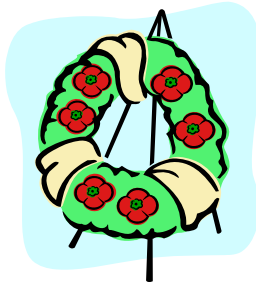


NOVEMBER 2008

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE



On the morning of Tuesday, November 11, 2008 we will be collecting donations for poppies from all our students from JK- Grade 8. Please join us for our Remembrance

Day ceremony at 10:45 a.m. on this day. This service will recognize and express our appreciation to those who served and paid the supreme sacrifice in all world conflicts. Thank you to Miss Di Franco for organizing this special service.

EXCITING NEWS AT KATE S. DURDAN SCHOOL

On **November 28th, 2008** we will be hosting an author visit. Award winning Alberta writer **David A. Poulsen**, is coming to speak about being an author and his love of reading to our Junior and Intermediate students. He will share how students can write stories so believable that readers will be laughing, crying or looking over their shoulders right along with your characters.

David A. Poulsen has been a rodeo competitor and rodeo clown, rock singer,

high school football coach, stage and film actor, television host, college English instructor, and most of all—a writer.

His most recent book is the fifth title in his popular Middle Reader series, *The Salt and Pepper Chronicles*. **The Prisoners and the Paintings** hits bookstores in spring of this year. The first book in that series--*The Vampire's Visit* was a finalist for the 2008 Silver Birch Children's Choice Book Award while the third **Salt and Pepper : No Time Like the Past** is a finalist for the 2008 Golden Eagle Book Award in southern Alberta. His young Adult Novel, **Last Sam's Cage** is nominated for the Snow Willow Young Reader's Choice Awards.

Our Junior and Intermediate students are 'hooked' on listening to the *Vampire's Visit* and *Last Sam's Cage* in their classrooms. We are looking forward to having David A. Poulsen visit Kate S. Durdan School and share with us his journey to becoming a writer of more than 20 books.

Thank you Miss Smiljanic, our Librarian, for organizing this opportunity of a lifetime for our Junior and Intermediate students.

SPORTS REPORT

Congratulations to our Cross Country Team who participated in the final DSBN Meet on October 15th at Fireman's Park.

Rico C. Kianna M. Rikki-Lynn B.

Kevin S. Dallas R. Bailey R.

Aurora B.

Way to go Cross Country Team!!!

WELCOME TO THE LIBRARY!

Welcome to the 2008-2009 school year! I look forward to working with your children. Stop by the library when you are in the school to introduce yourself or ask any questions you may have. Volunteers are always needed at Kate S. Durdan School and the library is no exception. If you are interested in volunteering in the library, please call me at the school.

Hints about caring for our books:

- place library books in the designated safe spot at home;
- keep books away from materials such as food or water (younger brothers and sisters!) that may damage books
- keep books away from pets
- always use a book mark
- return library books on time

Your help reinforcing proper book care at home is greatly appreciated!

Lost, Damaged and Overdue Books

When a book is overdue a notice will be sent home. If you are unable to find the book, an additional note will be sent home requesting you to pay the replacement cost of the book.

Thank you, in advance, for your support!

Miss Smiljanic, Teacher Librarian/ESL Teacher

WE HAVE A ROBOTICS TEAM!

Meet the members of our first ever Robotics Team:

Michael V. Cameron W. Kestin G.

Matthew T. Cassandra D. Simran S.

Michelle T. Leah T. Kevin S.

Jason H. Chris G. Corey P.

Jay S. Jessica L. Cherisse L.

They have been meeting every Thursday since the end of September in preparation for our first ever robotics competition in November and this team is making great strides. Thank you to Mrs. Smith and our dedicated Westlane student helpers for all their help! Also many thanks to Mr. Stayzer for his commitment to our team!

WAITING FOR YOUR CHILD

A BIG thank you to all the parents who wait patiently outside the school doors for their children to be dismissed. If we approve of one family waiting inside, we may as well approve everyone. **As you read this, I know that you will see immediate congestion and safety concerns in the hallways.** Thank you for following our requests to remain outside the doors.

OUR SECOND SILENT AUCTION

Once our Hallowe'en events have taken place, we will be focusing on our Silent Auction. Soon, your child's teacher (and class) will be brainstorming ideas to present as a theme for their Silent Auction contribution. Information about this event will be arriving home shortly. This event will be held on December 4th and 5th, 2008. We understand that everyone cannot keep coming back and checking the bids and then placing another bid, especially for that much admired basket. Therefore, we are going to have envelopes for you to place a 'sealed bid'. Inside this envelope you will indicate the highest amount that you are willing to donate for the basket, seal it in an envelope and place it in a designated box and hope for the best. We trust that this will be a fair and equitable way of ensuring everyone has an opportunity. We are so looking forward to this event, since the proceeds will support classroom technology for Kate S. Durdan School students. If you are available to supervise and assist our families as they bid for the baskets anytime from Thursday, December 4th from 3:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Friday, December 5th, we would love to hear from you! We do need your help.

"I HAVE HEADLIGHTS!"

That's exactly what a Grade 1 student told me once. Just a reminder to all parents to CHECK heads thoroughly and regularly.

- ✓ Watch for signs of head lice, such as frequent scratching behind the ears, back of neck and front hairline. That's where it is the warmest for these lousy lice. They leave an itchy feeling like a mosquito bite (and you know that we don't even like mosquitos!). However, nits (eggs) can be found anywhere on the head.
- ✓ Check all family members for lice and nits often (once a week is recommended). Lice can change colour from light brown to gray and they are extremely difficult to see, wingless insects; nits are greyish white, always oval shaped and are glued at an angle to one side of the hair shaft.
- ✓ Notify the school if your child has a bout of head lice and begin treatment as recommended by your Pharmacist and/or Health Unit. This way, we can

keep this in check by sending a “Facts of Lice” notice home with the children in your child’s class.

- ✓ Lice are about the size of a sesame seed, and have 6 legs with tiny claws that attach to the hair shaft.
- ✓ They do NOT live on pets.
- ✓ They do not fly or jump.
- ✓ They can only live for 24 hours off the human head.
- ✓ Each head louse can lay up to 10 nits a day.
- ✓ A nit cannot be crumpled in the hand or blown off as it is attached by a cement-like bond. The nits must be removed with a comb or tweezers.

We have purchased 10X magnification glasses to ensure that there are lice or nits that are close to the scalp, before we send a child home. Having to put a household through the rigorous cleaning and chemical shampoo treatment must be warranted. We usually capture one on a piece of tape and tape it to the notice that we send home informing parents.

Sorry, we do not do any DNA testing at the school to find out ‘**where**’ the lice came from, so please parents, help us out by not pointing fingers at anyone but help us by working together to eradicate the problem.

WHAT???? HOMEWORK?????

There are several reasons why it is important that students submit their work by the deadline indicated by the teacher...in other words...having their homework completed on time.

1. The teacher is able to give timely feedback to students about their achievement while there is still time to make improvements.
2. The class is able to move along at an appropriate pace so that all students are productively engaged in learning and the curriculum content can be completed within the time allowed.
3. Students are encouraged to develop efficient time management skills that will be useful not only in school, but in areas outside of school as well.
4. A more equitable classroom environment is established when all students are expected to submit work at the same time.

It is important that students assume the responsibility for submitting work on time.

Eventually, in the world of work, there are many instances in which it is important, sometimes even critical, that tasks are performed by deadline dates. In an effort to educate the ‘whole student’ and foster good time management and other personal organizational skills, we serve students well by expecting the timely submission of work.

OUR TERRY FOX WALK RUN

Thank you to the Kate S. Durdan School Community for their support with the Terry Fox Walk/Run. We have raised \$470.07 to support cancer research. Thank you to the following students who faithfully sold the leaves for the “Tree of Hope”:

Simran S. Michelle T. Cassandra D.
Alexander M. Jana O.

We really appreciated your help!

Thank you to Miss Smiljanic and Mr. Stayzer who helped make Terry’s goal one step closer by organizing this event.

EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF NIAGARA (EFN)

We would like to take this opportunity to thank EFN for providing the Junior/Intermediate Classroom (also known as the J/I Classroom) with funding in the amount of \$300.00 towards the purchase of a mini fridge for the classroom. Mrs. Bylsma and Mrs. McCooeye are developing a breakfast program for the students accessing the J/I classroom and supports. Thank you EFN!

PLEASE SUPPORT US!

On Wednesday, November 26th, 2008, **M&M meats** has set aside a special fundraiser for us from 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Our school will receive a 10% rebate on any purchases made by anyone on this day PLUS a special BONUS offer of a 1 pound package of meatballs with a minimum \$40.00 purchase. Please share this information with family and friends especially if you are holiday shopping. **Please remember to tell them that you support Kate S. Durdan School on this day!** This will be very important since other schools have also joined in on this event.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAY

Just to remind everyone that Friday, November 7th, 2008 is an all day Professional Activity Day. School will be cancelled on this day to allow teachers to focus on strategies that support differentiated instruction in literacy and numeracy, technology in the classroom and the new Science curriculum.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, November 28th is Mismatch Day! Pull out all the items of clothing that just don’t seem to match with anything and you will have the perfect outfit for this day!