



Gainsborough Central Public School  
Junior Kindergarten News  
February 2010  
Mrs. Whitfield's Class

Dear Parents,

February is going to be a fun month filled with many activities. We will be counting up to our 100<sup>th</sup> school day. We have many fun 100<sup>th</sup> day math activities planned for the second week of February. We are completing our unit on family during the first week of February. Later in the month we will be emphasizing the topic of friendship as we celebrate Valentine's Day and how to be a good friend later in the month. Letter writing is a focus this month with the word wall words "to, mom, and dad." The children will also have an opportunity to write letters to their friends and family and send them over to their friends' valentine "mailboxes." Our star strategy focus for the month of February is retelling of the books that are read aloud. Children will be asked to orally retell various experiences and stories that are shared together in the classroom. As a whole group in order to model one way to retell an experience, we will do some procedural writing of how to make valentines. (e.g., First, you fold the paper. Then, you cut out the heart. Next, you decorate the heart and write a message. Finally, you give the valentine to your family or friend!) In mathematics, in addition to our 100 day math centres, we will be completing our two-dimensional shapes unit the first week of February. Later, we will emphasize graphing and working on numbers to 10. In science, we will begin a unit on our five senses at the end of the month. In art, we will be finger painting and making valentines.

Kindergarten Registration

February is Kindergarten registration month for all of the District School Board of Niagara schools. Children who are turning four by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010 are eligible to enter Junior Kindergarten in September 2010; children who are turning five by December 31<sup>st</sup> are eligible for Senior Kindergarten. Please inform families who live in our area that registration is occurring this month. On Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00, our school is hosting an open house for families to register their child for kindergarten and to have a peek inside the kindergarten classrooms. This is designed for new registrations only. If your child is already attending school at Gainsborough, you do not need to register again for the following school year.

### Information

As a part of our family unit, we will discuss our last names. In addition to knowing their last names, please take some time this month to help your child learn their phone number if they do not know it already. It is important that your child begins to know some of these important things about themselves! In order to help your child, please complete the form at the back of this newsletter with your child's first and last name and their phone number and return it back to school the first week in February.

### 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

While our children have technically only been in school for about 50 days, we are going to join in to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school! We will be having 100 day math centers during the second week of February. There will be a variety of math centres with 100 items for the children to weigh, count, etc. I am also asking children to bring in a collection of 100 small items to show to the class. These items should fit into a small to medium Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. Some suggestions for your 100 collection include paper clips, macaroni, buttons, pennies, etc. Please send in your 100 day collections by Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

### Early Release Day

Please note that Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, is an early release day. Buses will pick up children around 12:30 that day. Teachers will be engaged in professional development activities in the afternoon.

### Valentine's Day

On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, our students will be exchanging valentine cards with their friends. If your child brings in valentine cards, please send in one for each child in the classroom. (24 students) In order to simplify the sorting of the cards at school, please have your child sign only their name on the card, instead of writing each child's name. This will make our valentine exchange go more smoothly! Children may start bringing in their valentines on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. We will also have a small class party on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. If you are scheduled to bring in the treats or drinks, please send them in the morning on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The following families are scheduled to bring in the treats and drinks for our party:

Treats for 24: Meg, Trevor and William

Drinks for 12: Justin and Kendall

Thank you for all of your support in your child's education.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Whitfield

