

GORDON



GAZETTE

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

JANUARY 2012

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Superintendent
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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MATH AND LITERACY GOAL

Every student at Gordon will develop their critical thinking skills to improve problem solving and making connections through differentiated responses. 77% of students will improve by one level and 23% within a level, by May 30, 2012 as measured by a variety of diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment tasks.

TEACHER LEARNING GOAL Provide opportunities for self reflection and meta-cognition that elicit extension and/or expansion of thinking.

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking involves thinking through problematic situations about what to believe or how to act where the thinker makes reasoned judgments that embody the qualities of a competent thinker.

The term Critical thinking draws attention to the quality of thinking required to competently pose and solve problems, reach sound decisions, analyze issues, plan and conduct thoughtful inquiries and so on.

...thinking critically is not a unique **type** of thinking that is different from other types of thinking, rather it refers to the **quality** of thinking.

Roland Case and LeRoi Daniels, Professional Reading From TC2,
Introduction to th TC2 Conception of Critical Thinking, 2005

In order for student's to think critically they need to be able to master the skill of self- assessment. When students are involved in self assessment they provide themselves with regular and immediate descriptive feedback to guide their learning. Teachers can either set criteria for their students or they can set criteria with their students. When students take part in developing criteria they are much more likely to understand what is expected of them and then accomplish the task successfully.

In our classrooms we usually set criteria for projects and assignments with our students. We do not set criteria for everything nor should we. We regularly remind ourselves of the purpose of using criteria by asking the question, "How is this supporting student learning?"

As our staff continues to learn about meta-cognition they will apply their new learning in their classroom and with their students.

Welland Centennial Secondary School

240 Thorold Road West

Welland



GRADE 8 OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, January 17, 2012
6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Information Session
and Tours of the School

*All Grade 6, 7 and 8 students and Parents are
welcome!*

Welland Centennial provides educational programs
at both the Applied and Academic Levels.

*We are known for Academics, Arts, Technology and
Athletics.*

Telephone: 905-735-0700

Web address: www.wellandcentennial.com



**Other
Local
Secondary
School
Open
Houses**

Eastdale Secondary

170 Wellington St, Welland
905-734-7458
Thursday, January 19
7 – 9 p.m.

Eden Christian High

535 Lake St, St Catharines
905-646-9884
Monday, January 16
7 – 9 p.m.

E. L. Crossley Secondary

350 Highway 20, Fonthill
905-892-2635
Wednesday January 18
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

WELL WISHES

Gordon Public School sends out best wishes and a speedy recovery to Mrs. McLachlan while she recuperates from Knee Surgery. At this time we would like to welcome Mrs. Beaudoin to Gordon who will be filling in for Mrs. McLachlan while she is away.

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 and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!

STAYING FOR LUNCH

We would like to remind parents and students of our lunch policy. In September, each student had a form filled out by their parent regarding whether or not a student would remain for lunch. Everyone stays for the first break (10:30 to 11:15 am). These are the options we offer at Gordon School for the second break (12:55 to 1:40 pm):

- * go home for the entire break every day with written permission, returning after 1:30 pm, one note giving permission for the entire year as we will keep this on file all year, with the opportunity to stay on hot lunch days
- * stay at school everyday
- * usually staying for lunch, but occasionally leaving the grounds WITH WRITTEN PERMISSION from their parent*, returning after 1:30 pm (*a note is necessary each time a student leaves on these special occasions.)

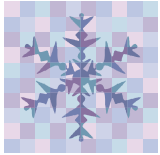
While it may not always be convenient to write a note or call to let us know, please make the effort. For the safety of our students, we must know where they are at all times and who is responsible for them.

BOOK FAIR

A big thank you to Mr. Harley for organizing and running our Scholastic book Fair. We have been able to purchase many new books for the library from the proceeds. Congratulations to Ayden H. who won \$25 in books for his personal use and \$25 in books for Mrs. Filion's class.



SNOW! SNOW! SNOW!



We know its coming! Gordon School's rule is "leave it on the ground". Please reinforce this at home. For the safety of all students, we ask them not to throw or kick snow. We have a "1-2-3" policy. All snow incidents are tracked. The 1st time is a warning, the 2nd time is detention and parent contact and the 3rd time involves removal of privileges. Each situation considers mitigating factors. Using progressive discipline, formal suspension may result following the Principal's inquiry.

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, 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.dsbniagara.org 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.

HOLIDAY CONCERT

A big thank you to Mr. Duncan and all the staff for their efforts they put into making our Christmas concert so wonderful. Another huge thank you to all the students for working so hard on their parts. We are very proud of having such caring staff and families at Gordon school.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to our Parent Council at our Christmas concert. Through your generosity, we raised \$1598.65 that evening!

LATE STUDENTS

In order to minimize our class interruptions, so that students can optimize their learning time, we respectfully request that parents do not walk their child to the classroom after admitting them at the office when they are late. If your child requires assistance arriving at their class, someone from the office would be happy to walk them down. Also, if you are requesting to have your child dismissed early, please have the secretary page your child to the office and wait there until your child arrives. Thank you for your assistance and understanding on this matter.

Reminder: If there are any changes to your child's dismissal routine, please put it in their agenda the night before. We try our best to accommodate all the requests that we receive at the end of the day; however, if any emergency should arise, we cannot guarantee your child may receive the message.

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.

"HEY PARENTS! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR KIDS ARE WATCHING?"

Young people look to celebrities for reassurance about their fashion and behaviour.

The evidence is clear....

The more youth see smoking in movies, the more likely they are to start smoking.

Ways to Protect our Kids

1. **Be aware** of what your children are viewing and learn which movies have smoking in them.
Updates available every Thursday at facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood.
2. **Talk to your children** about tobacco and movies and teach them to be media aware.
3. **Show your support** to get tobacco out of youth-rated films in Ontario at smokefreemovies.ca.
4. **Spread the word** to other parents and join the discussion on facebook and twitter.

www.smokefreemovies.ca

facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood

VANDALISM AT GORDON SCHOOL

Many times small, and not so small, acts of vandalism are discovered at the school – graffiti, broken glass, roof damage, etc. We are asking all families to be our eyes and ears when school is not in session – please call the police at 905-735-7811 or the DSNB security company at 905-682-8065 if you witness or suspect any vandalism at the school. You will not be required to give your name, if you so choose. Please enlist the help of your neighbours and friends also. We need to stop these senseless acts that are draining resources. Thank you to all who watch out for our school.

JANUARY 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.

What time does school begin?

What is our first day back to school in January?

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 DSBN website www.dsb.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.

Bienvenue!

STUDENT RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY

Month: _____ December _____
Character: _____ Caring _____



Teacher	Character:	Academic:
Mrs. Gaspich	Evynn B.	Ben M.
Mrs. Rodrigue	Conner G.	Avery T.
Mrs. Edwards	Nathan L.	Gage C.
Mr. Snelgrove	Alexis A.	Evan G.
Mrs. Clarke	Josh M.	Arianna E.
Ms. Knockaert	Curtis B.	Dylan C.
Mrs. Degelman	Eric S.	Caitlyn T.
Mrs. Fillion	Kylie R.	Gracie J.
Mr. Charles	Bethani M.	Jordan H.
Mrs. Smythe-Janese	Heather M.	Sydney L.
Mrs. Slaght	Ilyab N.	Vani S.
Mrs. Corkery	Connor A.	Adam G.
Mr. Eckhardt	Brad V.	Shy-Ann G.
Mr. Harley	Alexis B.	Jessica Z.
Mrs. Colonna-Spagnolo	Kristie M.	Dawson G.