

1337 Haist Street, Fonthill, ON, L0S 1E0

**December 2016
January, 2017**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- January 9th French Immersion Registration opens
- January 12th – French Immersion Open House— Gordon Public School from 6:00-7:00 pm
- January 20th – PA Day
- School Advisory Council Meeting January 24th @ 6:00 pm
- January 29th – Sports Jersey Day
- January 31st I Matter Celebration Assembly at 12:10 pm—Parents welcome to attend
- Kindergarten Open House - February 2nd, 10 am—6 pm
- February 10th – K (Year 2) to Grade 8 Term 1 Report Cards and K (Year 1) Progress Reports sent home
- February 17th PA Day
- February 20th – Family Day Holiday

Contact us at:
Phone: 905-892-2605

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the A.K. Wigg community a Happy New Year!

I sincerely hope that you all had an enjoyable, relaxing Winter Break. These special times with loved ones form precious memories and traditions that are ever lasting. I know that our staff enjoyed the opportunity to be with family and friends and have come back well rested and eager to get back to the learning and routines with our students.

Our students did a fabulous job performing in our Holiday Concert. Special thanks go out once again to Mrs. Abraham and Mr. Triano for their leadership in working with our students and directing the concert this year! I received a lot of positive feedback from various members of our community.

A great big thank-you is also extended to our School Advisory Council for organizing another amazing Santa Brunch for our students and their families! Our Santa Brunch Chair, Allison Nykolaychuk, did an outstanding job coordinating her team of elves! Without the support of our dedicated parent volunteers this kind of event would not be possible. Thank you all for your continued support in keeping this tradition alive at A.K. Wigg! Our students love it!

Your input is very important to the success your child achieves throughout his/her educational experience. If you have an issue, idea or concern that you would like to discuss with myself or a staff member, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will happily book an appointment to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Ms. M. Zwolak



Thank you so much to the AK Wigg Public School community for your generous

support of our Adopt A Family Program as well as our annual Food Drive to support Pelham Cares!



The protective surface on the playground has become frozen, and the play structures (e.g., slide, climbers) will be closed for the winter to ensure the safety of our students. We inform the children about this each morning on announcements. Please note that this closure will also pertain to children who do not attend AK Wigg School (e.g., younger siblings) and dismissal time.

Parking Lot Routines

The school parking lot can be a very busy place. The safety of our students and all who are on school property is a priority. We would like to remind drivers to practice patience, take extra care in safe and to be respectful of one another and the school property when in the school parking lot.

We thank you for your continued efforts to use only the designated spaces, avoiding the bus loading area, the pedestrian walkways and the fire lanes. As always, your efforts to keep our students safe are truly appreciated.

FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM INFORMATION

The French Immersion program (offered at Gordon Public School) is open to all students in Senior Kindergarten. If you want your child to develop high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer.

Features of the French Immersion program:

Develops 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;

Promotes understanding of different cultures;

Provides additional opportunities for employment using French as the working language;

Increases the ability to communicate and interact with confidence in French.

Registration will open January 9th, 2017

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

Join us for an information night for you and your family to learn more about this exciting program.

DATE: Thursday, January 12
TIME: 6:00—7:00 pm
LOCATION: Gordon Public School
468 Thorold Rd. W., Welland



We will be accepting online applications for French Immersion beginning January 9, 2017.

YOU & YOUR CHILD ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A
KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, February 2, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



During your visit you will:

- See a Kindergarten classroom
- Meet the Kindergarten Team
- Register for school
- Get a fun goodie bag with learning resources



Children who will be turning 4 before
December 31, 2017 are eligible to start
Kindergarten in September 2017.



From Your School Nurse Immunization Record Review

Is Your Child's Vaccination Record Up to Date?

The *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)*, Amending Reg. 645 of R.R.O. 1990, requires Public Health to collect and maintain immunization records for all school-aged children in Niagara. At the beginning of December, letters were mailed to parents/legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students who have **incomplete immunization records on file at Public Health.**

If you received this **Immunization Notice** in the mail (blue form) please ensure that you provide the required immunization information to Public Health in order to avoid suspension from school. Suspension will take effect in May, 2017.

If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to call the Vaccine Preventable Disease program at **1-888-505-6074 or 905-688-8248 ext. 7425** Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

TAKE A MATH HIKE

You can help your children continue to learn and stay active by taking a math hike. Walk or bike together through your neighbourhood or along one of the many beautiful trails or bike paths in our area. You may want to use a pedometer to track your steps. You can also have children help to plan the outing by discussing how far you might go, how long it will take and how fast you might travel.

Children can be math detectives as they consider and discuss some of the following:



- ♦ Can you find leaf or petal clusters in groups of 3,4,5,6....?
 - ♦ Can you find spirals?
- ♦ What geometric shapes can you find, man-made or natural?
 - ♦ What patterns can you see?
- ♦ What equations might you use to describe the patterns you see?
 - ♦ How could you estimate how tall or wide something is?
 - ♦ Do you see symmetry anywhere?
- ♦ Are there arrangements that make it easy to count how many objects you see?
 - ♦ Can you guess the angles formed by branches or leaves?
 - ♦ How did you estimate?
 - ♦ Do you see numerals anywhere?
 - ♦ What do they tell us?

For long lasting fun, take along a camera to capture pictures of the math you see or a notebook to draw and label your discoveries. Other friends or family members can guess what the image is and where the image came from as well as talking about the math that they see!

Grade 8 Graduation



Once again this year, our Grade 8 Graduation will be held at
E.L. Crossley Secondary School.

The date set for our Grade 8 Graduation will be:
Tuesday, June 27th, 2017 starting at 6:00 p.m.

Grade 8 Graduation Photos are scheduled to be taken on:
February 23, 2017 @ 9:00 a.m.

Once Term 2 begins, we will set up a time to meet with parents who are
interested in being involved with planning the Grade 8 Graduation ceremony.

EVERY MINUTE IN SCHOOL MATTERS

Two missed days a month adds up to being a half a year behind by the time your child reaches 4th grade. And once a child falls behind, they rarely catch up.

ATTENDANCE:

Please be sure to call the school if your child is going to be away or late. We have a 24 hour answering machine.

LATES:

It is so important that your child get to school on time. Please be sure to set up a morning routine for success!



Our first Lunch Lady Lunch Hot Lunch is
Thursday, January 12th!
You can order online only.
Orders are due the morning of Wednesday
January, 11th ...
24 hours in advance!

<http://thelunchlady.ca/>

SNOW PLAY

Throwing snow by students at school is a safety concern during winter months. Serious injury could result. The rule at A.K. Wigg is "Throw No Snow". This includes no kicking, no snow throwing, no activities that involve throwing ice or snow of any kind. Only through strict adherence to this rule - including the walk to and from school - can we help to make our schoolyard safe for all students. Thank you for your continued support with this.

NEWSLETTER DRAW

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

Student's Name / Family Name

Parent Signature

JANUARY

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next scheduled School Council meeting is set for **Tuesday, January 24th at 6:00 p.m. in the library.** Please consider coming out to find out more about what is going on at A.K. Wigg Public School. **All Welcome!**

COLD WEATHER ALERTS AT DSBN

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal. When making this decision, principals will often consult with neighbouring schools, talk with parents as they arrive in the morning, and if the decision to send children outside is made, will equip yard duty staff with walkie-talkies so that they can communicate with the office to sound the bells to bring students in earlier.

The health and well-being of our students is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region are often good indicators that students will stay inside.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

- Try to send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending on the weather.
- Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.
- Warm socks and boots will keep their feet warm and dry in the snow and slush.
- Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep students from losing too much of that essential body heat.
- Put on a good pair of gloves or mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

An important message about Inclement Weather Procedures...

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures.

Information about transportation changes and school closures will be available on the websites, radio and television stations listed below as soon as it is available. Please do not phone the school for transportation or school closure information.

Websites:

www.dsbn.org
www.nsts.ca

Television Stations:

COGECO Cable 10
CHCH Television
City TV

Radio Stations:

CKTB 610 am
CHML 900 am
KLite - 102.9 fm
EZRock 105.7 fm
Y-108 - 107.9 fm
Wave 94.7 fm
Htz 97.7 fm
The River - 105.1 fm

If early dismissal becomes necessary, we will use the emergency numbers you provided on the confidential form which was sent home in September. If your contact numbers have changed, please call the office with your updated information.

PLEASE NOTE: The school may be open even though student transportation has been cancelled. The decision to send children to school is always at the parent's discretion.