

January 30, 2015

**IMPORTANT DATES  
TO REMEMBER:**

- JK/SK Open House from 10AM–6PM–Feb. 5
- School Spirit Day–Feb. 5
- Term One Report Cards To Go Home - Feb. 6
- SK and Gr. 8 Graduation Photo Day–Feb. 10
- Dance A Thon–Feb. 12
- Early Release Day–Feb. 13
- Valentine's Day–Feb. 14
- Family Day–No School–Feb. 16
- Pink Shirt Day–Feb. 25
- Chocolate Bar Fundraiser starts–Feb. 27
- Pajama Day–Feb. 27

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DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD  
OF NIAGARA



## NEWSLETTER

### A MESSAGE FROM THE KATE S. DURDAN STAFF

What a fantastic start to 2015 this has been for the staff, students, and families of Kate S. Durdan school. We have fun each day and yet still we have accomplished so much, and we are just getting started. Although the winter can feel dreary and that the warmth of spring is a long time coming, many staff and families in our community have already begun to make plans for next year! Students and parents in our grade 8 classes have been attending High School Open Houses and choosing future courses, while parents and students in SK classes may be considering the 'French Immersion Program' for next year. Even the youngest members of Kate S. Durdan are gearing up for the next school year. At our Kindergarten Open House we will meet several new Kate S. Durdan students.



### Birthday Book Club

A big **THANK YOU** to the families of the following students for their kind donations to the January Birthday Book Club:

**Boston Dinh**, JK: *The Very Brave Bear*

**Lexi Senier**, SK: *Barbie: The Pearl Princess*

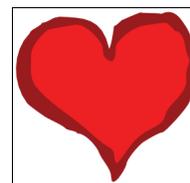
**Catherine Chen**, Grade 1: *Kai: Ninja of Fire*

The selected books will now be available in the Kate S. Durdan Library for all of the students to enjoy.

Mrs Stewart, Teacher Librarian

### DANCE A THON

On Thursday, February 12 our School Council will be hosting a Valentine's Day Dance A Thon here at Kate S. Durdan. We're looking forward to lots of fun while we get some exercise practicing our moves.



## TERM 1 REPORT CARD

On February 6, 2015 all students will bring home the Term 1 elementary report card. The Progress Report in November provided you with information about how your child was learning in the classroom and gave an indication of progress towards achieving the curriculum expectations for all subjects.



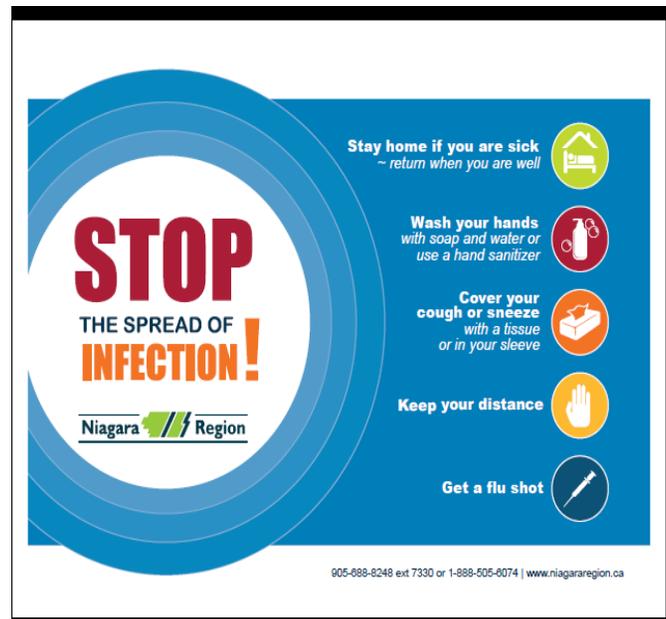
Learning Skills and Work Habits are an important focus of this report card. These are critical life skills that students will work on from Grades 1 to Grade 12. Teachers evaluate how well students are achieving these skills for their grade level and include a comment about each student's strengths and some next steps for continued growth.

For each subject being taught this term, your child will receive either a letter grade (Grades 1-6) or a percentage grade (Grades 7 & 8). If a subject is only being taught in Term 2, then the teacher will check NA (not applicable) for that subject on the report card. For each subject, there will be a comment that describes your child's strengths and some next steps that will support learning in Term 2.

Communication between teachers and parents/guardians is an important support for student success. We encourage all parents/guardians to discuss the report card with your child. All parents/guardians are invited to contact the school if you would like to schedule an opportunity to discuss your child's achievement and next steps for learning with his/her teacher.

## A MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH

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](http://www.heartniagara.com) for more information.



## INTERMEDIATE BASKETBALL



Coach Kent and Coach Cade want to congratulate the Intermediate Girls Basketball Team on a stellar season! The girls showed tremendous improvement in their development of skills, and commitment to the team. Thank you for your dedication!

## FRENCH IMMERSION

On line applications for French Immersion began Jan. 5, 2015. Go to [www.dsbnschools.org](http://www.dsbnschools.org) and click on the French Immersion button. The French Immersion Program begins at John Marshall Public School in September 2015 for students going into Grade 1. Registration closes Feb. 17, 2015 at 9 am. Please contact Janice Slade, Principal, 905-358-3711 if you have any questions.

## FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

During the school year we have had a magazine fundraiser as well as our cookie dough fundraiser. We would like to thank you for generously supporting them. Our profits from these go towards supporting the students of Kate S. Durdan in various ways (providing resources, sporting events, community events, classroom events, field trips....)

We will be starting our chocolate bar fundraiser with World's Finest Chocolate this month and appreciate your assistance. This will be our final fundraising effort for this year.

Students will be bringing home a permission form which allows them to participate.



## COOKING CLASS

Mrs. McCumber's Communication Class would like to thank Matt DeCiccio from Niagara Restaurant Supply, for generously donating the beautiful chef aprons for their cooking classes. The students are learning to create recipes that encourage healthy eating. They also prepare and sell coffee and muffins each Wednesday for the Coffee Cart. When staff and students see the black-aproned boys, they know that something yummy is cooking in the school. Thank you again Mr. DeCiccio!



It's almost time to register for

# Kindergarten

at the DSBN



Do you know a child who will be turning 4 or 5 before December 31, 2015?

Visit a DSBN Kindergarten Open House from 10 am-6 pm on February 5th, 2015 to register and to help your kindergartener get ready for their first day of school at the DSBN.

See the classroom, meet the staff and get a gift bag full of fun learning resources and information to help children develop their school readiness

Looking for more information? Visit our website at [www.dsbnschools.org/kindergarten](http://www.dsbnschools.org/kindergarten)

