District School Board of Niagara
achieving success together

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."

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JANUARY 2012

WELCOME BACK—2012

Welcome back! We trust that everyone had an opportunity to spend time with family members and "recharge" over the Christmas break. The beginning of a new calendar year is also a great time for our students to reflect on their progress over the past four months and to set goals for the rest of the school year. This will be particularly important when first term report cards come home in early February. Please don't hesitate to contact us for additional information on how you can support your child with his/her school work or if you have any questions.

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FRENCH IMMERSION

The DSBN is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. Grade 5 entry will continue. As well, a Grade 1 pilot program will begin in September at 5 locations throughout the board. (Grade 1 Gainsborough students would attend Central School in Grimsby.) Interested students and their parents may attend an information night at Central School on January 30.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Although the weather forecast isn't calling for a lot of snow, winter is bound to arrive sooner or later! In the event that conditions become severe enough to cause transportation cancellations or school closures, we ask that you listen to the local radio or television stations for this information which will be broadcast by 7 a.m.

WINTER SAFETY

❄ Winter weather usually brings lots of opportunities for fun in the snow, however, it can also bring danger when students don't play in a careful way. Snowballs, especially, can cause serious injury. Therefore, we have a THROW NO SNOW policy.

❄ The climbing equipment will also be off-limits to students during snowy and/or icy weather as boots, snow pants and gloves or mittens make it difficult to get a good footing or grasp when climbing. It is also important that drawstrings, which could become caught in the equipment, are removed.

❄ Please make sure your child comes to school dressed warmly on cold days since the wind can be harsh as it blows across our open playground. A pair of shoes to wear in the building when boots are removed is also a necessity. It is also a good idea to send an extra pair of mittens/gloves and socks (labelled with your child's name) in case these get wet during first break and haven't dried sufficiently to second break.

HEALTH NOTES

✯The flu and cold season is here! One way to help control the spread of germs is to educate our youngsters about the importance of coughing into their sleeve rather than their hands and to wash their hands frequently, especially if they have the sniffles.
✯Not sure when to send your child to school if he/she isn't feeling well? We appreciate the desire to not miss school, but for the sake of the healthy children we ask that students with bad coughs, sore throats and flu (i.e. fever, diarrhea) stay at home. A good rule of thumb is that if you think your child is not well enough to go outside during breaks, then he/she should probably not be at school. We do not have facilities or staff available to supervise students who are ill.

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Not only are we looking ahead to second term, our Grade 8 students are also thinking ahead to next year. The open house for Beamsville Secondary School will be on Tuesday, January 17 from 7 - 9 p.m. South Lincoln will be hosting their open house on Wednesday, January 18 from 7 - 9 p.m.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first school council meeting for 2012 will be held on Tuesday, January 17 at 7 p.m. Please join us if you are able.

P.A. DAY

Just a reminder that Friday, January 20 is a professional activity day and there will be no classes for students that day.

MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC

The Regional Health Unit Mobile Dental Clinic will be available at Gainsborough on January 24, 25, and 26. Please contact the Health Unit for additional information on the services offered.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY

Although reading should be celebrated every day of the year, both here at school as well as at home, ABC Life Literacy has designated Friday, January 27 as Family Literacy Day. This is an annual event, established in 1999, to raise awareness of the importance of reading and literacy related activities. Staff are busy planning activities to celebrate reading that day for our students. For ideas about how you can carry on this celebration at home, please visit the ABC Life Literacy website at abclifeliteracy.com.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

Registration for those students eligible to attend junior kindergarten next year will be on Thursday, February 2 from 4 - 6 p.m. If you have a child, or know of a child, who will be 4 years of age by December 31, 2012, please contact Mrs. Hine at the office for more information about this event. Our staffing allocation is based on the number of students who are registered with us so it is important we have accurate information to provide to the board.

KIN CLUB SKATE-A-THON

The annual Kin Club Skate-a-thon will take place on Thursday, February 23 in the morning. Pledge sheets will be available at the school office later this week. In order to participate, students must collect a minimum of $10 in pledges.

STUDENT TEACHER/EDUCATION ASSISTANT

We welcome Ms. Zoric, student teacher from Medaille University, who will be working in our Grade 2/3 class with Mrs. Sutherland and her students from January 23 to March 9. Additionally, Ms. Vaniperen, from Niagara College, will be completing a placement with us as an educational assistant in several classrooms each Tuesday and Thursday from January 19 to April 19. Welcome to Gainsborough!

SPORTS CORNER

Congratulations to both our girls and boys junior volleyball teams for their excellent showing at the DSBN tournament in December. Our boys Jason C., Ryan C., Jonny C., Brad C., Ryan K., Joshua K., Jarrett L., Stuart M., James R., Carter S., JerryS., Callen V.
And the girls Harmony C., Faith D., Madison D., Deanna H., Leah H., Linsay H., Stephanie H., Kayla K., Mikaela M., Kira M., Grace N., Sarah N., Kayla R., Dimitra S., Lindsey T.
Special thanks to our coaches (Mr. Waldie, Mrs. Sutherland, and Miss Rybiak) for volunteering their time before and after school and during breaks to work with our teams.

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ***Character Trait: Perseverance***	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*
8	*9* *8-8*	*10* *8-9*	*11* *8-10*	*12* *9-1* *Pizza Day*	*13* *9-2*	*14*
15 *Intermediate basket-ball begins*	*16* *9-3*	*17* *9-4* *School Council 7 pm* *BDSS Open House 7 pm*	*18* *9-5* *South Lincoln Open House 7 pm*	*19* *9-6* *Pizza Day*	*20* *P.A. Day—No School*	*21*
22	*23* *9-7*	*24* *9-8* *Mobile Dental Clinic*	*25* *9-9* *Mobile Dental Clinic*	*26* *9-10* *Pizza Day* *Mobile Dental Clinic*	*27* *10-1* *Family Literacy Day*	*28*
29	*30* *10-2*	*31* *10-3* *Student of the Month Assembly 12:15 pm*			***Looking ahead:*** *Public Speaking February 6-10* *Countdown to Kindergarten Feb. 2, 4 to6 pm* *Carousel Players (Primary) Feb. 15 am* *Kin Club Skate-a-thon Feb. 23 am*	

Vaccines and elementary school children

Niagara Region Public Health is conducting an annual review of vaccination records for all elementary school children in the Niagara region. **If the vaccination information we have on file for your child is NOT complete, you will receive a letter and questionnaire from us in the mail later this month (January, 2012).**

- Please follow the instructions for reporting your child's vaccinations to us, as outlined in the letter. Various options for reporting are available.

- If your child is overdue for one or more vaccinations, you will need to make an appointment with your child's doctor to get your child vaccinated. You can also make an appointment for your child at one of Public Health's General Immunization Clinics by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

- If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to vaccinate your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document.

Students under 18 years of age attending Ontario schools must have proof of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles). We are required to have this information by law (*Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990*). **Please provide us with your child's missing vaccination information by March 8, 2012 or your child may be suspended from school.**

For more information, please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.

Niagara Region
PUBLIC HEALTH

"Hey Parents! Do you know what your kids are watching?"

Young people look to celebrities for reassurance about their fashion and behaviour.
The evidence is clear….
The more youth see smoking in movies, the more likely they are to start smoking.

Ways to Protect our Kids

Be aware of what your children are viewing and learn which movies have smoking in them.
Updates available every Thursday at facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood.
Talk to your children about tobacco and movies and teach them to be media aware.
Show your support to get tobacco out of youth-rated films in Ontario at smokefreemovies.ca.
Spread the word to other parents and join the discussion on facebook and twitter.

www.smokefreemovies.ca **facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood**

We are Counting Down to Kindergarten!
Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

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 teacher, 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 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit **www.dsbn.org** and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!

Cold Weather Alerts at DSBN
Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal. When making this decision, principals will often consult with neighbouring schools, talk with parents as they arrive in the morning, and if the decision to send children outside is made, will equip yard duty staff with walkie-talkies so that they can communicate with the office to sound the bells to bring students in earlier.

The health and well-being of our students is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region are often good indicators that students will stay inside.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

• Try to send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending on the weather.

• Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.
• Warm socks and boots will keep their feet warm and dry in the snow and slush.

• Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep students from losing too much of that essential body heat.

• Put on a good pair of gloves or mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website dsbn.org, or contact the principal.

Your Future is Here!
Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend High School Open Houses in January 2012. For a full list of open house dates, times and details, please go to www.dsbn.org