



# GRACEFIELD SCHOONER

**October  
2011**

**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!*

The month of September was filled with warm weather and many warm greetings. Our team here at Gracefield would like to thank the parents, the community and the students for a great start this year! It was great to see so many families at our Meet the Teacher Open House. I know how busy everyone is, we really appreciate the time you took to come and meet the staff.

Our first School Advisory Council meeting was held on Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. We had a great turn out with the voting in of a new executive. Our new co-chairs are Laurie Lancaster ([lancasterl@cogeco.ca](mailto:lancasterl@cogeco.ca)) and Hollie White ([holliewhite@hotmail.com](mailto:holliewhite@hotmail.com)), Mrs Joanne Hill – Treasurer and Mrs Sue Dryczewycz – Secretary. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. All parent and community members are welcome to attend, free babysitting is available, please let one of us know if it is required.

Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> is a Professional Activity Day. All staff will be involved in workshops and professional development. We will be reviewing assessment data (ie. EQAO, class data) to identify program strengths and areas of growth in order to plan for classroom instruction and set our school direction based on the information we have gathered. Once we have determined our school direction and goals, we will share them with students, parents and the community in our November newsletter.

This month at our recognition assembly, we recognized students for being respectful along with an academic trait as chosen by the teacher. The month of October will focus on the trait of responsibility and every month will include an academic trait.

Staff at Gracefield would like to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend, one filled with great weather, good friends and lots of delicious turkey!

Yours in education,

Mrs. Lisa Doyle  
Principal

*"A Great Place to Learn"*

## GRACEFIELD SCHOOL COUNCIL

Gracefield School has enjoyed the participation of an active School Council. We look forward to the continued support of our parent community. Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings which are held the fourth Tuesday of every month.

### What we do:

We are an advisory council promoting a positive environment through recommendations and input enhancing student learning as responsible citizens. We act as liaisons among parents, guardians, administrators, teachers and children in the school community.

We sponsor additional programs not otherwise provided through the school funding and assist greatly around the school during special event days, hot lunch days and assisting in the classrooms and library.

### What we don't do:

We are not involved in the day to day operations of the school as directed by the DSBN.

Meetings are open to any parent, guardian or member of the community. If you wish to bring an idea or concern to council, please call the chair or the principal prior to the meeting to request being placed on the agenda. We are looking forward to a great year!

## DO YOU READ MAGAZINES?

We are going to be running a magazine subscription fund-raiser this fall. Our students are hoping to make the campaign very successful and your support is very much appreciated. Please save your magazine business for our school. Simply wait to **renew** your current magazine subscriptions, purchase **new** ones or send someone a **gift** through our campaign. The program is serviced by Canadian Community Reading Plan ([www.ccrp.ca](http://www.ccrp.ca)), a 100% owned and operated Canadian company. They have over 650 magazines to choose from and they guarantee low prices, product satisfaction and delivery. Our students benefit with a good portion of all sales staying with the school here in our community. Be sure and watch for the information that will come home with your child in October. Everyone involved would like to thank our community in advance for saving your subscriptions and making this campaign a great success!! **Our campaign will start on October 12<sup>th</sup> and end on October 26<sup>th</sup>.**



## TERRY FOX

Thank you, Gracefield Students and Families, for all the fundraising you did this past month for Terry Fox. As you learned in your classrooms, we raised over \$900.00 for the Terry Fox Foundation. The money you raised will help researchers find a cure for cancer as well as find ways to make living with cancer less painful. On our walk down Main Street on September 28th, you represented the school well and were both enthusiastic and respectful. Bravo! A big thank you to Mrs. Morris for organizing this and for the 7/8 Leadership teams for assisting with the money.

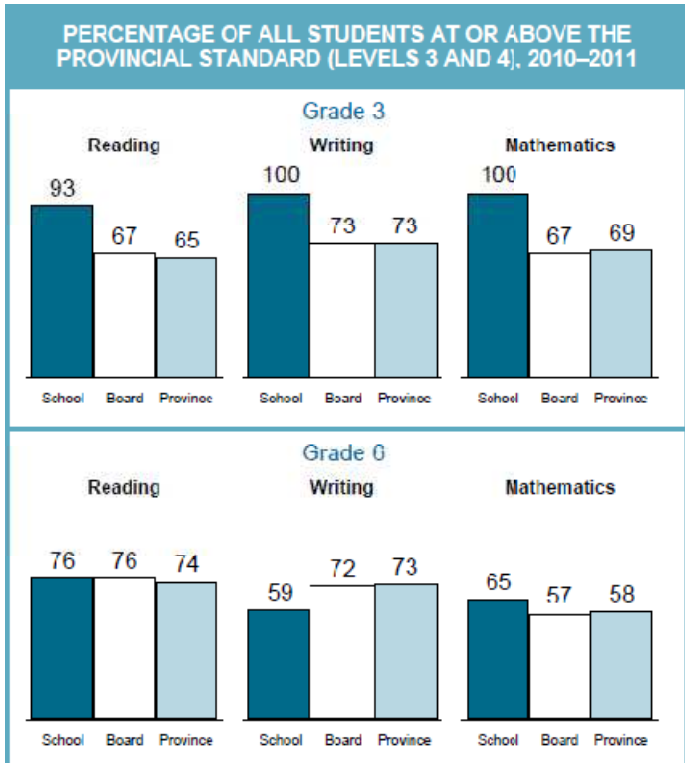
## SCORECARD HARRY NIGHT

**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 October is Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.**

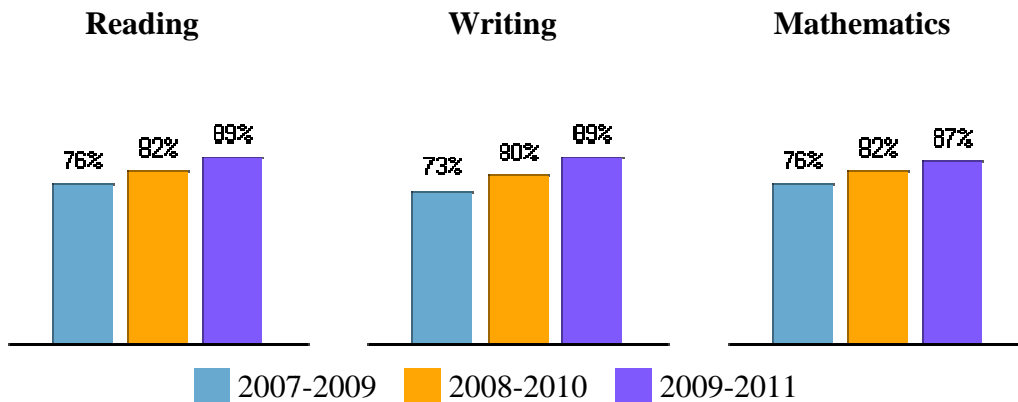
## CROSS COUNTRY

Our cross country team has been training very hard since the beginning of September. This dedicated group of runners will compete at two cross country meets: one on September 26<sup>th</sup> and one coming up on October 4<sup>th</sup>. They all participated with enthusiasm and were wonderful ambassadors for our school. Congratulations to all of our team members!

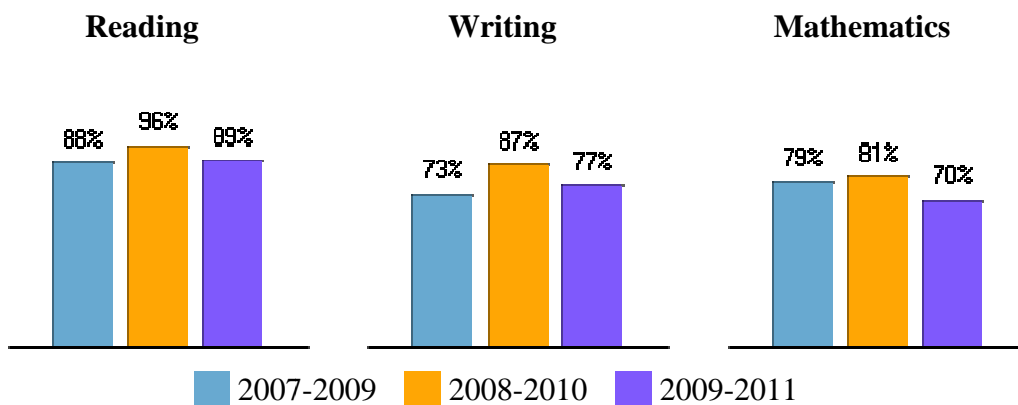
# GRACEFIELD SCHOOL'S 2010-2011 GRADE 3 & 6 EQAO RESULTS



**Percentage of All Grade 3 Students At or Above the Provincial Standard**



**Percentage of All Grade 6 Students At or Above the Provincial Standard**



For a detailed summary of our results, please go to the EQAO website at: [www.eqao.com](http://www.eqao.com).

**SCHOOL WEB SITE:** <http://Gracefield.dsbm.org>



## Halloween Safety

Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe.

- Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.
- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.
- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.
- You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.



*Congratulations to Jacob M. in 2/3  
who won our September Newsletter*

*Draw!*

## FAMILY HALLOWEEN PARTY

Come and have a spooktacular time with activities, games, trivia, music, creepy treats bake sale, costume & jack-o-lantern contests with prizes...and of course, our haunted hallway! On Friday, October 28 from 6:30-8:00pm at St. John's Church, 80 Main Street. Call Sonya Bolek at 905-935-8929 for more info.

# **Communication Matters**

*Smart Talk from your Board Speech-Language Pathologists*

## **Develop Word Meanings to Improve Your Child's Comprehension Skills**

Understanding word meanings is essential for comprehending and understanding what you are reading. However, vocabulary is a weak area for many students. Given a list of words to learn, many students will complete the task but may not actually learn what the words really mean in order to develop their spoken language and vocabulary knowledge. Developing vocabulary as part of knowledge structure requires more energy and focus than simply memorizing words.

Develop vocabulary by going beyond the 'label' and the 'spelling'.

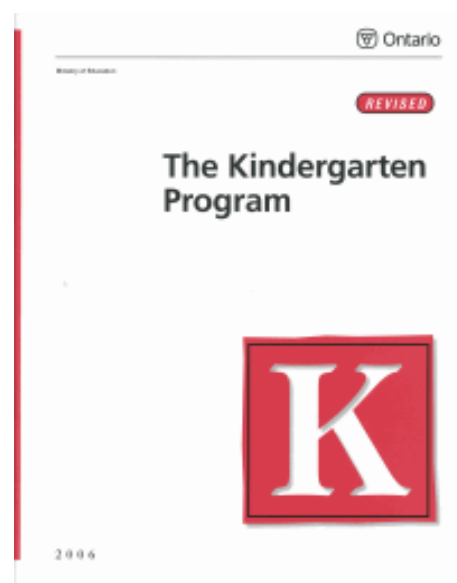
- Teach word synonyms (words that mean the same thing e.g. night, evening, dusk), antonyms or opposites (night and day), and multiple meaning words (e.g. block; a lego block, a city block, a building block). Also teach categories, classifications and associations between words (e.g. a shoe and sock go together -are associated; and belong in the clothing category as 'things you wear').
- Illustrate new words. Show pictures or video clips that demonstrate the meaning of a word. Help your child draw and label something illustrating the meaning of the word. "Flashcards" can be made more meaningful with pictures, as well.
- Play "vocabulary charades." Have your child draw a word from a hat and act it out.
- Play "find the word used in the real world". Help your child identify when he hears or sees a new vocabulary word being used in the real world - beyond the learning activities designed for school.

Check out the following web site for more ideas and fun ways to develop word meanings:

[www.enchantedlearning.com](http://www.enchantedlearning.com)

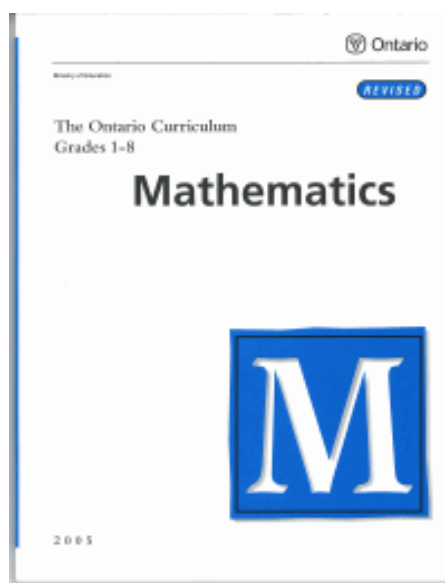
## Recommended Web Sites for Teachers, Students and Parents The Ontario Curriculum

### Kindergarten Curriculum



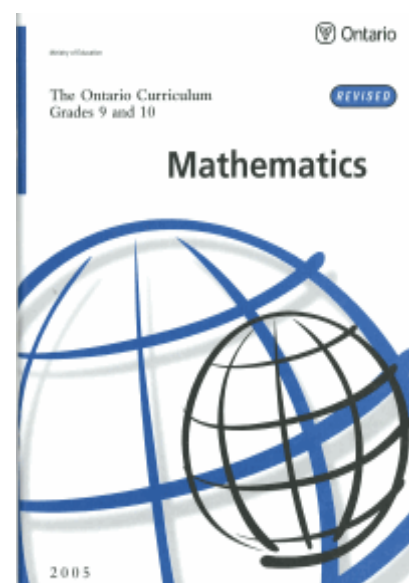
Ontario Program for Kindergarten, revised 2006

### Grades 1-8 Curriculum



Ontario Mathematics curriculum, revised 2005

### Grades 9-12 Curriculum



Ontario Mathematics curriculum, revised 2005-07

### Ministry Support Resources E-Workshop



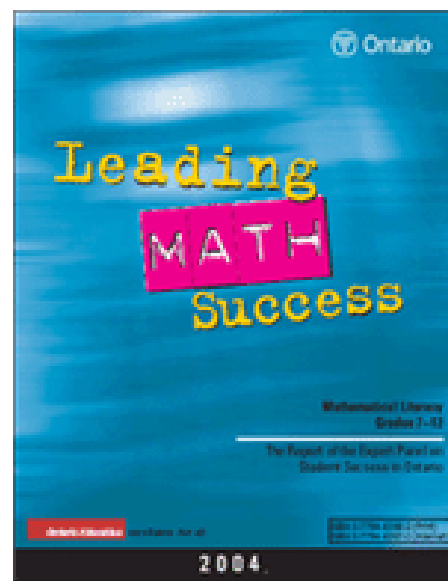
Ministry of Education warehouse for K-6 mathematics (includes the Guides to effective instruction for K-6)

### Impact Math



Rich activities for grade 7 and 8 (based on 1999 curriculum)

### Leading Math Success Expert Panel Report



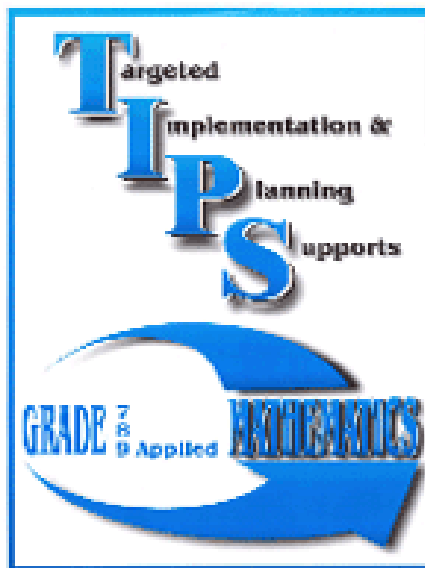
Research based guide to best teaching practise for Grades 7 - 12 Mathematics

## TIPS4RM



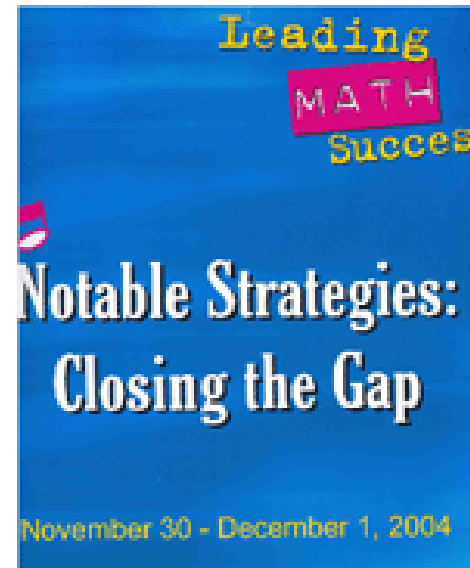
Leading Math Success Resource Library, including GSP sketches, various other good resources for grades 7-12 (based on 2005-07 curriculum)

## TIPS (vintage)



Original materials developed to support grades 7, 8, 9 & 10 Applied Mathematics, including lesson plans, developmental continua, and much more (based on 1999-2000)

## Notable Strategies



Lessons and activities that connect TIPS and Think Literacy, with a focus on Assessment for Learning and Differentiated Instruction

## Interactive Applets and Other Useful Tools

Web Site	What you will find there...
<a href="#">Library of Virtual Manipulatives</a>	Interactive games and learning objects for grades K-12
<a href="#">Create-a-graph</a>	Online graphing software with printing capability
<a href="#">aaa math</a>	K - 8 Games, puzzles, practice
<a href="#">Illuminations</a>	Interactive lesson ideas for teachers and student activities (part of NCTM)
<a href="#">Shodor</a>	A collection of interactive lesson ideas and simulations
<a href="#">LMS virtual manipulatives</a>	A set of links to virtual manipulatives and lesson ideas for usage
<a href="#">Mathfrog</a>	Collection of online activities for grades 4 - 6
<a href="#">Gizmos</a>	A collection of interactive simulations for math and science
<a href="#">Funbrain</a>	Math games and activities for students
<a href="#">Cool Math</a>	An amusement park of math activities and links
<a href="#">Ask Dr. Math</a>	Find answers to math questions you might have
<a href="#">Math Tools</a>	Library of technology tools, lessons and activities

To read our newsletter online, please go to the **SCHOOL WEB SITE:** <http://Gracefield.dsbk.org>



**OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DRAW**

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

Student Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

With regard to hot lunches, please rate the following: from **1 – no thanks.....to 5 – yes, let's do it again.**

Boston Pizza	1	2	3	4	5
Antipastos	1	2	3	4	5
Subs	1	2	3	4	5
Thyme Savers	1	2	3	4	5

Additional ideas are welcomed here: