



GRACEFIELD SCHOONER

**November
2011**

**Gracefield
Public School**

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Greetings from the Principal!

On Oct. 7th, we reviewed assessment data to identify program strengths and struggles and to plan for classroom instruction based on the information and data gathered. We were able to set our school improvement goals based on this data.

LITERACY: Through oral and written forms, 100% of students will improve their communication skills by clearly expressing and organizing their ideas and information by June 2012. Assessments will be measured at regular intervals determined by the teacher, using Ministry exemplars, OWA assessments and/or rubrics.

NUMERACY: 100% of teachers will engage students in differentiated problem solving opportunities to increase student critical thinking in mathematics. By June 2012, 100% of students will move up within a level or move up a level, as measured by their achievements on teacher prepared diagnostic, formative and summative assessments, as well as EQAO.

With the support of our great teaching staff, the continued home support and our community support, I know we can achieve those goals.

Our library is coming along beautifully! We have purchased some new comfortable seating for the children and we received our netbooks. We have just purchased several new titles in the library for children to read. The library is quickly becoming a great place for children to read, learn and use technology.

Tuesday November 1, 2011 is Scorecard Harry's night, I look forward to seeing Gracefield families there!

Yours in education,

Mrs. Lisa Doyle
Principal

"Sail with Pride"

SCORECARD HARRY NIGHT

Gracefield community night at Scorecard Harry's will continue 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 November is Tuesday, November 1st and the first Tuesday of December is Tuesday December 6th. Mark it on your calendars!

CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross Country team had an excellent season. We had a team of over 40 runners from our school participate in two area cross country meets. Particularly exciting was the amount of runners from our primary classes, who enthusiastically came out to practices and build stamina, as they practiced almost daily. Congratulations to Avery Atkins, Madeline Freeman-Coutts and Alanah Hilliard, who represented Gracefield at the DSBN Meet. Avery placed 8th in the Atom Division, while Madeline placed 30th. The team ended their season with a celebratory breakfast run, which ended at Rozie's Cafe, in Port Dalhousie. Looking forward to next season! Way to go Schooners. ~Miss Plat.

BOOK FAIR

We will be having a Book Fair during the week of November 14 – 18, and will need volunteers for set-up, sales and clean-up. This is a great opportunity to get some Christmas Shopping done! If you are able to help out please email Sonya Bolek at sbolek@cogeco.ca.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

On Friday, November 11, the Gracefield community will be commemorating Remembrance Day. Parents, grandparents and community members are cordially invited to the ceremony, to help us respectfully remember and reflect. Most students will be singing in choirs or participating in class presentations. We will once again be honouring veterans that are related to our students. Our ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. Let's not forget.

Port Dalhousie Remembrance Day Service

On Sunday, November 6th, a chorus of Gracefield students will be participating in the Port Dalhousie Legion Remembrance Day Service. What a great way to show our community that Gracefield students care about our veterans and want to respect and honour them. Students are expected to be at the branch across from Tim Horton's at 10 a.m. At 10:30, we will march in the parade with the veterans to the monument. The ceremony begins at 11 am. Our performance is at the end of the ceremony. The chorus will sing, "See With Your Heart".

Veteran Visit

On Friday, November 4, Vietnam war veteran, Brian Bowman, will be visiting Grade 1 – 8 students at Gracefield school. He will be meeting with groups of students in our library, in order to make age appropriate presentations. We look forward to having him visit our students and sharing his experiences. Mr. Bowman is also involved in organizing the Legion ceremony in Port Dalhousie and is looking forward to meeting our students.

Thank you to Miss Plat for organizing these events.



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 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**.

PROGRESS REPORT CARDS

Gracefield students will bring home a Progress Report on November 15th. This progress report is part of the Growing Success Document; the government's updated policy on the assessment, evaluation and reporting of student achievement. The purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning. On our school website, you will find a link to the pamphlet from the Ministry of Education, which can be a valuable resource for parents. Parents play a critical role in student achievement and it is important you have easy access to information about the Growing Success policy and its impact on the assessment, evaluation and reporting of student achievement. We encourage you to visit our website to view this document. If you do not have access to the internet, please call the school and we will send a copy home with your child. Parent teacher interviews for SK-8 students will be on Thursday, November 17th from 3:20 - 7:45 p.m. Please call Mrs. Pearce at the office to schedule your interview with the teacher.

BALANCED SCHOOL DAY

The balanced school day initiative was discussed at the last 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. This will be further discussed at our next GSAC meeting on November 22nd at 6:30pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

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.



BAG 2 SCHOOL

Our fundraiser brought in \$100 thanks for clearing out your closets for our school. We will be doing this again in April, so when you are finished with the winter clothes, bag them up and keep them for Gracefield.

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

MATH TIPS FOR PARENTS

Math can be a difficult subject for many students. Most children lose interest in mathematics, simply because they think it's too hard. Parents and teachers may find it difficult to motivate their students to complete their math assignments. Here are some suggestions to help your students in solving their math problems and overcome their fears:

1. Encourage Them!

You can improve your children's learning ability by providing them a positive environment. Many teachers look to encourage the efforts of their students. Children should be appreciated when they correctly solve their math problems. Keep your tone and attitude positive, since children can easily pick up signs of negativity.

2. Follow up on Homework

Parents must ensure that children understand their homework and this is made possible by having open communication with teachers. If the students are facing problems then the parents should contact the teachers and they can work on a solution together. Children will feel easy once they know what they have to do. Parents need to monitor the progress of their children to make sure that they are doing fine. They should encourage them for their good performance.

3. Demonstrate the use of Math

Parents can also use real life examples to teach math to their children. School going children can learn a lot from every day examples. Simply ask them to calculate the money you have to pay for tickets, next time you go out to the movies. Try multiplying the number of cars of two different colours.

4. Real Life Math

Explain to your children how they can use math to solve their problems. They should understand that math is not about using simple arithmetic skills like addition and subtraction; it is much more than that. Children can use their mathematics skills to solve every day problems. They can find out how many pieces of pizza you need to cut so that it can be shared in your family. Just go beyond the daily assignments and let your children explore the real world problems to improve their mathematics. This will show them the true value of math in their lives.

5. Get them to talk!

Encourage your kids to talk. Tell your child to solve their math problems by talking about the correct steps. This will allow you to monitor what he or she is thinking. You can detect the problem areas while your child is talking his way through the steps.

6. Everybody loves money.

You should teach your children money skills. Your kids can use fractions and percentages to find out how much savings they have made on a particular purchase. For example if your children went to a movie that costs \$30 and they have saved \$10, so in terms of fractions they have saved $\frac{1}{3}$ of the amount or 33%

7. Telling Time

Teach your children how to tell the accurate time. Use digital and analog clocks for this purpose. You can talk with them about, seconds, minutes, hours and days.

8. Make Math Games

Learning mathematics should be a fun activity for your children. You can combine math with various games to make it interesting for your children. Other effective methods of teaching involve use of flash cards that test the child's math skills to help him get better in mathematics.

9. Use Computers

You can increase your child's learning speed by using computers and various educational software. Today's children are much more familiar with computers than their parents were at the same age. There are many computer games that involve the use of math skills. Senior students may be interested to learn about spreadsheets and calendars to improve their mathematics.

10. Talk to Teachers

Parents and Teachers should communicate with each other on a frequent basis. They should assist the students in learning the proper mathematics skills. Parents can play an essential role in improving their children's performance by regularly communicating with the teachers. They can work with the teachers to solve their children's problems.

Congratulations to Logan K. who won our October Newsletter Draw!

GRACEFIELD'S HALLOWE'EN PARADE

In the afternoon of Monday October 31st, the students from SK to Grade 8 had a parade for parents and visitors at 1:00.

Our parade consisted of many scary and creative costumes.

After the parade, the children had participated in games and activities in classrooms and the grades 5-8 had a dance in the gym. The 7/8 class and student council members had put a lot of thought and effort in designing their event.

Thank you!



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



NOVEMBER 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 time is the Remembrance Day Assembly?

Any comments or questions?