

# Princess Elizabeth Post



Mr. R. McLean, Principal  
Mrs. L. Lehne, Vice-Principal

## From the Office...

February 9<sup>th</sup> marks the 100<sup>th</sup> day of the 2011-2012 school year! It is hard to believe that we will be more than half way through the school year then!

It is wonderful to see the many activities taking place at Princess Elizabeth. Every day we see the support from our parents and volunteers as they read and complete other tasks with our children. Your time is valued and much appreciated!

We would like to give Bob a heartfelt thank you as he retires from the Read to Feed program. We will continue our Tuesday program with a new volunteer.

Our staff members have been very busy participating in Professional Learning Communities where they are learning together and building their capacity as teachers. All areas we are working through are based on the needs of our students and will in turn have a direct impact on student achievement.

February also brings cold and sometimes wet weather. Please ensure your children are dressed warmly as we go outside during the day. It is important that students have something dry to put on their feet while indoors.

**Family Day**  
**Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**

## French Immersion Possible for PE Grade 1

As many of you are aware, we have the opportunity to potentially run a Grade 1 Pilot for French Immersion here at Princess Elizabeth **IF** we receive a minimum of 23 Applications of Expression of Interest from SK parents. These applications cannot be completed online. The application must be returned to the student's home school Principal or to PE before the end of February. The form is purple and we have attached one to this newsletter in hopes that you will share with your friends and neighbours and encourage them to apply for their children currently in SK.

On January 19<sup>th</sup> we held an open house and despite bad weather we were very pleased with the turnout of interested parents.

### Why French Immersion in Grade 1?

Early French Immersion has been shown again and again to offer the best means for children with the widest range of academic abilities to be successful. It is our goal to have the students taught in French for the majority of the day by the end of Grade 1. It is important that parents and students demonstrate motivation and commitment throughout the program.

**See the Board Website, contact Mr. McLean at the school or Julie Stapleton, French Language Consultant at 905 227 5551x 52220 or Kelly McDonnell, System Administrator at x 55512**

## Term One Report Cards!!!

On February 9, 2012 all Grades 1-8 students will bring home the new 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 the new 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 (Gr. 1-6) or a percentage grade (Gr. 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.

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.

## KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN

Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31, 2012 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

Going to school for the first time is a big step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the 'Kindergarten Countdown' open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

**Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house at Princess Elizabeth.**

Visit [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org) and click on "Kindergarten" for all the details!

**Can't make the open house?** No problem! Call the school at 905 734 3460 and we would be happy to set up an appointment to register your child.

### DSBN Academy

**Attention Parents  
of Grades 5,6&7's**

Please visit on **Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 1:00-2:00pm** at the **DSBN Academy information session** for families of grade 5, 6 and 7 students who would like to learn more about the program.

DSBN Academy, 20 Duncan St., Welland 905 735 5764  
academy.dsbn.org  
Principal, Mr. Tom Reynolds  
Due date for applications is March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

DSBN Academy is a Grade 6–12 public school that focuses on supporting and empowering students to be the first in their families to

graduate from a post-secondary institution.

#### DSBN Academy Strategies for Success:

- School-wide shared beliefs focused on post-secondary preparation
- Single track academic program
- Advisory program support
- After school "encore" programs
- Programming that encourages parent involvement
- Transportation

#### Inclement Weather

During the winter months when the weather conditions are very poor, please listen to one of the following radio stations for information regarding school closures or bus cancellations:



CKTB (610 AM)	CHAM (820 AM)
CHML (950 AM)	CKOC (1150 AM)
CHSC (1220 AM)	SPIRIT (91.7 FM)
WAVE (94.7 FM)	HTZ-FM (97.7 FM)
CKEY (101.1 FM)	K-LITE (102.9 FM)
CHRE (105.7 FM)	Y108 (107.9 FM)
The RIVER (105.1FM)	

Please do not call the school. The radio stations are notified before the school and our lines must remain free for emergency purposes. **The Board will call the radio stations prior to the 7:00a.m. news report.** Unless otherwise advised by the media, schools will remain open when buses are cancelled. You can also CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE for updated news..

#### Princess Elizabeth's Website

Princess Elizabeth's web page has lots of significant material and up-to-date information. (The newsletters are posted on this site also.) Please take a minute and visit our website and feel free to contact the school with any comments. Click on

<http://www.dsbn.org/Schools/PrincessEliz>



#### WINTER SAFETY

Winter is exciting for kids. It brings some great outdoor activities, and here are some winter safety tips:

- \* Never allow kids to play outside alone. Establish a buddy system.
- \* Have younger children take frequent breaks to come inside for a warm drink.
- \* Tell children not to put their tongues on cold metal. It may sound silly, but some still do it.
- \* Advise children to stay away from snowblowers and snowplows.
- \* Never play in an area by roads, fences or water.
- \* **DO NOT THROW or KICK SNOW/ICE while at school!**

#### Snow and Snowballs

To ensure the safety of students on our



playground during the winter months, it is necessary for us to ban the throwing/kicking of snow/ice. The students are constantly reminded of this rule during in-class discussions, at assemblies and over the morning announcements. Should it be found that a student has violated this rule, his/her name is recorded in the office and the appropriate consequences will be given. These include suspension for repeat offenders who endanger the safety of others. **Remind your children of these rules!** Also, remind your children to stay off the snow banks that will build up by parking lots, they may slide into and over hidden fences and slide into the paths of cars!

**School Advisory Council**



Princess Elizabeth Public School held its last meeting on January 24th. Highlights are as follows:

- Tom, Sliwinski, City of Welland Traffic Operations attended our meeting. He will be putting forward a proposal this month to calm traffic at the Lincoln and Scholfield intersection.
- EQAO practice Assessment
- Parent Involvement Committee ideas

Everyone is always welcome! Hope to see you at the next meeting during which we have a presentation from the Child Assault Prevention Program!

**NEXT SAC MEETING:**

**Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**

**Hot Lunch Due Dates**

As you are aware, our staff is happy to organize hot



lunches for most Fridays. This is a big task in collecting and organizing lunch for over 300 students. Therefore, orders **MUST** be submitted for each individual student to their homeroom teacher **ON TIME**. Late orders will not be accepted.

**A reminder...**

Please call the school **prior to 8:30am (prior to entry for the p.m.)** if your son/daughter will be absent from school or will be late. The school number is (905)734-3460.



**Welland Public Library**

Continuing with our focus on literacy, we want to give everyone the information about our great library! The Welland Public Library is located at **50 The Boardwalk**. You can call for any information at 905-734-6210. Hours are:  
 9am – 9pm: Monday-Thursday  
 9am-6pm: Friday  
 9am-5pm: Saturday  
 1pm-5pm: Sunday(Oct-Apr)

There are many great programs for children and adults alike. Call for information or go online at [www.welland.library.on.ca](http://www.welland.library.on.ca).

**Parent & Family Centre**

Located close by at Plymouth School, 111 First St. (905) 732-4110, the Parent & Family Literacy Centre is a **GREAT** place for **FREE** fun where parents and young ones (0 to 6 yrs. old) can learn and play together.

Fun activities include reading, counting, music and story time. There is time to play in the art, sand and water areas or with toys and puzzles. There is **FREE** snack time with healthy food. Join anytime – no pre-registration is needed!

They also have helpful info about housing, health, dental, legal and employment services!

Open Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Calendar Reminder**

Check the calendar for a list of most activities.



**Basketball Season**



The 2011-2012 Intermediate girls' and boys' basketball season began in January. Our teams are working hard and representing the school well in all games.

The senior girls' basketball team is off to a good start. Mr. McMurray is very impressed with the way the team is coming together.

The senior boys' basketball team continues to work extremely hard and their progress as a team is to be commended. Mr. McLean continues to work this group hard! Thank you boys for making us proud through your grace in defeat and your sportsmanlike behavior at games.

**Intramurals**

Our Primary and Junior students continue to participate in a variety of co-operative games during nutrition breaks. Thank you to Mr. Clarke-Louis for organizing this.

**Breakfast Club**

As you may be aware, Princess Elizabeth School offers a breakfast program to provide a nutritious start to



the day. Currently, the program is offered on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Students can access the program and have some breakfast at no cost. Students are welcome to enter through the north doors (by the gym) anytime after 8:30am. Students are expected to wash their hands in the change room, and then proceed to Room 4. Students are expected to remove wet boots and line up before entering the room. In the classroom, students will be offered juice/milk and some nutritious breakfast items. When finished, students clean their area and go outside to play. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us!

## HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME!

### Ideas to help you help your child in Language, Math & More!

#### Why Read?

There are numerous reasons why someone reads, and for each purpose there are different actions to take:

Purpose of Reading	Action while Reading
Pleasure	Absorb Detail at a leisurely rate
Locating Specific Information	Skim or scan
Determining Main Idea	Search topic/concluding sentences; Highlight Key Points; Make connections and inferences; Summarize the Passage
Understanding and Acquiring Knowledge	Read Carefully; Predict and Question; Make connections and inferences; Reread if necessary
Determining Characters' Motivation and/or Traits	Read carefully for clues; Use sticky notes to hold thinking; Reread; Make inferences
Building Vocabulary	Read carefully; Look for context clues; Find meaning of key words
Developing Fluency	Repeated readings; divide the reading into chunks; Read with drama and emotion

#### Math Talk

##### *What Tips Can I Use to Help My Child?*

→Be positive, and talk about the ways you use math every day. Sharing negative experiences (by saying, for example, "I was never good at math") will not encourage your child to engage in math and be confident about taking risks as he or she solves problems. Instead, try statements like this: "Okay, we can solve this if we work it out together. What are you thinking?"

→Let your child know that *you* think mathematics is important.

→Point out the ways in which different family members use mathematics in their jobs and at home.

→Let your child know that *everyone* can learn mathematics.

→Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and understands something for the first time, and share in the excitement when you and your child solve a problem together.

→Encourage your child to be persistent when a problem seems difficult.

#### Communication Matters

##### *Smart Talk From Your Board Speech-Language Pathologists*

##### Why is phonological awareness essential in learning to read & spell?

The letters in print correspond to the phonemes in words. Therefore, learning how the alphabet is used to represent the sounds in words is important to the growth of reading skills. An individual must learn the letter/sound correspondences to "sound out" new words. Also, in order to understand how the alphabet works, one must have a conscious awareness

that words in oral language are composed of sound segments (phonemes) that can be represented by letters of the alphabet. When phonological awareness and decoding ability are low, reading comprehension can be virtually non-existent. Phonological awareness is a skill and can be improved with direct training and practice.

##### Drilling Letter Sounds Instead of Letter Names

In order to improve reading and spelling skills, drill the *sounds* that the consonants and the vowels make instead of their letter names (e.g. "t" instead of "tee"). Practice the consonant and vowels sounds to mastery and automaticity. Short vowel sounds can be tricky to learn (e.g. the short "i" sound in "bit" versus the short "e" sound in "bet"). It is often difficult for the student to auditorily discriminate between the short vowels sounds (the ability to hear the difference between different sounds). Short vowels are critical to the reading and spelling process and should be targeted with drills and games!

##### Segmenting Sounds to Spell (Encoding) and Blending Sounds to Read (Decoding)

**Segmenting-** The ability to segment words into individual sounds is a critical step in the reading and spelling process (e.g. The word cat is comprised of 3 sounds "c", "a" & "t").

**Blending-** The ability to blend sounds to form words is also correlated with reading and spelling success (e.g. The sounds "m", "i", "l" and "k" are blended to form the word "milk").

**For both segmenting and blending drills, it is vital to use the letter sounds rather than the letter names.**

Imagine the frustration of trying to sound out "cat" when using the letter names. It would be "see-ay-tee" compared to the easier method of using the letter sounds "c", "a" and "t".