



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together



PARNALL PIRATE'S TREASURE

THE NEWSLETTER OF PARNALL PUBLIC SCHOOL

507 GENEVA ST., ST. CATHARINES, ON L2N 2H7 (905) 934-8348

MR. R. SALTER, PRINCIPAL

OCTOBER 2011

OPEN HOUSE / BARBEQUE



Thanks to all who attended our Open House/BBQ. It was a great opportunity to meet all of our staff. A great big thank you to our PTA for organizing the event! We would also like to thank Mark's No Frills for supplying us with the food and drink.

DEVELOPING IN YOUR CHILD THE SKILLS & HABITS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS



Helping children develop positive work habits is an important part of their learning. The six learning skills listed on the new progress reports and report cards are a key part of your child's success in school and in their work pursuits after school. In the classroom, teachers work with your child by explicitly teaching these learning skills. Throughout the school year, they provide opportunities to deepen your child's understanding of each skill, guide your child in setting goals for personal growth, and provide feedback about successes and next steps your child might take.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP THESE CRUCIAL LEARNING SKILLS AND WORK HABITS?

RESPONSIBILITY

Students are responsible for fulfilling commitments, completing assignments on time and managing their own behaviour.

Help your child learn to plan ahead by asking questions such as, "What do you need to pack for school tomorrow?"

ORGANIZATION

Students develop and follow a plan and process for completing work and achieving goals. Students complete tasks by identifying, gathering, evaluating and using information, technology, and resources.

Track your child's assignments and activities on a wall calendar. Children benefit from visual reminders.

INDEPENDENT WORK

Students develop independence by following instructions, monitoring progress, assessing and revising plans. Class time is used effectively to complete tasks and meet goals with minimal supervision.

Involve your child in making age-appropriate decisions, such as healthy food choices for their lunches and picking out their own clothes.

COLLABORATION

Students share information and fulfill various roles within a group to achieve goals. The group works together to solve problems while respecting the ideas and opinions of the other group members.

Play interactive games to practise sharing and taking turns.

INITIATIVE

Students seek new ideas and opportunities for learning. The student willingly takes risks and demonstrates a positive attitude while respecting the rights of self and others.

Promote your child's interests and support them by providing them with related experiences such as a nature walk or a trip to the library.

SELF-REGULATION

Students set and monitor individual goals based on strengths, needs and interests. Appropriate learning opportunities are identified and the student perseveres to achieve these goals.

Encourage your child to set goals of personal interest. Help them to make a plan to achieve their goal such as earning/saving enough money to purchase a desired item.

PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE AND KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE

Now that our students are familiar with our school and know how to get to their classrooms, please help promote their independence by allowing students to walk to their classrooms by themselves. **For safety reasons, it is essential that we are aware of every adult in the building. Every non-staff member adult in the building during school hours must wear a visitor's pass, as per our school safety plan.** Please drop off and pick up your child outside. If you would like to see your child's teacher, please call to make an appointment. If you are volunteering during the day (which we truly appreciate), please sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's pass.

GROWING SUCCESS: ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

The primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning.

The following seven fundamental principles lay the foundation for rich and challenging practice. When these principles are fully understood and observed by all teachers, they will guide the collection of meaningful information that will help inform

instructional decisions, promote student engagement, and improve student learning.

The Seven Fundamental Principles

To ensure that assessment, evaluation, and reporting are valid and reliable, and that they lead to the improvement of learning for all students, teacher use practices and procedures that:

- are fair, transparent, and equitable for all students;
- support all students, including those with special education needs, those who are learning the language of instruction (English or French), and those who are First Nation, Métis, or Inuit;
- are carefully planned to relate to the curriculum expectations and learning goals and, as much as possible, to the interests, learning styles and preferences, needs, and experiences of all students;
- are communicated clearly to students and parents at the beginning of the school year or course and at other appropriate points throughout the school year or course;
- are ongoing, varied in nature, and administered over a period of time to provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate the full range of their learning;
- provide ongoing descriptive feedback that is clear, specific, meaningful, and timely to support improved learning and achievement;
- develop students' self-assessment skills to enable them to assess their own learning, set specific goals, and plan next steps for their learning.

(Ontario Ministry of Education, *Growing Success*, p.6)

We know that parents have an important role to play in supporting student learning. Studies show that students perform better in school if their parents or guardians are involved in their education. This is the basis for the principle that students and parents should be kept fully informed about the student's progress. Our schools have procedures in place to ensure that parents are aware of the expectations for their child in the various grades. At any time throughout the year, parents/guardians are invited to communicate with the school about their child's progress and achievement.

RESEARCHING SAFELY ON COMPUTERS



All schools within the District School Board of Niagara have safe and student-friendly search engines for use at school. "Student Link", which is available to all students, is a tool that connects students of all grades to curriculum content, activities and research data bases that are monitored and appropriate. We encourage our students to use only these safe tools while at school. Through Student Link, students may access "safe search tools" and then click on "ONE KEY", which connects them to a safe version of Google. Also, students may access "The Learning Gateway", click on "For Students" and then select from a variety of other tools: Ebsco Research, Thomson Gale Research, encyclopedias, dictionaries, public library information and more. Student Link can be accessed from home computers.

BICYCLES



With the start of school bringing kids out on bikes, please be aware of Parnall's policy for bicycles. Students must wear a bicycle helmet, *walk* their bicycle on and off school property and lock it securely in the school bicycle racks. All personal property is the responsibility of the student. All students should understand and obey the rules of the road and practice safe cycling behaviour. FYI - The Niagara Regional Police recommends that only students in grades 4-6 be allowed to ride their bicycles to school.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL



Staff members are not permitted to administer medication to students without a written request by parents and a physician's authorization indicating the name, dosage, frequency, time and method of administration of the drug. Only medications in their original labelled containers are acceptable. This practice is in accordance with District School Board of Niagara policy. Forms are available at the office. For safety reasons, please do not send any medication to school in the hands of your child.

CUSTODY/ACCESS ISSUES

If there are any issues concerning the custody of your child(ren), please contact the school every year to advise us of the circumstances and to provide us with the appropriate documentation.

CO-ED SOCCER TEAM



The Parnall Soccer team is off to a great start this year. Teamwork, sportsmanship, and dedication is being demonstrated by all. Thank you to all the students and parents who have come out to cheer for our team! We are looking forward to a great season. Go Pirates!

Congratulations to the following students who represent Parnall this year: Kaitlyne Brady, Ashley Brady, Michael Mazzarella, Abbey Jarrett, Mackenzie Morningstar, Oscar Rivas, Noah Jeffery, Spencer Stone, Devon Copeland, Jacquelyn Campbell, Breanna Harvey, Zach Morningstar, Jakob Cuttler, Matthew Jackson, Jakob Strobridge, Morgan Pagnotta, and Jessica Stewart.

PICTURE RE-TAKES



Picture retakes will be taken on Wednesday, November 2, 2011.

EQAO

The following information depicts the percentage of Grade 3 and 6 students who are achieving at or above the provincial standard in the EQAO testing in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics which was conducted in May and June 2011.

Staff will be meeting on October 7th, to develop plans of action to improve student achievement. If you have any questions about the following EQAO summary, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

How do parents make the best use of the results?
The best thing to do with your child's EQAO results is to discuss them with his/her teacher. Together you can review how the EQAO results compare with those from classroom and other evaluations. You can also discuss the broader issue of your child's overall progress and how you can offer additional support to your child at home.

Note: Overall Grade 3 and 6 achievement percentage at levels 3 and 4

GRADE 3

AREA	PARNALL	BOARD	PROVINCE
READING	74	67	65
WRITING	74	73	73
MATH	74	67	69

GRADE 6

AREA	PARNALL	BOARD	PROVINCE
READING	77	76	74
WRITING	75	72	73
MATH	69	57	58

NEWS FROM THE LEARNING COMMONS

We are pleased to announce that your families have digital access from home to the Parnall School library catalogue, 24/7. By connecting to the following website, <http://destiny.dsbns.edu.on.ca> OR <http://destiny.dsbns.org> and clicking on our school name, you will have full access to the resources available in our library. Students are able to view the entire library collection, along with a brief synopsis of every resource as well as personal checkouts. E Book information coming next month! In addition, Destiny Quest (with personal logins Grade 2-6) will allow you to easily find the newest library purchases and a list of the Top Ten most popular materials among library patrons. On the home page, even without a login, there are some great links for accessing authors and series, attractions, public libraries, reading programs, on-line reading and great sites for mathematics, literacy and doing research. A copy of passwords needed for research sites will be sent home with the students since this is exclusive to DSBNS families. We hope that you will find DSBNS Destiny Library Manager to be helpful when completing assignments or when exploring library materials. This is just one more way that we are achieving success together through access to our school library collections and educational websites! Staff and students will all be trained this month!

Enjoy and Keep Reading!
Mrs. Cornelius



THE CAN TAB CHALLENGE IS BACK...



After a VERY successful collection last year, the Parnall CAN TAB Challenge is back for 2011/2012 school year.

The goal this year is to collect more than the 131 lbs that our Pirates collected in 2010/2011.

The class, which collects the most CAN TABS by Earth Day, will receive a surprise "CAN-TABULOUS" treat.

The ECO Club will be using the money received from recycling the CAN TABS, for garden mulch or other "greening" of the school property.

Any CAN TABS found on beverages, pet food and soup (etc) containers are acceptable.

Don't forget to ask your Family & Friends to save theirs for you too!

Have FUN and GOOD LUCK!



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.

SEPTEMBER SUPERSTARS



1-1 – Mr. Pickett

Orlin Chowdhury
Abraham Werner

2-1 – Mrs. Hughes

Ashley Allan
Eliza Mouradikian

3-2 – Mrs. Cogswell

Tyler Gearing
Logan Newbigging

4/5 – Mrs. Tallman

Nick Allan
Alexia Filipov
Kailey Harvey
Erika Hawman-Mitchinson
Jason Zimmerman
Dalton White
Thomas Coles
Noah Jeffery

6-1 – Mrs. Coveney

Rachel Anderson-Fancy
Samantha Arseneau
Kamryn Christensen
Steven Filipov
Sierra Mast
Zach Morningstar
Lillian Ranucci
Devon Copeland
Lucas Sibbard

PARNALL SCIENCE FAIR



Parnall will once again be holding a Science Fair! This year, we will be holding the fair on **Thursday, February 2, 2012.**

Please consider supporting your child's scientific curiosity by allowing him/her to participate in this fair. Permission to participate is due to Mrs. Coveney by **Tuesday, October 18th, 2011.**

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

All students wishing to sign up for instrumental music lessons, please get your registration forms in as soon as possible. Instruments are going fast!



RESPECT WINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER

1-1 Joel Magueta

1/2 Hunter Sedore, Emma Roberts

2-1 Connor Wilson, Madison Tyler

3-1 Skylar Stone, Liam Panici

3-2 Danny Lewis, Laci Shute

4-1 Macie Eke, Rob Williamson, Taylor Locke

4/5 Ashley Brady, Matthew Brisebois

5/6 Ethan VanZalen, Jessica Felice

6-1 Emma Birnie, Troy Holowchuk, Mackenzie Morningstar, Kiera Townsley

SESN Rowan Gallant

GLEE CLUB



Junior Glee Club meets each **Thursday** at lunch. All are welcome to join! Please see Mrs. Coveney if you have not yet signed up.

CROSS COUNTRY UPDATE



The Parnall Cross Country Team completed a great season with their 2nd run at Burgoyne Woods. Many students showed great improvement in their standings. Congratulations to our finalists:

Atom Boys: Thomas Coles

PeeWee Girls: Jacqueline Campbell, Breanna Harvey, Morgan Pagnotta

PeeWee Boys: Zach Morningstar, Devon Copeland, Michael Payne, Noah Jeffery, Josiah Esau

Students who finished in the top 20 for one or both of the races at Burgoyne Woods are: Danielle Jackson, Alexia Filipov, Kailey Harvey, Dalton White, Christopher Richardson and Lucas Sibbard.

A special congratulations to the following students who improved considerably in the second race: Jared Dyck, Cole Morningstar, Laci Shute, Abigail Janzen, Dante Kellar, Tyler Snure, Nicholas Allan, Alexia Filipov, Kailey Harvey, Erika Hawman-Mitchinson, Dalton White, Jason Zimmerman, Taylor White, Abbey Jarrett, Morgan Pagnotta, and Troy Holowchuk.