

A.K. WIGG PUBLIC SCHOOL

1337 Haist St., Fonthill, ON, L0S 1E0

December 7, 2017

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Dec 4th—K-Gr 2 Fire Prevention Safety presentations from the Pelham Fire Department
- Dec. 14—Food Drive Bag Drop Off and pick up Dec 18th
- Dec. 12th AK Wigg Holiday Concert performances at 2:00 and 6:30 pm
- Dec. 14th Lunch Lady Hot Lunch
- December 19th—Jingle Bell Walk to School Event Day
- Dec. 20 Holiday Sweater Spirit Day
- Ho Ho Ho Santa Brunch is on Dec. 20th!!!!!!
- December 21st—Holiday Sing Along at 2:40
- Dec. 22nd—Last Day of School for 2017
- School returns on Monday January 8, 2018

Contact us at:

Phone: 905-892-2605

E-mail: akw@dsbn.org



NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the A.K. Wigg Public School staff, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students and their families a safe and fun holiday season! Thank you to all who have supported our charitable giving efforts this holiday season! Your generosity makes a big difference in our community and teaches your children invaluable lessons in character and values.

The last day of school for 2017 will be Friday, DECEMBER 22nd. Students will be dismissed at the regular time. Please note that Mrs. Bedard will donate any unclaimed items to charity following the winter break. We are asking all families to please be sure to check our Lost Property bin. You might be surprised to see how many items are there.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year! School resumes on MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018.

Finally, again our best wishes are extended to all our students and their families a safe and fun holiday season!

Warmest Regards,
Ms. M. Zwolak, Principal

HOLIDAY SHOW

On **Tuesday, December 12th, 2017** holiday excitement will reach a new level as we enjoy our annual Holiday Showcase performances. 2:00 pm show —no tickets required 6:30 pm show —tickets required Tickets for the evening performance have been distributed to all families of the students involved in the program. Families who will not be using their tickets for the evening show... please inform the school so that these tickets can be made available on a first come first serve basis.



Imagine supporting our school through simply Christmas shopping! And you don't even have to leave your home! Consider making your Christmas gift card purchases through the FundScrip program. Each retailer offers a percentage of sales directly back to the school in CASH!

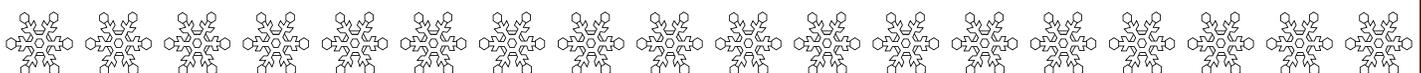
December order forms and payment are due back to the school by Monday, December 11th in order to receive the gift cards in time for the holiday season.



CHARITABLE GIVING

Our Grades 6/7, 7, 7/8 and 8 classes will be participating in the annual Christmas Food Drive for Pelham Cares. Students will deliver grocery bags within our school boundary on Thursday, December 14, 2017. Pick up will be on Monday, December 18th.

Thanks to all the families who donated pyjamas and books to our Charitable Giving program this year!



Thanks for Your Support!

Thank you to all who supported our recent Vendor Fair Fund Raiser and our QSP Magazine Fund Raiser. We have used the funds raised to purchase twelve additional Chromebooks for our portable computer lab.

Students and staff are very happy to have the additional technology to support student learning and achievement. As we continue to phase out our older technologies, we look forward to supporting new purchases across all grades and appreciate the support of the AK Wigg community as we move forward with this initiative.

SNOW THROWING

The colder weather is upon us and snow will likely soon be flying! Just a reminder that students will be reminded that snow throwing at school is a major safety concern during winter months. Serious injury could result. The rule at A.K. Wigg is “Throw No Snow”. This includes no kicking snow and no snow throwing. Thanks for your support with this while on school property. Only through strict adherence to this rule - including the walk to and from school - can we help to keep our schoolyard safe for all A.K. Wigg students.



SCHOOL PARKING LOT UPGRADES

We have been receiving a lot of positive feedback about the improvements we’ve made to our school parking lot. School Council has forwarded a letter of appreciation to our Area Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Kelly Pisek, on behalf of our school community. Students being dropped off at school by families in the morning are being reminded to use the Kiss and Ride drop off zone in the mornings. Thanks for your continued support!





INCLEMENT WEATHER

The winter is sure to bring bad weather. Please listen to the radio for information about schools and bus transportation during inclement weather. If travel to and from school become dangerous for the school buses the Board will make an announcement on local radio stations on the 7:00 a.m. news as well as posting it on the DSBN website (<http://www.dsbn.org>) and on the NSTS website (nsts.ca). They will also announce whether the school will remain open to students who are able to get to school safely or if the school will be closed. The radio stations that will broadcast school closures are:

CKTB-610AM

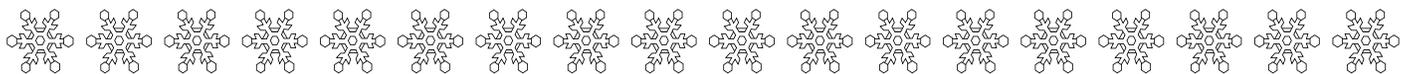
CHSC-1220AM

CHTZ-97.7 FM

EZ ROCK-105.7FM

CKEY- The River, 105.1

If it becomes necessary to close the school after classes have begun, there will also be an announcement made on the radio and the school's fan out will begin. Please **do not phone** the school at this time. We require the phone lines to proceed with your instructions where to send your children. You provided us with this information on the Student Verification Form that you updated in September.



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

DURING YOUR VISIT YOU WILL:

See a
Kindergarten
classroom

Meet the
Kindergarten
Team

Register for
school

Get a fun
goodie bag
with learning
resources



★ KINDERGARTEN ★
KICKSTART

Thursday, February 1, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

What is Spatial Reasoning?

Why Is Spatial Reasoning Important?

“Research on spatial reasoning substantiates the critical importance of spatial reasoning abilities in geometry, measurement and problem solving both early in students’ mathematics experiences as well as later in high school and beyond, especially in STEM areas.” (Shumway, 2013, p. 50)

Who needs to think spatially? Besides the fact that we all need to navigate our way around in a three dimensional physical world, careers in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) require strong spatial skills. In fact, research has shown that spatial ability is a predictor of success in these areas (see Newcombe, 2010, 2013; Wai, Lubinski & Benbow, 2009). Spatial thinking is also strongly employed in many of the arts. (Recently, there has been a movement to add the arts to the STEM category, creating the acronym STEAM.) Architecture, graphic design, computer sciences, biology, physics, chemistry, geology, geography and even medicine (consider the spatial reasoning required to understand various ways of mapping the body, such as x-rays and MRIs) all require strong spatial skills.

Perhaps owing to its complexity and because we still have much to understand about it, instructional supports for the explicit teaching and learning of spatial strategies are currently lacking. The good news is that this is changing. In its report *Learning to Think Spatially*, the National Research Council (2006) issued a call for action in education: that we recognize spatial thinking as important not only across mathematical strands but also across subject areas, & that educational researchers and system leaders develop better understandings and supports to foster spatial literacy in students. The National Research Council describes the current situation as a “major blind spot” in education & maintains that, without explicit attention to spatial thinking, the concepts, tools and processes that underpin it “will remain locked in a curious educational twilight zone: extensively relied on across the K-12 curriculum but not explicitly & systematically instructed in any part of the curriculum” (p.7).

Turning to Research: Reasons to Pay Attention to Spatial Reasoning in Mathematics

“Most of us have been taught to think and talk about the world using words, lists, and statistics. These are useful tools but they do not come close to telling the full story. Thinking spatially opens the eye and mind to new connections, new questions, and new answers.” (Center for Spatial Studies, UCSB, n.d.) . Spatial thinking plays a fundamental role throughout the K-12 curriculum. Whether it is the learning of science, mathematics, art, physical education or literacy, spatial thinking skills are important.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN SUPPORTING WITH MATH HOMEWORK

Asking questions to get your children talking about solving problems in mathematics is a great way to deepen their understanding about what they are currently learning in math. Questions that require children to justify or explain their solutions encourage them to reflect on their learning.

The following are just a few examples of questions that you can ask your children at home:

- ▯▯ How did you solve the problem? ▯▯ What did you do? ▯▯ What strategy did you use?
- ▯▯ Would your strategy work for other numbers or problems? Why or why not?
- ▯▯ What math words did you use or learn? ▯▯ What did you do first, next...?

FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATIONS FOR 2018-19

The French Immersion program offered at Gordon Public School is open to all students currently in Senior Kindergarten.

If you want your child to develop a high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer.



FEATURES OF THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM:

- ▶ Development of French language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing from Grades one to twelve;
- ▶ Designed to be a second-language program for children whose first language is **NOT** French;
- ▶ Current enrolment of over 2,000 elementary students;
- ▶ Certificate of French Immersion Studies awarded upon successful completion of the elementary and secondary immersion programs;
- ▶ Promoting understanding of different cultures;
- ▶ Providing additional opportunities for employment using French as the working language;
- ▶ An increased ability to communicate and interact with confidence in French.

Registration will open January 8th, 2018

For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit www.dsbni.org or speak to your school principal.

**A Parent Information evening will be held on January 11th at
Gordon Public School
from 6:00-7:00 p.m.**

Is DSBN Academy a good fit for your child?



DSBN Academy is a Grade 6 to Grade 12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university.

Come learn more about the opportunities offered at DSBN Academy. All families are welcome! Please see below for the dates, times and locations.

Parent Information Sessions

January 15, 2018	<u>Harriet Tubman, St. Catharines</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
January 16, 2018	<u>Diamond Trail, Welland</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
January 18, 2018	<u>Valley Way, Niagara Falls</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
January 23, 2018	<u>Dewitt Carter, Port Colborne</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
January 25, 2018	<u>Senator Gibson, Beamsville</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
January 30, 2018	<u>Peace Bridge, Fort Erie</u>	6:30 - 7:30pm
February 6, 2018	Open House at DSBN Academy	6:30 - 8:00pm

Thanks to....

The staff at AK Wigg extend a sincere thank-you to all parents for:

- making arrangements with their children prior to school about where they should be going at the end of the day
- signing in at the office when you visit AK Wigg and wearing a visitors sticker
 - informing the school when your child will be absent or late
- ensuring your children are punctual to ensure maximum instructional time and to reduce disruptions
 - returning school correspondence in a timely fashion
 - supporting our Craft Show and QSP Magazine and Gift Fund Raisers!

We appreciate all that you do to support our school!