



District School Board of Niagara

November 2009

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."

Important Dates to Remember

- November 5th— Picture Retake
- November 10th—Math Jam—Sk-Gr. 3/4
— Veteran Presentation at 9:30 for Gr. 4-8
- November 11th—Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 13th—PA Day—No school
- November 18th—Volleyball tournament
- November 23rd—Gr 8 visit to South Lincoln High School
- November 24th—School Council meeting @ 7:00 pm
- November 26th—S.N. Bowling trip
- Pizza Days ~ Thursday, November 5th, 12th and 19th
- Hotdog Day ~ Friday, November 27th

Staff Changes



Our special thanks to Mrs. Wilcox, one of our noon hour supervisors, for her help over the past year in our kindergarten classes. Unfortunately she and Josh have moved and she will no longer be available. We are pleased that we can welcome Mrs. Davis back to Gainsborough. She has worked with us in the past and is looking forward to being back with the Wildcats!



Destiny

We are pleased to announce that DSBN Libraries are now providing at home, 24/7 digital access to the school library catalogue.

By connecting to the following website, destiny.dsb.edu.on.ca, and clicking on your school name, you will have full access to the resources available in your school's library. Students are able to view the entire library collection, along with a brief synopsis of every resource and additional features such as student-created reviews.

In addition, Destiny Quest will allow you to easily find the newest library purchases and a list of the Top Ten most popular materials among library patrons.

We hope that you will find DSBN Destiny Library Manager to be helpful when completing assignments or when exploring library materials for leisure reading. This is just one more way that we are achieving success together through access to our school library collections!

Looking for websites to help reinforce what your child is learning in school? You can access the Learning Gateway through www.dsb.edu.on.ca. Click on Students in the left hand column and then Learning Gateway under Internet Resources. The Gateway, which we use at school, lists approved sites in a variety of subject areas. We also have a limited number of sites listed on our Gainsborough School website.





Photo Retake Day

Just a reminder for those parents wishing to have school photos retaken, our date is Thursday, November 5 at 9 a.m. Please contact Mrs. Hine to let her know you want retakes so that we don't forget anyone!



Professional Activity Day

Friday, November 13 has been designated a professional activity day for the purpose of assessment and evaluation. Staff, including Mrs. Hine, will be working off-site that day.



School Advisory Council

Our school council members attended a joint council meeting (with parents from College Street, Caistor and South Lincoln High School) on October 28. At that time we talked about the great things that are happening at each school as well as some joint initiatives for both our students and school councils. College Street Council applied for a Ministry of Education 'Parents Reaching Out Grant' on behalf of the local schools to bring a guest speaker to the area in the new year: Dick O'Brien who will talk about raising resilient children. Look for more information on this in a future newsletter.

□During our council meeting, which followed the joint meeting, we discussed two issues which need to be brought to your attention. The first discussion item was in regard to the speed at which some vehicles are entering and exiting the parking lot. We ask your co-operation in ensuring the safety of our students by driving slowly and watching carefully for children who may be crossing the driving lanes to reach parked vehicles at entry and dismissal times. We also ask that you respect the bus loading zone as well. No vehicles may park or travel through this area when the buses begin to arrive in the morning or until they have all left in the afternoon.

□Secondly, there was some discussion regarding H1N1. The DSBN has developed a pandemic preparedness plan and staff have been vigilant in asking students to wash their hands frequently, not to share school supplies and to cover their mouths when coughing. In addition, our custodial staff have been diligent in their environmental cleaning (ie. door knobs, light switches, desks, computer keyboards etc.). We also have Purell hand sanitizers at stations throughout the school and in each classroom. Parents may wish to send in a small bottle of hand sanitizer for their child to use at his/her desk. (If it becomes a distraction during lessons, staff may ask your child to put the bottle away.) We appreciate the cooperation of all of the parents who have been keeping their children home when they are sick to help prevent the spread of germs.



Fundraising

● Thanks to all of the families who supported our School Advisory Council MacMillan's campaign. We had a total of \$9450 in sales and a total profit of approximately \$2400. By placing our order before the end of October we realized an additional \$178 in profit.

● Thanks to the generosity of the Gainsborough School community, the teachers and Mrs. Haber were able to select \$1 000 worth of books to improve our school and classroom libraries. Many, many thanks to the parent volunteers who helped during the day: Mrs. McCollum, Mrs. Deruisseaux, Mrs. Kerec, Mrs. Gilchrist and Mrs. Macleod. Thank you for your patronage as it really helps to keep our library books up-to-date. (Mrs. Haber)



Superkids



The following students were recognized last month at our student of the month assembly for demonstrating respect towards themselves, others and property during the month of September: Ethan K. (JK), Morgan M. and Rachel S. (SK), Luke T. (Gr. 1), Harrison B. & Jason C. (Gr. 2), Lindsey T. & Aaron K. (Gr. 2/3), Ryan C. & Jonny C. (Gr. 3/4), Sarah N. (Gr. 4/5), Konor A. (Gr. 6), Christina O., Enya D. & Jessica R. (Gr. 6/7), Kyle K. (Gr. 7/8), Nathan H. (S.N.), Sean & Sofian (L.H.)

For the month of October our focus was responsibility and we were pleased to acknowledge the following responsible students: Trevor H. (JK), Ethan K. & Dimitri S. (SK), Leah M. (Gr. 1), Jade G. & Callen V. (Gr. 2), Grace N. & Aiysha S. (Gr. 2/3), Stephanie S. & Stephanie H. (Gr. 3/4), Maislin M. & Emily T. (Gr. 4/5), Michael S. (Gr. 6), Ingrid B. & Mikala C. (Gr. 6/7), Alyssa C.-D. (Gr. 7/8), Tyler B. (S.N.), Olivia and Billy (L.H.). In addition to our classroom winners, both Mrs. Haber and Miss Haveman wanted to recognize the outstanding efforts of our Student Parliament members: Alyssa C.-D., Kyle G., Chris D., Erin K., Konor A., Jessica R., Fatemah S.

Education Foundation Grant

We recently received a grant from the Education Foundation of Niagara for \$200 which we will use to purchase additional playaway audio books. This is the second year in a row that we have been successful in our grant applications with the EFN and we appreciate their support of our literacy program.



Community Corner

M & M Meat Shops in Grimsby has invited us to join their special shop day on Thursday, December 3. We will receive 10% of all purchases made in the name of Gainsborough School between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. that day. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbours.

Our Christmas Concert this year will be held on Wednesday, December 16 at South Lincoln High School to enable us to accommodate all of the parents and family members who want to share this special evening with us. Our School Advisory Council will be holding a basket raffle and 50/50 draw that evening. More information regarding times etc. will be included in our December newsletter.

Mark Thursday, February 25 on your calendar! That is the date for the local Kin Club Skate-a-thon from 9 - 12 a.m. Pledge forms will be available through the school office in early January.



Math and Literacy Connection

Each year our staff analyzes data from a variety of assessment tools, including EQAO scores, to identify areas requiring additional support for instruction. Over the past several years we have had a very strong focus on literacy skills (reading for deeper meaning and understanding as well as organization and development of written work). In addition to these literacy skills we are also going to implement a stronger focus this year on math skills, particularly in the area of problem solving and reasoning. One of the teaching strategies we will be using in both areas is what we refer to as "critical thinking". Staff will be using this strategy to help our students think more deeply about their learning. An example of a critical challenge, used by Mrs. Gravelle follows.

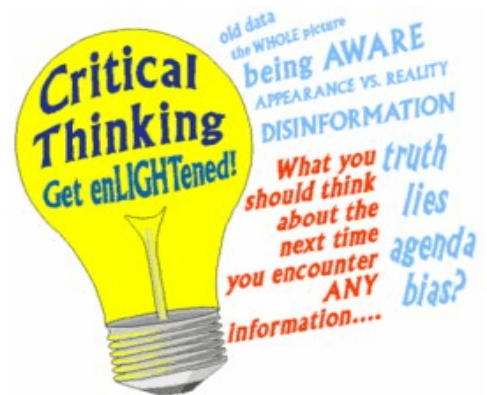
Grade 6 Critical Thinking Challenge

*Critical thinking is the art of analysing and evaluating thinking with a view to improving it. It entails effective communication and problem solving skills. On Tuesday, October 27th, the grade 6 class worked through a Challenge on COURAGE. The class was presented with the question... **What are the qualities of a courageous person?** At first the students had difficulty coming up with more than one or two qualities. We then looked at courage posters, commercials (i.e. Nike), music lyrics and videos (i.e. The Climb by Miley Cyrus). The class discussed how courage was being displayed in each of the media forms. As a result, the students were able to go back and add to their list of courageous qualities. EACH student in the class actively participated in a RICH discussion and ALL agreed the following are the qualities of a courageous person.*

- 1. Perseverance...never gives up!*
- 2. Bravery...not afraid to face their fears.*
- 3. Believe in themselves and not afraid to stand up for their beliefs or others beliefs.*
- 4. Willing to try new things.*
- 5. Take a risk...and learn from your mistakes.*

As an extension of the lesson, the students will choose a person they think is courageous. Using the established criteria, they need to provide evidence and prove their person is COURAGEOUS!








FACT: Did you know that Michael Jordan was cut from his highschool basketball team because he was undersized?





NOVEMBER 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 4-8	3 4-9	4 4-10	5 5-1 <i>Picture Retake Day</i> 9 a.m.  	6 5-2	7
8	9 5-3	10 5-4 <i>MathJam—SK— Gr. 3/4 & 9:45</i> <i>Veteran Presentation</i> 9:30 Gr. 4—8	11 5-5 <i>Remembrance Day</i> <i>Assembly</i> 	12 5-6 	13 P.A. Day—Staff <i>Working off-site</i>	14
15	16 5-7	17 5-8	18 5-9 <i>Volleyball tournament</i> 	19 5-10 	20 6-1	21
22	23 6-2 <i>Gr. 8 visit to South Lincoln High School</i>	24 6-3 <i>School Council Meeting 7 p.m.</i>	25 6-4	26 6-5 <i>S.N. Bowling</i>	27 6-6 	28
29	30 6-7					