



3691 Dorchester Road Niagara Falls, ON L2J 3A6

January 12, 2012

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- First day back - Jan. 9
- Welcome to our Korean students—Jan. 12
- N. F. Secondary School Grade 8 Open Houses - Jan. 17
- PD Day - Jan. 20th
- School Council Mtg. Jan. 23 at 6PM
- Kindergarten Open House—Feb. 2 at 4 PM

JANUARY

NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM THE ORCHARD PARK STAFF

We sincerely hope that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday over the Winter Break. We know that we enjoyed the opportunity to be with family and friends and have come back well rested and eager to work with our students.

Your input continues to be very important to the success your child achieves throughout his/her educational experience. The Orchard Park staff encourages you to take an active role in your child's education. If you have an issue, idea or concern that you would like to discuss with a staff member, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will book an appointment with you.

We would also like to thank Dianne Mantler and her crew of dedicated parents for such a successful book-fair.

The gift baskets were a successful fundraiser as was our Lamontagne. Thanks so much to Christina Ar-mistead for organizing a wonderful group of parents to assist with

these fundraisers. A big thanks to our community that showed much support by contributing items as well as making purchases.



www.dsbns.org

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

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.dsbns.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!

Contact us at:

Phone: 905-354-3916

Fax: 905-354-2909

E-mail:

opk@dsbn.edu.on.ca



PROJECT SHARE—ADOPT A FAMILY

A **BIG** thank you to all our OP families and friends for your support of this year's food and toy drive to support the greater Niagara Falls community. We adopted 8 families from Niagara Falls' schools. We collected an assortment of toys, clothing, toiletry and food items as well as gift cards from various donors. We also received generous donations from our friends at William's.



We had the opportunity to deliver several of our adopted family baskets. The families were very touched with our generosity and asked that we thank the Orchard Park community for their kindness and thoughtfulness. **Thanks for helping to make the holidays happy!!**

When it comes to giving, some people stop at nothing.

Anonymous

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 23rd, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.....come and join us! .



SPIRIT WEAR

We have a few articles of spirit wear available at the front office. There are limited sizes available for purchase. Come and check it out if you're interested. Inquire at the office for sizes and prices.

CROSSING GUARD

The crossing guard at Thorold Stone and Dorchester is no longer available during the lunch hour. Please be cautious if your child uses this intersection during this time.



PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

Friday, January 20th has been designated as a Professional Activity Day for the teachers of the District School Board of Niagara. There will be no school for students.

GRADE 8 OPEN HOUSES

A.N. Myer Secondary School

Tuesday, January 17, 6:30 p.m.
6338 O'Neill Street, Niagara Falls

Stamford Collegiate

Tuesday, January 17, 6:30 p.m.
5775 Drummond Rd., Niagara Falls

Westlane Secondary School

Tuesday, January 17, 6:30 p.m.
5960 Pitton Rd., Niagara Falls



NEWSLETTER DRAW

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

Student's Name / Family Name

Parent Signature

JANUARY

District School Board of Niagara

Expanding French Immersion for 2012

The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. In addition, as of September 2012, we will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations. As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year (Grade 7 entry will continue in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake).

Information re: entry levels and the application process is on the DSNB website www.dsnb.org. Click on the Parent Tab, under Programs, click on French and International Languages, click on French Immersion Registration. Applications for Grades 1, 4, 5 and 7 (at select schools) will be online. Application packages will also be available at your child's school starting January 9, 2012. Further program information will be sent home with your child in January.

“The ability to communicate in French is a valuable skill, because French is **one** of Canada’s two official languages and because it is a language used widely around the world. Research confirms that knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills and that the ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances reasoning and problem solving skills, as well as creative-thinking skills. Learning a second language not only strengthens students’ ability to communicate, but also develops their capacity to understand and respect other cultures. In this way, second-language learning prepares students to participate more effectively in the workplace and in the global economy, and provides them with a distinct advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally.” (pg 3 of the E.F./F.I. Curriculum Document (C.D.) 2001)

Parent Information Evenings will take place during the weeks of January 30 – February 10th. If you wish to find out more details about the French Immersion program, please attend one of the Information Evenings listed below or call your school.

Central	January 30, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Alexandra	January 30, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Parliament Oak	January 31, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Dalewood	January 31, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
McKay	January 31, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Prince Philip (Niagara Falls)	February 1, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Sheridan Park	February 1, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Gordon	February 6, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Princess Elizabeth	February 6, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Oakridge	February 6, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Briardale	February 7, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Queen Mary	February 7, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
John Marshall	February 8, 2012 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

VACCINES AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN



Niagara Region Public Health is conducting an annual review of vaccination records for all elementary school children in the Niagara region. **If the vaccination information we have on file for your child is NOT complete, you will receive a letter and questionnaire from us in the mail later this month (January, 2012).**

Please follow the instructions for reporting your child's vaccinations to us, as outlined in the letter. Various options for reporting are available.

If your child is overdue for one or more vaccinations, you will need to make an appointment with your child's doctor to get your child vaccinated. You can also make an appointment for your child at one of Public Health's General Immunization Clinics by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to vaccinate your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document.

Students under 18 years of age attending Ontario schools must have proof of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles). We are required to have this information by law (*Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990*). **Please provide us with your child's missing vaccination information by March 8, 2012 or your child may be suspended from school.**

For more information, please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

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.

Information about transportation changes and school closures will be available on the websites, radio and television stations listed below as soon as it is available. Please do not phone the school for transportation or school closure information.

Websites:

www.dsbns.org
www.nstns.ca

Television Stations:

COGECO Cable 10
CHCH Television
City TV

Radio Stations:

CKTB 610 am
CHML 900 am
KLite - 102.9 fm
EZRock 105.7 fm
Y-108 - 107.9 fm
Wave 94.7 fm
Htz 97.7 fm
The River - 105.1 fm

If early dismissal becomes necessary, we will use the emergency numbers you provided on the confidential form which was sent home in September. If your contact numbers have changed, please call the office with your updated information.

PLEASE NOTE: The school may be open even though student transportation has been cancelled. The decision to send children to school is always at the parent's discretion.