



GRACEFIELD SCHOONER



DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD
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www.dsbn.org

**February
2012**

**Gracefield
Public School**

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Greetings from the Principal!

The month of February will bring some new and exciting programs to Gracefield! The grade 4 and 7 and 8 students will be getting a program called "G.R.E.A.T.", delivered by constable Wayne Orcutt from the Niagara Regional Police. The letters stand for Gang Resistance Education and Training. The program is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership for children in the years immediately before the prime ages for introduction into gangs and delinquent behaviour. The program encourages positive relationships among the community, parents, schools, and law enforcement officers.

For more information on the program, go to their website at <http://www.great-online.org/>.



Our technology challenges are underway, with a team of 4 grade 7/8 students attending St. Catharines Collegiate on Monday January 30th to compete against other schools. They had to design and build a machine that would pick up metal objects and move them using wood and simple machines. Look to our website soon for pictures of the event. Our next technology challenge is on Tuesday February 7th, which will be our first ever Lego Robotics challenge. We have a junior team and an intermediate team participating in that event. Wish us luck!

A survey was sent home on February 2nd to explore the option of balanced school day for September of 2012, please return it back to the school with your preference by Friday February 10th. Your input is much appreciated.

Warm regards,

Mrs. L. 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 February is Tuesday, February 7th.** Mark it on your calendars!

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 February 2012.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit www.dsbns.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!

SNOW SNOW SNOW

We may see some at some point this winter! 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.

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.

Why Is Literacy Important?

People read and write for many different reasons:

- for pleasure and interest to keep in touch with family and friends
- to obtain and use information that will help them solve problems and make choices and decisions
- to learn about the world and to communicate their thoughts to others for work purposes

More broadly, literacy is about how we communicate in society. It is about social practices and relationships, about knowledge, language, and culture. Literacy finds its place in our lives alongside other ways of communication. Those who use literacy may take it for granted – but those who cannot use it are excluded from much of the communication in today's world.

Knowing how to read and write paves the way to success in school that will build self-confidence and will motivate your child to set high expectations.

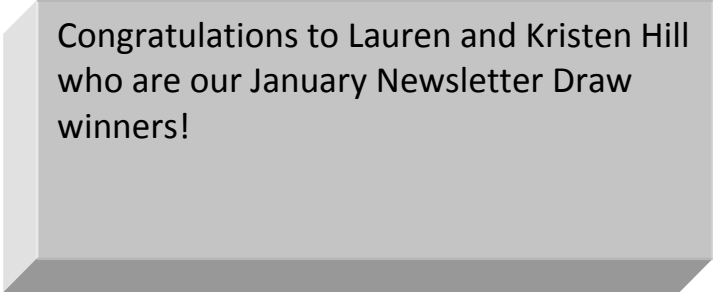
Literacy is about far more than just reading words. It is about *understanding the meaning of language* that is found in many places – such as in books, in magazines, on websites, in manuals, on signs, in advertisements, in films, and even in conversations. Literacy is also about *being critical* of what you are reading or hearing. It also means *being able to communicate your thoughts* effectively to others through speaking, writing, and using various media.

The meaning of the word “literacy” is constantly evolving:

- Literacy is more than the ability to read materials in print.
- Literacy is the ability to read and write, to listen and speak to others, and to view and to represent ideas and images in various media.
- It is also the ability to think critically while doing all of these.

Your child's teacher may refer to “critical literacy”. This is a way of thinking critically with a focus on questions of fairness, equity, and social justice.

For more information, please read “Helping your child with Reading and Writing”
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideLit.pdf>



Congratulations to Lauren and Kristen Hill
who are our January Newsletter Draw
winners!

Why Is It Important for My Child to Learn Mathematics?

Mathematics knowledge and skills contribute to a child's success – both at school and in everyday life. Understanding mathematics also builds confidence and opens doors to a range of jobs and careers.

In our everyday lives, understanding mathematics enables us to:

- solve problems and make sound decisions;
- explain how we solved a problem and why we made a particular decision;
- use technology (for example, calculators and computers) to help solve problems;
- understand patterns and trends in the world around us in order to make predictions (for example, keep track of how much milk is consumed to know how much milk to buy each week, notice the times when traffic is heavy to decide on the best time to travel);
- manage time and money, and handle everyday situations that involve numbers (for example, calculate how much time we need to get to work, how much food we need to make meals, and how much money we need to buy the food).

Understanding and knowing how to do mathematics makes our day-to-day lives easier. Understanding and using mathematics to make decisions and to take action builds confidence and joy!

For more information, please read "Helping your child do Mathematics".

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNum.pdf>

*Friday February 17, 2012
is an Early Release Day,
students are dismissed
at lunch. There is no
afternoon kindergarten
that day.*

*Monday February
20, 2012
is Family Day,
there is no school
that day.*

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.dsbnet.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

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.



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



February 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 Early Release Day?

When is Gracefield Night at the Scorecard Harry's?

Any comments or questions?