



Princess Elizabeth Post



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

From the Office...

Welcome back to school!! We hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday. 2012 promises to be an eventful one as we look forward to the many exciting learning opportunities planned at Princess Elizabeth.

As we return to school, we will be encouraging students to regain their focus and put forth their best efforts. Parents can help by checking your child's organizer daily, checking their assignments and working together at home.

It was wonderful to see the amazing turnout for events in December. Thank you for your very generous support with our non-perishable food for Community Care baskets for Christmas. Our Princess Elizabeth community certainly demonstrated the true spirit of Christmas and giving!



Expansion to French Immersion Programs!!!

Learning a second language enhances students' reasoning and creative thinking skills, develops their capacity to respect other cultures, and prepares them to participate more fully in an increasingly global marketplace.

With these opportunities in mind, Trustees approved the expansion of the DSBN's existing French Immersion program from a Grade 5 entry to one that has students starting in Grade 4.

The development of French Immersion at the DSBN does not stop there however. Increased parent interest in the program also fueled the plan to implement a Grade One pilot in five schools this fall, including one in Welland at Gordon School.

Students currently enrolled in the French Immersion program at Princess Elizabeth will remain here. P.E. will be adding a grade 4 French Immersion class to our Grade 5-8 classes for 2012-13.

Parents interested in enrolling their children in French Immersion will be able to register online from the DSBN website www.dsbn.org starting January 9 2012, with a deadline of February 29, 2012.

For more information about French Immersion, please contact Kelly McDonnell at 905-227-5551x54202 or Julie Stapleton, International Languages Consultant, at 905-227-5551x52220.

Code of Conduct

Students from grades 1 to 8 have a copy of the Code of



Conduct inside their daily school planner. For our students to have a positive start to the New Year, it would be very helpful if parents reviewed the expectations in the Code of Conduct with their children.

High School Open Houses (preparing for high school!)

Our local Secondary Schools, **Eastdale Secondary School** and **Welland Centennial Secondary School** will be holding their open houses mid-January!

As most Princess Elizabeth students graduate to **Eastdale or Centennial**, this is your chance to get a sneak preview...don't miss it!

It is open to students/parents of all grades, but is particularly important for those in grades 8!

Tuesday, January 17th, 6:30pm:
Centennial Secondary School
240 Thorold Rd. West. Welland
905-735-0700

Thursday, January 19th, 7:00pm:
Eastdale Secondary School
170 Wellington St. Welland
905-734-7458

New to Kindergarten For September 2012?

Do you know a child who's turning 4 or 5 in 2012? Help them get ready for their first day of school with the DSBN's Kindergarten Countdown. Five easy steps will help parents and new students get ready to blast off to their first day of school. The countdown begins in January with a visit to the District School Board of Niagara's website at www.dsbn.edu.on.ca. The DSBN website will provide helpful information on how to register for Kindergarten, learn more about your local Public School, and get ready for that first big day.

Kindergarten Countdown

- 5 Visit www.dsbn.edu.on.ca or call 905-641-1550
- 4 Go to February Open House
- 3 Register at school
- 2 Attend Kindergarten Orientation
- 1 Get ready for first day

Blast off
to school!



See you on Thursday, February
2nd from 4:00 – 6:00pm at our
new to Kindergarten Open
House!!

Bus & School Cancellations

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures. At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children in school on that day rests with the parent or guardian.



Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

Websites:

www.dsbn.org www.nsts.ca

Subscription Features:

DSBN Facebook or Twitter

Phone:

NSTS 905-346-0290 Voice Auto Attendant

Radio Stations:

CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines
CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton
CHML (900 AM) Hamilton
CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton
GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland
WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton
CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines
K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton
CKEY (105.1 FM) N. Falls/Fort Erie
CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines
Y-108(107.9) Hamilton

DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL!

- Listen to the radio stations above or
- Watch TV on:
- CHCH (Hamilton)
- CITY-TV (Toronto)
- CTV – Toronto
- Cogeco Cable 10

Winter Is Here!

With the winter months, there are some necessities that all students (and parents) must remember:



- **Dress your children appropriately for the weather!** Students do not enter the school prior to 8:50am and are expected to go outside during recesses and lunch breaks.
- **Children must stay off snow banks near traffic/parking areas.**
- **Students must bring indoor shoes/slippers** (with their names on them).
- **Arrange transportation** for your children ahead of time. Also, please do not expect your children to use the phone to call when events are completed...it takes too long for every child to call and phones are for business purposes only.
- Please understand that it is not the staff at Princess Elizabeth that makes closure/cancellation decisions. Therefore, **please listen to local media for this information!!!**
- Listen for cancellations for schools in the DSBN and/or buses from First Student Bus Lines. These announcements are made by 7:00am. **Please do not call the school** as we need these lines open for emergency calls.

You are also encouraged to check the SCHOOL AND DSBN WEBSITES for any cancellations:

<http://princesseliz.dsbn.org/>

<http://www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/>

Mid-Day School Closures

If schools are closed during the day and the children are being sent home early, we will follow your instructions as per your emergency info sheets. However, we still want to make every attempt to speak with a parent/guardian before dismissing any students.



Please be sure that the school has all up-to-date phone numbers and contact names for such emergencies.

Snow / 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!**

School Advisory Council

The next Princess Elizabeth School Advisory Council is on Tuesday, January 17th, 2011 and will discuss a number of issues. These include:

- Petition for stoplight (**note: we will have staff from the City of Welland to speak to their plans to address the traffic on Lincoln St.**)
- Increasing Parental Involvement
- Traffic Flow/Parking in our parking lot. (**we are asking for volunteers to help guide the flow of traffic in our lot from 8:30-9:00am and from 3:00-3:30pm – if you are available any days, please let us know!**)

As always, you are encouraged and welcome to attend these meetings!

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 17th @ 6:30 pm

Birthday Book Club

Happy Birthday! This is a reminder that Princess Elizabeth invites you to participate in the Birthday Book Club. During the month of your child's birthday, you are invited to purchase a book for your son/daughter. Each student will have their books for the first two weeks – after which, the books will go into circulation of the library. An inscription will be put in the books' front covers so that your child will ALWAYS be a part of Princess Elizabeth.



Illness at School



To prevent the spread of germs, we encourage all children to wash their hands frequently during the school day or use the hand sanitizers. If your child is not feeling well in the morning, please do not send him/her to school. Normally, we call home to parents regarding an illness if a child has a fever or is throwing up. **Here are some helpful guidelines to consider when deciding whether to send your child to school.** It is advisable to keep your child at home if:

- he/she has been up during the night due to illness and, as a result, has not had adequate sleep
- your child has had a fever or was throwing up the night before
- he/she has gone home from school the day before with a fever or other illness
- he/she has an unidentified rash not yet seen by a physician
- your child may pass on an illness to another student

A reminder...

Please call the school **prior to 8:30am (prior to 12:25 for the p.m.)** if your son/daughter will be absent from school or will be late. The school number is (905)734-3460.



HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME!

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

Helping your child develop their Fine Motor Skills

Fine motor skills, the small muscles of the hand your body works when using small objects, provide the foundation that your child needs to print and write and will help your child become literate.

By the age of six years, children should be able to print their name and most letters, draw some simple pictures (person, tree, house), colour detailed pictures, and dress independently. The following strategies are fun and easy to do at home and allow you to spend some quality time with your child. They support these little learners in a big way!

- String small beads, fruit loops and cheerios, popcorn, etc.
- Knead and build with plasticine and/or clay
- Find hidden objects buried in dough and use tweezers to get the objects out
- Draw on a mirror or on bathroom tiles with foam soap or shaving cream
- Practice with buttons and zippers
- Use an egg timer when your child is dressing or undressing
- Play pegboard games
- Play with interlocking blocks and puzzles

If you have concerns that your child's fine motor skills are not developing, look to see if your child has developed hand dominance, can cut along a straight line or circle, and can hold their pencil between their thumb and second and third fingertips. If they cannot, meet with your child's teacher to find ways to promote fine motor development within the classroom.

Communication Matters...

Smart Talk from your Board Speech-Language Pathologists

Develop Word Meanings to Improve Your Child's Comprehension Skills

Understanding word meanings is essential for comprehending and understanding what you are reading. However, vocabulary is a weak area for many students. Given a list of words to learn, many students will complete the task but may not actually learn what the words really mean in order to develop their spoken language and vocabulary knowledge. Developing vocabulary as part of knowledge structure requires more energy and focus than simply memorizing words. Develop vocabulary by going beyond the 'label' and the 'spelling'.

Teach word synonyms (words that mean the same thing e.g. night, evening, dusk), antonyms or opposites (night and day), and multiple meaning words (e.g. block; a lego block, a city block, a building block). Also teach categories, classifications and associations between words (e.g. a shoe and sock go together -are associated; and belong in the clothing category as 'things you wear).

Illustrate new words. Show pictures or video clips that demonstrate the meaning of a word. Help your child draw and label something illustrating the meaning of the word. "Flashcards" can be made more meaningful with pictures, as well.

Play "find the word used in the real world". Help your child identify when he hears or sees a new vocabulary word being used in the real world - beyond the learning activities designed for school.

Math Talk

How Will My Child Learn Mathematics?

Children learn mathematics through activities that encourage them to:

- Investigate;
- Think about what they are investigating;
- Gather information, organize it, and act on it;
- Use information that they have gathered from a variety of sources to solve problems;
- Explain how they reached their solutions.

When children have opportunities to connect math concepts and procedures with their own experiences, they learn more easily. Through the use of common household objects (such as measuring cups, bathroom scales, a deck of cards) and observing everyday events (such as weather trends over the course of a week), they can "see" the ideas that are being taught.

Learning how to understand and solve problems is an important part of math. Children are encouraged to use systematic trial and error and a variety of other strategies to develop their reasoning and to learn how to go about problem solving.