

## JANUARY 2012



Welcome back everyone to an exciting remainder of the 2011-2012 school year! We always have so many exciting things to share with you and our students!

### **WE ARE COUNTING DOWN TO KINDERGARTEN**

Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. is Junior Kindergarten registration day. If you live within the Kate S. Durdan Public School area and have a child who will be 4 years of age by December 31, 2012, he/she is eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten beginning September, 2012. *It is not necessary to register children who are currently in Junior Kindergarten and who will be attending Senior Kindergarten next fall.* Please note that copies of proof of age by **Birth Certificate** or **Birth Registration**, proof of **Immunization** and **Health Card** are all required to complete registration. *Any legal documents regarding custody arrangements are requested as well.* We will also require a proof of address so that we may confirm that Kate S. Durdan Public School is the correct school of registration. Also, please bring your Junior Kindergarten child with you since we have an exciting loot bag for him/her when you come to register at the school. **See you on Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m.!** Visit the DSBN website [www.dsbn.edu.on.ca](http://www.dsbn.edu.on.ca) and click on "Kindergarten Countdown" for more information. We can't wait to see you!

### **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 a Fitness Break outdoors is made by the individual school principal. 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.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website [www.dsbnschools.org](http://www.dsbnschools.org) or contact the principal.

### **INTERMEDIATE BOYS VOLLEYBALL SEASON IN REVIEW**

Our Intermediate team included: Tyler B., Luke B., Nicholas B., Ronald Y., Ratko K., Lucas N., Joey T., Stefan K., and P.J.O. Unfortunately our team did not make it into the playoffs despite their efforts against a strong division. Our KSD team did participate in the final DSBN tournament held in Niagara-on-the-Lake. All of their games were very close and exciting and they managed to defeat Westmount Public School in our final game of the season. Tyler B. was chosen the team's Most Valuable Player (MVP) for his steady and consistent play throughout the season. Basketball is the next school team sport that will begin in this new year. Thank you Mr. Andrews for coaching our Knights!

### **JUNIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL**

Our Junior Boys Volleyball team included: Jaden N., Calum T., Cameron C., Shameer K., Connor T., Calvin A., Nick M., Ahmad N., Bestune P., Quentin P., Ben R. and Hunter D.. We had a very successful season this year. Our team advanced to the finals of our area, however we lost an extremely close final match to John Marshall Public School by a score of 3 games to 2. During our final tiebreaking game we lost by only 2 points! The boys also represented our school very well at the final DSBN tournament on December 14, 2011. We made the playoffs while at the tournament, however we lost in the quarter finals to John Marshall Public School again – by only 2 points!!!! Thank you again Mr. Andrews for coaching our Knights. What a season!!

### **WESTLANE SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

Grade 8 families, mark your calendars for Tuesday, January 17, 2012! **Westlane Secondary School** invites you, as their guest, to view their awesome facilities and programs, talk to their great teachers and meet their wonderful students on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for parents and Grade 8 students to get to tour Westlane

Secondary School; find out about the courses needed for a Secondary School Graduation Diploma; learn the difference between Academic, Applied and Essential level programs and find out what extra-curricular activities are available. Also please check out the “**The Next Step to Success**” which has been posted on the DSBN Guidance and Career Education Website. The direct link is [www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/Guidance](http://www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/Guidance), then under the Student/Parent column on the left, click on “*Grade 8 Guide*”.

### **LITERACY DAY**

Family Literacy Day is a national initiative that promotes the importance of reading and learning together as a family. Family Literacy Day is being celebrated this year on **Friday , January 27, 2012**. To mark the occasion, Kate S. Durdan Public School will have a number of exciting literacy activities planned for this day. Our Family Literacy Committee is busy preparing a fun day for our students. Details will follow in January, 2012.

### **DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

...our first School Council meeting of 2012 is on Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30 p.m. Please consider joining us.

...smoking or even holding a lit cigarette, anywhere on school property, even while in your car is against the law? The minimum fine is \$305.00.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

Please keep informed by reading your child’s AGENDA for any up coming classroom/school news! It is that time of year when we are requesting that each child bring a box of kleenex tissue to their classroom. Also, time to stock up on pencils and pens and those glue sticks. In order to help with outside wet weather situations, especially for our students in Grades 1 and 2 (like students falling into the puddles), we would also like to request that parents send along an extra pair of pants for storage in their child’s locker, just in case. Kate S. Durdan Public School does not have a dryer (only the YMCA Child Care does) and it becomes a disruption into the child’s instructional day, our secretarial time and an inconvenience for parents to be interrupted during their day to bring a pair of pants to school. Please help us.

### **PROJECT S.H.A.R.E.**

Many, many thanks to the families of the Kate S. Durdan Public School Community who donated food to PROJECT S.H.A.R.E during our ‘Shine A Light’ Holiday concert. We were overwhelmed by your generosity!

### **ANOTHER PERFORMANCE FOR OUR JK-GRADE 8 STUDENTS**

We can’t wait for Thursday January 19, 2012 (afternoon) when our students will be watching the magic and illusions of puppetry called *Metamorphosis*. The Puppeteer (Bernd Ogrodnik), all the way from Iceland, will feature a collection of hilarious scenarios enacted by a lovely cast of intricate, hand carved marionettes. The unforgettable characters, created simply with silk scarves and hands and feet of the puppeteer have a heartbeat of their own. We can’t wait! Bernd Ogrodnik clearly will show us, through his puppetry, that it doesn’t matter what we see but how we see it. This is a School Council funded event. Students are asked to bring a loonie before the performance.