

# Steele Street Buzz

Mr. M. Piazza, Principal

Dear Parents,

*On behalf of the staff here at Steele Street, we hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday with family and friends. As much as we enjoy the time, we look forward to more wonderful things in 2020 at Steele Street.*

*As we begin 2020, we will be encouraging students to regain their focus and put forth their best effort. We will work on improving student's ability to problem solve (think critically and creatively) and communicate their thinking so they can increase their sense of well-being and resilience, both academically and socially. Parents can help by checking your child's organizer daily, checking their assignments and working together at home.*

*Once again it was wonderful to see the amazing food/toy donations collected for Port Cares and the fantastic turnout for our holiday concerts.*

## 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. Serabian 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 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 over \$4,000 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 2020.

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 Kindergarten Kickstart Open House on Thursday, January 30th, 2020 from 10:00 a.m. til 6:00 p.m.

## School Council



At our last School Council meeting, we discussed Progress Reports, our February STEAMfest and upcoming fundraising opportunities. Our next Parent Council meeting will be on Tuesday Jan. 28th 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.

**An information night will be held at McKay on Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (McKay School at 5:30 p.m.)**

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

### 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: Marco Villela, Thomas Cox, Dylan Spoehr, Addison Grano, Anouk Echlin, Cohen Labrie, Tegan Brown, Madison Upshon, Cameron Hockley, Lily Braet, Claire Grabell, Orianna Stevens, Maddie Catchpaw, Cadence Seredine, Kelsey Coers, Malakai Turner, Isabelle Foster, Avery Catchpaw, Charlie Benner, Matthew Walton, Hazel Caldwell, Samantha Cornish, Madison Bell and Gwenn Porter. Our next Recognition Assembly will be on Friday, January 31st at 11:25 a.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

### Steele Street Buzz

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 **Monday, January 27**.

### It's 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, 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. Serabian**

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.



