



# ALEXANDRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

March 2011

## Dear Parents,

Recently, I read some “tips” from various experts and sources on parenting. Of course, no one will ever know what your children need, or who they are better than you – but here are some suggestions for your consideration....

**Grant a Wish** – take an hour or two each week to do exactly what your child desires without interruptions or distractions.

**I Love You** – Start and end each day with “I love you.” We often think we show our love for our children through our actions, but children want and need to be told that they are loved.

**Praise your Partner** – Never finish a day without acknowledging – at least once – your spouse’s role in the life of your children.

**Choose Child Care carefully** – Spend as much time researching your options as you did the last time you bought a new car. Call others who use the facility, talk with the director and the staff, and spend lots of time observing the children there at play.

**Encouraging words** – Every child has a cup that needs to be filled with love, attention, affection and respect. A rough

day, a big frustration, or a harsh word empties the cup.

**Don’t be Overprotective** – You shouldn’t try to shield your child from disappointments, failures or stressful situations. Kids need to learn to handle difficulty in order to cope with life’s changes.

**Coin a Nickname** – Call your child by a special name which reflects your unique connection to him/her. A child with many names is a child loved many times.

**Ban Bad-Mouthing** – Children are not born to be intolerant – they learn it. Refuse to allow discriminatory remarks of any kind. Help your child discover the positive traits of people and to focus on similarities rather than differences.

**Establish Family Rituals** – Once a week, do an activity together, such as visiting the library, taking a walk, or playing a game. These are the types of memories your children will treasure most.

## “Salute Your School” 105.7 EZ Rock Contest

Congratulations to Mr. Sirett’s class. Jesse H. entered the contest “Salute Your School” and his mother wrote a very heart warming letter.

Mr. Sirett’s class was lucky to have lunch served by Jack and Lori from 105.7. Here is the letter:

“I am writing this letter on behalf of my son, Jesse, who attends a special class at Alexandra School. Over the past few years we have struggled in finding the appropriate learning environment for my son, until he started attending Alexandra in 2009. The principal at Alexandra, Ms. Lockyer, has been phenomenal! Whenever there was an issue that I felt needed to be brought to her attention, she acted quickly to find a solution. Now Mrs. Klassen has taken over and she is just as great. Also, Jesse’s teacher, Mr. Sirett and the child care worker in his classroom, Ms. Bouchard, do their very best to accommodate Jesse’s needs. It is easy to find school staff who are knowledgeable with special needs children, however, in my opinion, it is difficult to find a school staff who also posses the quality of understanding. The staff have shown both qualities together and I am so grateful to them for their compassion. If Jesse could verbalize how he feels about Alexandra, I am very sure he would say the same things as I have.”

105.7 also provided Mr. Sirett’s class with a free skating party at the Rink on the Brink.



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## MacMillan Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who participated in the cookie dough fundraiser. The students did a great job selling many orders. The staff also donated excellent prizes to motivate the top sellers. Congratulations goes out to Cameron G. for selling over \$400.00 worth of products. Orders will be available for pick up on **Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm in the gym.** Please mark this date on your calendars. Orders must be picked up on time because we do have the facilities here at the school to refrigerate them. Thanks to Ms. Priddle, Mrs. Simmonds and Mrs. McNiven for doing such a good job organizing this event and also to the parents who will help out getting the orders ready for pickup.

## M&M Meat Shop Alexandra Day

Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – 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.

## Piggy Opera and

Special thanks to Mrs. Verver who helped the grade one students prepare and present the Piggy Opera at a mini concert in February. The students in grades 2 and 3 will be presenting their musical on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 am in the gym.

## Mainstream's Anti-Graffiti Puppet Show Presentation

The students in grades 1-4 will enjoy a presentation entitled "Graffiti: What a Waste". It is a 20 minute life size character production that has been created in partnership with Carousel Players Theatre Company. The production takes place in a school setting and delivers a strong anti-graffiti message. The performing artists and backstage crew consists of adults who have a developmental disability. Manistream's production will

help to open doors for opportunities, integration and normalization for the people they serve.

## DSBN Academy

Applications for the DSNB Academy are available at the office. The due date is Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. DSNB 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.

Please call the office if you have any questions.

## Prom Project Niagara 2011

You can help a young person who cannot afford to outfit themselves for their high school and elementary prom or graduation ceremony. Prom Project Niagara is an Education Foundation of Niagara effort to give young people the opportunity to select formal wear free of charge to attend their formals and grads feeling confident, stylish and proud. Dry Cleaners are accepting new or used outfits (dresses, suits, separates, shoes, accessories) in excellent condition. The location nearest Alexandra is



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Lake & Carlton Laundromat on 117 Carlton St. For more information please call the EFN office at 905-641-2929 ext. 54103, visit their website or email [efn@dsbn.edu.on.ca](mailto:efn@dsbn.edu.on.ca).

## Premier Tools at Home

We want to let you know about our Premier At Home website where you can download reading, writing and study tools that can be used on your home computers. This program is sponsored by our school in conjunction with Premier Literacy. If you haven't already used the site, you'll want to take advantage of the free literacy tool downloads from [www.premierathome.com](http://www.premierathome.com) You can download software, documentation and support videos using the following login information

Username: dsbon  
Password: enable

The login page is customized specifically for our school board. A 'Getting Started' page will help you determine which tools might be best for your child.

## Spirit Day - Beach Day

On the Friday before March Break, we will be celebrating with a 'beach' themed day. Please come dressed in your best beach outfit (no bathing

suits). We will also be watching a movie together in the gym in the afternoon.

## Ways to Keep your Child Engaged During March Break Literacy

- let your kids read the mail: ads, brochures, letters, etc.
- bus, train or plane trips are for reading too. Put a bag of books and comics on board
- notice life print around you – ads, signs, menus
- ask your kids to write out the shopping list, address an envelope or help or help make a calendar of weekly activities
- sing songs with your kids
- have kids check the internet to answer questions that arise
- let kids plan for and read maps on an excursion
- exercise everyone's mind doing crossword puzzles, word jumbles and word searches
- write a letter, short story or song together

## Math

- in the car, estimate how many km or how much time it will take to get to your destination
- play Tic Tac Total by drawing a tic tac toe board and having each player print the numbers 1 to 10 off to the side. Players take turns crossing out one of the numbers and writing it in the board. The player who makes 15 first wins
- play Bizz Buzz as follows. Players generally sit in a circle.

The player designated to go first says the number '1', and each player counts one number in turn. However, any number divisible by 3 is replaced by the word Bizz and any divisible by five by the word Buzz. Numbers divisible by both become Bizz Buzz. You may change the numbers to counting by 2's and 10's or divisible by 6, and 2 etc.

- bake with your child
- play card games and board games

## Media and Library

- take a trip to your local public library. Find out about their March Break programs for children
- enjoy a little Canadian film culture by accessing NFB's online Film library [www.nfb.ca](http://www.nfb.ca) and click on Explore
- hear your favourite actor read a well-loved story at [www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net)
- have fun and learn at the same time with [www.tvokids.com/games](http://www.tvokids.com/games)
- read books in many different languages from the International Children's Digital Library at <http://en.childrenslibrary.org>

## Special Thanks

Thanks to all the parents who help to make the **breakfast program** at Alexandra possible. We couldn't do it without you!