



ALEXANDRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

April 2011

Protect our Planet!

Spring is finally here and with it comes new life! It is so encouraging to see the sunshine after a long, cold winter. Our thoughts turn to taking care of our gardens, and taking care of our earth.

Earth Day is celebrated every year in April. Friday, April 22nd marks the 41st anniversary of this event. Earth Day initiatives will attempt to change the importance that people place on the environment. This year, in recognition of the power of millions of individual actions, Earth Day 2011 will be organized around A Billion Acts of Green®. People are encouraged to make a decision to change something in their lives that will help to reduce their carbon emissions and supporting sustainability. The goal is to register one billion actions in advance of the Earth Summit in Rio in 2012. There is also a website that you can visit, if you want to register your 'act of green'. It is <http://act.earthday.org/>

By deciding to make a change for the better, you can join with millions of people around the world to help our environment.

Alexandra will be celebrating Earth Day on Thursday, April 21st.

At Alexandra we will be having a litterless lunch week during Education Week on April 11-15th. Here are some suggestions:

Litterless Lunch Ideas

***When packing kids' lunches, stay away from single-serve containers and pouches! Buy a big jar of apple sauce and get kids involved in putting it into smaller containers. Do the same with yogurt! The same also can apply to single-serve snack bags. In most cases the same products can be purchased in larger bags or even better - buy in bulk! ***Fill your stainless steel water bottle with a drink of your choice. The benefit will be two-fold – less garbage and more money in your wallet.

What's In:

- Cloth napkins
- Food-storage containers
- Reusable lunch bags
- Water bottles (BPA-free, of course!)

What's Out:

- Paper napkins
- Individual-portion packaging
- Brown bags
- Juice boxes

YMCA Kids Club

The YMCA of Niagara is an association committed to providing high quality programs. The YMCA Kids Club is an after school program for children in grades 1-6 that is focused on promoting physical activity and healthy eating in children, including a nutritious snack. This program will run every Tuesday from 3:05-5:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, April 12th. This is a free program, however, your child will need to fill out a registration form. If you need a form, they are available at the office. The form is due to the school no later than Friday, April 8th. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this program, please call the program coordinator Courtney Gooding at 905-934-9622 ext 228. This program is generously sponsored by the Canadian Tire Jump Start Program.

Peter Rabbit

Ms. Purdy's grade 2 class will be presenting their version of Peter Rabbit on Tuesday, April 19th at 11:25 am in the gym. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to join us.



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Recess Revival

Alexandra has been sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines to participate in the Recess Revival Project. This project was created to build programming that will increase the physical activity of elementary students and instill life-long habits that will serve to shape and prepare them for a more active lifestyle choice. Recess Revival will encourage students and staff to create active play at recess, incorporating a more healthy and active perspective during student free time. Because of this generous grant, we will be able to purchase game and sports items that will help kids become more active and involved in games of skill, balance and agility.

L.I.F.E. Program

Mrs. Verver runs the L.I.F.E. reading program here at Alexandra and she is always looking for parents who are able to give a few hours of their time to read with students. If this is something that you enjoy doing, please let her know. You can contact the office and leave a message for her.

M & M Meat Shop Alexandra Day

Thursday, April 28th – 10% of all purchases at M&M Meatshops on Lake Street will be donated back to Alexandra. Please identify yourself as a supporter of Alexandra when you make your purchase.

A Message from the Office

Please remember to call the office if your child will be absent or late for any reason. The school answering machine operates 24 hours a day. It is also helpful to inform the office in advance if you know of an upcoming appointment or absence.

MESSAGES FOR STUDENTS:

Please remember how difficult it is to get messages to your child at the end of our school day. In the midst of an extremely busy office, calls can get missed. Please make after school arrangements BEFORE school and use your child's agenda whenever possible. Classes will only be interrupted for EMERGENCY situations.

ALEXANDRA'S GOT TALENT... AND A HEART!

Toonies for Talent:

Alexandra's annual Talent Show will take place on Friday, April 8th at 9:30am in the Gym. Parents are welcome to attend. All of our Alexandra students will be in the audience to enjoy the various talents being showcased. The performers have worked hard and had a lot of fun getting ready for this event. We are very fortunate to have such talented kids in our school, and we would like to take this opportunity to do something helpful for people who are less fortunate -- those who have experienced the recent disasters in Japan. We are hoping that all students and guests will join us in supporting the Japan Relief Fund by donating \$2.00 when they come to watch the talent show. Our "Toonies for Talent" will be donated directly to the Canadian Red Cross. In addition, Mrs. Klassen has generously offered to match all donations, "Toonie for Toonie"! Thank you for your support as we once again demonstrate that Alexandra does indeed have talent... and a heart!
Ms. Purdy and Mrs. Berner



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Swim to Survive Program

The Education Foundation of Niagara has generously sponsored the grade 3 students at Alexandra to participate in the Swim to Survive Program. This program is provided by the Life Saving Society and the YMCA of Niagara

The students will go by bus to the YMCA for three lessons in the month of April. This is a great opportunity for the students and it is provided free of charge.

Basic swimming ability is a fundamental requirement in any meaningful attempt to eliminate drowning in Canada. The Society believes swimming is a life skill that all children need to learn. It's no different than fire safety or street-proofing. Swim skills are not innate – they need to be taught – and all children deserve the chance to learn. The Society estimates about half of Canadian children never take traditional swimming lessons – even though “swimming” is the second most popular activity (after bicycling) in Canada among school-age children between 5 and 12 years of age. The Lifesaving Society wants to ensure every child has the basic skills to survive. This is not a recreational swimming program.

DSBN Academy

Applications for the DSBN Academy are available at the office. If you are thinking that this might be the right place for your child in September, the DSBN is still accepting applications.

Please call the office if you have any questions.

Education Week

Education Week takes place every year in the DSBN. This year the theme is “Celebrating Community Partnerships”. From parents volunteers who assist in classrooms to agencies who coordinate a variety of programs including breakfast programs and after school activities to corporate partners who sponsor scholarships and so much more, our community partners compliment the work of our schools to support student success.

We want to take this time to thank you, our community partners, for everything that you do to help support our students and our school. Working together we make a difference and that is truly Achieving Success Together! During the week of April 11-15, the teachers will plan many exciting activities for the students to participate in.

April is Oral Health Month

Although preventable, cavities are the most common chronic disease of children aged 6 to 19 years. Cavities lead to difficulties sleeping, decreased school attendance, pain, discomfort, and infection. Fluoride is not added into our water supply. Therefore, it is recommended that all residents brush their teeth twice daily with fluoridated toothpaste to prevent cavities.

- Children three to six years of age should be assisted with brushing their teeth by an adult using a pea-sized portion of fluoridated toothpaste until they can tie their own shoe laces.
- Regular flossing is the single most important thing you can do to prevent gum disease.
- Most children will need help flossing until they are about 8 to 10 years old.

Niagara Region Public Health has two programs to assist children and youth with no insurance in getting the dental health care they need. For more information please call the Public Health Dental Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399.



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Join the fun IN THE 2011 DSBN Road Race!



**DSBN
ROAD RACE**
Learners in Action!

PenFinancial
CREDIT UNION
let's grow together.

Sunday, April 17th, 2011

DSBN Education Centre, 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines

Proceeds to benefit Education Foundation of Niagara
and Niagara Nutrition Partners

1km (10 am) Fun Run and 5km (10:30 am) Road Race for all ages
Barbecue & family fun fair for participants*

Prizes for top finishers in each age category of the road race

T-shirts and participation ribbons for all who pre-register

School participation prize

Chip Time Results for 5km race

For registration information, please refer to the entry form
Race entry forms and volunteer forms are available at DSBN schools
or online at www.efnonline.ca



* Minimal BBQ fee for non-participants with all funds raised going towards EFN & NNP

Junior Basketball Teams

Our basketball season has started for this year. Both teams have experienced success and are working hard. Congratulations to the following girls who are on the team: Mackenzie W. Cassidy M., Sienna C., Carlie G., Isabella R., Alley V., Hawklene L., Jonna L., Jessica A., Christy A., Storm B., Chloe B., Sydney H., and Kate M.

Mr. Delano and Mrs. Tanner

Boy's Team Members are:

Robert D., Caelan S., Kyle S., Braydon H., Riley E., Dietrich D., Ben S., Devon G., Justin C., Cole D., Tyler S., Owen G., Curtis G., Hamza A., Sam G., and Holden G.,

Mr. Hendsbee

Chess Club

Our Chess Club members will be going to Ferndale for their tournament on April 6th. Congratulations to the following students who will be representing Alexandra:

Arielle H., Ty L., Hunter C., Trevor S., Ben S., Holden G., Detrick D., Sienna C., Hamza A., Caelan S., Kyle S., Robert D.

The winners from this tournament will advance to the DSBN tournament on April 11th.

School Council News:

Fun Fair Meeting

Anyone interested in meeting to discuss the Fun Fair plans for this year can come to the staff room on Wednesday, April 6th. Remember, this event can only happen if we have people who are willing to help out with this. We look forward to seeing you there!

Chocolate Bar Fundraiser

The School Council will be organizing a chocolate bar fundraiser again this year. We will be having a kick off assembly on Tuesday, April 5th at 9:00 in the gym. Students will receive all the information on that day. Please have your child return the permission slip as soon as possible if he/she will be participating.



Achieving Success Together!





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