

MAY 2021

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Principal -
H. Nunnenmacher
Secretary -
K. Comfort

Dates to Remember:

May 3 to 7 - Education Week
May 7 - Take Your Pet to School Day
May 12 - DSBN Support Staff Day
May 21 - Shades Day
May 24 - Victoria Day (No School)
May 25 - Virtual School Council Meeting 6:45 p.m.

Please Note
Our June Newsletter will be out the middle to end of June as it will be our final newsletter for this school year.

Don't forget if you are ordering something from Chapters/Indigo, use our link!!
[Flipgive Link](#)

SCHOOL UPDATES



← Primary Girls' Bathroom Before



Primary Girls' Bathroom After →

We had an update to the bathroom to provide more room at the sink.

DE-STREAMING GRADE 9

Beginning this September, the DSBN will be de-streaming all Grade 9 compulsory subjects: English, French, Geography, Math, and Science. This means these courses will no longer be offered in both applied and academic.

The province is requiring every school board in Ontario to begin moving in this direction. This change does not apply to students who are registered in the Specialized School to Work (SSTW) or Specialized School to Community (SSTC) programs. Grade 9 students who originally registered in applied or academic courses will now be studying in the same course, just like they are used to doing in their elementary school.

By doing this, more students will be empowered to pursue the futures they want, with doors open to all post-secondary options, including apprenticeship, college, university, or into the workplace. Why did the province make this decision? Ontario is the last province left in Canada to implement this change.

This decision will give students equal opportunities by keeping all post-secondary choices and options open to everyone. It will help remove post secondary barriers, and will allow students to have more time to experience secondary school before making decisions about their future.

Why is this good for my child?

It is important that your child, and every child, can access any opportunity they need while they are in secondary school to pursue the path of their choice. When all students take academic courses in Grade 9, everyone is given the chance to better determine their futures.

What does this mean for my child starting Grade 9?

- If your child chose applied courses: they will be automatically enrolled into academic courses, including English, French, Geography, Science, as well as de-streamed Math
- If your child chose academic courses: no changes will be made to their courses
- If your child is registered in SSTW or SSTC programs: they will continue in these programs with no changes to their courses



Thank you to our School Council for providing the ice cream treat for our Bingo Day! Everyone had a great time!

Check out our Website!!
<http://gainsborough.dsbni.org/>





Seven-year-old Niagara boy draws up plan to fight COVID

GORD HOWARD APRIL 22, 2021 ST CATHARINES STANDARD

Seven-year-old Jack Turl just wanted to help stamp out COVID-19.

The problem was in the plan.

“He said he wanted to give money to the doctors because he didn’t want anyone else to die from COVID,” says his mom, Bre Turl.

“So he was going to try to race his Grade 1 friends at school, and if he won they were going to have to give him money.

“I was like, ‘well, you know that’s a really sweet thought...’”

So at their home in St. Anns, near Smithville, he and his parents Bre and Billy came up with a Plan B.

It worked — Jack has raised \$500 so far and is looking forward to handing over a stack of bills at Niagara Health once the stay-at-home order ends.

“He loves to draw, so we figured, how about he draws some pictures and I’ll put them on social media and we’ll ask our friends and family if they’d like to buy one? And he could use that money to give to the doctors,” says Bre.

He drew monster trucks, dragons, Minecraft characters and sold the pictures for \$5 apiece. Soon he was taking requests.

“I put it on my Facebook and my friends and family really came through,” she says.

“Some bought single pictures, some bought multiple pictures, some donated \$50, a coworker of my husband donated \$100 – his wife is a nurse.”

So far, he’s distributed 35 drawings. Cousins younger than him pulled money from their piggy banks to donate, says Bre, adding no one in their family has been infected with COVID-19.

“He wants COVID to be over,” she says. “Who doesn’t? He’s got cousins that he misses playing with, he wants to have his friends over.

“I think somehow in his seven-year-old mind he’s thinking if he can raise money and give it to the hospital, then maybe it will help with this ending sooner.”

Jack says he did it “because everyone knows they want COVID over, and because we don’t want anybody to die because of the COVID virus.”

He says he misses his friends, but adds “it’s actually kind of nice” getting to stay home with schools temporarily closed.

Bre says she contacted Niagara Health and they are planning a little something for him when brings in his donation.

Jack has plenty of time on his hands these days and is still drawing: “He’s been really excited,” she says.

[Gord Howard](#)

WAY TO GO JACK!!! WE ARE REALLY PROUD OF YOU!

For Parents

COVID-19 Update

Coping with the impacts of COVID-19 in our community has been very tough on everyone and we understand that ‘COVID-fatigue’ may have set in. This term refers to people getting tired of following the rules set in place to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Although Niagara is well underway with COVID-19 vaccinations, we do not want to let our guard down. We remind everyone to please still follow the [safety measures to help protect you, your family, friends and our community](#).

Check out these videos from Niagara Region Public Health’s Dr. Hirji addressing the vaccines:

[Vaccine Safety](#), [AstraZeneca](#) and [Which Vaccine Should I Get](#).

For more information, visit [niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19](https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19).

Puberty Information Session for Grades 5 & 6 parents

Niagara Parents will be hosting a virtual Puberty Information Session through Facebook Live for parents/caregivers of students in grades 5 and 6. This event will help support parents talk to their child(ren) about puberty, encourage open discussions about puberty and overall health, and share resources to address questions and concerns their children might have around puberty.

Where: [Niagara Parents Facebook page](#)

When: Wednesday May 26, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

May is Vision Health Month

Visual health is an important part of a child’s overall health and well-being. Proper vision is important for a child’s movement and coordination, independence, play and learning. If left untreated, vision problems may become serious and prevent a child from reaching their full potential.

[The Eye See...Eye Learn®](#) program encourages parents to book a comprehensive eye exam for their junior kindergarten child with a [local, participating optometrist](#). The eye exam is covered by OHIP and children may qualify for a complementary pair of eye glasses.

A yearly eye exam is **FREE** – the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) covers the cost of an eye exam every 12 months for children up to the age of 19 with a valid OHIP card. [Find an eye doctor near you](#).

Also, contact an eye doctor if you see **ANY** of these signs:

Squinting or holding objects close to the eyes	One eye that turns out or in
Blinking often	Rubbing, tearing, itchy or burning eyes
Turning or tilting the head to the side often	Reporting blurry or double vision
Covering or closing one eye	Reporting headaches, nausea or eye strain

For more information on vision screening, please visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/vision-screening.aspx>.

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Sale runs April 26th - May 9th