



GRACEFIELD SCHOONER



DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD
OF NIAGARA

Achieving success together

www.dsbns.org

**January
2012**

**Gracefield
Public School**

117 Bayview Drive
St. Catharines, ON,
L2N 4Z7

Telephone:

905-934-1411

Fax:

905-934-1876

Email:

grf@dsbn.edu.on.ca

Web:

dsbn.org/schools/Gracefield

MRS. LISA DOYLE
Principal

MR. JOHN DICKSON
Superintendent
905-641-1550

MR. DALTON CLARK
Trustee
905-937-6960

Greetings from the Principal!

I hope your holiday season was filled with joy and special memories. It was wonderful to see so many families at our Christmas concert, we certainly hope you enjoyed the show! It took a lot of hard work to accomplish such a professional production, thank you to staff, students and parents!

A New Year always brings with it an opportunity to slow down and take a second look at what adds value to our lives and what doesn't. It is a time to celebrate our accomplishments and plan for the year ahead. As we begin 2012 at Gracefield, I would like to commend all Gracefield staff and students for their on-going enthusiasm, dedication and hard work. At the same time, we thank all the parent and community volunteers who enrich the Gracefield experience for everyone. Please continue your involvement in your child's education by monitoring the effective use of the organizer, ensuring that your child completes homework assignments and that proper study habits are in place. These few suggestions will certainly assist in your child's success at school.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

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.

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!

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

For students in Grade 8, **Governor Simcoe Secondary School's Open House is on Wednesday, January 18th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** with a formal presentation beginning in the theatre at 6:30 p.m.

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.

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.

is our



District School Board of Niagara Expanding French Immersion for 2012

The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. In addition, as of September 2012, we will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations. As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year (Grade 7 entry will continue in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake).

Information re: entry levels and the application process is on the [DSBN website www.dsbni.org](http://www.dsbni.org). Click on the Parent Tab, under Programs, click on French and International Languages, click on French Immersion Registration. Applications for Grades 1, 4, 5 and 7 (at select schools) will be online. Application packages will also be available at your child's school starting January 9, 2012. Further program information will be sent home with your child in January.

THANK YOU!

Our Christmas performance of the Nutcracker would not have been as successful without you!

Donna Roulston

choreographing and teaching our dances

Joan Whitman

coordinating, designing and sewing many of our costumes

Phil and Diane Kirwin of Chimpanzee Consulting

*designing and generously donating our backdrops
thanks for lending us your Christmas tree and couch*

John Keddy and Nathan Richardson

Setting up our extension stage and acquiring the floating spotlight

Carina Bordieri

creating our Nutcracker costume and assisting with costumes and accessories

Jon White

putting up our backdrop frames

Weinert Family

donating the arch

Sue Dryczewycz ,Hollie White, Melissa Hozack, Erin Sharpe and Darci Weinert

your valuable assistance with props and costumes

Gracefield Parents

for supplying our students with their costumes

Gracefield Staff and Students

For a fantastic performance!

District School Board of Niagara Expanding French Immersion for 2012

The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. In addition, as of September 2012, we will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations. Our school's location is Sheridan Park. As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year (Grade 7 entry will continue in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake). Dalewood's Open House is Jan. 31st 6:30-7:30pm for current grade 3,4,and 6 students. Sheridan Park's Open House is Feb. 1st 6:30-7:30pm.

*January 20, 2012
is a Professional
Activity Day,
there is no school
for students.*



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

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.



Glee members 1

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.**

**DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR OLD ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT?
BRING IT TO OUR ELECTRONIC WASTE DEPOT!!**

**WHERE: PORT DALHOUSIE LIONS CLUB
201 MAIN STREET**

**WHEN: Saturday, January 14th, 2012
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**WHAT: Acceptable Materials:
T.V.'s
Computers & Monitors
Audio & Video Players
Copiers & Fax Machines
Cell Phones, Answering Machines &
Much more**

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



January 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 Professional Activity Day?

When is Gracefield Night at the Icedogs Game?

Any comments or questions?