



# ALEXANDRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

May 2011

## May is finally here!

.....and hopefully it will bring with it nicer weather. With the amount of rain and wind we have had so far, we have certainly had an eventful April. May will be a busy month. Please pay close attention to the calendar to see what is happening. We wouldn't want your child to miss out on any of the events.

## Canopies for Kids

The Niagara Conservation Authority has generously donated 10 large trees and many more smaller trees to Alexandra as part of the Canopies for Kids program. They are committed to improving Niagara's biodiversity, water quality and air quality through this program. On Wednesday, May 25, we will be having an interactive presentation about the value of trees, including their role in the economic, social and ecological environment. It will be presented by the NPCA staff. On Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> the whole school will be involved in the tree planting event. The large trees will be planted in the morning and students will be able to watch. After that, students will be able to help with planting the smaller trees.

Students are required to wear appropriate clothing for planting activities and will not be permitted to participate if not properly prepared. Open-toed shoes, flip flops, or sandals are not appropriate footwear for tree planting. Planting will be a rain or shine event unless electrical storm activity is suspected.

We are very thankful to Mrs. Conlon who applied for this grant on behalf of Alexandra and we look forward to reaping the benefits of these beautiful trees.

## 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. We will have our Kick-off event to begin this exciting new program on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Students from grades 5 and 6 will be our leaders. We are very grateful to the Kiwanis Club for sponsoring us and providing all of the new equipment that was needed to help kids stay active at recess time. Thanks to Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Day for their leadership in this project.

## EQAO

Students in grades three and six will be participating in **EQAO testing on June 1,2 and 3.** Students will complete a variety of assessment activities based on the Ontario Curriculum. During this time it is essential that students arrive on time for class, be well rested and bring enough snacks so that they are able to do their best. Please avoid scheduling family trips or appointments during this time. Individual student results will be available in the fall.

## Save our Subscriptions - S.O.S.

We will be running our annual magazine subscription campaign again in September and would appreciate your continued support. Though there are other companies that may be asking for your new and renewal magazine orders, it would be very much appreciated if you waited for our campaign so the students can take your order. A large portion of the funds stays here in our community, so it is a wonderful fundraiser for our school. Thank you in advance for "saving" your magazine orders and helping make our continued campaign a great success.



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## Track and Field

Our students in grades 3-6 will be participating in our school track and field meet on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at Collegiate High School. The rain date will be Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. We remind everyone to come dressed appropriately for changing weather conditions (ie. Layered clothing) and if necessary to wear sunscreen and a hat.

Winners from our school meet will go on to represent our school at the Regional meet on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Niagara Olympic Club.

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

### Toonies for Talent:

Alexandra's annual Talent Show took place on April 8<sup>th</sup> and it was a huge success! The students presented a fabulous show. Special thanks to Mrs. Purdy, Mme Berner and Mrs. Simmonds for all their hard work at putting together such an excellent performance. Altogether we raised over \$600.00 for the Japan relief effort. Thanks to all the staff, students and parents who donated their "Toonies for Talent".

## Swim to Survive Program

The Education Foundation of Niagara generously sponsored the grade 3 students at Alexandra to participate in the Swim to Survive Program. They had a great time at the YMCA participating in this program. Thanks so much for their generosity.

## Chess Team

Three members of our school Chess Team went on to represent Alexandra at the DSBN Chess Tournament. Holdon placed 4<sup>th</sup>, Ty placed 27<sup>th</sup> and Sienna placed 14<sup>th</sup>. They did a great job and played very well. We are pleased with their efforts and want to congratulate them on a job well done. Thanks to Mme Berner for coaching the team.

## Congratulations to our Basketball Teams!

Both the boys and the girls teams had fantastic basketball seasons. The boys made it to the championship game against Connaught where they came up just short of a victory. They played very well and each member of the team is to be commended for their sportmanship and giving their best effort. The girls played in the consolation championship

game against Ferndale and they were victorious! It was an exciting game and the girls gave it their all.

Special thanks to Mr. Delano, Mrs. Tanner and Mr. Hendsbee for all the time that they spent coaching these teams.

## Dress Code

With the warmer weather approaching it is necessary to remind students of the DSBN dress code:

- Tops need to have sleeves or straps that have a three finger thickness and they need to cover the mid section/abdomen – no spaghetti straps allowed
- Shorts and skirts should be an appropriate length – standing with arms at your side, the length of the shorts and skirts should extend beyond the fingertips
- Hats are to be removed before entering the school



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## Grade 6 Farwell

We will formally be saying good bye to our grade 6 students on Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in our school gym. Please mark this important date on your calendars. Traditionally, parents of students in grades 4 and 5 have helped out with the refreshments for the evening. Please contact the office and give Mrs. Liboiron your name if you are willing to help with this. We are looking forward to an exciting evening.

## Welcome to Kindergarten

On Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting a special event for all students who will be coming to Alexandra for JK in September and their parents. Children will have the opportunity to participate in many different activities. They will also receive a Welcome to Kindergarten bag which will include many items that the children and parents can play with together in order to get ready for JK.

It will begin at 6:00 pm in the gym and will last for about an hour.

If you know any children who will be 4 years old this year and live in our school area, please encourage their parents to register them at the office. They are also welcome to come to this event.

## September

### Transfers/Admissions

If you do not expect to have your child(ren) enrolled at Alexandra Public School next September because you will be moving out of our area, please inform the school office now. We regret that you will be leaving us but would appreciate knowing ahead of time. If you know of any families moving into the area, please have them contact the office as well.

### Woodend – The Living Campus

Dust off your bikes, clean-up your hiking shoes, charge up your ipod.....

#### Join the first annual Ride, Hike, Run for Woodend – The Living Campus!

The event will be a 30 km bike ride from Niagara on the Lake to Woodend. There will also be a 5 km route for those who wish to ride, hike or run and a 1.5 km family hike through some of the trails within Woodend. Register before May 20<sup>th</sup> to receive a free t-shirt and half price registration. Those who raise over \$100.00 will not have to pay the registration. The top fundraiser will win an Apple ipad or a family getaway to the Great Wolf Lodge. There are great

prizes for classes that raise the most money.

Over the past year a new vision has been developed, Woodend The Living Campus which will see the current facilities transformed and expanded to create an environment that will empower generations of students, through exploration and discovery, to develop a connection to the earth and understand their responsibility for and impact on it.

To find out more about DSBNs excity new Woodend The Living Campus visit us at

[www.dsbns.org/woodend](http://www.dsbns.org/woodend) or on our Woodend The Living Campus facebook page.

Register today at

[Woodendthelivingcampus.blogspot.com](http://Woodendthelivingcampus.blogspot.com)

### Niagara Kidsapalooza

On Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> a children's concert and awareness event will take place at the St. Catharines Collegiate beginning at 10:30 am. Tickets are \$5.00 each. (Under 2 are free!) Kids will enjoy entertainment, face painting and more. Parents will learn about services in the Niagara area to promote healthy and positive living. For more information, please visit

[www.facebook.com/Kidsapalooza](http://www.facebook.com/Kidsapalooza) or email [KBlack@pathstone.ca](mailto:KBlack@pathstone.ca)



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## School Council News

The Fun Fair is fast approaching and we will need a lot of volunteers to make it a success. Our next meeting is **Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm** in the staff room. Please make this a priority and come out to see how you can help.

Chocolate bar sales went very well. If you have any chocolate bar money or unsold chocolate bars at home, please return them to school asap.

## Secretary's Day

On Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, it was Secretary's Day. The students at Alexandra did a great job of letting Mrs. Liboiron know how important she is to our school and what a great job she does. We are very thankful for her hard work and dedication to her job, and we're lucky to have her at our school.

## Caretaker's Day

First of all, we want to welcome Mrs. Clarkson back! Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> is **Caretaker's Day** and we want to join together in wishing her and Mr. Kerr a great day.

Mr. Laurin has done a fantastic job filling in for Mrs. Clarkson

while she has been away and we also wish him all the best as he moves on to his next position.

## Lids for Kids

Pathstone Foundation and Lids for Kids is pleased to send all elementary schools in the DSBN a complimentary copy of 'He Shoots! He Scores!'. This book focuses on child and youth mental health challenges and stigma. Children's Mental Health Week is May 1 to May 6. Lids for Kids is an awareness campaign for children's mental health. Children will be asked to wear their hats on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> with a Lids for Kids button to show they care. Hat bearers unite for kids' mental health! We will be making a donation to Pathstone for this worthwhile cause.

## DSBN Support Staff Appreciation Day May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Meeting the needs of all learners in Niagara requires a total team effort from the DSBN's group of dynamic and highly skilled professionals. Each October, we take time to celebrate the efforts and dedication of teachers on World Teachers Day. In addition to the excellent work being done by teachers, the DSBN also employs over 1,300 support staff who make vital

contributions to student success outside the classroom. At their most recent meeting on April 26, Trustees of the District School Board of Niagara voted to recognize the efforts of these dedicated staff members by declaring May 4 as Support Staff Appreciation Day. Trustees also expressed their appreciation to OSSTF District 22 for bringing forward this suggestion to further celebrate excellence at the DSBN.

## Drama Presentation

The junior gifted students from Queen Mary will be using our gymnasium this month to practice for their upcoming drama presentation. On Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> they will be performing for our primary students at 11:05. We are looking forward to seeing what they have prepared for us.