

February 2, 2017

Volume 3 Issue 6

AK WIGG PUBLIC SCHOOL

1337 Haist St., Fonthill ON, L0S 1E0



IMPORTANT DATES:

- Kindergarten Open House & Registration Feb. 2nd, 10am-6pm
- Monday, Feb. 6th Fundscrip Gift Card Fund Raiser order forms due
- Youth Gambling Presentation February 9th for Gr 6/7, Gr 7 and Gr 8
- Grades 1-8 Term 1 Report Cards and Kindergarten Communication of Learning go home on Feb. 10th
- Feb. 15th Canadian Flag Day!
- Feb. 16th @ 10:00 am—Instrumental Music presentation to all K-8 classes.
- French Immersion Registration Closes Feb 16th at 9:00 am
- PD Day Feb. 17th,
- Family Day Holiday (No School) Feb. 20th
- Feb. 22nd Pink Shirt Day & Gr 5-8 to Women's Curling
- Feb. 23 Kindergarten & Gr 8 Grad Photos

February NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy February, the month for hearts and kindness! Our character trait this month is OPTIMISM. I think it will be easy to spot students demonstrating this trait as I see it on a regular basis without it being the focus. Your children are commended for having such a positive attitude, for persevering when facing challenges and for doing their part to make the world a better place! We spoke in our January Celebration Assembly about participating in a *movement of KINDNESS*, taking the time to notice others and to reflect on what each of us can do to make someone else's day even better.

Both Mrs. Bradley and I would like to extend a huge THANK you to all A. K. Wigg families for making the 2016 Christmas Gift Cards of Joy program a great success! Through your generous donations we were able to support 14 families and give them a lovely experience this holiday season!

Please read the following letter from the receiving school:

We wanted to extend our gratitude to all of you who took the time to purchase and donate gift cards to the families of the DSBN Academy.

Your kindness and generosity is truly appreciated. Your community has not only provided our families with much needed assistance, but it has also demonstrated an important life lesson; that people care. Thank you for showing us that there are people like you in this world.

The response was overwhelming and the variety of gift cards was amazing! You have empowered others in our community!

Thank you again A. K. Wigg Parents and Students!

Sincerely, Ms. Zwolak

FAMILY DAY FUN!

Are you looking for something fun to do with your family on Family Day? Niagara Inflatables has the answer for you! On Monday February 20th, Niagara Inflatables will be holding their annual Family Day FunZone at two locations: Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls as well as St. Catharines Collegiate in St. Catharines. Both locations will feature bouncers, obstacles courses and so much more! Tickets are \$15/child, \$5/adult with all proceeds going to support the Education Foundation of Niagara!

For more information or to purchase tickets please go to:

<http://www.niagarainflatables.com/familyday2017>



M. Zwolak - Principal

CHARACTER IN ACTION FEBRUARY FOCUS: OPTIMISM

We have a positive attitude, the resilience to bounce back from adversity, and hope for the future. We do our part to make the world a better place.

**MUSIC PROGRAM UPDATE....From Mrs. Abraham**

January has been a busy month in our music room. Students from all grades have been learning about Clara Schumann, a composer and performer from the Romantic Era. We have had great conversations about her music and also the reasons why societal limitations made it much more difficult for female composers to have a successful career during these time periods. Clara beat the odds of her time and became a very accomplished pianist and composer all while taking care of her 8 children! If you are having trouble getting your child to practice their instruments, just remind them that you are asking much less of them than Clara's father (who made her practice 3 hours a day!).

FRENCH IMMERSION

On line applications for French Immersion began Jan. 9, 2017. Go to www.dsbn.org and click on the French Immersion button. The French Immersion Program begins at Gordon Public School in September 2016 for students going into Grade 1. Registration closes Feb. 21, 2017 at 9 a.m. Please contact Tony D'Alessandro, Principal, at Gordon Public School (905) 734-3730 if you have any questions.

We are accepting registrations for all **new** Junior and Senior Kindergarten aged students for our September 2017 classes. (*Students currently in our JK classes do not need to re-register.*) If your daughter or son will be 4 or 5 years of age by December 31st, 2017, please call the school for information or come in and speak with our secretary, Mrs. Nicholas. When you come in to register, we require proof of age documentation. Acceptable documents are a birth certificate, birth registration or baptismal certificate. We will also need to make a copy of your child's yellow Proof of Immunization card. If you know of neighbouring children who are eligible to begin school, please pass this information on to them. Our Kindergarten Open House will be from 10:00 a.m—6 pm on February 2nd.

February is heart health month, a great time to assess habits and make healthy life-style choices to decrease your risk of heart disease; eat healthy, be physically active and reduce your stress level. Contact your school nurse for more information. Parent councils... why not organize a CPR training event for parents and caregivers? Visit www.heartniagara.com for more information.

NEWSLETTER DRAW

YES, I/WE HAVE READ THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER. PLEASE ENTER OUR NAME(S) IN THE NEWSLETTER DRAW.

Student's Name / Family Name

Parent Signature





Promoting Good Attendance... All Winter Long

Every winter, bad weather ~ snow, slush, freezing temperatures or even heavy rains in warmer climates ~ can present challenges to getting children to school. So do the colds, fevers and earaches that often come with the winter months.

1. Develop back up plans for getting your children to school in bad weather.

- Check to see if your child can get a ride with other families who have a reliable car that can manage the snow.
- Form a "walking school bus" with other families to get students to school safely.
- Join other families in a snow shovel brigade to clear the sidewalks closest to the school.
- Ask if school administrators have developed plans for transporting students.

2. Keep your children healthy.

- Dress them warmly for the cold weather.
- Stress the importance of eating a good breakfast every morning.
- Stress hand washing, particularly in the winter months. Send your child to school with a small bottle of hand sanitizer. Research shows that something as simple as hand washing can improve attendance.
- Talk to your doctor or school nurse about when a sick child should come to school. Most health providers allow a child to attend with a cold, but not with a fever.

Source: www.attendanceworks.org

UPDATE FROM OUR LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS from Mr. Droppert

Wow, so much change has come to the Library Learning Commons at Wigg this year! We are very excited to share that our 3D printer has been hooked up and that we have already printed out a few test pieces to see how this thing works. We have also received and installed our Smart touch-screen interactive television. Over the holiday, we had the entire space repainted and now it is ready for some things to go up on the walls. This leads us to our request for some help needed in our Learning Commons:

- We are looking for is someone who can build some creative picture frames that we can hang on our accent wall so that we can display student work for a "Fill-the-Frame" idea we have to showcase student masterpieces! If you are handy with building these, please let the school know. We need your expertise.
- We need one or two people who are interested in showing students how to knit or sew. We are hoping to launch a new makerspace that highlights our "quiet" makers!
- Alongside this space, we would like to offer some painting classes/lessons for students to practice their artistic skills. If you think you would be able to teach students how to paint, we would love for you to come be a part of our learning community! Essentially our Quiet Space will include readers, artists, and fabric designers. Our readers will be students who are thinking about joining our Forest of Reading Club that includes students in grade 5-6 (for Silver Birch) and grade 7-8 (for Red Maple).

Stay tuned for when we kick this off ;)



Water Does Wonders Pledge Campaign

As part of the Healthy Kids Community Challenge (HKCC), Niagara has teamed up with communities across Ontario to launch the www.waterdoeswonders.ca Pledge Campaign to encourage organizations and families to make it easier for children to choose water over sugary drinks.

Why Pledge?

To be part of the solution! Kids are drinking way too many sugary drinks, which has a negative impact on their health and on the environment. We can all help by making water easier to access and by reducing the amount of sugary drinks we serve and sell to children. By taking the pledge, you are affirming your commitment to help children sip less sugar.

What can you do?

- Sign the pledge at www.waterdoeswonders.ca.
Your pledge will help Niagara earn Top Community status on the Hall of Pledges.
 - Print your pledge certificate and display it prominently
 - Check out the resources available at www.waterdoeswonders.ca
 - Spread the word using #WaterDoesWonders to inspire others

If you have questions or would like to learn more, please contact:

Judith Rudoler

Project Manager, Healthy Kids Community Challenge Niagara
Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention Division, Public Health—Niagara Region
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold L2V 0A2
Phone: 905-688-8248 ext. 7412 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215
www.niagararegion.ca
www.healthykidsniagara.ca

Chess Club Has Started!



Chess Club has started for grades 1-8. We (Mr. Kurland and slightly older experienced student players) stated with teaching the grade ones the basics this past week on Thursday and Friday during the entire first nutrition break in our library commons. This approaching week we will continue helping the grade one students this Monday, Tuesday will be for grade 2's interested, and Wednesday for the grade 3's, all with the aid of our student helpers.

Starting February I will be adding grade 4-8's all during the entire first nutrition break (student bring their snacks along). All students need a reminder to listen to the announcements because of the flexibility needed to not double up on different activity clubs scheduled at the same time.

From: Mr. Kurland



Kids Are Sweet Enough Without Added Sugar

The Niagara Healthy Kids Community Challenge (www.healthykidsniagara.ca) has teamed up with communities across Ontario to launch the Water Does Wonders Pledge Campaign. Why Pledge? To be part of the solution! Kids are drinking way too many sugary drinks, which has a negative impact on their health, their teeth, and their minds. We can all help by making water easier to access and by not serving sugary drinks to children. By taking the pledge, you are affirming your commitment to improved health for our kids.

KINDERGARTEN COMMUNICATION OF LEARNING

On February 10, the new Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document developed by the Ministry of Education will be sent home for our Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten students.

The new Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document will provide parents/guardians with comments about their child's strengths and growth in relation to the overall expectations of The Kindergarten Program (2016). The overall expectations are connected with the following four frames: Belonging and Contributing; Self-Regulation and Well-Being; Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours; and Problem Solving and Innovating.

Since September, our Kindergarten educator teams have been observing and documenting a wide range of evidence of each child's thinking and learning within a play environment. The documentation gathered will reflect your child's key learnings, recognize growth and possible next steps for learning. The next steps will provide parents/guardians with information about how we will

support your child's new learning at school as it relates to the Kindergarten Program's



Intermediate Basketball Schedules

Intermediate boys' and girls' basketball schedules are now available on our external athletic website (Athletics>Elementary>Basketball>Schedules at the bottom of the page).