



District School Board of Niagara

January 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."

Happy New Year! We trust that your Christmas break was enjoyable and that everyone is re-energized for the coming months. Did you make some new year's resolutions? This is a perfect time for students to develop some resolutions with regard to their school work, e.g. setting aside a specific time each evening to complete homework, to read or play games with other family members on a regular basis, to use agendas on a daily basis for communication with teachers, to always try their hardest to complete assignments to the very best of their ability, persevering when the task is difficult and making an extra effort to stretch beyond their comfort zone when completing assignments. Staff resolutions include collaborating with colleagues to incorporate critical thinking skills into their curriculum on a regular basis; working and communicating more closely with families to support student success and using available technology to enhance our programs.

Please don't hesitate to contact us at any time if you have questions, concerns or kudos to pass along.



We're A DSBN Showcase School!

Congratulations to Miss Haveman and her students for being invited to share their outstanding *Summit Challenge* projects with the trustees at the District School Board of Niagara Board meeting on January 12. Over the past several weeks teachers across all divisions at Gainsborough have been focussing on "making connections" to help students come to a deeper understanding of their reading material. After reading the book *Everest*, the Grade 6/7 class were required to complete a variety of responses as the culminating activity to this unit of study. Some choices which demonstrated their text connections were through the creation of a model, newspaper or webpage about the characters and events in the book. Many of their final projects were exceptionally well done and as a result several students will be sharing their work at the Board meeting. You are welcome to join us at the Education Centre that evening to share in our excitement about being selected to showcase our students' work.



Winter

Inclement Weather

☐ Should it become necessary to cancel the buses or close the schools due to severe weather, this information will be broadcast on local radio stations, CHCH T.V. and will be posted on the DSBN website by 7 a.m. Please refer to these options rather than calling the school, as staff hear this information at the same time you do! ***Also, if you have questions about the buses, please contact the bus company directly at 905-957-7899 for up-to-date information.***

☐ While we feel it is important for students to spend time outdoors during our fitness breaks, there may be occasions when wind chills, particularly in our open fields, necessitate a decision to keep the children indoors for part or all of the break. On those days when it isn't quite cold enough to keep them indoors, it is important that students are dressed appropriately for the weather, with layers of clothing, warm coats, socks, boots, hats and gloves or mittens. It is also helpful, particularly in the primary grades, that these items are marked with your child's name.



School Advisory Council

Congratulations to all of the winners of the basket raffle and 50/50 draw at our Christmas concert. We raised approximately \$500 at that event. The next regular meeting of our School Advisory Council is on Tuesday, January 26 at 7 p.m. at which time we will be looking at the cost of bringing the Scientists in the Classroom program to Gainsborough. Please also mark Wednesday, February 17 on your calendar. The school councils from our local schools applied for a Ministry grant and will be using this money to host motivational speaker Dick O'Brien at an event for parents entitled *Raising Resilient Children*. See the attached flyer for additional information.



Fundraising Update

- Your support of Mrs. Wiley's Avon Angels fundraising event at the Christmas Concert raised \$320 which she has generously donated toward our King Tut trip in March.
- Thanks to your support at the M & M Meat Shop Day we received a cheque in the amount of \$108 which will be used to purchase additional equipment for our SMART board.

Christmas Concert



Our Christmas concert this year was held at South Lincoln High School in order to accommodate all family members who wished to attend. A huge thank you to everyone who supported us at that event through their attendance, donations to help cover the custodial costs and for purchasing tickets for the basket draw and 50/50 raffle. Our students thoroughly entertained us and we all appreciated their efforts to make the show such a success. Special thanks also to Miss Salomons who coordinated the event, Mr. Shatford and Gainsborough staff, Mr. Kudera for his musical accompaniment and the use of his sound system as well as Mrs. Provost, principal at South Lincoln, South Lincoln staff and student technicians Anthony, Tyler and Nathan who were so welcoming and helpful. Feedback from parents and families has been very positive and we've already approached Mrs. Provost about renting the high school again for next year's concert! *At the Christmas concert there was a camera case left behind—if it belongs to you please contact Mrs. Hine in the office 905-386-6223.*

Character Counts

Our focus for the month of January is perseverance. We demonstrate perseverance through effort and determination to complete a task to the best of our ability and to stick to that task even when it is difficult. We will recognize students demonstrating this trait at an assembly during the first week of February.



Public Speaking

January is public speaking month at Gainsborough. Students will be preparing and presenting speeches in their classrooms in an effort to win a spot at our school competition in early February. Winners from each division will then compete at the Legion on February 16. Individual teachers will be sending home information about their specific expectations and timelines in the next few days.

Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day is all about brushing up on your literacy skills in fun and different ways! Last year we participated in the Family Literacy Challenge and helped break the world record for the number of children reading with adults. This year the focus is Singing for Literacy.

Singing is a great literacy activity for families because it provides a fun way to expand spoken vocabulary and creates a strong bond. Singing allows you to learn patterns of words, rhymes and rhythms, and is strongly connected to language skills. Stay tuned for more information on our school initiative, however, if you wish to register your family to participate in this event, please visit the Family Literacy website at www.familyliteracyday.ca.



□The Extended French program at Lakeview School will be hosting an open house for interested Grade 6 students on Tuesday, January 12 at 7 p.m.

□Open houses for students entering secondary school next year will be held as follows:

Eden High School - Monday, January 11 from 7 - 9 p.m.

Beamsville District Secondary School - Tuesday, January 12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

South Lincoln High School - Wednesday, January 13 from 7 - 9 p.m.

Check the DSBN website for information regarding other secondary school open houses but please note that transportation will not be provided for Grade 9 students to attend out-of-area schools.

We are Counting Down to Kindergarten!



Going to school for the first time is a major step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the "Kindergarten Countdown" open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teachers, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills. Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 4 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit www.dsbm.org for more information.

DSBN Jumps Into the World of Social Media

To give our students, parents and community members another avenue to keep up with school news, Board events and exciting student achievements, the DSBN is jumping into the world of social media. If you're using Twitter, you can catch all the DSBN's tweets by following us at www.twitter.com/D_S_B_N. Similarly, if you're on Facebook, become a fan of the "DSBN" page. With the cold weather season here, the Board will be using these accounts in addition to its usual methods of communication to inform you of events like inclement weather school closures and bus cancellations.

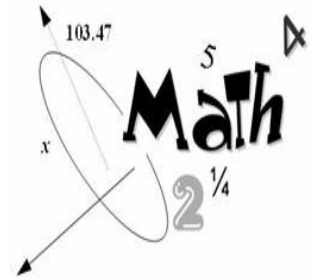
Literacy Link

On page 13 of the revised Language Curriculum document, media literacy is referred to as the study of art and messaging (which includes words, graphics, sounds, and/or images, in print, oral, visual or electronic form), to communicate information and ideas to an audience. Media literacy explores the impact and influence of mass media and popular culture by examining texts such as films, songs, video games, action figures, advertisements, CD covers, clothing, billboards, television shows, magazines, newspapers, photographs and websites. These texts abound in our electronic information age, and the messages they convey, both overt and implied, can have a significant influence on students' lives. For this reason, critical thinking as it applies to media products and messages assumes a special significance. Understanding how media texts are constructed and why they are produced enables students to differentiate between fact and opinion; evaluate the credibility of sources; recognize bias and discrimination; and question depictions of violence and crime. Critical thinking skills related to high-tech media such as the Internet, film, and television are particularly important because of the power and pervasive influence these media wield in our lives and in society. To develop their media skills, our students are given opportunities to view, analyse, and discuss a variety of media texts and relate them to their own experiences. In addition, they have opportunities to use technology to create media texts of different types in an increasingly complex way as they progress through the grades (eg. posters, models, plays, videos, web pages etc.). The media projects Miss Haveman's students are sharing at the Board meeting this month are examples of the great work our staff and students are doing in this strand of language.

Math Connection

An important skill in mathematics is the ability to reason logically. Logical thinking is making good sense out of something, usually in an organized way. It includes sorting things by some characteristics or thinking ahead about what the results of an action might be. Joe uses logical thinking in the following scenario:

Joe and Jennie were storing groceries on the shelf. First they put all of the canned goods on one shelf and then they put bags of brown and white sugar together on another shelf. When Jenny started to put a bag of flour with the canned goods, Joe said it was more logical to put it with the bags of sugar.



Most mathematics, including logical thinking, cannot be learned by just listening to the teacher. Logical thinking requires individual experimentation with the world. Children clarify and strengthen their reasoning abilities by talking and doing. The home is an ideal place for youngsters to practice explaining *how they think they think*. Verbalization is important to help students see a connection between the process used to solve one problem then another more difficult problem. By talking it through, a child becomes conscious of the strategy he/she used. This awareness has two benefits. First, the strategy becomes transferable (used in other situations) and, secondly, the child learns that when faced with an intellectual dilemma, he/she can search for a familiar strategy already used in another situation.

Important Dates to Remember

January 12th—BDSS and Lakeview (Extended French) open house

January 13th—SLHS open house

January 18th—Grade 4/5 and 6 trip to Woodend

January 19th—Grade 7 CPR course

January 26th—School council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Pizza Days— 7th, 14th and 21st














Hot dog Day—29th

Looking ahead

February 4th—Kindergarten Open House



JANUARY 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 	4 8-2	5 8-3	6 8-4	7 8-5 Pizza Day 	8 8-6	9 
10 	11 8-7 Gr 4/5 & 6 to Woodend 	12 8-8 Open house— Beamsville Secondary Lakeview Public School 	13 8-9 Open House—South Lincoln High School 	14 8-10 Pizza Day 	15 9-1	16
17	18 9-2	19 9-3 Gr 7 CPR 	20 9-4	21 9-5 Pizza Day 	22 9-6	23 
24 	25 9-7	26 9-8 School Council Meeting 7 p.m.	27 9-9 Sing for Literacy Event	28 9-10	29 10-1 Hotdog Day 	30
31 