



THE ACADEMY TIMES

Elementary Administrator: Mrs. A. Grieve
Administrative Assistant: Mrs. P. Hayward

Secondary Administrator: Mrs. L. Nazar
Mrs. L. VanderMolen, Ms. C. Rees-Nelles

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We are hoping that spring is definitely here to stay, and with it a great assortment of activities, events, and news items. We continue to use Remind to text families upcoming events, as well as our automated calling and emailing. Please check our website for upcoming events. We had many terrific activities for students to participate in throughout April. Our students always shine when they leave our building to represent our school.

This past month we had an awesome Track and Field day for our Elementary students. The behaviour was fabulous of all participants, and we saw some true examples of perseverance and grit throughout the day. We are very proud of our students that demonstrated our CORE values through their participation, their encouragement of all competitors, their honesty in reporting results, volunteering their time to assist at events, and respecting the event coordinators. We would like to say a huge thank you to the faculty for their time to make this day run flawlessly.

We also had teams compete in DSBN badminton tournaments, and would like to thank Mr. Young for taking his time to coach our students, and to our players for representing DSBN Academy so well.

We had 4 intermediate students represent DSBN Academy at the Mathematics Olympiad. Our students had the opportunity to work as a team and as individuals through a variety of mathematics problems. They finished the day 15th out of 70 teams. Way to go!

At the end of March we, once again, hosted the DSBN Stacking tournament. We had numerous students compete and many have qualified to move on to the next level of competition.

Some of our upcoming events for May are Grade 10 overnight trip to Brock University, Grade 9 students heading to Camp Wanakita, Grade 7 students attending Niagara College through Destination College, MADD assembly for grade 7-12 students, Secondary Track and Field meets and Grade 6 EQAO.

EQAO DATES

What's Happening at DSBN Academy

May 3– Gr. 7-12 MADD assembly
May 4– Sec. Track, Elem. Brock Badminton Tournament
May 5– Uniform Buy out day for Special Olympics
May 8– Spirit Wear Shirt Day
May 9-10– Gr. 10s @ Brock U
May 10– Elem Regional Track
May 11– Sec. Track
May 15–17– Gr.9s @ Camp Wanakita
May 17– Gr. 7 Bake Sale fundraiser
May 18– Spirit wear shirt day
May 19– PD day
May 22– Victoria Day
May 23-June 2– EQAO
May 26– Alternate Dress Day
May 29- New Family orientation, Gr. 7s to Destination College



Parents and Guardians of Grade 6 students, please mark your calendars. EQAO testing will be held the weeks of **May 23rd to June 2nd**. You can support the school by ensuring that students are at school each day, on time and well rested. Booking doctor or dental appointments should be avoided for these days please. Students will be writing Language and Math assessments for that week and all teachers have scheduled rotary time around these testing expectations. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's teacher or call the school. Thank you!



School Climate Survey

The school climate survey is an opportunity for students and parents to provide information about their experience of school safety, acceptance, inclusion and well-being. It is a web-based survey that guarantees anonymity of the respondents. A summary of results will be reviewed for planning purposes.

Students will be completing the survey at school between May 1 –May 19. Parents are invited to visit our website for the link to our survey. The **elementary parent access code** is 6-WDN-179-A **Secondary parent access code** is 2-XPN-943-T

For more information on the survey please visit:

www.thelearningbar.com or www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/climate

Message from Public Health

Enjoy the many outdoor locations in Niagara that are smoke-free. In Niagara, all municipal and regional properties are smoke-free. This includes:

- Parks and playgrounds
- Sports and playing fields
- Splash pads and outdoor pools
- Arena properties
- Festivals and events on municipal and regional properties
- Properties such as city hall, libraries and recreation centres

All restaurant and bar patios are also smoke-free under the Smoke-free Ontario Act.

For more information or quit smoking support, contact the Tobacco Hotline at 905-688-8248, ext. 7393



I Matter as an Individual

(shares thoughts, viewpoints and experiences in a respectful, insightful way while acknowledging and respecting the beliefs of others)

**Kyden W
Jubilee H
Katie P
Jessica H
Brett P
Liam M
Emily D
Zach J
Shaelynn A
Starr**

I Matter as a Learner

(consistently/exceptionally exhibits critical thinking and/or a desire to learn and grow)

**Tanieka T
Albert T**

I Matter as a Community

Member

(seeks to make a positive impact in the classroom, school and community)

**Danielle M
Rachel M
Chloe K
Katelynn M
Justice W
Jessica Y
Olivia M
Aliya**



SCHOOL COUNCIL

SAVE THE DATE June 13, 2017

Our School Council will be hosting a year end BBQ from 5-6:30 pm, or all of our families. Come out to meet some of next year's teachers, your child's friends and family and for a chance to win some terrific door prizes. More information will be coming home soon.

Summer Heat 2017

The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to offer SUMMER HEAT, a primary Summer Learning Program, again this year. This learning program provides students entering JK to Grade 4 in September 2017, with 3 weeks (5 days a week) of literacy and numeracy learning experiences. The 2017 program will run from Monday July 10 to Friday July 28 from 8:15 to 12:15 daily. We are excited about being able to offer this amazing program to our families. Summer HEAT will be offered at the following sites:

St. Catharines - Edith Cavell, Connaught, Lincoln Centennial, Harriet Tubman
Beamsville– Senator Gibson
Welland - Diamond Trial, Princess Elizabeth
Niagara Falls - Simcoe Street, Valley Way
Port Colborne - De Witt Carter
Fort Erie Area - Peace Bridge
Ridgeway– John Brant
Thorold– Prince of Wales (S)



We look forward to providing a great summer program for DSBN

September's Closer Than You Think!

We're already looking ahead to the new school year and will soon begin the process of organizing next year's classes. In developing our new class structure, our goal is to ensure your children have an outstanding educational experience and the opportunity to develop lasting friendships with their classmates.

Much like a family, our classes work best when they include members of differing interests, abilities and perspectives. This gives students the opportunity to learn from and about each other. These experiences help to open students' minds to new ideas and new possibilities, allowing them to test limits and develop their true potential.

To do this, it's important for us to look at a number of factors, including:

Learning Style: We consider how students learn best and what kind of classroom environment will best support their needs.

Ability, Interests and Talents: All children are unique and have their own set of strengths and abilities. Having a grouping of students whose strengths complement each other will help enhance everyone's learning.

Relationships: We aim to create groups that allow for strong friendships to develop and an environment for effective learning.

Parent Input: As parents, you have a unique perspective on your children and their school experience. If you have any information that could help inform our decision please send it in to the office, in writing, attention to Andrea Grieve by June 2 2017.

Your input will be considered in relation to the criteria listed above.

Thanks for your support!



Solving Problems at Recess

Free and unstructured playtime offers many learning opportunities for children. The lessons learned here can often be carried through to many other of life's tricky situations. We are grateful for the trust you have placed in DSNB Academy staff to care for your child(ren) as they learn in this way. So how can we support our children to be independent in their problem solving? Here are a few tips that can help: **Allow your child to fail.** It hurts to see your child make mistakes, however, the most important lessons are learned through our mistakes. Unless your child is in physical danger, allow him/her to learn cause and effect. A skinned knee, although sad, is just a skinned knee. Your child will learn that the behavior that caused the skinned knee should be adjusted for future. **Allow your child to struggle.** Children learn through investigation. If you are constantly putting their puzzle together, they won't learn to do it themselves. They will have no reason to learn. Next time your child is struggling, allow him/her a few minutes of reasonable frustration before you give guidance. **Make suggestions.** Instead of fixing a problem, offer alternatives that your child can do to fix the problem. If they cannot reach a bowl on the counter, say you could ask your big brother to help you reach it, or get the stool out of the closet to reach it yourself. Give them options, and they will gradually learn that there are alternatives and choices to get out of a tough situation. **Be a sounding board.** When your child is struggling with a decision or action, allow him/her to talk to you about the struggle. Employ the previous practices. Allow them to fail, struggle and learn. You can make suggestions, but do not swoop in to fix everything immediately. **Be patient.** Allowing your children to problem solve can be frustrating. Sometimes we give in, not because we want to fix children's problems necessarily, but it's just easier and faster to fix the problem ourselves. While children need the opportunity to problem solve at school, staff are always watching to see what guidance can be given in order to support social success. The "Debug Strategies" are one way that we give gradual release of responsibility during problem solving.

The five De Bug Steps are simple.

The students are taught that if someone is bugging them, they should try the following:

- Step 1. *Ignore.* If that doesn't work...
- Step 2. *Move away.* If that doesn't work...
- Step 3. *Talk friendly.* If that doesn't work...
- Step 4. *Talk firmly.* If that doesn't work...
- Step 5. *Get adult help.*

