

The Gator's Tale



Mrs. Fay Vanden Beukel- Principal

November, 2011



Hello again everyone!! Here it is November already. We have enjoyed a very busy and exciting first two months at school. Hallowe'en was certainly one of the highlights for students and they were involved in a myriad of activities such as carving pumpkins, visiting the pumpkin patch, a ghost tour, dancing and of course dressing up. Thank you to the numerous parents who volunteered to go on trips, and came to school to watch our parade.

Thank you also to all the families who supported our Magazine fundraiser this year. We sold over \$3600 in magazines. The funds that we raised will go back to support school events such as team sports, student rewards, trips and much more. Stay tuned for the Cookie Dough fundraiser that will be starting November 3rd for families who wish to participate. Please know that your participation in fund raising at Greendale School is appreciated, but not required. We try to offer a variety of fundraisers to appeal to the different needs in our community. Families need only to get involved in the ones that make sense for your family

Thank you also to parents who came to our first School Council meeting in October. It was wonderful to have so many parents attend. The next meeting is Monday, November 7th at 6:30 pm. in the library. Please try to join us if you can.

The Progress Reports will be going home on November 15th. Teachers are planning on meeting with all parents following the reports going home. We have an Interview evening planned for Thursday, November 17th. A letter to indicate the best time for you to meet with the teacher will be coming home this week as well. Thank you as always for being involved in your school.

Mrs. Vanden Beukel-Principal



Welcome Student Teachers:

"The achievements of any group or organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual. Strength is derived from unity."

We are happy to welcome our student teachers to the 'team' and are excited to be working with them throughout the month of November and into December. Welcome to Mr. Bortolin , Ms. Haynes, Mr. Smith, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Meissner, Mr. Walker and Mr. Lapierre.



Progress Report Cards

Progress report cards will be sent home on **November 15th**. Although this is the second year that the DSBN has been using the Progress Report, some parents still have a few questions. Below are some of the most common questions we are asked and the ministry's official answers.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca>

What features of the fall progress report card make it better than using the previous provincial report card in the fall?

The fall progress report card has several features that will facilitate better communication among parents, teachers, and students, encourage students to set goals, assist parents in supporting learning at home, and help teachers establish plans for teaching.

The fall progress report card places a strong emphasis on the development of students' learning skills and work habits. Students' achievement of six learning skills and habits will be shown on the front page of the progress report card. These are: **(1) Responsibility, (2) Organization, (3) Independent Work, (4) Collaboration, (5) Initiative, and (6) Self-Regulation.** The development of these skills and habits will be reported as "excellent", "good", "satisfactory" or "needs improvement" and a large space is provided for teacher comments about students' strengths and areas for improvement.

The fall progress report card indicates for parents how well their children are progressing in all the subjects and provides an early indication of those subjects where the student may need additional help. For each subject, teachers will check whether the students are: *(1) Progressing With Difficulty, (2) Progressing Well, or (3) Progressing Very Well.*

Why are there no grades or marks for the subjects on the progress report card?

Early in the fall, students have just begun their learning in the subjects and teachers do not have substantial evidence to accurately assign a grade or mark. However, in the fall, teachers do have enough information to report to parents whether or not they are making progress.

What does 'Progressing With Difficulty, Progressing Well, or Progressing Very Well' actually mean?

It must be noted that the 'progressing with difficulty', 'progressing well, and 'progressing very well' statements do not match directly to any particular grade level. For instance a 'Progressing well' does not automatically indicate that a child is currently working at a level 3 or level 4. A child could be currently at a level 2 but is progressing well in that level and is showing growth and mobility in his/her achievements. A 'progressing with difficulty' indicates that the child does not seem to be advancing in his/her studies and their performance remains unchanging or stagnant for one reason or another. A progressing very well is indicative of a child who is consistently showing signs of advanced development and growth in an area of study and whose performance and achievement is advancing at an increased rate.



Parents will be receiving an invitation to meet with their child's teacher to discuss the progress report cards. Interviews will be taking place after November 15th.

Remembrance Day

Greendale's Remembrance Day service will be held on Friday, November 11th. The service will begin at 10:45 a.m. and will last approximately 40 minutes. All members of our Greendale community are invited to join us as we remember and give thanks for all those involved in the Canadian Armed Forces, both in the past and today. This assembly is for Kindergarten to grade four. The junior and intermediate students will be at the Gale Centre to attend their Remembrance Day Assembly. All students will receive a poppy to wear to the service. We are also encouraging students to wear Canadian colours on Remembrance Day and to bring in a few coins to be donated to the Poppy Fund sponsored by The Royal Canadian Legion.



The students and staff of Greendale School would like to thank everyone who assisted in making our recent magazine subscription campaign a great success!!! Without the support of our community we would not have been able to raise the money that the campaign generated.

Thank you so much for helping us reach our goal. All of your subscriptions are guaranteed 100% and if you have any service concerns, please contact CCRP at 1-800-665-5133 (11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. EST) or service@ccrp.ca. (not the school office). Please allow 12 - 16 weeks after the campaign ends before you receive the first copy of your subscription. As a reminder you may continue to order on-line throughout the school year at www.ccrp.ca - our school code is ON1225.



Cookie Dough

ANNUAL COOKIE DOUGH SALE: Brochures advertising this year's Cookie Dough Fundraiser will be sent home with your child (ren) on November 3rd. This fundraiser will run for two weeks and **all orders will be due on November 17th**. Dough will be delivered by December 8th, in plenty of time for Christmas baking!



community **CONNECTIONS**

VOW OF (SILENCE)

All over the world children are subjected to exploitation, poverty and the denial of their basic rights. Every day, millions of children are silenced by these abuses. But some members from the 'Me 2 We' club are choosing to take a stand for children everywhere. The event is 'The Vow of Silence'. On November 30, 2011, some Greendale students are choosing to go silent for 24 hours in solidarity with children who are being silenced by poverty and exploitation. For Vow participants, being silent can mean refraining from speaking. It can also mean not using email, Facebook, Twitter or text messaging. It can even mean not using hand gestures, note writing or any communication at all. On November 30th, students all over the world will go silent in solidarity with children who are denied their human rights and denied their voice.



-Character Trait
Corner-



“In the long run, we shape our lives... and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.”

- Helen Keller

What is Responsibility?

- Taking care of yourself and others
- Carrying out a duty or task carefully and thoroughly
- Being accountable for your own behaviour
- Demonstrating self-discipline and a strong work ethic
- Accepting personal accountability
- Doing things to build a better world
- Keeping promises
- Doing what you say you will do, even when it is difficult



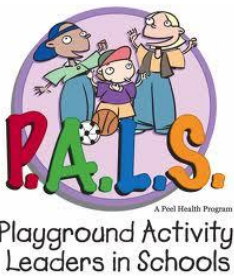
The Mini Me's had their first meeting near the end of October and are off to a start! Anyone from grades one through four are invited to come on out and join. If you are interested in becoming a member, or want more information contact Mrs. Hilliker, Mrs. Christian or Mrs. Dunn.



Eco Club:

This year the 'Me To We club' is joining forces with the Eco Club to plan a school garden. Students will be collecting materials, planning and constructing a raised bed "lasagna garden", starting next week. The soil will be made by layering brown (paper, cardboard, peat moss, etc.) and green (grass clippings, leaves, etc.) materials, and leaving them to decompose throughout the rest of the fall and winter. In the spring, we will be ready to plant! Someday we hope to expand the garden to make an even greater impact by opening it up to the community.

In other news, seven students were invited to attend an EcoSummit to celebrate Greendale's "Green" achievements, and to plan new initiatives with students from schools all over the DSBN. Congratulations to the following Eco Leaders - Alexis, Andrea, Matthew, Owen, Alexis, Jennifer and Brianna. We look forward to hearing about what they learned at the Summit.



P.A.L.S. Program Ready to Go!

Our Playground Activity Program is set to launch the first week of November. Students in Grades 1-4 will have the opportunity to play organized games during the second fitness break on Mondays and Fridays. This is possible through the dedication of a group of Grades 5-8 students who have attended seven 40 minute training sessions to learn about leadership, conflict resolution, communication styles, and fair play. Our P.A.L.S. Motto is "There's always room for one more" and we hope that many of our younger students will come out and participate! Boys and Girls can check out the P.A.L.S. Bulletin board and listen to announcements to find out what exciting games will be played. Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Rackal would like to send a BIG thank you to the following students and official P.A.L.S. Leaders:

Grade 5: Anjelaya, Ethan, Sophia, Jeremiah, Mackenna, Seijin, Jamie, Bianca, Kathleen

Grade 6: Ryane, Chris, Alexis, Kyrin, Caleb, Olivia, Hailey

Grade 7: Sara-Ann, Jacqueline, Andrea, Madeline, Lani, Madison

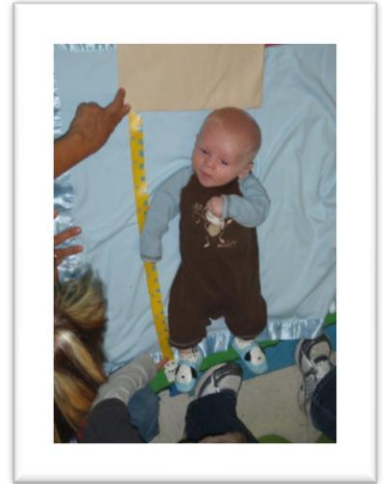
Grade 8: Alana, Cassie



Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie

Greendale's New Teacher

On Tuesday, October 25 the Grade 1/2 class welcomed a new teacher, Colby Brewster. The grade 1/2 class will be participating in a program called Roots of Empathy led by Mrs. Carniello. Each month Mrs. Brewster and Colby will be visiting the classroom to develop help the students develop emotional literacy, increase their knowledge of human development and develop empathy - which in turn reduces the level of bullying, aggression and violence. Each session the students will measure, weight and observe Colby's changes. We are very exciting to have Colby in the class! Welcome!



Sport Teams Updates

Cross Country:

Mrs. Hammond and Mr. Barker were very pleased with how hard the cross country runners worked throughout their training. They are both very proud of the dedication and efforts of all the runners that went to the meet on October 12th. Congratulations to Raquel, Megan, Savanna, Jayda, Mackenna, Mayla, Cedric, Noah, Madeline, Cameron, Matthew, Zain and Hung.



Jr. Boys Volleyball:

Mr. Barker and Ms. Hammond would like to congratulate everyone who tried out for Junior Boys 2011 Volleyball team. It takes a lot of courage to put yourself out there and just trying out is a great achievement! This year's volleyball players are True, Bryce, Aaron, Zach, Jemar, Cedric, Jacky, Noah, Jeremiah, Ronak, Kyle. P, Xavier, Deep, Steven and Goliath. Good luck with your season boys!



Jr. Girls Volleyball:

Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Rackal are looking forward to another season with a great team. With a line up like this, the season is looking very promising! Congratulations to this year's 2011-2012 team, Angelica, Olivia, Alexis. Y, Mayla, Ryane. Mackenna, Jamie, Sophia, Jessica, Saige, Savanna, Maeve, Ainsley, Christina, Emily.



Premier- at- Home: Assistive Technology

We want to share some great news with you about our **Premier AT Home** website where you can download reading, writing and study tools that can be used on your **home** computers. This program is sponsored by our schools in conjunction with Premier Literacy. If you haven't already used the site, you'll want to take advantage of the free literacy tool downloads from www.premierathome.com. **For those who downloaded this software last year, there has been some minor updates so it may be necessary for you to reinstall the software.**

You can download software, documentation and support videos using the following login information:

Username: dsbon
Password: enable



Please note the following:

- The login page is customized specifically for our school board.
- The interface and graphics make the site user-friendly.
- A Getting Started page will help you determine which tools might be best for you.
- A detailed description of each tool is right on the site so you don't have to look anywhere else.
- Additional support options like online video tutorials, online product manuals and email and phone contact information for Technical Support and Customer Service are available.



Breakfast Club:

By meeting the nutritional needs of the students, we can help ensure that they are "ready to learn" throughout their school day and life. The Breakfast Club is in the gym and is open every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m. Throughout the year an average range of 25-50 students are served daily. Donations of \$15.00 or more are eligible for a charitable donation receipt for income tax purposes. **Cheques must be made to Niagara Nutrition Partners in order to receive an Income Tax receipt.** Please find my enclosed contribution of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Would you like a receipt of your donation? _____ YES _____ NO

Would you like to be contacted about volunteering with the Breakfast Club? _____ YES _____ NO

BULLYING



Bully Awareness Week

November 13th - 19th is national 'Bully Awareness Week'. This marks its ninth year. This year's theme is '**Stand Up**' to bullying. Bullying Awareness Week is an opportunity for people at the *all* around the world to get involved in this issue, not by waiting for "*Someone else*" to do something, but rather for *us to work together* on preventing bullying in our communities through education and awareness.

- Bullying Awareness Week is about working at preventing bullying through education and awareness
- Bullying Awareness Week is *NOT* about what others could or should be doing, but rather what *WE* can do!
- Bullying is a *community* issue. Schools are a critically important part of the solution, but bullying should not be defined solely as a "school problem".
- Addressing bullying is best done with a wholistic, community approach because bullying is a community health and wellness issue.
- *Everyone* can play a role in addressing bullying in their community.
- Bullying is a serious issue, at it's worst, bullying can kill.
- *Everyone has the right to be respected and the responsibility to respect others, in person and online!*

We may never completely eliminate bullying from society, but it is a fight worth fighting. In recent years there has been major positive changes in societal attitudes and actions with respect to things like smoking, drinking and driving and recycling, these are all behaviours and they are beginning to change for the better. Bullying is also a behaviour, and as an issue it is today where these other issues were years ago before the public embraced the notion of change. Bullying Awareness Week is all about an invitation for you and your community to "*Be the change!*"

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, determined citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead.





TIPS FOR FOSTERING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS MATHEMATICS

*"Whether you think you can or think you can't, you are right."
- Henry Ford*

Be positive, and talk about the ways you use mathematics every day. Sharing negative experiences (by saying, for example, "I was never good at math") will not encourage your child to engage in mathematics and be confident about taking risks as he or she solves problems. Instead, try statements like this: "We can solve this if we work it out together. What are you thinking?"

- Let your child know that *you* think mathematics is important.
- Point out the ways in which family members use mathematics in their jobs and at home.
- Let your child know that *everyone* can learn mathematics.
- Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and understands something for the first time, and share in the excitement when you and your child solve a problem together.
- Encourage your child to be persistent when a problem seems difficult.
- Students who view themselves as mathematicians (as well as readers and writers) are more likely to succeed and become confident learners.



HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT STUDENTS' LEARNING AT HOME ?

Here are some easy-to-understand suggestions about what parents can do at home to support their child's learning.

- Set aside a specific time after school each day for your child to do homework. Be available to help your child without doing the work for him or her.
- Demonstrate interest in your child's learning by asking to see what he or she is working on. Talk to young children about their school experiences and discuss what they are learning. Let your child describe what is fun to learn and what is challenging or confusing.
- Ask your child every day, "How was school today? Tell me the most interesting thing that happened." Questions like this might elicit information about bullying situations or general emotional well-being.
- Demonstrate literacy and numeracy in your daily routines, for example, by reading newspapers, writing grocery lists, measuring, or calculating the cost of something.
- Keep a fridge calendar that shows important dates about school projects and school events.
- Limit television and other "technology time," especially if your child has difficulty completing school work.

Talk About Assessment, Damian Cooper, p.277



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES



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.

For secondary schools it may become necessary to cancel late buses. Notice will be provided via school announcements and on the websites and subscription features by 11:30 a.m.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

Websites:

www.dsbn.org
www.nsts.ca



Subscription Features:

DSBN Facebook or Twitter
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
WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton	CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines
CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton	CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie
CHML (900 AM) Hamilton	K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton
CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton	GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland
Y-108(107.9) Hamilton	



Television Stations:

CH – Hamilton CTV Toronto
CityTV Breakfast Television
Cogeco Channel 10

