

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 2



FEBRUARY IS HEART MONTH!

This is a perfect opportunity to introduce a great website where you will find free tips, recipes and practical advice on how to get children active by checking out the following Heart and Stroke Foundation website: www.heartandstroke.ca

DAILY PHYSICAL EDUCATION (DPA)

The staff and students of Kate S. Durdan School have been actively involved with the Ministry of Education's **Daily Physical Activity (DPA)**. We are in the seventh year of implementing this program, which mandates 20 minutes of physical activity per day (which does not include days when we have our regularly scheduled Physical Education/Health classes). This means that students are involved in 20 minutes of sustained moderate to vigorous daily activity during instructional school time. This does not mean 5 to 10 minutes here and there, but 20 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity to increase our heart rates. The Kindergarten curriculum program introduced DPA in Fall of 2006 and the DSBN, Ministry of Education, OPHEA (Ontario Physical and Health Education Association) provides our schools with a wealth of resources to implement and promote DPA in our classrooms.

MRS. CLEGG IS RETIRING

Mrs. Clegg has announced her retirement from teaching and her last day with our students will be February 29, 2012. After 24 years of teaching our youngest students, we wish to thank Mrs. Clegg for her dedication, her commitment and her creative way of making learning fun. She has taught and enjoyed teaching every grade but she has told me she has a soft spot in her heart for our Kindergarten students. We wish Mrs. Clegg all the best as she joins Mr. Clegg in retirement. We will miss her!

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

♥ Thursday, February 9, 2012 is “**100's Day**”, which really means that students have been in school for a 100 days! Primary students usually involve themselves in a whirlwind of great activities during the school day.

♥ Will the Groundhog see its shadow on February 2nd?

♥ **DANCE-A-THON** on February 14th. We thank you for your pledges and support!

♥ **Kindergarten OPEN HOUSE** for families who are registering their Junior Kindergarten or Senior Kindergarten for the first time on Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m.

♥ Remember that Friday, February 17, 2012 is **EARLY RELEASE DAY** for all our students which means that there will be not school in the afternoon. Please note that students who ride the bus for the morning will be provided with transportation to school **however no transportation will be provided at 11:00 a.m. back to their home or day care.**

♥ Monday, February 20, 2012 is Family Day and there will be no school on that day for ALL Elementary and Secondary Schools in this province.

♥ Grade 8 Graduation Photos will be taken during Thursday, February 9, 2012. Also, please set aside the evening of Tuesday, June 26, 2012 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at CLUB ITALIA for our Grade 8 Graduation. Additional information with details will be available in March.

TERM 1 REPORT CARDS:

- On February 9, 2012 all Grades JK-8 students will bring home their elementary Term 1 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 the 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.

- You may notice some minor changes regarding how the subjects are reported. For example, some subject areas are now reported separately. These include: Music, Drama, Dance, and Visual Art; and Health Education, and Physical Education.

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. A formal interview with the teachers will not be scheduled, however, parents/guardians are invited to contact the school if they wish to schedule an appointment to discuss their child's achievement

and next steps for learning with his/her teacher.

The TERM 2 *TERM PLANNER* (this is a brochure that will highlight what your child will be learning for Term 2) will also be included in your child's report card as well as information regarding French Immersion.

Vaccines and Elementary School Children

At this time of year, Niagara Region Public Health conducts an annual review of vaccination records for all elementary school children in the Niagara region. Please take a moment to ensure that your child's immunizations are up-to-date and that you have reported your child's vaccinations to Niagara Region Public Health using ONE of the following:

- **WEBSITE:** www.niagararegion.ca
- **TELEPHONE (Immunization Report Line):** 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7459
- **FAX (a copy of your child's Immunization Record):** 905-688-8225

If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to immunize your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document (i.e., a statement of medical exemption, or a statement of conscience or religious belief affidavit).

Please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 if you have any questions or concerns.



BOOK FAIR NEWS

Thank you to all students, their families and staff who helped make our Scholastic Book Fair a huge success. A special thanks goes to our wonderful volunteers for giving their time for this great fundraiser. With everyone's help we were able to fundraise over \$5, 000.00 to purchase new books for our school library. Happy Reading!!! Thank you to Miss Smiljanic, our School Librarian, for organizing this Book Fair for us!

WILLY WONKA

We are so excited to be presenting the musical production of "*Willy Wonka Junior*" at Kate S. Durdan Public School featuring our students! Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world famous candy man and his quest to find an heir comes to life on our very own stage adaptation of *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*.

Details will follow however please take a moment to save these date for our performances:

Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.