

Steele Street Buzz

Mr. M. Piazza, Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Even though springtime is here and the end of the year is in sight, we are excited how hard our students have been working. If you should have any concerns about your child's progress, particularly regarding promotion please call your child's teacher or contact the office.

The staff at Steele Street continues to work extremely hard and we expect the same from all our students. In addition to regular duties, you'll see the teachers attending many inservice sessions. These include implementing numeracy programs, preparing for the EQAO assessment and many others.

Education Week and Earth Day will be happening in the DSBN during the month. Please drop by and visit our school to see how we truly are Achieving Success Together.



School Council

Our School Council had a very busy March. They planned and set up our Book Fair and Family Movie Night. At our monthly School Council meeting the group discussed a variety of topics such as Gr. 3 and 6 Mid Year Assessments, Year End Trips and new fundraising ideas. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 23rd at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Student Safety

As mentioned in the March newsletter 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.

- if your child has an appointment during the school day, or becomes ill at school, students must be picked up at the Main Office and released to an adult. We do this for student safety reasons and to adhere to the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standards in the Education Act.

We are working to develop our student's independence especially at entrance and exit times. When you arrive at the school with your child we would like you to help them check in at the office and then let them make their way to class on their own or walked down by one of our staff members. 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.

Staff Updates

We would like to welcome Mrs. P. Serabian to the Stinger community. Mrs. Serabian will be the new Administrative Assistant here at the school now that Mrs. Pahowski has retired. Mrs. Serabian is excited to start this new chapter in her career! Please stop in the office and welcome her to our Steele Street family.

Volunteer Tea

Volunteers play a huge part in our ability to run a variety of programs and activities for the students in our school. Volunteers at our school this year have donated time and energy as helpers on school trips and in classrooms, they have also worked in our Reading and Parents Program, helped in the library, volunteered time in our Book Fairs, driven students to sporting or club related events (i.e. school teams and drama), participated in School Council and assist with Track and Field.

On behalf of the administration, staff and students, we would like to express our gratitude to our many volunteers. To demonstrate our thanks, we are holding a Volunteer Appreciation on Wednesday, May 8th. If you have volunteered time at our school this year, please call the school office and let us know if you will be joining us for this celebration. We look forward to seeing our volunteers out at this

event so we are able to share our appreciation with them once again in person!

Grade 8 Graduation

Arrangements for our Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony are underway. The Graduation ceremony will take place on Monday, June 24th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the PCHS auditorium. More information will come home with students during the month of May. Also, a reminder that Grad photos will take place on April 3rd in the morning. Details and ordering information has been sent home with your graduate.



Port Colborne High School Connections

Over the next few weeks our students and their families will have the opportunity to connect with the high school on some exciting events. On April 17th, our grade 4/5 class will be headed over to the high school for the annual Bear Cub/Fit Club day. This is an afternoon of fitness, fun and food. On April 24th, our grade 7s and 8s and their families will be enjoying a Pasta Dinner at PCHS. Finally, on Thursday, April 25th, our grade 7s and 8s are invited to join the grade 9s over at the high school for a Dance Party at 6:30. More details on these initiatives will come home with those students involved.

Coach's Corner Spatial Reasoning Consider the following examples...

You are planting trees in a straight path of your backyard. You plant a tree and then every 10 metres along the path plant another. If the path is 40 metres, how many trees will you need to plant?

Now ask yourself: what skills do I need to solve the problem? What do

I see or visualize helping me in solving the problem?

What is Spatial Reasoning?

Spatial thinking, or reasoning, involves understanding and remembering the location and movement of objects and ourselves, either mentally or physically, in space. There are a number of sub skills and concepts that are interrelated among each other. It also includes being able to show and communicate thinking in a variety of ways.

Visualization is the ability to see images in your mind and to remember what you see when it is out of view (visual memory). Spatial Visualization involves using our imagination to rotate, change, create, organize, and retrieve mental images. Both of these concepts are important in the development of spatial reasoning.

Why is Spatial Reasoning Important?

Research has shown strength in spatial reasoning abilities is related to success in mathematics. Spatial Reasoning, although it is an important part of geometry, is a process that enhances learning and communication across all math strands and all grades.

Thank you for your continued support at home.

How Can Parents Support Student Achievement?

What we say and do in our daily lives can help our children to develop positive attitudes toward school and learning and to build confidence in themselves as learners. Showing our children that we both value education and use it in our daily lives provides them with powerful models and contributes greatly to their success in school.

Parents can demonstrate interest in their child's education by:

- having conversations with their children about their school day by asking open ended questions that require more than a one-word answer;
- attending school events such as parent/teacher conferences, parent workshops and community nights;
- reading your child's agenda;
- volunteering at the school or on field trips;
- supporting fundraising efforts;
- talking to your child's teacher;
- ensuring that your child completes homework assignments.

By showing interest in their children's education, parents and families can spark enthusiasm in them and lead them to a very important understanding - that learning can be enjoyable as well as rewarding and is well worth the effort required!

Nutrition Break Reminders

Just a few reminders as we head into the last few months of school. We have a number of students in our school that have severe allergies. We are asking that you avoid the following items in your child's lunch/snack: **eggs, nuts/tree nuts, peanut butter, shellfish, avocado, sesame seeds, hummus and tahini.** Please ensure you read the labels before sending a snack with your child. Also, when you or your child are packing their lunch bag, please avoid bringing/sending plastic knives in the lunch bag. Any food that requires cutting should be done at home. We appreciate your attention to these matters. If you have any questions about these student safety issues, please contact Mr. Piazza.

Absences / Lates

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



Students of the Month

Each month, the staff at Steele Street recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in a area. Our winners for the month of March were: Brandon Loyst, Madelyn Schwartz, Ashley Ker, Caleb Grover, Tasker Brown, Nova McIvor, James Wroblowski, Liam Jolley, Cole Istok, Elle Gosnay, Cohen Labrie, Ava Rigby, Joshua Wakefield, Julian Mulley, Aquiline Puthur Johnson, Jaxon Yellow, Ally Emmons, Dylan Barrett, Luke Wakefield, Hunter Bastien, Sophia Graham, Carter Namtzu, Lidia Roach, Jacen Garbutt, Emma Rodrigue and Marley Pybus Please join us for next recognition assembly on Tuesday, April 30th at 11:20 a.m.



April Showers

April showers bring May flowers. They can also bring some confusion to school routines.

We all expect some rain during the spring. **Please dress your children appropriately for the weather!** We will attempt to allow students outside during as many Nutrition Breaks as possible. If there is heavier rain, the following procedures will be followed:

At 8:30 a.m. – students will be allowed in the hallway/gym using their normal entry door. They will be directed to their classes by a teacher on duty, or their classroom teacher.

Nutritional Breaks – students remain in their classrooms and are involved in suitable quiet activities.

Communication Matters

Smart Talk from your Board Speech-Language Pathologists

Use TV as a Language - Learning Tool

According to the U.S. Department of Education (2005), by the time children begin Kindergarten, they have watched about 4,000 hours of television! The statistics for Canadian children are comparable. With this in mind, it is important to help children get the most out of their TV watching time.

Choose programs that are appropriate for your child's age. Remember, children often imitate what they see on TV.

Select programs that are about what your children are learning in class. This will reinforce learning and/or provide them with background knowledge that will help them to learn. If the information is on TV, it must be important!

After selecting appropriate programs, let children decide which ones they may want to watch. Turn on the TV when the program starts. Turn it off when the program is over.

When possible, watch TV with your children. Have them tell you when they hear a new word. Tell them what the word means or look it up in the dictionary together. Make a list of these words and encourage family members to use them during dinner or when riding in the car.

Leave the room briefly during the program and ask your children to 'fill

you in' when you return. Can they clearly provide this information? If not, ask them questions about what you missed to help them identify the important details.

Sometimes, watch TV as a family just to relax. Talk about what you are watching and why you like or dislike the show, the characters, etc.

Remember, balance watching TV with other enjoyable activities. Some experts recommend that children limit their TV watching to 2 hours or less each day. Keep a record of how much TV your children watch, or better yet have the children do it. See how your family matches up!

Healthy Eating for Less \$\$\$... It's a Plan!

Eating healthy foods is one of the best things you can do for yourself and your family every day. When you eat well, you feel better. You have more energy. And you lower your risk of heart disease, diabetes and some types of cancer.

One of the best ways to make sure you eat well is to **plan** your meals ahead of time.

Budget Tips for Planning Meals

Think about healthy recipes you like. Look at grocery flyers and newspaper ads and plan some of your meals around things you like that are on sale, or seasonally less expensive.

Build the main part of your meal from rice, noodles or other grains. Choose whole grain products more often.

Use small amounts of meat, poultry, fish or eggs, and make sure you include some vegetables. For example, you can make a healthy casserole by mixing rice, vegetables and a small amount of meat or beans. Add grated cheese and you have all the food groups covered!

Add variety by trying new recipes. For example, if you normally make mashed potatoes, try baking them or making potato salad instead.

Save time and money by planning for leftovers. For example, if you're cooking chicken on Monday, plan to use the leftovers in a stir fry, a casserole or in sandwiches on Tuesday. You can also freeze leftover meats and use them later in soups or stews.

When you have extra time, cook in larger batches. If you find ground beef on sale and can afford the extra cost, make an extra big pot of chili or spaghetti sauce. Have some for dinner one night and divide the rest into meal-sized portions to freeze for later.

Plan for healthy snacks as well as healthy meals. Fresh fruits in season, raw vegetables, cheese, popcorn, crackers and whole wheat bread all make good, healthy snacks. They're also more affordable than candy or potato chips.

Plan for school lunches. Think of things to pack. Include fruits such as apples and bananas and vegetables like celery or carrots and other produce in season. Dinner leftovers (like pizzas and burritos) also make easy lunches.

For information about what produce is available seasonally, check out the Availability Guide on the Foodland Ontario web site: www.foodland.gov.on.ca

Adapted from *Healthy Eating Cheap and Easy*, BC Ministry of Health Planning.

Newsletter Draw

Congratulations to the winners of our March Newsletter draw. Don't forget to return the slip below by Monday, April 9th.

Smoking on School Property– Reminder

A law prohibiting Ontarians from smoking in motor vehicles with passengers under 16 came into effect on **January 21, 2009**.

Under the law, a driver or passenger smoking in a motor vehicle, while someone else under the age of 16 is present, is committing an offence, and can be fined up to \$250. Second-hand smoke in motor vehicles can be up to 27 times more concentrated than in a smoker's home.

Children exposed to second-hand smoke are more likely to suffer Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma.

Second-hand smoke can also influence a child's ability to reason and understand and can negatively impact behaviour and attention span.

April is Oral Health Month

Although preventable, cavities are the most common chronic disease of children aged 6 to 19 years. Cavities lead to difficulties sleeping, decreased school attendance, pain, discomfort, and infection. Fluoride is not added into our water supply. Therefore, it is recommended that all residents brush their teeth twice daily with fluoridated toothpaste to prevent cavities.

- Children three to six years of age should be assisted with brushing their teeth by an adult using a pea-sized portion of fluoridated toothpaste until they can tie their own shoe laces.
- Regular flossing is the single most important thing you can do to prevent gum disease. Most children will need help flossing until they are about 8 to 10 years old.

Niagara Region Public Health has two programs to assist children and

youth with no insurance in getting the dental health care they need. For more information, please call the Public Health Dental Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399.

Calendar Reminder

Check the calendar for a list of most activities.



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. This lucky student will win free pizza lunch!

The _____ family has read the Steele Street Buzz.
Student(s) Names Teacher



Parent Signature: _____

Please return this page by Monday, April 8th, 2019