reminder that Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> is a holiday and there will be no classes. Enjoy your day with your family!

## Eco Club Update

Earlier this year, Greendale received a Metro Green Apple Grant to achieve a green goal of reducing the amount of disposable plastic bottles in the school. We have just had our new water bottle filling station installed, and already, it's a hit! Some quick water facts were found out by our Eco Club are, and were turned into trivia questions for the school. Some of them might surprise you!

- About 20 out of every 100 water bottles are recycled. The rest end up in landfills.
- Water bottles take ~700 years to begin to decompose
- about 40 % of bottled water IS tap water.
- There are no regulations on safety testing for bottled water
- Bottled water costs 10 000 times more than tap water. Can you imagine paying \$10 000 for something that costs a dollar?
- In North America, all tap water is tested and drinkable, yet we have been made to believe it's "dirty" by advertisements
- it takes 3x the amount of water to produce a bottle as it does to fill it

Hopefully this gives everyone just one more thing to think about! Thanks to all the students who participated in the Water Trivia Raffle, and Poster contests!



## -Character Trait Corner-



*"A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties."*

**Harry S. Truman**

- Optimism is being filled with exuberance
- Optimism is being cheerful and happy.
- It is doing something wholeheartedly, with zeal and eagerness...giving 100% to what you do, holding nothing back.
- Being optimistic is being excited about something, looking forward to it. It comes from having a positive attitude.
- When you are optimistic you enjoy yourself.
- With optimism, even the dullest job can be fun.

### ***I am practicing optimism when I...***

- Let myself enjoy looking forward to something
- Think of imaginative ways to get things done
- Do things wholeheartedly
- Smile, laugh and enjoy what I do
- Enjoy the wonders of life
- I am full of optimism.
- I look on the bright side. I give 100% to whatever I do. I use my imagination. I smile, laugh and enjoy all that I do.



me to we

## Vow of Silence/ One Night Out

The Greendale School Me to We club (grades 5-8) is hosting a combined Vow of Silence/One Night Out event on Friday Feb. 10th, 2012. Instead of the traditional Vow of Silence where students "go silent" as a demonstration of children being silenced around the world by various issues, we will be bringing it "closer to home", talking about poverty, the homeless issue, and how it impacts children (and adults) in our local area. During the day, students will "go silent" (limiting communication to required written assignments for teachers) to represent the oppression that our local homeless population face on a daily basis. That evening, participating Me to We students will stay at the school until 9:00 p.m. and learn about homeless/poverty issues including: the impact of our local food bank on the citizens of Niagara Falls, the local population that accesses it, and connect it to the Community Garden (that our ECO club is currently creating). During the week of Feb. 6th - 10th, we will host a food drive to support Project Share, organizing a friendly competition between classes, and spread awareness through the school. We are looking forward to a great event!



## Library Award

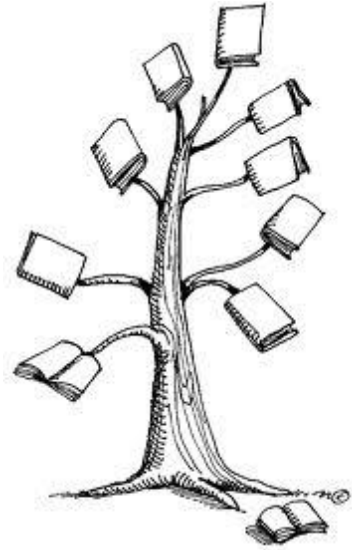
Ms. Ehgoetz has calculated the circulation statistics for the library and is excited to announce the classes who have borrowed the most books for the month of December!

In third place - congratulations go to Mrs. Dunne's class borrowing an average of 2.85 books per student. We had another close race this month for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place, with a difference of only 0.04 (four hundredths)! In second place - congratulations once again to Mrs. Hilliker's class who borrowed an average of 3.1 books per student. And last but not least a special congratulations to Mrs. Christian's class who squeaked out in front with an average of 3.14 books per month! The grade 1 students have received a special trophy to proudly display in their classroom for the month of January, and each student has received a special wristband/bookmark to wear/use.



# Family Literacy Day - Book Swap!

In recognition of Family Literacy Day, which happened on Friday January 27th, 2012, the Greendale Library hosted a Book Swap for students! In the days leading up to the swap, students brought in gently used books that they were no longer reading. On Family Literacy Day, students were invited to visit the library, browse the HUGE selection of books and choose "new" books to bring home! What a great way to recycle and to encourage the love of reading! Remaining books were donated to Goodwill. Thank you to all of our students who participated!



## Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that the Greendale Breakfast Club will be open every morning. The students can come in any time after 8:30 for a healthy breakfast. The students may access the Breakfast Club one day per week, or every day, if needed. We want to ensure that each child has a full stomach and is ready to learn. Donations of food or money are greatly appreciated. Receipts will be given for donations of \$10.00 or more.

## WE are Counting Down to Kindergarten!

Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

Going to school for the first time is a major step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the 'Kindergarten Countdown' open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org) and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details.

## Kindergarten Countdown

- 5 Visit [www.dsbn.edu.on.ca](http://www.dsbn.edu.on.ca) or call 905-641-1550
- 4 Go to February Open House
- 3 Register at school
- 2 Attend Kindergarten Orientation
- 1 Get ready for first day

Blast off to school!



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA  
Achieving Success Together

## DSBN ACADEMY

The DSBN academy is a program that is offered to students who are currently enrolled in grades 5 and 6. The Academy is in the middle of its first year of operation and is a grade 6-12 public school that focuses on supporting and empowering students to be the first in their families to graduate from a post-secondary institution.

### DSBN Academy Strategies for Success:

- School-wide shared beliefs focused on post-secondary preparation
  - Committed and motivated students, families and staff
    - Single track academic program
    - Advisory program support
    - After school “encore” programs
  - Programming that encourages parent involvement
    - Transportation

There will be an information session on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m in the library at James Morden Public School which is located at 7112 Dorchester Rd., Niagara Falls. Parents who are interested in this program should seriously consider attending this information session

### MAKE CHANGE FOR CHILDREN CAMPAIGN 2011 - February 20-24



The Education Foundation of Niagara is the DSBN charity and all funds raised go directly back to our students for program enhancements and poverty relief. The Poverty and Emergency Relief Fund supports the extraordinary, emergency, personal and school related needs of individual students brought about by financial hardship.

We all know at least one of these children...torn windbreaker that is worn as a jacket throughout winter, worn shoes, no lunch, absent from every field trip. And, all too often, a tragedy touches one of our students by the way of fire, illness, or death in the family.

To continue to do our best at helping children in need we are engaging in this year's campaign and invite you to participate in a small way. During the week's campaign, please send a Toonie with your child or just *make some change* and do what you can to help us help the kids. Email [efn@dsbn.edu.on.ca](mailto:efn@dsbn.edu.on.ca) or visit [ww.efnonline.ca](http://ww.efnonline.ca) for more information on how they support our youth. We look forward to working with you to raise the funds needed to support students-in-need!



# History Comes to Life!

The JK/SK classes enjoyed a very informative and hands-on dinosaur workshop given by "Pieces of Prehistory". Mr. Alex brought in some dinosaur teeth, claws, jaws and skulls. The kids got a chance to hold the museum pieces, ask questions and learn all about dinosaurs. They also had the opportunity to make their own dinosaur, dig for shell fossils, sort the plant and meat eaters and do skeleton rubbings. A great experience enjoyed by all.





## Who Is Nobody?

Brianna Goosen, a grade six student in Mrs. Lagerwerf/ Ms. Ehgoetz class, will be selling homemade bracelets for her Nobody project. The Nobody program is running for its fourth year. Nobody is a doll that is delivered to the class and has no gender, ethnicity, culture or identity. The goal, for the grade six class, is to turn nobody into

a somebody through positive life experiences. Brianna decided to sell bracelets to raise money for cancer research. She will be selling her bracelets on February 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the hallway. They will be sold for \$1- \$1.50.



## Sport Teams Updates

Congratulations to the following students for making the 2012 Co-Ed soccer team and for all those that tried out.

Mayla  
Savanah  
Jemar  
True

Angelica  
Jada  
Sam  
Xavier

Makenna  
Zach  
Bryce

Alexis  
Deep  
Roinik



# Black HISTORY MONTH

## February is Black History Month

Black History Month celebrates contributions made by African Americans and people of African descent around the world. It was started by an African American man named Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926. It is celebrated for the whole month of February in the United States and Canada.

### Why was Black History Month Started?

Dr. Woodson studied African American culture and encouraged other people to study it, too. He felt it was important for people to recognize the great contributions black people have made. He devoted his life to educating people as a teacher, a writer, and a publisher. He was also a political activist who worked to make sure the government treated African Americans fairly.

### Ways to Celebrate Black History Month

No matter what your background, everyone can celebrate the importance of Black History Month. Celebrate the achievements and inventions of the black people throughout history. Which Find a way to commemorate those achievements that affect your everyday life, whether it's through art, film, literature, music, education, civil rights, sports or even food! Also, there are many books in the school library that students can check out!



### Martin Luther King, Jr.

You faced injustice, hate and strife.  
You fought for what should be.  
You risked and finally gave your life,  
So others could be free.

You could have hated, but you chose  
To love and understand,  
Rejecting violence to oppose  
An evil in our land.

You'd not inflame, but still inspire,  
With hope that wouldn't yield.  
You called for boycotts, not for fire,  
With faith your only shield.

You marched in protest for the poor  
Of every shade and hue.  
So many hardships you'd endure  
For those who needed you.

You stirred a nation's heart and mind;  
Your message still is clear:  
That color's not how we're defined.  
Your memory's always near.

Each year your birth's a holiday;  
The nation honors you,  
And wonders when we'll see the day  
Your dream at last comes true.



## FREE Group Triple P Parenting

Triple P stands for **Positive Parenting Program**. It is a well researched program which creates excellent outcomes for parents and children. The eight-week program aims to build positive behaviours in children and teens and confidence in parents. For more information and to register call:

**Parent Talk Information Line**  
**905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074**  
**Ext. 7555**

Information about the Triple P program can also be found at:  
[www.beagreatparent.ca](http://www.beagreatparent.ca) (search: Triple P)

### Sessions in Niagara For Families with Children 2 - 12 years of age

Spring 2012 Seminar Date	Location	Time
Thursdays March 8 – May 3 (no class during March Break week)	<b>St. Catharines</b> Quest Community Health Centre 145 Queenston Street, Suite 100	9:30 am – noon
Mondays March 19 – May 14 (no class Easter Monday)	<b>St. Catharines</b> Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) 25 YMCA Drive	6 pm – 8:30 pm
Tuesdays March 20 – May 8	<b>Welland</b> Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) 12 Young Street	9:15 am – 11:45 am
Saturdays March 24 – May 12	<b>Thorold</b> Niagara Region Headquarters 2201 St. David's Road Campbell West – Committee Room 4	9:30 am – noon
Tuesdays March 27 – May 15	<b>St. Catharines</b> St. Catharines Regional Child Care 179 Carlton Street	6 pm – 8:30 pm
Thursdays April 5 – May 24	<b>Niagara Falls</b> OEYC - Mary Ward School 2999 Dorchester Road	6 pm – 8:30 pm
Thursdays April 12 – May 31	<b>Niagara Falls</b> OEYC - McBain Community Centre 7150 Montrose Road	9:30 am – noon
Thursdays April 12 – May 31	<b>Port Colborne</b> Ontario Early Years Centre Port Cares - 92 Charlotte Street	6 pm – 8:30 pm

## FREE Group Triple P Parenting Sessions in Niagara For Families with Teenagers (12-16 years old)

Winter/Spring 2012 Seminar Date	Location	Time
<b>Mondays</b> February 27 – April 23 (no class during March Break)	<b>Niagara Falls</b> St. Michael High School 8699 McLeod Road	6:30 pm – 9 pm
<b>Wednesdays</b> March 7 – May 2 (no class during March Break)	<b>Welland</b> Adolescents Family Support Services Of Niagara 285 East Main Street	6:30 pm – 9 pm
<b>Wednesdays</b> March 21 - May 9	<b>Niagara Falls</b> St. Paul High School 3834 Windermere Rd	6:30 pm – 9 pm
<b>Tuesdays</b> May 8 – June 26	<b>Thorold</b> Niagara Region Headquarters 2201 St. David's Road Campbell East – room 101	6:30 pm – 9 pm

### **A Night with Mr. Dick O'Brien**

On Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. , James Morden Public School invites **all parents, grandparents and community members** to our *brand new library* for a motivational presentation by Mr. Dick O'Brien! ( Greendale families are invited as well)

Mr. O'Brien has been speaking professionally to audiences all across the province for several years, and on February 9, 2012 he will be sharing his advice and vision on the topic of **Raising Resilient Children!**

This presentation will be useful to any parent, grandparent or guardian who is raising a child(ren) in today's society and could use some parenting tips. It will demonstrate principles of living and encourage a healthy, resilient and meaningful life.

If you wish to join us, please RSVP to the James Morden office at 905-358-5011

# Woodend

# Update

Issue #3 - Winter 2012

The Living Campus

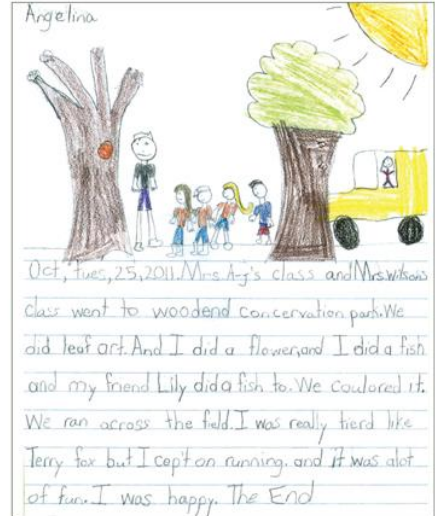
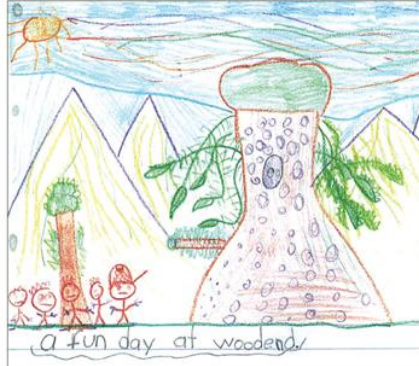
Outdoor Education: healthy children, engaged learners, critical thinkers, tomorrow's leaders

Bringing Learning to Life!



### A Beautiful Day at Woodend!

A very special thank-you to the students from Lincoln Centennial School for sharing their stories and drawings about their day at Woodend! The Living Campus will expand opportunities for students to enjoy outdoor education and to engage in hands-on learning.



### Support Us with Your Purchases!

Metafore and Acer have partnered with the DSBN to help us reach our fundraising goals! A portion of each Laptop or Tablet you purchase will go directly to The Living Campus, helping create a place for generations of students to come. Click the "Donate" button on [DSBN.org/Woodend](http://DSBN.org/Woodend) for more information and access to **metafore** IT Solutions. Delivered.

### It's All Here: The Woodend Website

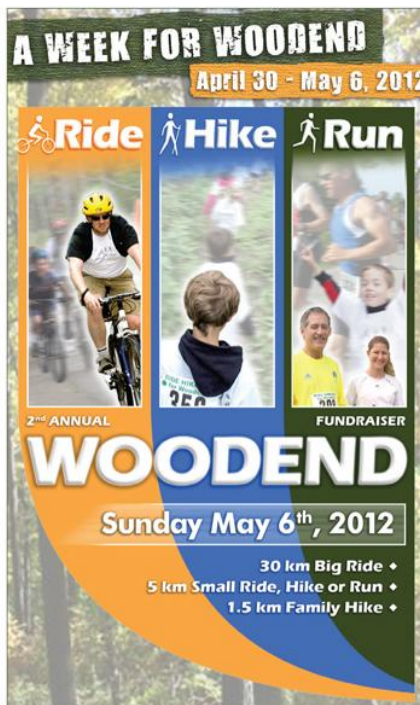
To find out about all of the exciting events taking place in support of The Living Campus visit us at: [www.DSBN.org/Woodend](http://www.DSBN.org/Woodend)



### Coming Soon: A Week for Woodend and RIDE~HIKE~RUN!

A Week for Woodend (April 30 - May 6, 2012) will be an exciting week, with schools

involved in fundraising activities to help raise awareness and funds for The Living Campus. The week will end with the 2nd Annual DSBN Ride-Hike-Run for Woodend on May 6th. **Registration opens soon at [DSBN.org/Woodend](http://DSBN.org/Woodend).** More details to come. We hope to see everyone there!



### Our Newest Silver Level Partners!

VEX Robotics and Ontario Power Generation have just become The Living Campus' newest Silver level Founder's Club members. A Special Thank-You for helping to *Bring Learning to Life* for our students! If you'd like to make a donation, please visit our website at [www.dsbn.org/Woodend](http://www.dsbn.org/Woodend) and click on the "Donate" button to download a pledge form.

By supporting Woodend – The Living Campus you are providing children with a place that *Brings Learning to Life* by engaging them in hands-on learning and discovery through play. To find out how you can support the children of Niagara visit us on our website, on Facebook and our blog:

[dsbn.org/woodend](http://dsbn.org/woodend)

[DSBN Woodend - The Living Campus](https://www.facebook.com/DSBN-Woodend-The-Living-Campus)

[woodendthelivingcampus.blogspot.com](http://woodendthelivingcampus.blogspot.com)