



District School Board of Niagara

February 2010

Mission Statement:

"Gainsborough Central Public School strives for each child to live, learn, and laugh in a safe, unique, and challenging environment. Each child is encouraged to achieve personal standards of excellence in the school community."



It is with deep sadness that we inform our school community on the loss of Steve Bonham, father of Sam and Charlie, and husband of Janet Bonham, our lunch supervisor. We know you will join us in keeping the Bonham family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Plans are being made to hold a fundraiser for the family, the details of which will be sent home as soon as they are available.

KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for students who will be entering junior kindergarten in September, 2010 takes place this Thursday (February 4) from 4 - 6 p.m. To be eligible for JK a child must be four years of age by December 31, 2010. Children turning five by the end of the year are eligible for SK. (It is not necessary to register for Senior Kindergarten if your child already attends Gainsborough.) Please contact Mrs. Hine if you have a child, or know of a child, who will be joining us next year and will be attending our open house. You will need to bring proof of age (birth certificate or registration), health card and immunization record to complete the registration process. Please note that our staffing allotment is based on the number of students we enrol, so registering before the staffing process begins in March is very important. Our junior kindergarten program will run as it has this year on full day/alternate days.

Early Release Day

Friday, February 12 has been designated as an early release day. Students will be dismissed at 12:30 p.m. Staff will be involved in meetings for the afternoon.

Important Dates to Remember

- February 4th—Kindergarten registration 4 to 6 pm
- February 5th—Soiree at 6:30 pm
- February 8th—Book Fair begins
- February 10th—Public Speaking
- February 11th—100th day of school, Valentines dance and movies
- February 12th—Early Release Day, Book Fair ends
- February 15th—Family day—no school
- February 23rd—School council meeting
- February 25th—S.N. Bowling
- Pizza Days—February 4th, 11th and 18th.
- Hotdog day—February 25th

Winter

Winter Weather

A reminder to listen to local radio and television stations, or access the DSBN (www.dsbns.org) or NSTS (www.nsts.ca) websites for up-to-date information on potential school closings or transportation disruptions in the event of severe winter weather. As always, the decision to send your child to school in bad weather is yours.



On those days when it is extremely cold, we monitor the windchill factor very closely and may adjust the length of time our students are outdoors during fitness breaks. It is important that all students have appropriate winter clothing (including hats, scarves, mittens or gloves and boots) on those days when we do go outside for part or all of the break.



School Advisory Council

At the January meeting of our School Advisory Council, the council members passed a motion to use some of the funds (\$1280) raised through our McMillan fundraising campaign to sponsor the **Scientists in the Schools** program for all classes. This program brings qualified scientists to the school to provide hands-on, in-depth experiences with science and technology to each classroom for a half day. The topics of their workshops are directly related to the Science and Technology curriculum and will complement our current science programs. Thanks to the School Council we will be able to do this at no charge to our students.



☐☐ Superkids ☐☐



The following students were recognized at our Student of the Month assembly for demonstrating the character trait perseverance: Meg G. (JK), Wyatt G. (SK1), Owen B. (SK2), Tyler L., Emily S. (Gr. 1), Dimitra S., Isaac W. (Gr. 2), Alexia T., Samantha S. (Gr. 2/3), Brad C., Ethan J. (Gr. 3/4), Hailey H., Leah H. (Gr. 4/5), Kaitlyn G. (Gr. 6), Amy H., Jacob L., Samantha S. (Gr. 6/7), Kelsey S. (Gr. 7/8), Allie G. (S.N.) and Bailey M. for her assistance with the Circle of Friends.



Book Fair

Mrs. Haber has arranged to hold another Scholastic Book Fair from February 8 - 12, with extended hours (to 7 p.m.) on Wednesday, February 10. This is an opportunity for you to purchase quality reading material at reasonable prices just in time for Valentine's Day!



No Child Without Program

An information letter and brochure were sent home with each student last week describing a new program available to those students at our school with medical conditions, allergies or special needs. Through this program, funded through Medic Alert, Lions Clubs of Canada and grants, students will be supplied with a Medic Alert bracelet or necklet free of charge until age 14. Currently there are 39,000 students registered in this program across Canada, with a waiting list of 2,000 schools hoping to become part of this initiative. For more information visit www.nochildwithout.ca.



Public Speaking

Students in Grades 1 through 8 have been busy preparing and presenting speeches in their classrooms over the past several weeks. Our school competition will be held on Wednesday, February 10 at the following times: Primary (Grades 1 - 3) - 9:15 a.m.; Intermediate (Grades 7 - 8) - 11:30 a.m.; Junior (Grades 4 - 6) - 2:00 p.m. Parents are welcome to join us in the gym that day.



Soiree de Theatre

Come one, come all to see our fabulous Grade 4's, 5's and 6's present their French plays at our 2nd annual Soiree de Theatre. Even if you don't know French, you will be able to follow along as these students know how to act! The show runs from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 5 in the school gym. Snacks will be provided.



Fundraising Update

Both the School Council and the school staff have tried to limit the amount of fundraising this year in response to the tough economic times and concerns expressed by parents last year. In an effort to keep you informed of upcoming activities we have included a month-at-a-glance calendar (see next page) which lists all of the events that will require a monetary contribution. Not all of the events listed pertain to every student and some of them are voluntary (*listed in italic script*). As both the Education Foundation of Niagara and Big Brothers/Big Sisters have supported our school and families over the past several years, we are hoping to "pay it forward" by fundraising on their behalf in February and March. On another note, our Student Parliament thank you for your generous support of their Haiti relief efforts during Spirit Week. We were able to donate \$690 to the Red Cross on your behalf.



Math Connections

We are excited that all of our primary classes, including our kindergartens, are inviting parents to support our students' math learning through weekly problems which reinforce concepts taught in class and apply to "real world" situations. Students can use a variety of options to solve the problems and explain their thinking (pictures, words, numbers). Mrs. Hall's senior kindergarten students using drawings, counting and "kid writing" to solve this problem: "*I am helping three children get ready for outside. They each have a pair of mittens. How many mittens do they have all together?*" In our Grade 2/3 class, Mrs. Sutherland's students explain their answers to their classmates, which gives everyone an opportunity to see that there are often multiple approaches to arriving at the answer.

Special thanks to all of the parents who take the time from their already busy schedules to work through these problems with their children and support the work we are doing in class.



Sports Corner

□Our coaches, Mr. Reid and Miss Gullett, want to thank the girls intermediate basketball team for their hard work and sportsmanship during the recent season. They finished 3rd in our league. Team members were Alex S., Vicky M., Sarah and Amy H., Tianna H., Fatemah S., Enya D., Carly M., Hayley T. and Maddi S.

□This year, the intermediate basketball season consisted of four games. Unfortunately, the boys did not come away with a win, however their skills did improve over the season. Team players included: Kyle G., Kyle B., Bruce, James, Mson, Chris, Brandon and Jacob.

□Students from the grades one through three classes have been enjoying some fun and exercise! In the first term, the gold-winning team for kickball was the Jaguars, who never lost a game! The first term Jaguars were: Ryan B., Bryan H., Tyler S.-D., Liam B., James G., Wyatt M., David H., Jordy S., Marcus T., Megan G., Coral M., Harmony C., Lyla D., Samantha S., and Kayla M. We are now into our second-term activity: mini-stick hockey! Primary intramural participants play Wednesdays at second break. There will be a third sport as well, so keep an eye out for more information after March Break!



Higher Order Thinking Skills: How Families Can Help

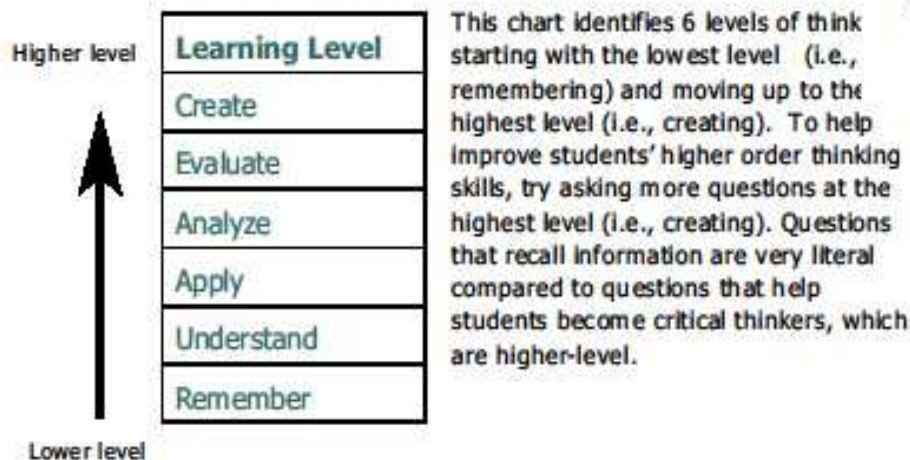
Literacy development requires a partnership between home, school and community. Families can help their children to develop higher-order thinking skills by:

- thinking aloud with children as they read, write, and solve problems
- encouraging children to think metacognitively (i.e., to think about their thinking and to reflect on their learning)
- asking open-ended questions that require more thinking

(Adapted from Literacy for Learning, 2004)



Asking Higher Order Thinking Questions - Aiming High!



Example Using the story Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Remember - List the items used by Goldilocks while she was in the Bears' house.

Understand - Explain why Goldilocks liked Baby Bear's chair the best.

Apply - Demonstrate what Goldilocks would use if she came to your house.

Analyze - Compare this story to reality. What events could not really happen?

Evaluate - Judge whether Goldilocks' actions were good or bad. Defend your opinion.

Create - Propose how the story would be different if it were Goldilocks and the Three Fish.










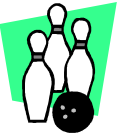

Fundraising and Money Collection

Month-at-a-Glance 2010

*in addition to pizza and hot dog days, classroom Scholastic Book Club orders

January	February
<p>19th -Gr. 7 CPR - \$5 28th -Special Needs bowling - \$8 <i>25-29th -Spirit Week (Haiti relief) - \$3</i></p>	<p>3rd -Marshville - Gr. 2/3 & 3 - \$1.25 16th -Carousel Players - Gr. 4 - 8 - \$6.50 ea. 25th -Special Needs Bowling - \$8 <i>11th -Valentine Dance (Gr. 6 - 8) and Movie (SK - Gr. 5) to support Education Foundation of Niagara - \$3 (includes popcorn) 8-12th -Book Fair - 8th - 12th 9-11th -Bake Sales (to offset cost of Tut trip)</i></p>
March	April
<p>1st -Gr. 2 & 2/3 Woodend - \$5 1st -Gr. 7 & 8 - S.L.S.S. Drama production \$2 (Sally at the Cop Shop) t.b.d. -Le Chef 'al-E' cole - Gr. 4 - 7 - \$5 25th -Special Needs Bowling - \$8 <i>4th -King Tut (Gr. 3 and up) - approx. \$35 26th -Big Brothers/Big Sisters Wii Bowling (JK - Gr. 8 with a minimum \$15 pledge to participate) -You're the Chef program - Gr. 6-8 - \$5 (maximum of 12 participants, once/week)</i></p>	<p>12th -Carousel Players - JK - Gr. 3 - \$6.50 23rd -Kindergarten to St. John's - \$5 29th -Special Needs Bowling - \$8 <i>23rd -Hockey Skills Challenge \$2</i></p>
May	June
<p>19th -Gr. 3 Pioneer School House visit - \$ 27th -Special Needs Bowling - \$8 <i>7th -Silver Birch Conference (by invitation only) \$6 *possible spring bedding plant fundraiser by School Council</i></p>	<p>17th -Niagara Falls Art Gallery - JK- 3- \$5 Year End trips - costs t.b.d. 23rd -Primary - Marineland 23rd -Junior - Cave Springs t.b.d. - Intermediate - Brock Youth University 24th - Special Needs Bowling - \$8</p>

FEBRUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10-2	2 10-3	3 10-4 <i>Marshville visit Gr 2/3 & 3</i>	4 10-5 <i>Kindergarten Regis- tration 4 to 6 pm</i> <i>Pizza Day</i> 	5 10-6 <i>Soiree 6:30 pm</i> 	6
7	8 10-7 <i>Book Fair begins</i> 	9 10-8	10 10-9 <i>Public Speaking Primary—9:15 Intermediate—11:30 Junior—2:00</i>	11 10-10 100th Day of school <i>Dance Gr 6—8 Movie Sk -5</i> <i>Pizza Day</i> 	12 11-1 <i>Early Release Day</i> 	13
14	15 <i>Family Day NO SCHOOL</i>	16 11-2 <i>Carousel Players Jr/ Int At Caistor School Public Speaking at Legion @ 6:30pm</i>	17 11-3 <i>Dick O'Brien Parent Presentation @ College Street Raising Resilient Children</i>	18 11-4 <i>Pizza Day</i> 	19 11-5 <i>Grad Photos</i> 	20
21	22 11-6	23 11-7 <i>School Council Meeting 7 pm</i>	24 11-8	25 11-9 <i>Special Needs Bowling</i> 	26 11-10 <i>Hotdog Day</i> 	27
28	<i>Character Ed Trait—Caring</i> <i>King Tut Trip—March 4th for Grades 3 to 8</i>					

Raising Resilient Children

With Dick O'Brien M.A., Sc.

What is it all about?

A presentation for parents and grandparents on how to prepare their children for the inevitable challenges and struggles they will face in their future. This presentation will examine the commonsense, wisdom and intuition that children need to develop in order to have a chance at surviving in the fast, ever-changing world we live in.

College Street School
Wednesday, February 17,
2010
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM.

How is it relevant?

This presentation focuses on developing personal resiliency in our children as the survival strategy for the 21st Century.



Why is it important?

Too often, parents buffer their children from the reasonable and natural consequences of their own actions. Parents that overprotect or rescue their children rob them of the opportunity to develop a track record of success in dealing with the pitfalls of life. This often leaves a child without the self-worth and problem-solving skills necessary to function in society. This presentation encourages children to respond to life by choice, rather than react to life by chance.

Examples:

- Overcome Failure
- Deal with Disappointment
- Cultivate a Healthy Self Image
- Delay Gratification
- Contribute to Others
- Deal with Struggles of Life
- Become Assertive rather than Aggressive
- Examine their Choices

Brought to you by our local School Advisory Council s thanks to a Ministry PRO Grant. To confirm your attendance:

Please contact Mrs. Hine at 905-386-6223 or Gai@dsbn.edu.on.ca.