



GRACEFIELD SCHOONER

**December
2011**

**Gracefield
Public School**

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Greetings from the Principal!

We are approaching the time of year when we actually pause and take the time to be thankful. I thank you for sending your children to Gracefield and for entering into an educational and personal relationship with us. I am thankful for the dedication and enthusiasm of our teachers as I see how hard they work in their classrooms every day as well as coaching our athletic teams, heading up field trips, giving music/Glee club lessons, and preparing for the Christmas concert, supervising clubs, facilitating community service activities, and nurturing their students in so many ways. I am thankful for your children, who bring enthusiasm, curiosity, determination and a spirit of fun and wonder which fill our days. Gracefield School is the very best place to be, and for that I am so thankful!

We extend a sincere thank you to our parents for their ongoing support, participation and encouragement in the many activities our staff have made available to the students here at Gracefield. Thank you to all of the families who came in for an interview with the teacher, we hope to work together to ensure success for your children. Please take the time to discuss with your child what they need in order to accomplish success. The official Term One reports will be coming home early February.

Please welcome our newest Gracefield staff member, Mr. Neil Oxenbridge who has taken Mr. Teather's position and is our new full time head caretaker.

Tuesday December 6, 2011 is Scorecard Harry's night; I look forward to seeing Gracefield families there! Friday December 9th is Family Movie Night at Gracefield; please join us for the movie "Elf". More information will follow!

We hope that you will be able to join us on Wednesday December 21st at 1pm and 7pm here at Gracefield for our Holiday presentation. Staff and students have already been working very hard over the past few weeks to rehearse for the play. Please bring a non-perishable food item that night (or in advance) as your admission to the show. We hope to have a fantastic turn out and we hope to have a substantial food donation for our community agency.

On behalf of the staff at Gracefield, we wish you and your family a very festive holiday season and may this special time of year be filled with the warmth of family and good friends for each of you.

Happy Holidays,

Mrs. Lisa Doyle
Principal

"Sail with Pride"

SCORECARD HARRY'S NIGHT

Gracefield community night at Scorecard Harry's continues again this year. The first Tuesday of every month staff, students and their family and friends are invited to celebrate our school spirit and community partnerships with dinner/appetizers at Scorecard Harry's. A portion of sales will be donated back to the school. I look forward to seeing you there. **The first Tuesday of December is Tuesday, December 6, 2011.** Mark it on your calendars!

BOOK FAIR

The book fair brought in almost \$2000 in sales, giving us \$900 in free books for our library. Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make the event successful and a special thank you to Mrs. Bolek for organizing the event.

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

On Friday, November 11, the Gracefield community commemorated Remembrance Day. Parents, grandparents and community members attended the ceremony and helped us respectfully remember our war heroes. The choir was fantastic and the presentations were phenomenal. Thank you very much for your attendance and support for our ceremony.

SCIENTISTS IN SCHOOLS

On Friday, November 18th, 2011, all classrooms in grades 1-8 participated in Scientists in School. "Scientists in School" is a dynamic charity dedicated to establishing a strong foundation of science and innovation among Canadian youth. Their mission is to ignite scientific curiosity in children so that they: question intelligently; learn through discovery; connect scientific knowledge to their world; and consider a career in science. They recognize that early positive exposure is critical to instilling a life-long interest in science and technology and cultivating tomorrow's leaders. Their workshops enrich the Ontario Science and Technology, Kindergarten and Math curricula. They provide valuable extensions and real world applications to enhance student learning. Their presenters are local scientists and technical experts who have extensive experience working with children. Students were dissecting owl pellets in the intermediate grades, the junior grades were using simple machines and forces and the laws of physics and the primary students were food scientists and chemists. Click [here](#) to see some pictures of the day.

THE GRACEFIELD SCIENCE SHOW

During our Properties of Matter unit in Science, students were asked to create TV segments for a fictional show entitled "The Gracefield Science Show." Working individually or in pair students found an experiment that illustrated a property of matter and demonstrated it for the class while they were being filmed.

The students were required to introduce themselves and their experiment, describe the materials and safety equipment needed, demonstrate the experiment and conclude with a short explanation of the scientific principle they demonstrated.

After they edited their clips using Windows Movie Maker and added in a title sequence, text, laugh tracks, music, applause and credits. Please go to our website to enjoy their hard work.

web.dsb.edu.on.ca/~barb.morris

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Students are outside for two fifteen minute breaks and a forty minute lunch. Hats, gloves, boots and warm jackets make this time more enjoyable.

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN



Full Day Early Learning is coming to Gracefield for September 2012! For more information from the Ministry of Education, please click on the picture for the curriculum document. Kindergarten registration is in February 2012.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Please join us for the movie “Elf” at 6:30pm on Friday December 9th in the gym. Please bring a hat, mittens or scarf as a donation to Community Care. Snacks and drinks will be available for sale.



THE CHILD ASSAULT PREVENTION PROGRAM

This program is more than street proofing. It is an empowerment program that gives children skills and strategies they can use in potentially abusive and dangerous situations. The program uses a combination of age appropriate discussion and role-play. They discuss with children that they have the right to be “safe, strong and free”. The three role plays they do address different types of situations that children may be in. The first one is about bullying, the second is about strangers and the last one concerns a known offender. CAPP is a community-based project brought to us through the Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre. This program has been paid for through our school and GSAC fundraising monies.

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

For students in Grade 8, the Governor Simcoe Secondary school Open House is scheduled for Wednesday January 18th from 6:30 – 8pm.

Click [here](#) for information on all secondary school open houses.

SNOW SNOW SNOW

We know it’s coming! Gracefield’s School’s rule is “**leave it on the ground**”. Please reinforce this at home. For the safety of all students, we ask them not to throw or kick snow. We have a “1-2-3” policy. Each time you throw snow a letter goes home and the incidences are tracked. The 1st time is a warning, the 2nd time is detention and parent contact and the 3rd time involves removal of privileges. Each situation is dealt with considering mitigating factors. Using progressive discipline, formal suspension may result.

INTERMEDIATE VOLLEYBALL

The **Intermediate Boys Volleyball** team had another very successful season this year. The boys have been practicing 4 out of 5 days a week since the 2nd week of September and all of their hard work paid off. They developed into a very strong team who competed fiercely every time that they were on the court. The boys are to be congratulated for their dedication to Gracefield Athletics. In their season, the boys finished first in league play and earned a pennant for the school. In the playoffs, they advanced all the way to the Area 3, Tier 2 Championship finals and lost a close match against Woodland. The boys were awarded a Finalist pennant for the school.

At the DSBN Single A tournament, the team went undefeated through the round robin and all the way through the playoffs. They advanced to the Night of Champions last Monday, November 28th. The boys lost another close game in the final match against John Marshall, but earned a trophy plaque for the school and all team members received medals for their finish in the tournament. Please come by and see the Volleyball Display in the front hallway at school.

Team members include: Andrew Uramowski (captain), Max Fast (captain), Dallon Buist, Harrison Kerr, Jacob Fair, Andrew Kassatkine, Baeley Campbell, Calvin Lindsay, Justin McPherson and Zach Reed.

The **Intermediate Girls Volleyball** team played 10 games this season from the beginning of October to the end of November. They persevered and did their best throughout the entire season. The girls enjoyed themselves and gained many skills that will help them throughout their participation in other activities within the school. We had lots of fun together!

Congratulations to the following girls for being on the volleyball team:

Lucy, Jenna, Megan, Lauren, Alea, Anna, Tori, Bailee, Sierra and Bridget

Thanks for a good season girls! ~ Mrs. Doyle and Mrs. Unwin

MAGAZINE SALES

The students and staff of Gracefield School would like to thank everyone who assisted in making our recent magazine subscription campaign a great success!!! Without the support of our community, we would not have been able to raise the money that the campaign generated. Thank you so much for helping us to reach our goal. All of your subscriptions are guaranteed 100% and if you have any service concerns, please contact CCRP at 1-800-665-5133 (11:00 am – 7:00 pm EST), or service@ccrp.ca. (not the school office). Please allow 12 – 16 weeks after the campaign ends before you receive the first copy of your subscription. As a reminder, you may continue to order on-line throughout the school year at www.ccrp.ca – our school code is **ON2652**.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Wednesday December 21, Gracefield staff and students will present their Christmas gift to our community, through song, dance, and drama. We will be performing the classic story, The Nutcracker. Each class is buzzing with excitement, as they are preparing to perform on stage. The performances will take place at 1pm and 7 pm. Because of our limited seating, we ask that anyone who can attend the afternoon performance do so, in order to create space for the evening. The Kindergarten classes will be performing before the main show. We would like to thank the parents who are helping behind the scenes to assist us in preparing our production. We appreciate it if you would bring a donation of non-perishable food items to support Community Care in lieu of an admission fee. We look forward to sharing our gifts with you.

JUNIOR BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

- Tyler Bush
- Justus Elliott
- Jacob Hunter
- Christopher Morello
- Grayden Fast
- Isaac Lepp
- Rhys Dominguez
- Braedon McPherson
- Ethan Nagy
- Alex Reynen
- Aidan Payne
- Gabriel DiSanto
- Stuart Huebert
- William Block

JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to the Junior Girls Volleyball team for a fantastic season! Team members include: Kaelyn, Laryssa, Emma, Madeline, Beth A., Beth P., Allie, Leah, Gillian, Autumn, Olivia, Kara and Kate. Throughout the season, the girls demonstrated enthusiasm, dedication, perseverance and teamwork. The team placed fourth for the season. Mrs. Mayer and the team would like to thank Paula and Deb for donating their time and expertise to coach the team.

Boys won their first playoff game against Edith Cavell. They will be playing in the semi-finals on Thursday, Dec. 1st. Good luck boys. ~ Mr. Nazwaski

LIBRARY

If you happen to be getting rid of books, please consider donating them to our new library. We are trying to update our collection and would like to add volumes to existing series and replace worn out copies. The following popular titles and authors would be greatly appreciated.

Geronimo Stilton
Harry Potter volumes
Hunger Games trilogy
Captain Underpants-by Dav Pilkey
Diary of a Wimpy Kid - Jeff Kinney
39 Clues

If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Lancaster at lancasterl@cogeco.ca

INDOOR FOOTWEAR

With the approach of snow and wet weather, each child should keep a pair of shoes or slippers at school. The floors can get wet and cold, and children should have indoor foot wear; they cannot wear socks or bare feet in case of a fire emergency.



ALL VISITORS....PLEASE SIGN IN

We want to continue to ensure the safety of every student at Gracefield School. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated. Please be sure you enter through the MAIN ENTRANCE only in the front of the school. Please check in and sign in at the office. All visitors must wear a visitor tag. If students are arriving late or if you are picking them up for an appointment, please come into the school and sign them in/out in our register at the office. Parents are welcome to come in and pick up their children after school, just please use the front doors. Thank you for keeping our children safe.

BALANCED SCHOOL DAY

The balanced school day initiative was discussed at the last two GSAC meeting and will be looked into further for a possible implementation date of September 2012. Good reviews have been received in the parts of Ontario and our own School Board where the Balanced Day organization has been implemented. A school wide survey will be sent home in the new year.

Why consider implementing a change to the traditionally structured day?

Benefits of the Balanced School Day:

- Larger blocks of instructional time
- Healthy, Active minds and bodies(optimum learning conditions result when nutritional needs are fulfilled)
- Fewer breaks means less “lost” instructional time during transitions (putting on outdoor clothing twice rather than 3 times)- this leads to more instructional time(one pilot school reports a saving of 8 minutes per day, which is equivalent to 27 hours per year)
- Fewer discipline issues resulting from better proportioned play time (15 minute recesses are hardly enough time for students to dress, use washroom facilities let alone have time for meaningful activity.
- More opportunities for co-instructional activities and more efficient use of school facilities (gym)
- When not on duty, teachers get a 40 minute break
- Less garbage on the playground- fewer bees, better for environment.

Potential Issues/Drawbacks:

- Part-time teacher (85% of our board’s schools are on a balanced day right now and have worked out ‘pass the chalk’)
- Half-day workshops (85% of our board’s schools are on a balanced day right now and have worked out ‘pass the chalk’)
- 2 ‘lunch’ clean-ups for Caretakers (however this is possibly offset by the reduction of garbage on yard and the need to sweep/clean floors after 2 breaks rather than 3)
- Students who go home for lunch will have 10 minutes less.
- The need to change thinking about packing lunches/snacks to support eating twice/day.

On Thursday Dec 22nd, at 1:30pm, the Niagara Regional Police will be at Gracefield to play volleyball against our boys and girls and staff teams. Every year they do this to support a charity. This year, they are supporting a family with a 10 month old named Matthew. Matthew has a brain tumor and several small spinal cord tumors (diencephalic syndrome). He is just starting 72 weeks of chemo therapy. We are asking for a \$1-\$2 donation to participate in this event. All parents are welcome to watch, we may even need a few more volleyball players to join the teacher team! Thank you in advance for your support.

Congratulations to Akira and Kenzie Grieve who are our November Newsletter Draw winners!



CHRISTMAS BREAK

The students will be dismissed at the regular time on Friday, December 23rd to begin the Christmas Break. Students return to class on Monday, January 9, 2012.



Mad Science, the world's leading provider of educational and entertaining science programs for children is coming to Gracefield School. Their mission is to spark the imagination and curiosity of children everywhere by providing them with fun, entertaining and exciting activities that instil a clear understanding of what science is really all about and how it affects the world around them. They use exciting activities and spectacular demonstrations to capture the attention and imagination of children as we found out during our assembly.

Both the students and teachers will be thrilled on 12/Jan/2012 at 12:45 PM when Mad Science comes to the school to do a Spectacular Science show. The assembly will be educational, entertaining and also the kick off to the Mad Science Club. The Club is a 6-week science enrichment program offered to the students.

Students who join the science club will go on a voyage of discovery designed to support the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum. They will explore various topics in science including Chemical Mystery, Current Events, Fundamental Forces, Science of Magic, Stunt Planes and Super Structures. The Club will take place on Monday Lunch, Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13, 27, March 5 from 11:35 AM - 12:35 PM.

For those of you who have been in the Mad Science Club before, this is a different club than last year with exciting experiments, cool demonstrations and amazing take home activities.

Mad Science also performs Birthday Parties, Camps and Special Events. Give them a call at 905-937-1878 and watch out for them in Malls, at Fairs, Festivals and Scouts and Guides.

www.madscience.org/Niagara

TRY AT HOME ACTIVITY

ZOOM BALL

Materials:

- Scissors
- Two 1 litre plastic pop bottles
- Masking tape
- Optional: Coloured construction paper
- Optional: Ribbons
- Ribbons
- Two 2.4 metre strings
- Two plastic ring six pack holders
- An adult helper

Instructions:

1. Ask your adult helper to cut the bottoms off of the two plastic soda bottles.
2. Fit the bottles together so there is a neck on either end. Tape the bottles together to form a football shape.
3. Cover the bottles with construction paper and ribbon if you want to decorate your zoom ball.
4. Thread the two strings through the bottles.
5. Take the six-pack holders and cut the rings apart to make four two-loop handles.
6. Tie a set of handles to the ends of each string.
7. Get a friend and you are ready to play. Each player holds onto two handles and pulls on the strings until they are tight. Slide the zoom ball to one end. When it is at your end snap your hands apart to send the zoom ball back to your friend. To catch the zoom ball, keep your hands together.

Explanation:

The pushing action of the strings sets the zoom ball in motion. When the zoom ball reaches the other end of the strings, an opposite pushing action, this is your friend snapping the strings, stops the ball for a moment and then sends it in the reverse direction.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures.

At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children in school on that day rests with the parent or guardian.

Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.

A key resource in any emergency is the DSBN Emergency Information form that you filled out at the beginning of the school year. Please let the school know of any changes in contact information or procedures you wish to be followed throughout the school year.

For secondary schools it may become necessary to cancel late buses. Notice will be provided via school announcements and on the websites and subscription features by 11:30 a.m.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

Websites:

www.dsbns.org

www.nsts.ca

Subscription Features:

DSBN Facebook or Twitter

NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

Phone:

Niagara Student Transportation Services 905-346-0290 Voice Auto Attendant

Radio Stations:

CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines

WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton

CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton

CHML (900 AM) Hamilton

CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton

Y-108(107.9) Hamilton

CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines

CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines

CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie

K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton

GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland

Television Stations:

CH – Hamilton

CityTV Breakfast Television

CTV Toronto

Cogeco Channel 10

Did you know that Canadian children/youth ages six to 19 spend an average of 8.6 hours per day, or 62 per cent of their waking hours, being sedentary?

Here are some ways to help your children meet the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each day:

- Limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours per day
- Encourage children and youth to play outdoors
- Play outside with your children:
 - Go for walks, hikes, build snowmen, go tobogganing
 - Introduce your child to skates or skis so they can learn to slide
 - Play catching games using a wide range of soft objects

For more information go to www.activehealthykids.ca or www.participaction.com



To read our newsletter online, please go to <http://gracefield.dsbm.org/>

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DRAW

Fill out the following question, then hand into your teacher who will ensure it is placed in the draw box at the office for a prize.

Student Name(s): _____ Teacher: _____

What is the date of the Christmas Concert?

What is the entry fee for the Concert?

Any comments or questions?