



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

NOVEMBER 2011

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The Gordon team will continue to promote respect and responsibility and will endeavour to provide the best possible education for every child. On Oct. 7th, we reviewed assessment data to identify program strengths and struggles and to plan for classroom instruction based on the information and data gathered.

LITERACY AND MATH SMART GOAL 2011-2012

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

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. For example: 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.

Provide hands-on activities for young children such as preparing food, doing arts and crafts, and playing letter and word games.

Limit television and other "technology time", especially if your child has difficulty completing school work.

HOMEWORK HELP ONLINE TUTORING

Does your student struggle with their math homework at times? Would they benefit from free online math help? The District School Board of Niagara is part of an exciting new Ministry of Education initiative for interactive online math homework help!

Students will have access to free, real-time math tutoring by certified Ontario teachers. Students can log in from home, from Sunday to Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. for up to 20 hours a week for one-on-one confidential tutoring. The online tutoring will be grade specific and students will not only be able to ask their own specific questions but also see what questions other students are asking while watching the tutors explain the answers on their computer. This will all be done within the comfort of your own home.

If you have not registered yet, forms are available at your school. Once your registration is confirmed, a notice will be sent to your teacher and you will be provided with your personal login information to access this valuable resource.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Toby Marr at 905-227-5551, ext. 52300



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING THROUGH ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION & REPORTING



Gordon students will bring home provincial report cards starting with a Progress Report on November 15. The *Growing Success* document is the government's policy on the assessment, evaluation and reporting of student achievement. The purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. On our school website (www.dsbno.org/schools/gordon) you will find a copy of a new pamphlet from the Ministry of Education, which should prove to be a valuable resource for parents. Parents play a critical role in student achievement and it is important they have easy access to information about the *Growing Success* policy and its impact on the assessment, evaluation and reporting of student achievement. We encourage you to visit our website to view this document. If you do not have access to the internet, please call the school and we will send a copy home with your child.

CROSSING GUARD

As mentioned last month, Mr. Stevenson, our crossing guard at Clare and Thorold wishes to remind students and parents to be patient, and wait for his instructions and his directions before crossing this very busy intersection. Please do not cross without Mr. Stevenson – he is there for your safety.

BALANCED-DAY LUNCHES

With a "balanced" school day, children eat the same amount of food during the day; only the timing of when food is eaten is different.

Food for thought

Limit foods like chocolate granola bars, yogurt covered raisins and cookies. Few children receive the minimum number of fruit and vegetable servings each day. Include a vegetable or fruit serving at each meal and snack. Easy examples of veggie and fruit servings are:

- half a cup of 100% fruit or vegetable juice
- medium sized apple
- cut up sweet peppers and cucumbers
- cup of salad
- orange segments
- 100 per cent fruit and vegetable leathers
- applesauce
- raisins



Please ensure that your child(ren) bring their lunch each day. If lunches are forgotten, we will attempt to reach parents.

ENERGY DRINKS – WHAT'S ALL THE HYPE?

Energy drinks often make big promises. Some say they'll increase energy and alertness, and some claim to boost athletic performance or powers of concentration. But if you cut through the hype and look past the flashy packaging, chances are you will find a stiff dose of sugar and caffeine. Caffeine can cause side effects like jitteriness, upset stomach, headaches, and sleep problems — all of which drag you down, not power you up! Caffeine may also cause the body to lose calcium, and that can lead to bone loss over time. Some energy drinks pack a whopping 200 mg caffeine (or more)! Health Canada states adults should have no more than 400 mg per day and children aged 7-9 should have no more than 62 mg caffeine per day. In addition to caffeine and sugar, some brands of energy drinks have other ingredients such as guarana (a source of caffeine) and taurine (an amino acid thought to enhance caffeine's effect). Some contain herbal supplements such as ginseng. At about \$3 a can, you can get a better (and cheaper) energy boost by eating a whole-wheat cheese sandwich. The bottom line is, the best energy boost comes from healthy living. Children who eat well, drink water, and get enough physical activity and rest will have plenty of energy — the natural way.

For more information visit www.eatrightontario.ca

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In the event of inclement weather, the local radio stations will be notified regarding bus cancellations and school closures. The announcements will be made at approximately 7:00 a.m. Please refrain from calling the school. The following radio stations will have the news concerning the District School Board of Niagara. These announcements may also have information regarding our bus company, First Student.



LOCAL STATIONS:

CKTB 610	CHSC1220
CJRN 710	CKEY FM 101.1
CHRE FM 105.7	CHTZ FM 97.7
GIANT 91.7 FM	

HAMILTON STATIONS:

CHML 950	CKOC 1150
CHAM 820	K-LITE FM 102.9

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On November 11, we will begin our Remembrance Day Assembly at 10:30am. This means 1st break will be from 11:00am to 11:45am. Parents and guardians are welcome to join us at that time. As all staff will be attending the assembly, there will not be staff in the office to man the phones or answer the door for approximately one half hour.

HOLIDAY GOODWILL

As the holiday season approaches many opportunities to demonstrate goodwill present themselves. Here at Gordon School families may choose to participate in one of the following such activities . . .

December 1st - 15th - Help decorate the Mitten Tree (watch for it in the hall near the office) with new mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, etc.

During the month of December - there will be a Salvation Army blue barrel for the collection of non-perishable food items and toiletries. The Salvation Army is suggesting items such as soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant.

Christmas Concert - Wednesday, December 21st Centennial Secondary School - Bring a new unwrapped toy or a non perishable food item for admission.

Although all of our families may not celebrate this season in the same way, we can still use this time of the year to help those in need and teach our children to be kind and to pay it forward.



SCHOOL COUNCIL DONATIONS

Thank you to all who have made their donations to the school council in lieu of fundraising activities this year. Please help us reach our goal of \$2,500. Send in your donations payable to the District School Board of Niagara.

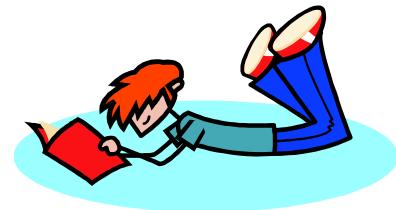


LATE STUDENTS

In order to minimize our class interruptions, and 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. Thank you for your assistance and understanding on this matter.

MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

THANK YOU!!



The students and staff of Gordon 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 **ON1646**.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thursday, November 24th is the date for Parent Teacher Interviews. On Nov. 7th we will be sending information home for parent(s) to complete in regards interview requests. We request that you return this information to your child's teacher by Thursday, Nov. 10th. When your child brings their progress report home on Nov. 15th, they will also be bringing home information confirming your interview time and date. If you have other enquiries please do not hesitate to contact the office.



Important Dates 2011/12

September 6: 1st Day of School
September 23: Early Release Day
October 5: World Teachers' Day
October 7: PA Day
October 10: Thanksgiving Day
November 11: Remembrance Day
December 26 - January 6:
Winter Holiday Break
January 20: PA Day
February 2: Kindergarten Open House 4-6
February 20: Family Day
March 9-16: March Break
April 6: Good Friday
April 9: Easter Monday
May 18: PA Day
May 21: Victoria Day
June 8: PA Day
June 28: Last Day of School



www.dsbn.org



NOVEMBER 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 is the Remembrance Day Assembly?:

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.

STUDENT RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY

Month: _____ September _____

Character: _____ Respect _____



Teacher	Character:	Academic:
Mrs. Gaspich	Abigail A.	Juliana M.G.
Mrs. Rodrigue	Karli S.	Nolan H.
Mrs. Edwards	Noah C.	Johnny M.
Mr. Snelgrove	Grace R.	Brayson B.
Mrs. Clarke	Sommer N.	Justin Z.
Ms. Knockaert	Robert H.	Zander F.
Mrs. DaCosta	Avrien B.	Emily S.
Mrs. Filion	Lila A.	Ivy C.
Mr. Charles	Kennedy S.	Blayne J.
Mrs. Smythe-Janese	Hannah T.	Dawson G.
Mrs. Slaght	Connor C.	Aaron M.
Mrs. Corkery	Grace N.	Chris B.
Mr. Eckhardt	Bradley V.	Bridgett M.
Mr. Harley	Lindsay M.	Sammi W., Caitlyn M.
Mrs. Colonna-Spagnolo	Alex B.	Lindsay M.

STUDENT RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY

Month: _____ October _____
Character: Responsibility



Teacher	Character:	Academic:
Mrs. Gaspich	Mitchel M.	Aiden C.
Mrs. Rodrigue	Cassie C.	Landon E.
Mrs. Edwards	Brandon D.	Logan S.
Mr. Snelgrove	Tyson M.	Jordan P.
Mrs. Clarke	Bryce D.	Samantha D.
Ms. Knockaert	Krista V.	Peter M.
Mrs. DaCosta	Liam C.	Samuel W.
Mrs. Filion	Larissa T.	Kourtney M.
Mr. Charles	Caitlin M.	Jonah P.
Mrs. Smythe-Janese	Kristie M.	Tina V.
Mrs. Slaght	Elizabeth M.	Keegan M.
Mrs. Corkery	Will B.	Cody B.
Mr. Eckhardt	Ben J.	John B.
Mr. Harley	Keith S.	Taylor P.
Mrs. Colonna-Spagnolo	Charlotte L.	Nicholas B.



October 10, 2011

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND:
M&M ANNUAL SCHOOL SHOP DAY**

At M&M Meat Shops, we are committed to our communities, and our involvement in community service. We pride ourselves on being an integral part of fundraising events and we are always looking for opportunities to assist groups with their fundraising efforts.

We also understand the challenges facing schools as they try to come up with new and different ideas. Many of these fundraising ideas involve additional costs to the school, or the need for students to go door to-door canvassing. This is not always a pursuit that is encouraged or supported by parents.

To that end, we would like to offer your school, our annual fundraising opportunity.

On **Monday November 21, 2011**, we are having a special "**School Shop Day**". This event will run from 9:00a.m. until 8p.m. and **10% of any purchases made that day by school supporters will be donated back to your school.**

It is an opportunity for teachers, parents, friends and relatives of students, to come into our store, sample some great M&M products, and support your school fundraising efforts. All they need to do is come in anytime during that day, identify themselves as a supporter of your school, and make a purchase. It's that easy!!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

As a bonus for the promotion, M&M Meat Shops will give a customer a

FREE Bag of Meatballs (1 lb. Size) with a minimum \$40.00 purchase.

Also this year have a special one page flyer to help promote your day.

M&M Meat Shops, Welland will need to know if your school wishes to participate in this special promotion by **November 10, 2011**. At that time we will need a contact name and phone number. At that time we will also need to know if your school would like to distribute our special one day flyer.

Your commitment to this fundraising event will ensure the success. In essence, the more you promote this, the more money you will raise.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

Yours truly,

Cheryl and Bob Landry

Franchisee, M&M Meat Shops

Welland, Ontario

Phone 905-735-6819

