

A. K. WIGG PUBLIC SCHOOL ANNOUNCER

Staff Growth Goal: By May of 2011, all staff members will increase their understanding and usage of effective questions in Literacy and Numeracy classes.

Literacy SMART Goal: By May of 2011, 51% of students will have moved up, within a level and 49% of students will have moved up to the next level in effectively communicating thoughts with supporting details as evidenced by teacher-created AEO style questions.

Numeracy SMART Goal: By May of 2011, 52% of students will have moved within a level and 48% of students will have moved up a level in communicating their problem solving strategies as evidenced by teacher-created math problems.

December 2011

Academics, Arts and Athletics through Concentration, Co-operation and Courtesy

December's Character Trait is Caring

The Holiday Season Is Upon Us

Despite the fact that the weather would have us think otherwise, December is here with the excitement of the approaching holidays. Progress Reports and Parent – Teacher interviews are behind us but we are quickly approaching the Term 1 report cards which will be completed and distributed in the second week of February. We would encourage students to reflect on the progress indicated in November's reports and use this to set goals for improvement during the second half of term 1. At A. K. Wigg Public School, we are committed to ongoing communication regarding the progress of each and every student. Do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, if you wish to request a personal interview at any time throughout the school year.

The last day of school before the holidays is Friday, December 23rd. Please note this on your calendars.

During December many special events have been planned, including an African Dance Troupe, Wigg Idol, Santa Brunch, Christmas Performance, carol sing and other special holiday activities. In addition, we are ensuring the holiday spirit for others in our "Adopt a Family" and "Food Drive" for Community Cares. Please check the school calendar to keep up to date on our activities.

School Council 2012 Meeting Date

Our next School Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 7th, at 6:30. All meetings will be held in the school library and are open to the school community. See you there!

There will not be a December Meeting scheduled.

Christmas Performance

We are pleased to announce that our staff and students are putting on a Christmas Performance on Wednesday, December 21st at 6:30 p.m. The official program has yet to be finalized but we will be having performances from the Kindergarten classes, our Primary choir, junior choir and intermediate ensemble. The evening will wrap up with a short carol sing followed by warm cider provided courtesy of our School Council.

An Invitation to Our Santa Brunch

I hope all you boys and girls have been good for goodness sake this year! On Thursday, December 15th, **SANTA WILL BE VISITING** A. K. Wigg.

Put on your Santa hat, dress in red, white and green and enjoy this most memorable event as put on by our School Council. You are invited to come to the school and eat with your child(ren). Further details have already gone home in a newsletter from our School Council.

A.K. Wigg Adopt - A - Family

The Christmas Season is rapidly approaching and with it our thoughts often move to those families who are less fortunate than our own. Once again this year we are proud to have the opportunity to participate in supporting some of these families through our Christmas Basket Program. We would like to thank the families in our community for their generosity and their enthusiastic participation in this venture. With your help, we will be able to provide a happy holiday for many families. **Thank you, Mrs. Szpurko and our Room Moms for your co-**

ordination. More information will be coming home shortly from the committee.

Grade 8 Visit to E.L. Crossley

All Grade 8's in the Pelham region met at E. L. Crossley for an Orientation on November 24th from 9:30 am to about 2:00. A great time was had by all. It was a time for students to see their upcoming facility, meet some of their new teachers and hear words of advice from the grade nines about their experiences so far.

The secondary schools in DSBN will be hosting open houses in the third week of January. Grade eight students and their families are encouraged to attend.

E.L. Crossley - January 18th, 6:30 p.m.

Eastdale - January 19th, 7:00 p.m.

Centennial - January 17th, 6:30 p.m.

Kindergarten Open House

Our school board will be holding system-wide Kindergarten Open Houses at each of the elementary schools on the same evening. This year we will be holding our orientation and early registration on Thursday, February 2nd, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you have a child who will be junior kindergarten age in September 2012, plan on attending. If you know one of your neighbours who may have a child that age, please let them know. More information is available at www.dsb.edu.on.ca

Parking

Many parents are using the church parking lot which has graciously been permitted. We certainly do not want to lose this privilege, so Wigg Idol is fast approaching as our finalists practice daily for their day on the stage! These singing sensations from our junior and intermediate grades will be performing for judges on December 8th between 2 and 3 pm! It's a show you don't want to miss! Parents are welcome to attend the performance as always, with cameras in hand. Although it may be hard to top last year's rockin' versions of Katy Perry, Michael Jackson, Justin Bieber and more; this year's line-up promises to bring the house down!

P.A.L.S.

The Playground Activities Leaders in Schools program and begun! This year, 33 students from grades 4 through 7 have applied for and accepted the role as student leaders and champions, to host the primary games in fun activities during recess breaks. We have 5 teams of leaders, all named for Canadian animals this year, who teach and mentor the younger students in grades 1 through 3. PALS recesses take place on even days of the cycle, for one particular grade at a time. As our PALS motto says, "There's always room for one more!"

Community Cares Food Drive

Our Intermediate Student Council is in the process of organizing the annual food drive for Pelham Cares. Bags have been donated from Sobey's and will be delivered to houses within the school boundary by the grade 7 and 8 students on Wednesday December 7th. Pick up date for the bags is Wednesday December 14th with Pelham Cares coming to the school to load the items in mid morning. We would like to give a special thank you to our community members who are able to donate and to Mr. Triano for organizing this worthwhile event.

please park in areas away from the church entrance and reserved parking areas.

Physical Activity

Did you know that Canadian children/youth ages six to 19 spend an average of 8.6 hours per day, or 62 per cent of their waking hours, being sedentary? Here are some ways to help your children meet the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each day:

- 1) Limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours per day.
- 2) Encourage children and youth to play outdoors.
- 3) Play outside with your children: Go for walks, hikes, build snowmen; go tobogganing. Introduce your child to skates or skis so they can learn to slide. Play catching games using a wide range of soft objects.

For more information go to
www.activehealthykids.ca or
www.participaction.com

Nevada Tickets

The Avondale store on the corner of Canboro Road and Haist sells Nevada Tickets. A part of the proceeds from this License go to A.K. Wigg to support our playground maintenance. If you like to play, please consider purchasing tickets from this location.

Parking Lot Safety

As all of our families are aware, the location of our new crosswalk necessitates students crossing the sidewalk at the exit of our driveway. It is important that all vehicles stop before crossing the sidewalk so that pedestrians can safely cross to the safety lights.

Labels for Education

We would like to remind you that A.K. Wigg's Labels for Education Program is continuing this year. If you use any of the products listed below, please send the labels in to the school. We have a collection container outside the office and the labels can be redeemed for points to use towards purchasing educational products.

Campbell's Soups

Ready to serve Soups

Soup at Hand

Campbell's Easy Cooking Sauces

Chunky

Goldfish Crackers

Habitant Soups

Pace Salsas

Ramen Hearty Noodles and Gattuso

V8 Juices and Soups

Zehr's Receipts

Ever wonder what we do with all of those Zehr's receipts we ask you to send in to the school? Well, a member of the School Council adds them all up and submits them to Zehr's every time we reach \$100 000 in total. The Zehr's

"SAVE A TAPE" program then gives the school a rebate of \$1 for every \$450 in receipts. Each time we submit our receipts, we receive a rebate of approximately \$220. Please keep those Zehr's receipts rolling on in!

Technology Improvements at Wigg

Our staff has combined our technology allocation of funds from last year and this year to purchase a mobile notebook cart with 20 notebooks. These will be sent to the school shortly and should be available for classes to use in the next couple of months. We are very excited about this increase in our technology resources. We have also removed, and are in the process of, upgrading several obsolete desktop computers throughout the school.

Top Ten Tips to help our Children with Math

1. **Connect math to daily life** – Let them know the importance of math! Talk about how you use math in your day-to-day life (at the store, in your job, around the house).
2. **Counting can be fun and entertaining** – Show them math can be fun! Sing songs (One, Two, Buckle my Shoe) and play games (card games, hopscotch, board games, Dominoes, chess).
3. **Start Easy and Work up!** – For example, after they've got counting by 1s, talk about skip counting and count by 2s, then 5s and 10s. Don't jump ahead too fast.
4. **Use household items for practice** – Practice adding and subtracting with objects from the house like spoons or pots and pans.

5. **Tap into your child's curiosity** – Go on a number hunt in your house.
6. **Talk about time** – Talk about seconds, minutes and hours, then count days and weeks. Ask them questions: How long until bedtime? How many “sleeps” until the weekend?
7. **Practice mental math using coins** – Count money or have them show you how much an item costs and practice making change for when they're at the store.
8. **Play the estimating game** – Estimate measurements, distances, times and grocery bills and then compare to the actual.
9. **Sports and math** – There is a lot of math in sports such as batting averages, points per game and save percentages (discuss these as you watch the games or read the newspaper).
10. **Computers + Math = Fun** (there are lots of great computer games available to explore math).

Library Corner

Our librarians have asked that all library books be returned to the library before December 16th. Please take a moment to look around the house for any A.K. Wigg library books and make sure your son/daughter returns them to the school. Your cooperation in this is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU!!



The students and staff of A.K. Wigg School would like to thank everyone who assisted in making our recent magazine subscription campaign a great success again this year. 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). As a reminder you may continue to order on-line throughout the school year at www.ccrp.ca - our school code is ON1488.

Intermediate girls Volleyball Team

We would like to congratulate the intermediate girls' volleyball team for winning the Area 2 consolation championship! The girls were extremely dedicated, which was evident through attending numerous early morning practices. As the season progressed, the girls showed great improvements in their serving, volleying and bumping skills. During the playoffs the girls developed as a team which was apparent in their playoff victory. We would like to give a special thank you to Mr. P, for taking time out of his retirement to help coach the girls. Mrs. Nicholas's knowledge of the game and playing experience was a key factor in the girls' success. Thank you to Mrs. Fucile for coaching.

Way to go wildcats!

Intermediate girls' volleyball team members

Angel K., Lauryn G., Emily T., Miranda S., Hayley N., Rachel H., Anika C., Alexis F., Gabrielle P., Alanna P., Sophie P., Julia B., Emma F.

Score keepers and linesman - Chelsea D, Carter N, Adam B., Nicole G.

Check Mate!

The grades 1 to 3 students have started chess club in the library. Each grade has one nutrition break to practise and to learn strategies. The older, experienced students are helping Mr. Kurland in teaching the younger students. Chess club will be starting in December for our grade 4 to 8 classes as well.

A Musical Note

The primary and junior choirs have been busy rehearsing for our Holiday Concert and Carol Sing. We have started an intermediate ensemble recently so any student in grade 7 or 8 who would like to sing in a group – come on out and join us!

On December 9th, the African Dance Troupe from Kenya will be visiting our school. This four member troupe will entertain our students with African dance, drumming and song. We are all looking forward to this event.

Music Awards for November

Gr. 1	Thijs M.	Gr. 3	Maya O.
Gr. 1	Ayden M.	Gr. 4/5	Gabriel H.
Gr. 2	Tanner B.	Gr. 5	Rebecca H
Gr. 2/3	Shane K.	Gr. 6	Julia L.

Koats For Kids

We are organizing a Koats For Kids winter clothing drive this month. A letter has been sent home asking if you are able to donate and send into the school, any used and outgrown winter coats(nothing new) (adult sizes too). These will be given to children and families in the Niagara Region. They are cleaned at a local cleaner and sent to where they are needed. On behalf of those who do not have the chance to say it for themselves – Thank you !

A.K. WIGG PUBLIC SCHOOL

"DECEMBER NEWSLETTER BALLOT"

Draw to take place on Thursday, DECEMBER 8th .

Student: _____

Teacher: _____

Parent Signature: _____



District School Board of Niagara
Achieving Success Together

