



Briardale Public School

December 2011

Happy Holidays



From the Briardale Staff

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

December has arrived, and many of us now look to the holiday season. I know that this time of year is always a busy one for people as they prepare for ways to create wonderful memories. The same holds true for Briardale School, as we have a busy month ahead of us. Spirit day, our annual food drive for Community Care and our Christmas concert will keep our staff, students and many school volunteers hard at work throughout the month. I look forward to seeing the many visitors we are sure to have throughout December.

On behalf of the staff of Victoria School, I wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season and a great start to the New Year of 2012.

FOOD DRIVE FOR COMMUNITY CARE

December is a month when we try to remember those in need. Briardale School will once again be collecting non-perishable food items for Community Care. We welcome any donations that you are able to make to this important cause. Donations such as grocery store debit cards and unwrapped toys for children are also gratefully accepted. The last day of the food drive will be Friday, December 16th.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On November 11th we held our Remembrance Day Service. We all watched a very touching video called, "A Pittance of Time", and everyone did a great job of standing quietly for two minutes of silence. Thank you to Caira and Max for a great job as the MC's and thanks to the Grade 6 students who read "In Flanders Fields". It was a meaningful assembly for all. Thank you to the parents and family members who took the time to attend.



Thank you to Ms. Gammage and Ms. Hebert for their coordination of this important event.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Briardale Public School will present our Christmas concert on Wednesday Dec.14th. The

performance will begin at 7:00 p.m. We will open the doors for our audience at 6:40 p.m. The cost for admission to this production will be a donation for the Food Bank.

We will hold carol singing daily in the gym during the week of December 19 – 23. Please refer to the calendar for times and feel free to join in.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

The Girls Volleyball Team had an excellent season. Through many practices and dedication, the team finished in 5th place. The girls were a very competitive team and did a great job taking some tough sets during the season. They represented Briardale well! Thank you to Mrs. Ayotte and Mrs. Hanna for their excellent coaching. Team members were: Caira H, Kaelen P, Katie M, Taylor W, Gracie J, Emma T, Paige P., Sara A., Sydney W., Kielely P, Madeline W. Amaris A., Lichi C., Katie R.

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to all members of the boys volleyball team. You played a great season and demonstrated continued commitment and sportsmanship. You played well and worked on our specific team goals to improve each and every game we played. I am most proud of your work as a team, your commitment to practises and encouraging every athlete on our team to try their best, no matter the outcome. One major contribution to our team success was our ability to serve the ball. We have some great servers on this team. All players should be tremendously proud of their play and continue to try out and commit to other team sports this year at Briardale. I had a great season as your coach and I can't wait for Basketball. Members of the team include: Dylan, Max, Hashim, Josh, Andrew, Frank, Hawkin, Colby, Marshall, Ethan, Brendan, and Oreoluwa.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

We are experiencing significant congestion in our school parking lot at arrival and dismissal times. Now that the winter season has arrived, we would ask you to exercise extra caution and

ask that you please not park in the bus loading zones. Your child's safety is our most important



concern. A reminder also, if you are waiting in the parking lot, please do not keep your automobile running. We are a

No Idling Zone.

FROM THE LIBRARY

As many of you are aware, this month we are replacing the current shelving in the library with wooden shelving units purchased from IKEA. We are also installing a mounted SMART Board in the library to allow our students and teachers to have greater access to this technology. Many thanks go to the Briardale School Council for helping to fund these projects. Thanks also to Kelly Diiorio, Educational Media Support Consultant for DSNB, for her presentation on the current vision of libraries as "learning commons".

We will continue to focus on reorganizing and investing in the library, as future projects include the purchase of new work tables for the students and the replacement of the current chalkboard with a white board (less dust!). At this time there is no set plan to repaint the library.

The school library program, Destiny, is available from home. Simply go to the Briardale School website (<http://briardale.dsb.org/>) and click on the link for the Briardale Public School Library. Select Briardale from the list of elementary schools. Your child(ren) can login to Destiny just the same as at school. This is an easy way to see what books are available in our library, to login to Math Dreambox (grades JK – 4) or to check out ebooks.

Grades 1/2/3 trip to St. John's

On November 15th the grades 1/2 and 2/3 classes visited St. John's Conservation Area. The students enjoyed hiking through the woods, orienteering and even using binoculars to look for birds. The bumpy bus ride and roasting wieners and marshmallows over the fire were definite highlights! Thanks to the fantastic parent volunteers who helped to make this day a huge success!

GOOD NEWS ASSEMBLY

At our November Good News Assembly, the following students were recognized for their contributions to their classes and the school: Aidan E., Ellie W., Frank W., Adam M., Kieley P., Sarina L., Alexandra J., Laura W., Charlie E., Kyle F., Cayden S.

We will continue to recognize the great work and attitudes of our students at the December Good News Assembly on Friday, December 23th at 9:00 a.m.

PARENT TEACHER COUNCIL

Our Parent Teacher Council works very hard on your behalf to supplement school resources, co-ordinate extra-curricular events and learn about new initiatives that are happening at the board and school level. They will meet on Tuesday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. All parents are welcome.

SNOW / SNOWBALLS



To ensure the safety of students on our playground during the winter months, it is necessary for us to ban the throwing/ kicking of snow/ice. The students are constantly reminded of this rule during in-class discussions, at assemblies and over the morning announcements. Should it be found that a student has violated this rule, his/her name is recorded in the office and the appropriate consequence will be given. This may include suspension for repeat offenders who endanger the safety of other.



Please remind your children of these rules!

HOLIDAY MURALS

Our Gr. 1/2 and 2/3 classes were busy creating holiday murals that were put on display in downtown storefront windows in

preparation for the Santa Claus parade. Some murals have a Christmas theme while others have more of a winter theme. The children have really enjoyed working on these murals and are happy that they were used to brighten up downtown St. Catharines for the holiday season. They were displayed at Wally Wemnants on St. Paul St.

REMINDER

A reminder that winter break is Monday, December 26th to Friday, January 6th. The first day of school is Monday, January 9th, 2012.



Indoor Shoes...



Just a reminder that all students need a pair of indoor shoes to wear in the classroom and during gym.

This is a safety issue and it helps Ms. Sutton keep our school clean and shiny.

Kindergarten Open House

An Open House and registration for our future Bulldogs will be held on Thursday, January 27th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Children who will be 4 years of age before December 31st, 2012 are eligible to register for Junior Kindergarten for September 2012. We also will register any students for Senior Kindergarten if they have not attended Junior Kindergarten. **Students currently in Junior Kindergarten do not need to register for Senior Kindergarten.** In order to register for school, please bring the following information: birth certificate, proof of immunization and health card number. Please inform your friends and neighbours of the Kindergarten registration/open house date. We would like to register as many students as possible on this night. This assists us in our staffing matters.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

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



Grocery Cards

We have accepted an invitation to join with Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School to sell grocery cards to help raise funds for Briardale School. These cards are used exactly as debit or gift cards. The difference is that Briardale School will receive 4% of the money spent for these cards. We will have the cards ready to pick up at the Briardale School office starting December 1st between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. When your cards are empty, you will be able to purchase more from the school office. We plan to keep cards on hand so that you don't have to wait. Please make cheques payable to Briardale Public School. Thank you for your support.

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Boys Volleyball Championship & Consolation Games	2 Mrs. P's class Swimming	3
4	5	6 Parent Council Meeting 6 pm	7	8	9 Pizza Day Mrs. P's class swimming Grades 3/4, 5/6 Woodend	10
11	12	13	14 Winter Production 7 pm	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Good News Assembly 9 am Last Day of School	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Happy New Year

The New Woodend Website!

The Living Campus has a new website. To find out what's happening at Woodend The Living Campus and to Donate visit us at: www.DSBN.org/Woodend

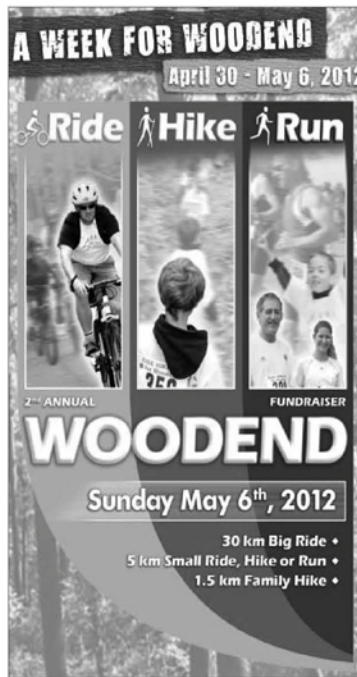


DSBN-ETFO Trivia Night!

ETFO Niagara is hosting a Trivia Night on February 10th with all proceeds going to The Living Campus. So, grab a team of 10, start honing your Trivia skills and join us for a night of fun and fundraising for The Living Campus! For more information visit DSBN.org/Woodend and click on the "Events" button.



A Week for Woodend... Come On Out and RIDE, HIKE or RUN!



Help us celebrate The Living Campus by participating in the *Week for Woodend* from April 30 - May 6, 2012. During this exciting week schools will be involved in fundraising activities to help raise awareness and funds for The Living Campus. The week will end with the 2nd Annual DSNB Ride-Hike-Run for Woodend on May 6th. **Online Registration Opens on January 12 at DSBN.org/Woodend.** More details to come. We hope to see everyone there!



Thank You TV Cogeco For Generously Supporting The Living Campus!

TV Cogeco was at the Living Campus last week to present DSNB Director Warren Hoshizaki, Chair of the Board Kevin Maves and Vice-Chair Dale Robinson with a cheque to help support the creation of The Living Campus. Thanks to support from our community partners The Living Campus will *Bring Learning to Life* for our students and community.

Welcome John McCall MacBain

A Huge Thank-you and welcome to the McCall MacBain Foundation, the newest members of The Living Campus' Founder's Club! Through their generous support we are one step closer to providing a new and innovative Outdoor, Environmental Education Centre for our students and community – *a real Living Campus!*



Support Us with Your Purchases!

Metafore and Acer have partnered with the DSNB to help us reach our fundraising goals! A portion of each Laptop or Tablet you purchase will go directly to The Living Campus, helping create a place for generations of students to come. Click the "Donate" button on DSBN.org/Woodend for more information and access to **metafore** IT Solutions. Delivered.

By supporting Woodend – The Living Campus you are providing children with a place that *Brings Learning to Life* by engaging them in hands-on learning and discovery through play. To find out how you can support the children of Niagara visit us on our website, on Facebook and our blog: