



The Bear Essentials



ALEXANDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL

February 2012

A Message from Ms. Currie...

February is shaping up to be a busy month at Alexandra School. On Jan 30th at 6:30pm in the gym, we are hosting an information night for all grade 3, 4, and 6 parents that have children interested in entering French Immersion program in 2012-2013. On Feb. 2nd we will be hosting our Kindergarten Open House from 4-6 p.m. The DSBN Academy is hosting an information session at Connaught school on Feb. 6th at 6pm for parents of current Grade 5 students. Term 1 reports go home on Feb. 9th, Valentine's Day Dance-a-thon on Feb 14th, Early Release Day is Feb. 17th, Family Day is on Feb. 20th and the Parent Council Meeting is on Feb 28th.

Please PHONE THE SCHOOL

Please contact the office, 905-685-5489 when your child will be absent from school. The whereabouts and safety of your child is of great concern to us and by letting us know of their absence from school helps us keep track of all our students. We have an answering machine for you to leave a message when we are not able to answer your call.

French Immersion Information Night

The DSBN has made changes to the French Immersion Program for September 2012. Students who are currently in grade 3 and 4 must apply this year if they want to attend French Immersion in grade 4 or 5 at Alexandra.

The information night for students and parents in grade 3 and 4 will be on **Monday, January 30 at 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Alexandra gym.**

The information night for grade 6 students and their parents entering into the grade 7 French Immersion program will be on **Tuesday, February 7th 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Queen Mary.**



Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31 are eligible to enroll in all day Kindergarten starting September 2012. 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. Join us **Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m.** for the Kindergarten Countdown open house and the opportunity to register your child. Visit **www.dsbn.org** and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!

eBOOKS ARE HERE!!

DSBN has purchased over 100 titles (some with multiple copies) for students in the board to access and read through Destiny (our library website). These are eBooks, not eReaders so you can check them out and read them on your home computer for 2 weeks. The books are automatically checked in at the end of the loan period.

To search for eBooks and check them out, go to <http://destiny.dsbn.org> and log in with your child's username and password (the same one they use at school). In the catalog tab under the material type, select eBook. This will search for ALL eBooks in DSBN, some will be high school age and some will be elementary age (you can also limit the search by reading level and interest level). Click on a eBook that you may want to read and to check it out, select the on-line option. This way, your child can access the book from any computer as long as they are logged into Destiny. Some eBooks will read to your child and some you will have to read with and to your child (or they can read it on their own). They have a book mark option to hold their spot until they read it again.

TERM 1 REPORT CARD

On February 9, 2012 all Grades 1-8 students will bring home the Term 1 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 this 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 a letter grade (Grades 1-6). 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.

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.

Positive Parenting Program

Triple P stands for Positive Parenting Program. It is a well researched program which creates excellent outcomes for parents and children. The eight-week program aims to build positive behaviours in children and teens and confidence in parents. For more information and to register call:

Parent Talk Information Line

905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074

Ext. 7555

Information about program can also be found at: www.beagreatparent.ca (search: Triple P)

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. If the vaccination information we have on file for your child is NOT complete, you will receive a suspension letter in the mail from Public Health next month (March 2011).

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

In most cases, we are missing vaccination information about your child's: booster dose of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and polio (DPTP/Quadracel) between the ages of 4 and 6; **and**, second dose of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

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.

Camp Update

A letter will go home next week for all junior students wanting to go to camp for another installment. We need to finalize our numbers for camp soon. If you cannot make an installment at this time or are at all worried about the cost of camp, please do not let that be a reason for your child not going. Please contact me at the office 905-685-5489 to discuss this further.

Thank you Ms. Currie

