

OCTOBER 2008



OUR *MEET THE STAFF* OPEN HOUSE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

It was so nice to see everyone enjoy an evening full of chatter. We continue to thrive with your partnership supporting us in every way and along the way!

WELCOME!

Please join us in welcoming Mrs. McCooye, our Child Care Worker who has joined our Kate S. Durdan School Staff this year. We also welcome Alice Lee our School Settlement Worker. Alice Lee will be at the school every Thursday and her role is to:

- Provide resources about our school, community and government services available in many different languages
- Deliver workshops to parents and youth about school and community resources
- Help school staff with information about newcomer communities and issues

Mrs. Lee also speaks Mandarin and Cantonese. The Settlement Worker in Schools (also referred to as *SWIS*) is a joint program in partnership between the District School Board of Niagara, the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the YMCA of Niagara and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

With our cooperation, the *SWIS* Niagara Team

will contact newcomer parents and youth to provide them with information and refer them to other community services.

For more information we welcome you to contact Alice Lee, our School Settlement Worker at 289-668-3214 or email her at alee@ymcaofniagara.ca. to make an appointment.

COMMUNICATION MATTERS

“Smart talk from your DSBN Speech-Language Pathologists”

Communication is at the core of learning and developing self-esteem. Learning how communicate effectively with others is critical for social and academic development. Knowing the rules, communication, and behaviours that will help students to learn and live more harmoniously with others may be the most important tools they will acquire throughout their years in school. Children become more receptive to learning when they feel good about themselves, and when they feel good about themselves, they are more willing to risk academically since making mistakes is less devastating. Good communicators do the following:

- use eye contact
- observe before they communicate
- notice body language -
- listen
- take turns
- use a polite tone of voice

- speak clearly
- use an appropriate rate of speech
- act interested
- remain on the topic
- allow adequate space between the listener and speaker .

To help your child focus on good communication, your family might spend some time noticing all the *'habits'* good communicators use. For example, if someone accidentally interrupts you and apologizes, you might comment on their good communication. You might also like to have each family member identify their best communication skill. Dad might be a good listener, while mom might be a good turn-taker. Once everyone is aware of communication, enhancing and learning new communication will be far easier.

INTERIM REPORT CARDS

We will not be sending home Interim Report cards which focus on the nine Learning Skills from the Report Card. Instead, should your child's teacher(s) need to share concerns, he/she will be calling you to discuss your child's progress. Just a reminder that our staff also call to make 'sunshine calls' just to make your day. Often parents think that a call from the school is 'bad news' and your heart may skip a beat when you see the Kate S. Durdan School phone number on your display. We love to celebrate your child's successes and share them with you and hence the 'sunshine calls'!

HALLOWE'EN

We will be celebrating Hallowe'en once again this year. We have received rave reviews from both our school communities last year (Loretto School and Kate S. Durdan School) that we will continue to make this an annual event. On October 31st, students (JK to Grade 8), staff and parents are encouraged to dress for Hallowe'en. Since some parents may be on the look out for costumes or costuming ideas, we want to make it VERY clear that everything we do at Kate S. Durdan School is violence free. That means that costumes depicting blood and gore and any type of weaponry will not be allowed. Now everyone can begin their creative search. Students who choose to wear masks will be allowed to do so only at the parent/guardian discretion, with parents knowing that we will be planning a Hallowe'en parade around the neighbourhood as well as walking up and down the school stairs. Student safety will be paramount. Details about the parade as well as alternate activities provided for students who do not usually celebrate this day, will be shared with you as the day approaches. But the most important thing now is to be creative, be thoughtful and adhere to our

K Kate S. Durdan School violence free Hallowe'en when thinking about a costume!

This year we will also be having a Family Pumpkin Carving Contest. Details will be following later this month, but all you need to do is think of a creative pumpkin carving design and carve your pumpkin at home with your family. We will be setting aside two days whereby you can bring your pumpkin to school for display in our foyer. Please note that pumpkins will not be carved at school but rather in your own home. We will be having prizes for our various categories as well. Sounds like fun!

TERM ONE PLANNERS

Your child has already brought home the Term One Planner brochure home outlining the program of studies that will take us up to the very first Report Card. We do hope that you find it valuable and informative. This is just another way we share the news of the classroom with you!

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- ▶ Photo retakes will be taken on the morning of Tuesday, October 28th, 2008. Please send a note to school on that day requesting a photo retake.
- ▶ Friday, October 10, 2008 is a Professional Activity Day all day (no school) for all staff at DSBN.
- ▶ Niagara Falls Fire Services Family Night on Thursday, October 9, 2008 at the Niagara Square Parking Lot (near Cineplex) from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. They will be celebrating Fire Prevention Week. Please join them.
- ▶ Thanksgiving Day is on Monday, October 13, 2008 and there will be no school on that day. Enjoy your long Thanksgiving weekend and we look forward to seeing you again on October 14th!
- ▶ Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. School Council Meeting. Please join us.
- ▶ ELECTION DAY October 14, 2008.
- ▶ For our Grade 4-8 students, on October 20th the performance "*Bozo's Fortune*" and on October 30th, the theater production of "*KINDNESS*". Cost: \$10.00 for both performances.

HOME LITERACY TIPS!

Each month, in our school newsletter, we will be providing you with one or two **Literacy Tips of the Month** for our Primary Grades (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3) as a way to help parents support the literacy work at Kate S. Durdan

School. Tip # 1 sheet is about *The Home and the School Working Together*.

SPORTS REPORT: CROSS COUNTY

Congratulations to our Cross County Team who participated in the September 23rd race at Queenston Heights::

Tyler H.	Luka V.	Mazey A.
Rico C.	Shane P	Dallas R.
Luke B.	Liam C.	Damen R.
Hayden H.	Milosh M..	Ratko K.
Dannie B.	Kevin S.	Maria N.
Tyler B.	Ali K.	Julia H.
Kiana M.	Chloe N.	Bhatki P.
Cheyenne B.	Madison C.	Bailey R.
Rikki-Lynn B.		Aurora B.

The following students placed in their Divisions and will be proceeding to the regional meet for Niagara Falls schools on October 1st at Queenston Heights:

Bailey R placed 3rd Kiana M.. placed 4th
Rikki-Lynn B. placed 9th
Rico C. placed 9th Kevin S. placed 10th
Aurora B. placed 10th

The final DSBN meet will be on October 15th.

Way to go Cross Country Team and many thanks to Miss Smiljanic and Mrs. Cahill for their dedication to coaching our school team!

MILK!

We celebrated World Milk Day on September 23rd, 2008 and all students JK- Grade 8 were treated to a free carton of chocolate milk! Did you know that one great suggestion for a morning nutrition break meal is to place a cup of cereal in a small plastic reusable container, add a spoon in your child's lunch bag and your child may purchase a carton of white milk to add to this cereal for a tasty nutritious meal! Try it.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Miss Di Franco's and Mrs. Wittig's Grade 6/7 class, their parents as well as staff were treated to a lunch on Thursday September 25th, 2008 courtesy of 105.7 EZ Rock, J&B Catering II and Educational Foundations of Niagara (EFN). Why? Well, before our new classroom re-organization, Mr. Paquet introduced all the students in his class to the "Salute your School" contest during a computer class and Aurora B. submitted an email as to why Kate S. Durdan School is the best and won! Everyone had an enjoyable lunch and chat with Jack, Lori and Michelle from 105.7 EZ Rock.

Did you know that B&J Catering II provides a

student nutrition program? The YMCA Child Care also uses B&J Catering II for all their lunches as well. If you want the freedom from the stress of packing lunches or have your child enjoy hot and nutritious meals, then all you need to do is go on line at www.bandjcatering.ca or call 905 684-8818, place your order and drop off the payment at their St. Catharines location and they will bring a hot lunch to your child at our school. The school has no involvement in this process except to provide a drop off location in our kitchen and hand out the labeled meals to students who ordered their meal. All payment is done directly from the parent to B&J Catering II. As a part of the "Salute your School" celebration, Kate S. Durdan has received a \$50.00 donation from B&J Catering II, however, we will be using this coupon for one of our Second Annual Silent Auction.

HEALTHY SCHOOLS: TRANS FAT STANDARDS REGULATION

The Ontario government is committed to making schools healthier places for students to learn. The government has introduced the *Healthy Food for Healthy Schools Act* under the Education Act which prohibits the sale of any food that has a trans fat content exceeding 5 per cent of the total fat content. This has become effective September 1, 2008. Please be assured that the pizza that we offer for sale from Little Caesar's Pizza falls well below the 5% of the total fat content as directed from the government of Ontario.

SMOKING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Smoking anywhere on school property including sitting inside a vehicle could cost you \$305. This law applies to **everyone** (staff, students, parents and visitors) **anytime** (24/7) and **anywhere** including school parking lots, cars in parking lot, sports field, and driveways. The Smoke Free Ontario Act is designed to reduce the number of youth who start smoking and to protect Ontarians from second hand smoke. Know the law and protect yourself. Any questions can be directed to the Tobacco Hotline 905 688-8248 ext 7393.

MORNING ARRIVAL

Please encourage your child to arrive at school between 8:10 a.m. and 8:25 a.m. when supervision is available.