

# GORDON



# GAZETTE

GORDON PUBLIC SCHOOL, 468 Thorold Road West, Welland ON, L3C 3W6

February 2012

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Superintendent  
905-641-1550

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Principal  
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Vice-Principal  
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Trustee  
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## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Critical thinking is the identification and evaluation of evidence to guide decision making. A critical thinker uses broad in-depth analysis of evidence to make decisions and communicate his/her beliefs clearly and accurately."

"Critical thinking is reasonable, reflective thinking that is focused on deciding what to believe and do."

### A SUPER-STREAMLINED CONCEPTION OF CRITICAL THINKING

Assuming that critical thinking is reasonable reflective thinking focused on deciding what to believe or do a critical thinker:

1. Is open-minded and mindful of alternatives
2. Tries to be well-informed
3. Judges well the credibility of sources
4. Identifies conclusions, reasons, and assumptions
5. Judges well the quality of an argument, including the acceptability of its reasons, assumptions, and evidence
6. Can well develop and defend a reasonable position
7. Asks appropriate clarifying questions
8. Formulates plausible hypotheses; plans experiments well
9. Defines terms in a way appropriate for the context
10. Draws conclusions when warranted, but with caution
11. Integrates all items in this list when deciding what to believe or do

Try these strategies with your child(ren) at home

- **Ask open-ended questions.** Asking questions that don't have one right answer encourages children to respond creatively without being afraid of giving the wrong answer.
- **Categorize and classify.** Classification plays an important role in critical thinking because it requires identification and sorting according to a rule, or set of rules, that kids must discover, understand, and apply. If you play classification games at home, be sure to follow up the activity with questions about the similarities and differences between the groups. You can sort everything from dirty laundry to Legos to produce to doll clothes to promote critical thinking.
- **Work in groups.** In a group setting, students are exposed to the thought processes of their peers. Thus, they can begin to understand how others think and that there are multiple ways of approaching problems — not just one correct way.
- **Make decisions.** Help your child consider pros and cons, but don't be afraid to let her make a wrong choice. Then evaluate the decision later. Ask your child, "How do you feel about your decision? What would you do differently next time?"
- **Find patterns.** Whatever you're doing, whether it's going to the park or watching television, encourage your child to look for patterns or make connections for critical thinking practice. For example, relate a favorite television show to a real-life situation. Or, while driving in the car, have your child identify different shapes in roads signs and in the windows and roofs of passing houses.

## KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE!



**Date:** Thursday, February 2, 2012

**Time:** 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.



## CANDY GRAM SALES

Gordon's Student Parliament will be selling candy grams from February 6 through to 10. The heart-shaped candy gram suckers will only be available at first break at a cost of 25¢ each or, for a great deal, buy 10 for \$2.00.

## CONSTRUCTION



With construction on its way for the new addition, there will be some parking issues from now until the end of June. Parking spaces will be limited due to the construction vehicles. If it is possible please consider picking up children on Clare Ave to alleviate congestion in the parking lot. Please be patient with us during this time.

## MAD SCIENCE



[www.madscience.org/Niagara](http://www.madscience.org/Niagara)

Mad Science, the world's leading provider of educational and entertaining science programs for children is coming to Gordon School. Their mission is to spark the imagination and curiosity of children everywhere by providing them with fun, entertaining and exciting activities that instill a clear understanding of what science is really all about and how it affects the world around them. They use exciting activities and spectacular demonstrations to capture the attention and imagination of children as we found out during our assembly.

Both the students and teachers will be thrilled on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 PM when Mad Science comes to the school to do a Spectacular Science show. The assembly will be educational, entertaining and also the kick off to the Mad Science Club. The Club is a 6-week science enrichment program offered to the students.

Students who join the science club will go on a voyage of discovery designed to support the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum. They will explore various topics while participating in our Crazy Chemworks program. The Club will take place on Wednesday, Mar 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 3:40 PM - 4:40 PM.

For those of you who have been in the Mad Science Club before, this is a different club than last year with exciting experiments, cool demonstrations and amazing take home activities.

Mad Science also performs Birthday Parties, Camps and Special Events. Give them a call at 905-937-1878 and watch out for them in Malls, at Fairs, Festivals and Scouts and Guides.

[www.madscience.org/Niagara](http://www.madscience.org/Niagara)

## BELL TIMES

School Day begins at 8:50 A.M. We are noticing an increase in late arrivals to school. When students are late they are missing out on valuable classroom time and it is also disruptive to the students in class. We appreciate your support in having students arrive to school on time.



## HAVING FUN WITH MATH DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

On those cold days when you're stuck in the house, take the time to play games with your child. Play board games, dice games, card games, dominoes, chess and backgammon. Solve puzzles together.



While playing ask questions:

- Who is winning? By how much?
- What number do you want to roll? Not want to roll?
- How many cards do you have left?
- Which card would be the most helpful? Least helpful?
- How many dots are there on this domino?
- Where could you move that piece?
- Which piece do you want to move next time?
- How did you know that puzzle piece went there?
- How did you add up those two dice? Cards?
- Ask questions about their thinking?
- Why did you move this piece instead of that piece?
- What did you do to try to win the game or solve the puzzle?
- Would you do the same thing next time? Why or why not?
- What could you do to make it easier to win this game?



Remember to keep it FUN!

## FREE DENTAL SCREENING

A Public Health registered dental hygienist is scheduled to visit our school on Wed. Feb. 29<sup>th</sup> & Wed. Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to provide dental screening to students in grades JK, SK, 2, 4, 6, and 8.

During this time the registered dental hygienist will perform a visual inspection of each child to determine his/her dental

needs. Parents will be contacted if their child requires immediate dental care. Public Health dental programs may financially assist children who do not have access to required dental care.

Please contact the Public Health dental program for any of the following:

- If you do NOT wish your child to participate in the dental screening.
- If your child is not in one of the targeted grades and you would like him/her to participate.

Call the Dental Health Information Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 or email [dental@niagararegion.ca](mailto:dental@niagararegion.ca).



### COLD WEATHER ALERTS AT DSBN

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal. When making this decision, principals will often consult with neighbouring schools, talk with parents as they arrive in the morning, and if the decision to send children outside is made, will equip yard duty staff with walkie-talkies so that they can communicate with the office to sound the bells to bring students in earlier.

The health and well-being of our students is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region are often good indicators that students will stay inside.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

- Try to send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending on the weather.
- Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.
- Warm socks and boots will keep their feet warm and dry in the snow and slush.
- Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep students from losing too much of that essential body heat.
- Put on a good pair of gloves or mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website [dsbn.org](http://dsbn.org), or contact the principal.

### WHERE CAN I GO TO FIND OUT ABOUT SCHOOL CLOSURES?

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, social media, and 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/Social Media:

[www.dsb.org](http://www.dsb.org) [http://twitter.com/D\\_S\\_B\\_N](http://twitter.com/D_S_B_N)  
<http://www.facebook.com/DSBNiagara>

#### Television:

Cogeco Cable 10  
CHCH Television  
City TV

#### Radio:

CKTB 610 am  
CHML 900 am  
EZ Rock 105.7 fm  
Htz 97.7 fm  
KLite 102.9 fm  
The River 105.1 fm  
Wave 94.7 fm  
Y-108 – 107.9 fm  
Z 101.1 fm

At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children go to school that day rests with the parent or guardian. Should you decide not to send your child to school when transportation has been cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call the school to inform them of your child's absence.

### FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DRAW

Fill in the answers to the following "skill-testing" questions, then hand into your teacher who will ensure it is placed in the draw for a prize.

When is Kindergarten Registration?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What time does school begin?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Newsletter Questions and Answers*

Do you have any questions about the school or curriculum that you would like to see answered in our newsletter? If so, send it in with the newsletter draw form and we will do our best to provide the answer in next month's edition.

## *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](http://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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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.

# **Bienvenue!**

**DSBN ACADEMY**  
**Open House Information Sessions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Thursday, January 19</b>	<b>Monday, January 23</b>	<b>Tuesday, January 24</b>
<b>Time</b>	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	6:00 PM
<b>School</b>	DSBN Academy	Ferndale Public School	Central Public School
<b>Address</b>	20 Duncan Street Welland	35 Ferndale Avenue St. Catharines	10 Livingston Avenue Grimsby
<b>Phone</b>	905-735-5764	905-684-1101	905-945-5459
<b>Principal</b>	Tom Reynolds	Scott Enns	Shellee Niznik

<b>Date</b>	<b>Wednesday, January 25</b>	<b>Thursday, January 26</b>	<b>Monday, January 30</b>
<b>Time</b>	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	6:00 PM
<b>School</b>	Crystal Beach Public School	Fort Erie Public School	Prince of Wales
<b>Address</b>	145 Derby Road Crystal Beach	474 Central Avenue Fort Erie	95 Facer Street St. Catharines
<b>Phone</b>	905-894-3900	905-871-2673	905-937-2225
<b>Principal</b>	Sam Shad	Sherry Storrey	Pam Voth

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, January 31</b>	<b>Thursday, February 2</b>	<b>Monday, February 6</b>
<b>Time</b>	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	6:00 PM
<b>School</b>	Westdale	Simcoe	Connaught
<b>Address</b>	130 Rykert Street St. Catharines	4760 Simcoe Street Niagara Falls	28 Prince Street St. Catharines
<b>Phone</b>	905-682-9284	905-358-9121	905-682-6609
<b>Principal</b>	Gerri Harris	Carl Scott	Shelley Fehrman

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tuesday, February 7</b>	<b>Wednesday, February 8</b>	<b>Monday, February 13</b>
<b>Time</b>	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	6:00 PM
<b>School</b>	James Morden	Richmond Street	DeWitt Carter
<b>Address</b>	7112 Dorchester Road Niagara Falls	153 Richmond Street Thorold	435 Fares Street Port Colborne
<b>Phone</b>	905-358-5011	905-227-2971	905-834-7440
<b>Principal</b>	Mark Piazza	Brad Butler	Jay MacJanet

<b>Date</b>	<b>Thursday, February 16</b>	<b>Friday, February 17</b>
<b>Time</b>	6:00 PM	1:00 PM
<b>School</b>	Glynn A. Green	DSBN Academy
<b>Address</b>	1353 Pelham Street Fonthill	20 Duncan Street Welland
<b>Phone</b>	905-892-3821	905-735-5764
<b>Principal</b>	Sandy Giancarlo	Tom Reynolds

## STUDENT RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY

Month: January  
Character: Optimism



Teacher	Character:	Academic:
Mrs. Gaspich	Maddyx B.	Ainsleigh M.
Mrs. Rodrigue	Galexxy S.	Darris B.
Mrs. Edwards	Peyton S.	Ethan R.
Mr. Snelgrove	Aidan P.	Alexander H.
Mrs. Clarke	Isaac M.	Ty B.
Ms. Knockaert	Charlotte L.	Brandon R.
Mrs. Degelman	Andrew M.	Jayden F.
Mrs. Filion	April G.	Aleaha G.
Mr. Charles	Aiden H.	Abi L.
Mrs. Smythe-Janese	Emily D.	Jacob B.
Mrs. Slaght	Karoline P-W.	Quentin B.
Mrs. Corkery	Madison A.	Matthew G.
Mr. Eckhardt	Jordan D.	Olivia C.
Mr. Harley	Phillip A.	Kyla S.
Mrs. Colonna-Spagnolo	Justin Z.	Taylor M.



**FREE Group Triple P Parenting Sessions in Niagara  
For Families with Children 2 - 12 years of age**

Early Years  
CLINIC



Spring 2012

Seminar Date	Location	Time	Facilitators
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	905-688-8248 ext. 7555
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	905-688-8248 ext. 7555
Tuesdays March 20 – May 8	<b>Welland</b> Ontario Early Years Centre (OEYC) 12 Young Street	9:15 am – 11:45 am	905-688-8248 ext. 7555 <small>Child care is available</small>
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	905-688-8248 ext. 7555
Tuesdays March 27 – May 15	<b>St. Catharines</b> St. Catharines Regional Child Care 179 Carlton Street	6 pm – 8:30 pm	905-688-8248 ext. 7555
Thursdays April 5 – May 24	<b>Niagara Falls</b> OEYC - Mary Ward School 2999 Dorchester Road	6 pm – 8:30 pm	905-688-8248 ext. 7555 <small>Child care is available</small>
Thursdays April 12 – May 31	<b>Niagara Falls</b> OEYC - McBain Community Centre 7150 Montrose Road	9:30 am – noon	905-688-8248 ext. 7555 <small>Child care is available</small>
Thursdays April 12 – May 31	<b>Port Colborne</b> Ontario Early Years Centre Port Cares - 92 Charlotte Street	6 pm – 8:30 pm	905-688-8248 ext. 7555

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)

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



Early Years  
LIVE

Winter/Spring 2012



Seminar Date	Location	Time	Registration Information
<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	905-688-8248 ext. 7555
<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	905-688-8248 ext. 7555
<b>Wednesdays</b> March 21 - May 9	<b>Niagara Falls</b> St. Paul High School 3834 Windermere Rd	6:30 pm – 9 pm	905-688-8248 ext. 7555
<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	905-688-8248 ext. 7555

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