

October 3, 2011

3691 Dorchester Road Niagara Falls, ON L2J 3A6

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Cross Country meet - Oct. 4th
- PD Day - Oct. 7th
- Thanksgiving - Oct. 10th
- Photo retakes - Oct. 11th
- DSBN Cross Country meet - Oct. 12th
- Immunizations - Oct. 17th
- Spirit Wear Orders Due - Oct. 21st
- Halloween Parade - afternoon of Oct. 31st

October NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE ORCHARD PARK STAFF

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Orchard Park students and parents for a great start to the year.

Our BBQ/Meet the Teacher night on September 13th was a great success. We were very pleased to see so many families visit our school and meet their child(ren)'s teachers. Being supportive of your child's education is most important!

Due to a large number of students in our junior division, we were able to add a class to our junior division to reduce class size. We welcome Ashley Keir who is teaching our Grade 5/6 class. The students appear to have adjusted well to the changes that were made. We thank our staff and parents who worked hard to make the transition for our students as smooth as possible.

On Wednesday, September 28th we had our Terry Fox run. We raised over \$1600 for a very worthwhile cause. Thanks so much to our Grade 7 & 8 students, Mr. Mabee and Ms. Robinson for organizing this event—everyone had LOTS of fun! Joel Ingram should be most proud of his efforts as he raised over \$600 and donated his gorgeous curls to Wigs for Kids. Together we will make a difference.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Friday, October 7th has been designated as a Professional Development Day for the teachers of the District School Board of Niagara. There will be no school for students. The Orchard Park staff will be working together discussing student achievement.

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 Friday, October 31st. We will parade through the school and around the neighbourhood (weather permitting) and then back to homeroom classes. We will start our parade at about 1:40 p.m. The morning JK/SK students will have their costume parade at 9 AM throughout the school, visiting the various classrooms.



PARKING

Please remember to use extreme caution when using our parking lot. Student safety needs to remain our number one priority! Patience and awareness are needed. Please be kind to our staff and parents as you are dropping your child/ren off in the morning.

Contact us at:
Phone: 905-354-3916
Fax: 905-354-2909
E-mail: opk@dsbn.edu.on.ca



SCHOOL COUNCIL

This past month we had approximately 20 parents attend our first School Council meeting. We are thrilled with the support. Our next scheduled School Council meeting is set for Monday, **November 21st at 6:00 p.m.** If you would like to take a more active role in your child's education, please consider joining us. We encourage any and all interested parents to attend.



WHAT DO EQAO RESULTS TELL ME ABOUT MY CHILD?

Test results provide a snapshot of your child's achievement in relation to the provincial standard. Students meeting or exceeding the standard (Levels 3 and 4) have demonstrated most or all of the required reading, writing and mathematics knowledge and skills expected at this stage in their education.

However, no single test can offer a complete or definitive picture of what your child has learned. In the end no one better understands the true measure of your child's abilities and knowledge—or is in a better position to assess them—than his or her classroom teacher. When used together, the results of EQAO and classroom tests provide a more complete picture of your child's performance.

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.*

MAGAZINE & LAMONTAGNE FUND-RAISER'S

Just a reminder that the school magazine fundraiser has begun and continues through to October 11th. Our Lamontagne fundraiser wraps up on October 17th. Students are encouraged to participate, as this money will be used to purchase resource materials and technology (Smart Boards) for our students. We thank you for your help and support of this project.



HELPING OUR ENVIRONMENT—VIEW OUR NEWSLETTER AT:

<http://orchardpark.dsbm.org/>

I would like to read the newsletter using the school website instead of receiving a paper copy.

My child(ren) are: _____

They are in: _____ class.

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



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

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 |

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

January 11 to Feb 7, 2012

**Four Intermediate South Korean students
are being placed in classes 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