

# Steele Street Buzz

Mr. M. Piazza, Principal

Dear Parents,

*On behalf of the staff here at Steele Street, we hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday. As much as we enjoy the time off with family and friends, we look forward to more wonderful things in 2017 at Steele Street.*

*As we return to school, we will be encouraging students to regain their focus and put forth their best efforts. We will continue to work on developing a positive growth mindset. Parents can help by checking your child's organizer daily, checking their assignments and working together at home.*

*It was wonderful to see the amazing food/toy donations collected for Port Cares and the fantastic turnout for The Scrooge show. We want the communication to continue. Please feel free to call the school if you have any questions or want any updates!*

## Student Safety

Student safety at school is our **number one** priority. To safeguard all students and staff, a number of measures have been implemented at Steele Street School:

- All doors to the school remain locked during school hours.
- Guests at the front door must buzz the office for entry.
- All visitors to the school must come through the front door and sign in at the podium outside the office.
- All visitors must come into the office and speak with Mrs. Pahowski or Mr. Piazza regarding your visit.

-Visitors and volunteers are asked to wear a Visitor/Volunteer Badge while at school.

-Parents or returning students should wait at the office for their child between 8:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.

We are working to develop our student's independence especially at entrance and exit times. We are asking that you drop off your children at the door with their teachers so they can enter the school in the morning. We ask that you wait outside the doors at the end of the day at dismissal as well. If your child is late, we are asking that you drop them at the office and allow them to get to class independently. We hope you will help us create a safe environment that is conducive to learning.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or see Mr. Piazza in the school office

## Port Cares - A Huge Success!!

December was once again an incredible month for giving at Steele Street School. Early on in the month students were challenged to bring in non-perishable food items, toys and Canadian Tire money to donate to Port Cares. When all was said and done students donated close to \$5,700 to Port Cares. Way to go Stingers!! You truly made a difference in our community!

## We are Counting Down to Kindergarten!

Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2017.

Going to school for the first time is a major step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the 'Kindergarten Countdown' open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

Please stay tuned for further information for our Welcome to Kindergarten Open House on Thursday, February 2nd, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. til 6:00 p.m.

## School Council



At our last School Council meeting, we discussed several important ideas including our upcoming chocolate bar fundraiser and family community nights. Our next Parent Council meeting will be on Tuesday Jan. 31st at 6:00 p.m. If you have any questions about this meeting or future meetings, please contact the school.

## French Immersion Registration

The French Immersion program (offered at McKay Public School) is open to all students in Senior Kindergarten. If you want your child to develop high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer.

Features of the French Immersion program:

- Develops French language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing from Grades one to twelve;
- Designed to be a second-language program for children whose first language is **NOT** French;
- Current enrolment of over 2,000 elementary students;
- Certificate of French Immersion Studies awarded upon successful completion of the elementary and secondary immersion programs;
- Promotes understanding of different cultures;
- Provides additional opportunities for employment using French as the working language;
- Increases the ability to communicate and interact with confidence in French.

**Registration will open January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.**

For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit [www.dsbni.org/fi](http://www.dsbni.org/fi) or speak to your school principal.

**A Parent Information evening will be held on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:00 PM at McKay Public School.**

### Students of the Month



Each month, the staff at Steele Street recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in a particular area. Our winners for the month of December were: Matthew Richardson, Dylan Coers, Preston Fraser, Riley Cornish,

Geoffrey Jensen, Zack Perry, Cameron Emburgh, Kalan Napper, Jake Spoehr, Brooke Bodner, Malakai Turner, Lucas Bell, Elliott Fraipont, Seth Chamberlain, Cohen Labrie, Colten Mills, Haydan Jennings, Amelia Ingram, Caleb Dayboll, Avery Catchpaw, Sam Tonelli, Kieran Hawkins, Jack Lacelle Our next Recognition Assembly will be on Tuesday, January 31st at 1:50 p.m.

### Coaches' Corner How do students use Oral Language in Mathematics?

The classroom in which mathematics is taught through problem solving provides a rich context for the application of oral language expectations. Teaching through problem solving and the use of related instructional strategies — such as math congress and bansho — supports effective learning in mathematics. In this instructional setting, students are expected to problem solve, reason and prove, reflect, connect, represent, and communicate. When students are: given well-constructed problems at their instructional level; permitted to grapple with other students to find solutions; and encouraged to share their oral and written strategies and justifications, the components of oral language are addressed. Many thinking skills and instructional strategies (higher order questioning, think/pair/share, making connections, identifying relationships) that underpin an effective oral language program also promote conceptual understanding and skill acquisition in mathematics.

### Parent Library Resources

In our school, we encourage the process of continuous learning for our staff and parent community in the interest of student success. To support this philosophy, a variety of resources have been purchased by the school and will be available for parents to borrow at any time. Some of the topics of these resources will include:

supporting children in their reading development, engaging reluctant readers, eating disorders, coping with bullying, how to handle behaviour concerns with your child, understanding attention deficit hyperactive disorder, understanding obsessive compulsive disorder, supporting children with communication disorders, strategies to support children with learning difficulties. If any of these topics are of interest to you, please contact the school by stopping in, through a phone call or by sending a note to your child's teacher and a relevant resource will be sent home for you to borrow. Please look for details to come home in the near future regarding the titles available and the opening of the lending library.

### Family Literacy Day

Family Literacy Day is a national initiative that promotes the importance of reading and learning together as a family. Family Literacy Day is being celebrated this year on **Friday, January 27.**

### It's Getting Cold!!!

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal. When making this decision, principals will often consult with neighboring schools, talk with parents as they arrive in the morning,

and if the decision to send children outside is made, will equip yard duty staff with walkie-talkies so that they can communicate with the office to sound the bells to bring students in earlier.

The health and well-being of our students is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region are often good indicators that students will stay inside.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

Try to send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending on the weather.

- Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.
- Warm socks and boots will keep their feet warm and dry in the snow and slush.
- Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep students from losing too much of that essential body heat.
- Put on a good pair of gloves or mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website [dsbn.org](http://dsbn.org), or contact the principal.

During inclement weather school closure decisions will be made by the District School Board of Niagara in consultation with the weather department. Radio stations will be notified before school administration. For that reason you are advised to listen to the following radio stations prior to 7:00 AM for announcements regarding school closures. **AM Radio Stations: CKTB 610, CJRN 710, CHSC 1220 FM Radio Stations: CHRE 105.7, CHOW 91.7, CHTZ 97.7, CFLZ 105.1**

### From the desk of Mrs. Pahowski

Parents are reminded to please call the school prior to 8:40am if your son/daughter will be absent or has an appointment first thing in the morning!



### Agenda Items

Please keep informed by reading your child's agenda for any upcoming classroom/school news! Your child's agenda is an important organizational tool that will assist with communication between home and school.

### From your School Nurse

Anyone can get head lice. Check for head lice weekly as part of your regular routine. The best way to avoid the spread of lice is by avoiding head-to-head contact. Remind your children not to share combs, brushes, hats, scarves or anything used on the head.

### Checking for lice

- Use a bright light (a magnifying glass may help)
- Part hair in small sections and look near the scalp
- Head lice are tiny grey/brown insects that live only on the scalp of humans. They crawl quickly but cannot fly or jump. Adult female lice glue eggs on the hair shaft close to the scalp.

### If you find lice

- Check all the people that live in your house
- Treat all cases at the same time to stop the spread of lice
- Inform the school and/or daycare so classmates can be checked
- Tell anyone in close contact with your child (family members, friends, baby-sitters)

### Getting rid of lice

Treatment products are to be used only on those who have head lice, as they do not prevent lice. Talk to a health professional about products and methods available. Follow instructions carefully. The Wet Combing Method helps find and remove head lice by combing through hair soaked with conditioner, using a fine-toothed comb. For more information on Wet Combing Method or on lice visit:

[www.niagararegion.ca/health](http://www.niagararegion.ca/health) search lice or

call the Parent Talk Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7555

### Calendar Reminder

Check the calendar for a list of most activities.



### How Can Parents Encourage a Growth Mindset?

As parents, we want to raise confident and successful children. One of the best ways to do this is to foster a growth mindset from an early age. How can you do this? Here are some tips:

**-Spend time each day talking to your child and offering emotional support. Kids who have a good support system are better able to**

cope with stress, and more likely to step outside of their comfort zone. A strong family bond will help your child when they are out in the world.

-Let your child know that it is okay to fail sometimes, and that this happens to everyone. Failure is a chance to improve and do better next time. Encourage your child to give their best effort, and help them understand that their failure should not be a cause of shame or an indication of their value as a person.

-Encourage your child to work hard and try again, eventually, for most things, they will become more proficient and maybe even master the skill or task at hand, and they will be more confident as a result.

-Praise your child often. When you praise your child, this will increase their [self esteem](#) and give them confidence, which will in turn encourage them to try new things and continue to grow as a person. When you offer praise because your child or teen has put in a lot of time

or effort to reach a goal, then your kids will continue to try harder.

-Challenge your children continuously, without pushing them too hard. Encourage your kids to try new things, especially if they feel that they are not good at them. Practice may not quite make perfect, but it certainly may, or at least will give your child or teen a sense of accomplishment as they experience person.

### **NEWSLETTER DRAW:**

Please sign and return this section to indicate that you have read the *Steele Street Buzz*. One returned slip will be chosen randomly. That student will receive a free pizza lunch.

The \_\_\_\_\_ family has read the *Steele Street Buzz*.

Student(s) Names

Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this slip by Friday, January 13, 2017**

YOU & YOUR CHILD ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A

# KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, February 2, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



During your visit you will:

- See a Kindergarten classroom
- Meet the Kindergarten Team
- Register for school
- Get a fun goodie bag with learning resources

**JUST  
WATCH ME!**  
KINDERGARTEN AT THE DSBN

*Children who will be turning 4 before  
December 31, 2017 are eligible to start  
Kindergarten in September 2017.*



**I Matter  
At DSBN**