

# A.K. WIGG PUBLIC SCHOOL ANNOUNCER

## Narrow Focus School Wide Student Achievement:

**By June 2011, 100% of A. K. Wigg students will have maintained or improved their critical thinking skills in Literacy and Numeracy as evidenced by assessments used in the Teacher Learning Critical Pathways.**



**District School Board of Niagara**  
*Achieving Success Together*

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

***June, 2011! Your efforts made this a Super Year!***

### **How to Encourage your Child to Become a Critical Thinker**

#### **What is Critical Literacy?**

“Literacy is about more than reading and writing—it is about how we communicate in society. It is about social practices and relationships, about knowledge, language and culture. Literacy finds its place in our lives alongside other ways of communicating. Indeed, literacy itself takes many forms: on paper, on the computer screen, on TV, on posters and signs. Those who use literacy take it for granted—but those who cannot use it are excluded from much communication in today’s world. Indeed, it is the excluded who can best appreciate the notion of “literacy as freedom”.

#### **Why is critical literacy important?**

We live in a rapidly changing, high tech global village. Children are inundated with the marketing of ideas and products in the media and on the internet. They need to be able to critically analyze these messages and make meaning from all that they read, hear and see.

#### **How can you support your child in becoming critically literate?**

- Engage in conversations with your child when watching television
- Listen to popular music and discuss the lyrics
- Watch music videos and talk about the images that are portrayed

- Look through newspapers, magazines and catalogues and discuss the images that are represented and those that are not
- Discuss advertisements in the media and ask “problem-posing questions”
- Visit historical sites, read markers, monuments and plaques and discuss the perspectives—which perspectives/facts are missing from these historical sites
- When your child raises an issue with you, analyze it together from different perspectives: raise questions about fairness and equity
- When reading with your child, discuss how the author uses language and images to influence the reader
- Take your child to diverse communities to experience different cultures and talk about what you see, hear, smell, taste and touch

#### **What are some problem-posing question for discussion?**

What point of view is presented by the author/characters/photographer/illustrator? How might the story/advertisement change if another gender was inserted? Are people with particular body types, clothes, skin colour represented? What gender is represented in the text? What gender is missing? What gender is marginalized? Who is doing all the talking? How is the family portrayed? Are these families realistic? What ethnic group or race is most common? What images are not apparent?

Are any people with disabilities represented?

### **Wishing You Well!!**

All of us wish the very best to Mrs. Abraham as she awaits the next addition. We will miss having you around here next September and look forward to your return. All the best.

### **Campbell's Labels**

Please remember to take the time to keep those labels through the summer months and bring them in this September. We would like to keep the momentum of our Labels for Education Program going. If you use any of the products listed below during the summer, please hold onto the labels and send them in September.

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 those Zehr's receipts that we ask you about all the time? A member of the school Council adds them up and submits them to Zehrs 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 receipts, our rebate amounts to just over \$200! So keep those Zehrs receipts coming.

### **Kindergarten Classes**

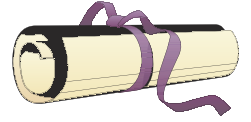
We will be setting up Kindergarten Classes for the students of **Junior and Senior Kindergarten** for the coming school year. Mrs. Wouthuis and Mrs. Lawler will be sharing information about the placement for September through a mail out during the summer.

### **Term 2 Report Cards**

We are very proud of all of our students who have worked very hard to achieve academic success. Report cards will be issued this year on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> to provide an opportunity for families to return the comment page of the report by Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, the last day of school.

### **Grade 8 Graduation**

Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony will be held on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 6:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. The Reception will follow in the library for students and guests. Special thanks to the grade 8 parents, who are working so hard to organize this event for their children. Special thanks also to the grade 8 students for their decorating expertise, as well as the grade 7 parents and students, who will be helping out with the Reception.



### **School Council Report**

Our Final School Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We will finalize our Fun Fair results and review our progress on creating natural shade areas on the playground. Hope to see you there!

### **Special Days**

Friday June 10<sup>th</sup> is a Board-wide professional Activity Day. There are no scheduled classes on that day. Teachers will be working on assessments and reporting during this time. Wednesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> is the last day of classes for 2010/11. Staff will be involved in planning for next year on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. Following those dates, the office will be closed. Have a safe and relaxing summer.

### **Moving Over the Summer Months?**

Parents / Guardians please note that the Transportation Department will be open during regular hours for the summer months. In the event of a move over the summer and transportation had been arranged or may be required

at the new location, please call to update student records and to ensure that bussing services will not be interrupted.

Bus routes are organized in advance and this will be appreciated by our Transportation Department. (905-346-0290). If you are moving over the summer, please contact us at the school as well as it assists us in organizing our classes for next year.

### **Thank You Fun Fair Volunteers**

Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> will see the greatest event of the school year. It is a celebration of the fantastic year we have shared. Please plan on attending and enjoying the evening with family and friends. I would like to thank Mrs. Robbins for chairing the committee this year and also to all the parents who have taken their time to aid in organizing and running this year's Fun Fair. It is your efforts that contribute to the success.

### **A.K. Wigg Public School Yearbook**

September Arrival. If you have purchased a 2010/11 yearbook, when it arrives in September, it will be sent home. Former Grade 8's can pick up at the school. Arrangements will be made for students who have moved.

Thanks to Jennifer Bennett for the countless hours and the talent she put into making this such a special keepsake.



### **A.K. Wigg Track and Field**

On Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, students who qualified at the Group Track and Field meet will compete in the District Track and Field Meet at the N. O. C. at West Park in St. Catharines. This year there are an incredible 37 athletes who will compete against the best that DSBN has to offer. Congratulations Team! Thank you to Mr. Hildebrandt, M. Lacasse, Mr. Eliopoulos and Mr. Triano for coaching our team to success at the meet.

### **On a Musical Note!**

Congratulations to the following Monthly Music Award Winners:

- Grade 1 - Emma M.
- Grade 1/2 - Lexi K.
- Grade 2 - Paige D.
- Grade 3/4 - Jeremy P.
- Grade 4 - Noah W.
- Grade 5 - Mackenzie P.
- Grade 6 - Sydney Z.



Congratulations to our A. K. Wigg choirs! Our primary choir of grade 2 and 3 students won a Silver Standing and the junior choir won the Gold Excellence award at the Port Colborne Festival of the Arts. Both choirs performed exceptionally well. Bravo!

### **Talent Show**

On Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed our Annual Talent Show. Students from Grades 1 through 8 participated in this show. Great talent was displayed by all contestants. Thank you to all of the boys and girls who participated and to our amazing audience as well.

All acts attended rehearsals regularly and worked hard to put on the great show.

### **Class Organization For September**

Again this year, we wish to inform all of our students and parents that we will be formally organizing classroom placements in August / September this year as was the case last year. We will have the classrooms organized for our Kindergarten classes in July to accommodate any first day jitters. Class lists for grades 1 to 8 will be posted on the first day of school. With the Ministry directions on class size in the primary grades, we wish to avoid as much disruption for the coming school year as possible. As such class lists are not finalized until this point.

### **"Volunteer Appreciation Tea"**

On Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., the A.K. Staff and Students would like to welcome our indispensable volunteers for an appreciative afternoon tea! We are all very lucky to have dedicated volunteers who help with reading, driving, organizing parties, baking and the enormous, special events, such as Fun Fair, that are run within the school! We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Please join us if you are able, so that we may have the pleasure of doing so, in person!

For those you are unable to be with us on June 21<sup>st</sup>, please know that your efforts are valued and much appreciated! Thank you all!

### **SOS – Save Our Subscriptions**

We will be running our annual magazine subscription campaign again in October and would appreciate your continued support. Although you may receive notices from publishers for your new and/or renewal magazines orders, it would be very much appreciated if you didn't renew your subscriptions through them, but waited for our campaign to start so the students can take your orders. However, hold onto your renewal notices – if that price is lower than offered through the school program, you will pay the lower price by attaching the coupon to your order. A large portion of the funds stays here in our school community. Thank you in advance for "saving" your magazine orders and helping make our future campaign a great success!

### **Used Supplies needed to help children in Haiti**

If your child(ren) has gently used indoor shoes, a backpack and/or school supplies they have outgrown or that you plan to replace in September, please consider donating them to the relief effort in Haiti. Shoes are in high demand.

Backpacks should be completely emptied of any materials and the zipper should be in good working order. Pens, pencils, crayons and markers as well as partly used or unused notebooks and binders are needed.

On the last three days of school there will be a collection box in each classroom. The supplies will be given to a team that is headed to Haiti this November. If you would like more information please contact Mrs. Ratcliffe at [info@fpetc.ca](mailto:info@fpetc.ca) or 905 892-9166.

### **Hot Lunches**

Before our year comes to a close, I would like to compliment Mrs. Lalonde and the hot lunch committee for the efforts they take each month to provide us with the opportunity for those delicious diversions to our daily lunches. A lot of work goes in behind the scenes talking with local providers, preparing & totalling the orders and getting the food to us. We really appreciate all the work that goes into this and look forward to next year's menu.

### **School Safety Preparations**

You will be receiving a letter home shortly informing you of a practice lock down drill which we will be carrying out on June 8<sup>th</sup>. In essence, this is similar to fire drills in that it gives students and staff the opportunity to practice routines in case there is an emergency. The difference is that we are practising how to respond to other kinds of emergencies (often, ones that require students to stay in their classes, instead of leaving). All school in Ontario are to complete these drills each year. We understand that this causes some trepidation and we appreciate your support and understanding as we go through this. If you have any questions, please call the office.

### **Dress Code**

The weather sure changes in the blink of an eye. With the coming of the hot weather, we would like to remind students about the dress code at the school. Tops need to have straps at least three fingers wide. Midriffs should be covered. Shorts need to be a length that approximates the tips of the fingers when the student's arms are at rest at their side. If clothes do not fall within these guidelines we will ask the student to change into their P.E. clothes for the duration of the day, call home for a change of clothes or be provided with something from the office. We would appreciate you going over this with your son/daughter. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

### **SPRING YARD CLEAN-UP**

We have rescheduled our school yard clean-up date for Monday, June 6 (raindate - June 7), from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Bring your pruning shears, rakes, sunflowers or any other wildflowers that can be transplanted. Hope to see you there!

### **PLANNING TODAY TO ENERGIZE EDUCATION TOMORROW**

During the 2009/10 school year, the DSBN engaged in a system-wide review of our school buildings which enabled trustees to gain an overview of how our facilities are being used, and to identify potential areas for growth and revitalization in the future.

The majority of school boards throughout Ontario are facing the challenge of declining enrolment because of changing demographics. Parents are having fewer children later in life, which reduces the number of students starting Kindergarten each year.

One way school boards can address the issues of declining enrolment and aging facilities is through accommodation reviews. Through this process, education can be rejuvenated by building some new schools, consolidating some schools, renovating some schools and closing some schools.

At their most recent meeting, Trustees passed a Facilities Planning report which examines how to provide optimal learning spaces for students by initiating three phases of accommodation reviews beginning in September, 2011. Phase one accommodation reviews will undertake an in-depth study of central and south St. Catharines and Thorold secondary schools as well as elementary schools in Fort Erie.

Over the coming months, Board staff will begin to assemble an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) for the two reviews. Each committee will undertake an in-depth study of the school planning areas and provide recommendations that will help guide Trustees in their decision making. Each ARC will include a business community member and/or a municipal representative, parents, a trustee, and DSBN staff. All ARC meetings will be open to the public, and the public will also have an opportunity to provide feedback during specially scheduled public meetings.

Moving forward, our goal is to continue serving students with excellent programs. The accommodation review process will ensure that funding is spent on enriching the educational opportunities for students. The full report, along with information about accommodation reviews is available at [www.dsbn.org/arc](http://www.dsbn.org/arc).





**District School Board of Niagara**  
*Achieving Success Together*

*(Please return ballot to be entered into our monthly Newsletter Draw)*

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A.K. WIGG PUBLIC SCHOOL  
"JUNE NEWSLETTER BALLOT DRAW"  
**MONDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>**

***STUDENT:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***TEACHER:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***PARENT SIGNATURE: :*** \_\_\_\_\_









