



ALEXANDRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2011

Lots to Learn in Kindergarten!

On January 27th we had our Kindergarten Open House here at Alexandra. It was for all students who will be entering Junior or Senior Kindergarten this fall and it was very well attended! During the month of February, we are accepting new registrations for September 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the benefits of our early years education program in the District School Board of Niagara. Currently, we have four kindergarten classes at Alexandra. We have a half time JK program with classes in the morning and the afternoon and two full day SK classes. Miss Creighton teaches the two JK classes and Mrs. Simmonds and Mrs. McNiven are our SK teachers. They do a fantastic job and we are most fortunate to have such knowledgeable and caring teachers looking after the needs of our children.

We know that Kindergarten is an important educational program where children learn many things. They have opportunities to listen, ask questions, talk about experiences and extend their knowledge of print. Children develop skills of mathematics, science and technology through their play and other activities.

Drama, dance, music and visual arts promote personal and social growth. Physical education develops coordination and motor skills. Decision –making, problem-solving and socialization are all an important part of the Kindergarten program. Extensive research shows the benefits of providing this sound foundation for learning. Children stay in school longer, reading math and language skills improve, and there is a higher enrolment in secondary education. Additionally, early identification for children at risk can make a difference for future success or failure in school and other aspects of life. One research report confirmed that “not greater tool exists to help every child, from whatever background, to do dramatically better in school and in life that professionally delivered early childhood education.” For further information at the “Early Years”, visit the Ministry site at www.ontarioearlyyears.ca

Thank you to Miss Creighton, Mrs. Simmonds and Mrs. McNiven for the exceptional job they do each and every day at Alexandra. Kindergarten Registration takes place throughout the month of February. Proof of birth, immunization record and Ontario Health Card number are required.

Community Partners – Pen Financial

The St. Catharines branches of Pen Financial held a fundraiser at Easter in which they bought some spring related items to raffle off in the branch to members and staff. They had another in December and it was their annual Christmas raffle in which members and staff contributed items that were either bought or was homemade. Pen Financial decided that this year, they would donate the money from their fundraising efforts to Alexandra. At the end of January, we received a cheque from Pen Financial for a total donation of \$1100.00!

Pen Financial has organized other events for Alexandra this year, along with their fundraising efforts. They bought a boys and girls Easter basket for the school to raffle off to the students to help raise money for the camp for kids program. They donated Ice Dogs tickets to be awarded to students, collected winter items for our annual wear for care program, organized a Halloween parade for the students and gave out candy to the kids. Finally, they invited the Alexandra choir back again for another wonderful Christmas concert in the



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branch. They supplied the choir with some healthy snacks in their boardroom after their performance. Their continued support of the breakfast program is very much appreciated.

As a staff, we could not be more pleased to have this valuable partnership with such an important community organization. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to Pen Financial for their continued support of student learning.

French Immersion Information Night

If you have students in grades 4 and 6, please remember that the French Immersion Information nights are on Wednesday, February 9th at 7:00 pm, here at Alexandra for the grade 4's and Thursday, February 17th at 7:00 pm at Queen Mary for the grade 6's. We look forward to seeing students and their parents on those nights.

Education Foundation of Niagara – Make Change for Children

The Education Foundation of Niagara is the DSBN charity and all funds raised go directly back to our students for program enhancements and poverty relief. The Poverty and Emergency Relief Fund

supports the extraordinary, emergency, personal and school related needs of individual students brought about by financial hardship. **Since 2008 over 3000 DSBN students have been assisted with \$65,000 in support.** Our school council has generously made a donation on behalf of Alexandra for this excellent cause.

MacMillan Cookie Dough Fundraiser

As a school we will be selling cookie dough and a variety of other products that MacMillan offers. We are raising money for new technology in our school. Students will be coming home with order forms shortly. The due date for these orders is February 23rd. They will be available for pick up on Wednesday, March 9th. Please consider participating in this fundraiser.

M&M Meat Shop Alexandra Day

Thursday, February 24th – 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.

Winter is here and with it we will sometimes have bus cancellations or school closures. Please listen to 610 CKTB, 97.7 FM, 105.1 the RIVER or CHRE 105.7 and such announcements will be made. You can also check the DSBN website at www.dsbn.org for up to date information. If transportation has been cancelled but the school remains open, please call the school and let us know that your child is staying home due to the weather conditions.

To keep the office running smoothly, we ask that transportation arrangements be made before school. It is difficult to get messages to students without interrupting classroom instruction.



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Lice Crew

We would like to have a few volunteers who are interested in doing regular monthly lice checks at school. If you would be willing to participate in this, please call the office and leave your name with Mrs. Libiron. We will arrange a training session with our public health nurse, and she will assist us with this.

From the School Council We need your help!

It is time to start thinking about the **Alexandra Fun Fair**.

Should it continue or is it time to start something new? We need new people to form a committee and organize an event for the children at the end of the school year. Your input into this decision is very important. Parent involvement is what helps make Alexandra a great place and without you these great events cannot happen.

Please contact our School Council Chairperson, Nancy Ferreira if you are interested in helping with this. You can call the school office and leave your name with Mrs. Libiron, and she will pass the information along to Ms Ferreira. **Our next meeting is February 22nd at 6:30 p.m.**

DSBN Academy Information Session

Please join us at a DSBN Academy information session for families of grade 5 and 6 students who would like to learn more about the program. DSBN Academy will be 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
- Committed and motivated students, families and staff
- Single track academic program
- Advisory program support
- After school "encore" programs
- Programming that encourages parent involvement
- Transportation

Please join us on Wednesday, February 23rd, 2011 at 6:00 in the library at Maywood School, 140 Haig St. St. Catharines.

Pizza Day

Wednesday, February 23rd is our pizza day this month.

French Immersion Applications are due on March 1st. Please visit the DSBN website at www.dsbns.org for all the information you will need for applying online. Applications are available at the office as well.

Family Day

On Monday, February 21st is Family Day. There is no school on that day. Enjoy spending time together on that day!

Report Cards

First Term report cards will be sent on Wednesday, February 9th. Please fill in the tear off section at the bottom and return it, along with the envelope, to your child's teacher.

Dental Screening

A Public Health registered dental hygienist is scheduled to visit our school February 9th, 2011 to assess students in grades JK, SK, 2, 4, 6.



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