

GORDON GAZETTE

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

NOVEMBER 2018

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Principal
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Gordon School Improvement Planning

School self-assessment is a collaborative process in which all staff members systematically: *gather* and *analyze* evidence about how well students are doing and then *use this evidence* to assess and develop a School Improvement Plan. Gordon staff will engage in professional learning opportunities that will directly influence instructional practices being used in our classrooms. Below is a list of specific areas that we will focus on in both literacy and numeracy, as determined by our school self assessment.



"I Matter as a Learner"

GOALS

- CSS Math Sessions
- Newsletter Remix
- Manipulatives & Calculators
- AQ Course
- DreamBox

Area 4 Math Commitments

Research-Informed Mathematics Instruction Teaching Through Problem Solving

With a focus on visualization and spatial reasoning

- Knowing the curriculum well
- Using models, strategies, and tools
- Planning for ALL students using
 - the curriculum and its "e.g.'s"
 - the mathematical process expectations
 - Van de Walle, Fosnot, Ministry-developed, and other resources
- Consistent use of calculators in everyday mathematics

80 to 100 minutes of math instruction to allow for **Building Fluency** through the visual/spatial aspects of:

- Strings, Games, Number of the Day etc.
- Technology:
 - DreamBox
 - Using DreamBox Teacher Tools for Instruction



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Literacy:

Small Group Instruction

Based on diagnostic data to focus on specific student need
(Letter/sound relationships, word recognition, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, writing)

Explain Your thinking

From oral to written output. Modeling with the use of exemplars and developed criteria.

Build confidence to take risks

Build confidence, perseverance and motivation in our student's willingness to take educational risks;
Engage students and parents (home/school connection; importance of literacy)

Provide students with authentic tasks balanced with explicit teaching of fundamentals

Real life examples, fiction and non-fiction, along with conventions



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MATHEMATICAL LITERACY

Mathematical literacy encompasses the ability to: Estimate in numerical or geometric situations; know and understand mathematical concepts and procedures; question, reason and solve problems; make connections within mathematics, and between mathematics and life; generate, interpret and compare data; communicate mathematical reasoning.

Mathematical literacy also includes understanding the value of mathematics and having the inclination and the confidence to use it.

How do you help your child to be mathematically literate?

Everyone can learn math. First and foremost, believe in your child's ability to learn mathematics. Everyone can improve when provided with good teaching, coaching, encouragement and practice.

Do have high expectations for your child. Research shows that when you believe your child can learn, he/she will rise to the expectation.

Do talk with your child's teacher about how you can help and support her/his mathematical development.

Do talk about mathematics in a positive way. Your positive attitude and valuing of mathematics are infectious.

Do share your day-to-day math experiences with your child, and discuss: video and computer games, television shows (e.g., The Learning Channel, **Books - "Counting on Frank" & "Stormy Weather"**)

Do encourage personal responsibility for learning. Emphasize that effort is as important as ability.

Do support your child through homework by listening and asking questions:

- Allow your child to struggle through the process of problem-solving. Discuss mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Help your child by asking questions: What do you need to find out? Tell me what you know... Show me what you started...What can you try first? Can you make a drawing or picture? Will a list or table help?

Do encourage persistence. Some problems take time to solve. Taking a break often provides fresh enthusiasm and alternative strategies.

CELL PHONE POLICY

At Gordon School, we recognize the fact that many of our students bring cell phones to school, and also that parents may prefer that their children have phones with them on the way to and from school for safety reasons. We certainly support anything that contributes to the safety and well being of our students.



However, we also take into consideration that cell phones can have a negative impact if they are misused in the school environment. A student with access to a cell phone during a lesson can become distracted from his or her learning, and there have been numerous accounts of students texting one another during class. There have also been accounts of cyber-bullying occurring during the school day through cell phone communication.

With this in mind, our policy at Gordon School is to allow students to bring cell phones to school, provided that they remain out of sight and are not used on school property without teacher approval. If a student needs to call home, they will be allowed to use the school phone. If parents need to contact their child, they may call the school.

Should a student refrain from complying with the cell phone policy by using their cell phone without permission at school, the following steps will be taken:

The first time, the student will be asked to put the phone away. The second time, the phone will be taken away and returned to the student at the end of the day. Parents will be informed. The third time, the phone will be taken away and the parent will be asked to come and pick up the phone.

Thank you for helping to support student success.

SICK CHILDREN

When to keep your child at home.

Please keep your child at home and away from others if he or she has any of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Rash
- Frequent coughing or sneezing
- Yellow or green discharge from the nose, ears, or eyes
- Sore throat



Contact your family doctor for advice about care and treatment. For more information, talk to your school nurse or go to www.niagararegion.ca/health

STUDENT PICK UP AND DROP OFF

Regardless of whether students are late or leaving early, we ask that all students check in at the office. This enables the office staff to ensure that all students are arriving safely to class or being dismissed to the appropriate person.

Furthermore, we would like to request that parents/adults wait at the office at all times. If your child requires assistance getting to class, one of the office staff would be happy to escort them. Any information you would like to convey to teachers can also be conveyed by the office or through your child's agenda. Once classes have started we want to minimize the disruption to other students that are participating in the instructional day.

VISITING? SAY HI AT THE OFFICE!!

Whenever you are coming to Gordon, please be sure to stop in the office first to say hi. The safety of every student in this school is important to us. As a part of our Safe School policy all visitors **MUST** sign in at the office.

PARKING

Our back parking lot off Clare Ave, will be reserved for staff parking and bus loading and unloading. Our buses will board immediately upon dismissal and depart Gordon at approximately 3:15 p.m. each afternoon. Parents dropping students off prior to the start of school may also use this lot if they wish. Our front parking lot off Thorold Road will be available for all parent and visitor parking. Students picked up or dropped off during the school day should enter/exit and sign in/out at the office. At the end of the day, kindergarten students will exit out the kindergarten doors and students in Grades 1-8 will exit out their designated areas.



Thank you for keeping our students safe!

PARENT PARKING CONSIDERATIONS

- Please respect the areas designated **No Parking** and **Handicapped** only.
- Please use the designated sidewalk and paths at all times.
- Please be patient in our parking lot.
- Be safe and watch for children at all times.
- Consider parking away from the school (i.e., side street) and walking



How Can I Help My Child With French?

Tips from Canadian Parents for French

The most important factor is to support and encourage your child - you are not expected to teach them. Be sure to provide the necessary supplies and a quiet homework environment. If possible, set aside time every day when homework should be done and provide praise and support. If you have any concerns about your child's homework, check with your child's teacher about homework expectations.

Online Homework Help

FSL Homework Toolbox (Ontario)

A website designed to help French Immersion students and their caregivers with French homework assignments.

www.fslhomeworktoolbox.ca

BonPatron (created in Canada)

Online grammar checker. Targets typical errors made by second-language learners of French. No human interaction, only software interaction.

www.bonpatron.com

Online French-English Dictionary

Word Reference's French dictionary has over 250,000 translations. It also provides a language forum. If you have a question about language usage, you can search this bank of Q&As that is supported by Native speakers from around the world.

www.wordreference.com

Online French Audio Dictionary

Check out this online French audio dictionary with thousands of sound files, accompanying text, and video clips to help you learn, practise, and enjoy the French language. Great for parents and children to use together.

www.audiofrench.com



The Elementary Progress Report - Grades 1 - 8 students

On November 8th, your child will bring home their Elementary Progress Report. The format was created after years of consultation with parents/guardians, teachers, principals and students across the province. Although it looks much like the Report Card, the Progress Report has a very different intent. The purpose is to share early and specific feedback on your child's development of work habits and the learning skills.

Reporting on the Progress Report is about looking forward and setting a course for the learning journey ahead. Based on the evidence that teachers see, as well as what teachers know about learning at this grade level, the report communicates the path your child is on toward achieving the grade level expectations by the end of the year. The Progress Report does not include letter grades or percentage marks for academic subjects; it instead identifies whether your child is progressing very well, well or with difficulty. For subjects in which your child is Progressing with Difficulty, the teacher will discuss specific next step plans needed for success.

We look forward to partnering with you and your child for a year of great learning and growth.

PROGRESS REPORT PACKAGE & PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE



Included in the Progress Report package will be a form that will allow you to schedule a Parent/ Teacher interview with your child's teacher.

It is imperative that you return the Interview Request form back to the school the very next day, that's Friday, November 9th so we can arrange all the interview times and inform you of your interview time well in advance of your interview.

A variety of interview options will be offered to you, including face to face interviews on the evening of Thursday, November 15th from 3:20-7 p.m.



NOVEMBER 27-30TH

Nov. 27th: Book Fair Preview for all classes **(No purchases)***

Nov. 28th: Book Fair open during both breaks

Nov. 29th: Book Fair open during both Breaks and

***Open to families 3:15-4:30 (student's only permitted with an adult)**

Nov. 30th: Book Fair open during first break only

WESTERN SPIRIT DAY

On Friday, November 2nd we are having our second Spirit Day this year. Please join in the fun!!!!:)



PA DAY

Friday, November 16th will be a P. A. Day. There will be **NO SCHOOL** on that day!!

PICTURE RE-TAKES

If your child missed the last picture day or you would like their picture taken again, Lifetouch photography will be returning on **Thursday , November 8th.**



THANK YOU!!



The students and staff of Gordon School would like to thank everyone who assisted in making our recent **magazine subscription/cookie dough** 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 QSP at 1-800-667-2563 (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.qsp.ca

Our school code is **3715240.**

Remember to turn your clocks back on Saturday, November 4th!!!



REMEMBRANCE DAY Nov 11th



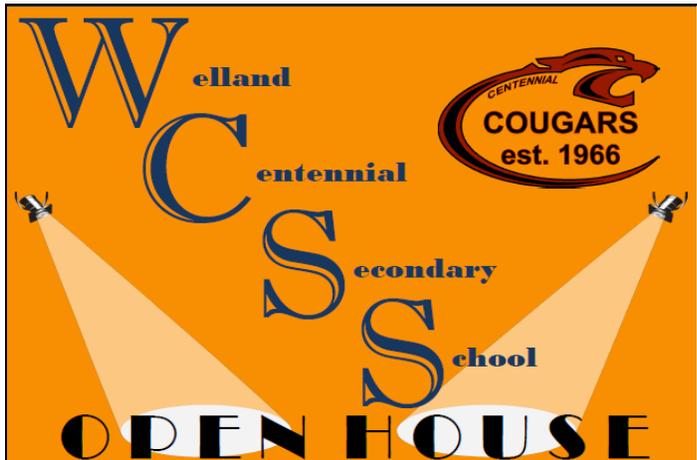
Our Remembrance Day assembly will be starting at 10:30 a.m.. Please plan to join us if you can.

DREAMBOX LEARNING MATH PROGRAM

Gordon School has purchased DreamBox Learning's Math Program. This is an exciting and fun online math program that helps all students achieve better, faster math proficiency. The expectation is that students work independently and without aid, (i.e., parental/calculator).

Your child can access DreamBox from any computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Just go to the Gordon School website and follow the Dreambox link on the main page. There is no software to download. All you need is a high-speed internet connection and Adobe Flash. Adobe Flash is free and is included with many internet browsers.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher. You can also receive additional support by contacting **DreamBox Client Care** at 877-451-7845 .
support@dreambox.com.



We invite you to come experience the
COUGAR PRIDE ..

Thursday, November 29th 2018
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Come meet:

- **Our supportive teaching staff**
- **Our enthusiastic & welcoming students**
- **Our energetic student council**



Picture yourself here...



DSBN *Insta Fame* ★

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES



SHINE LIKE THE STAR YOU ARE!

NOVEMBER 26 - 29, 2018

A.N. MYER Nov. 29 6:30 pm	BEAMSVILLE Nov. 28 6:00 pm	E.L. CROSSLEY Nov. 27 6:30 pm	EASTDAL Nov. 29 6:00 pm	EDEN Nov. 29 6:30 pm	GREATER FORT ERIE Nov. 27 6:00 pm
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GRIMSBY Nov. 27 6:00 pm	GOVERNOR SIMCOE Nov. 26 6:00 pm	LAURA SECORD Nov. 28 6:00 pm	PORT COLBORNE Nov. 27 6:00 pm	SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL Nov. 26 6:00 pm
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ST. CATHARINES COLLEGIATE Nov. 27 6:00 pm	STAMFORD Nov. 27 6:00 pm	THOROLD Nov. 27 6:30 pm	WESTLANE Nov. 28 6:30 pm	WELLAND CENTENNIAL Nov. 29 6:00 pm
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**I Matter
At DSBN**

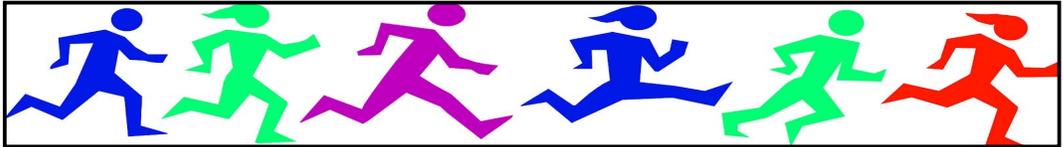
dsbn.org/highschoolopenhouses

#DSBNHighSchool

Gordon sent 47 runners in Grades 3-8 to compete at the local cross country meet. The runners ran at least 2km and the grade 8 students ran 3.5km. These students have been practicing since the first week of school and some students have already logged over 30km in running this school year. We are very proud of their accomplishments, and wish good luck to our 10 runners who have advanced to the district meet on the 16th.

UPDATE!!!...9 Gordon athletes competed at the cross country championships at Fireman's Park in Niagara Falls. In order to compete, these runners had to place in the top 20 versus Welland, Port Colborne and Pelham schools. They then went to face the other top runners from Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Grimsby. All of our runners made Gordon proud and everyone finished their race with a smile on their face. Please congratulate the following runners. JJ W, Jake V, Alex B, Ashlyn A, Julianna M, Adam S, Kaya L, Sarah S. Please also give a special congrats to Izzy N who finished in 1st place among all grade 7 runners with a 3km time of 13:17. Way to go Grizzlies. Hope to see even more runners when cross country is back in September next year.

**CROSS COUNTRY
2018**



Grade 8 Students and Parents: Save the Date!

Starting high school is a huge step in a student's life.

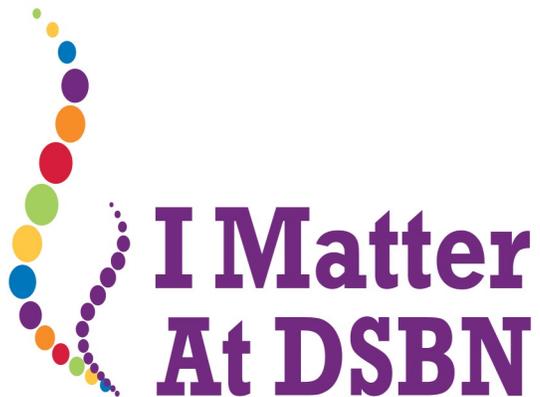
While it's definitely an exciting time, it also brings with it many questions, such as "What's life in high school really like? What programs and options are available to help me achieve my goals?"

A great way to have your questions answered is to attend an open house. Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend High School Open Houses from November 26-30th.

Details about open houses will be shared with parents/guardians mid-October.

High School Open House Dates and Times:

AN Myer	November 29	6:30 p.m.
Beamsville	November 28	6:00 p.m.
EL Crossley	November 27	6:30 p.m.
Eastdale	November 29	6:00 p.m.
Eden	November 29	6:30 p.m.
Greater Fort Erie	November 27	6:00 p.m.
Governor Simcoe	November 26	6:00 p.m.
Grimsby	November 27	6:00 p.m.
Laura Secord	November 28	6:00 p.m.
Port Colborne	November 27	6:00 p.m.
Sir Winston Churchill	November 26	6:00 p.m.
St Cath Collegiate	November 27	6:00 p.m.
Stamford	November 27	6:00 p.m.
Thorold	November 27	6:30 p.m.
Westlane	November 28	6:30 p.m.
Welland Centennial	November 29	6:30 p.m.



Treaty Recognition Week at DSBN 2018

Ontario has designated November 5th-9th as Treaties Recognition Week with the goal of promoting education and awareness about treaties and treaty relationships.

DSBN joins with others school boards across Ontario in encouraging schools to support learning about treaties as an important aspect of our province's history.

For more information on treaties, go to <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties>.



2018-2019 GORDON YEARBOOK IS BACK!

We are very happy to announce that the Gordon Yearbook is back this year!!!

The yearbook will include all the favorite pages including homeroom pages, team and club photos, and many of the year's most memorable moments. The yearbook will be full color, with a soft cover and approximately 50 pages.



Here is how you can help.

We need sponsors!

In order to keep the cost of the yearbook affordable for all, we need sponsors. If you own a family business or perhaps you know of any local business that would be interested in purchasing an advertisement in our school yearbook, please contact the office to speak to Mrs. Kiemele.

We anticipate producing in excess of 200 copies, to be purchased by families living in our immediate neighborhood. This is a great way to support our school community and advertise your business. Your contribution allows you to promote your business as a community partner, and enables us to sell our yearbooks at a lower cost to our students.

Sponsorships can be purchased in the following format:

Business Card – \$50.00

An actual size business card on a separate page with other business sponsors.



Yearbooks will be distributed by the end of the school year.

DANCE VIBES FOR VIVI

Vivienne Quesnel, one of our students at Gordon, is a spunky 6-year-old girl, whom has undergone 2 years of chemo for leukemia, and now must undergo another 2 years since the cancer has returned. She is already social media savvy, loves Sponge Bob, Barbie, unicorns, Nona's pasta, and her dog, Freiderich.

This is a financial hardship for her family, because OHIP does not pay for all medications or any equipment used in the home. There are living expenses and travel costs going back and forth to McMaster Sick Kids. With the help of others, it would relieve some of the financial burden.

With this in mind we are having Dance Vibes for Vivi on Thursday, November 15th at the school in the gym all day. All classes will dance away for Vivi during their assigned times. Any support that can be given is greatly appreciated. Snack options will available to purchase on school cash on line.

Also, just a reminder that on Sunday, November 18th at the Royal Canadian Legion in Fonthill from 11-7 Smiles for Vivi will be in full swing with music, food, auctions, and raffle prizes to support Vivi and the family.





OUTDOOR EDUCATION :)





TERRY FOX RUN/WALK
2018