

Steele Street Buzz

Mr. M. Piazza, Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are a few weeks into our second term at Steele Street. This is an excellent time of the year to reflect on student achievement.

Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have concerns about their child's academic or social progress.

Steele Street staff and students wore pink on February 26th to bring attention to bullying. We continue to work as a community to stop bullying by teaching our students strategies to use and supporting them when issues arise. See more about how the Pink Shirt Day initiative started later in the newsletter.

Our Kindergarten Open House was a big success. We continue to accept registration at the office during regular office hours. If you know anyone that has not registered their child, please direct them to the Steele Street office. Registrations can also be done online.

March is a short month at school but there are a lot of events planned please check out the March Calendar.



Student Safety

Student safety at school is a top 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 former 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. 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.

Make Change for Children

The Education Foundation of Niagara is the DSBN charity and all funds raised go directly back to our students for program enhancements and poverty relief. The Poverty and Emergency Relief Fund supports the extraordinary, emergency, personal and school related needs of individual students brought about by financial hardship.

Since 2008 over 3000 DSBN students have been assisted with more than \$65,000 in support.

We all know at least one of these children.... torn windbreaker that is worn as a jacket throughout winter, worn shoes, no lunch, absent from every field trip. And, all too often, a tragedy touches one of our students by the way of fire, illness, or death in the family.

Email efn@dsbn.edu.on.ca or visit www.efnonline.ca for more information on how they support our youth. We will be running a variety of events during the week of March 30th thru April 3rd to support this important initiative. Details will be coming home with your child soon!

Pink Shirt Day

Bullying is an issue in schools, workplaces, homes, and over the Internet. On February 26, 2020 the staff and students came together to raise awareness on these issues. Teachers organized various classroom activities to address bullying. We are hopeful that our students now have some of the tools needed to stand up against bullies and step in when they see it happening.

Our Stinger colours turned from yellow and black, to a sea of pink to symbolize that we as a school community will not tolerate bullying anywhere. We wish we could take credit for this idea but it comes from two incredible Nova Scotia high school students. Here is a snippet of the Globe & Mail article which inspired us:

“David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied [for wearing a pink shirt] ...[They] took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school. ‘I learned that two people can come up with an idea, run with it, and it can do wonders,’ says Mr. Price, 17, who organized the pink protest. ‘Finally, someone stood up for a weaker kid.’ So Mr. Shepherd and some others headed off to a discount store and bought 50 pink tank tops. They sent out message to schoolmates that night, and the next morning they hauled the shirts to school in a plastic bag. As they stood in the foyer handing out the shirts, the bullied boy walked in. His face spoke volumes. ‘It looked like a huge weight was lifted off his shoulders,’ Mr. Price recalled. The bullies were never heard from again.”

Thank you Stingers for taking a stand today and every day.

Chocolate Bar Fund Raiser

Our chocolate bar fundraiser is winding down. We would like to thank all of families that sold chocolate or made generous donations to our fundraiser. This fundraiser will give us the opportunity to raise funds so we can support student learning in and out of the classroom. Students will have until March 9th to sell as many bars as possible. There are a number of draw prizes, as well as, a prize for our top seller and top selling class.



Coaches Corner

Helping Your Child Learn to "Read Between the Lines"

Understanding what one reads requires the reader to figure out (infer) information that is not directly stated in the text. Making inferences is the ability to draw conclusions by making connections between what is stated in the text and the reader's own knowledge. Many times an author will imply a message without directly stating it. A reader is required to "read between the lines" and interpret the message that is not directly stated. It cannot be positively proven by the details given by the writer. For example, sometimes the main topic of a text may not be directly stated. A reader must look for clues and make an educated guess based on prior knowledge. This is called **making an inference**.

The reader's own knowledge is based on personal experiences and prior reading. Asking questions and using prior knowledge can help a reader better understand a text's meaning. Proficient readers examine the information presented and problem-solve as they read to gain more from the text than what is stated on the page. Making inferences is an important skill that will impact a reader's comprehension.

How You Can Help Your Child at Home

- * Use riddles and jokes
- * Read a nonfiction book together with your child. When finished, ask your child higher level, open-ended questions about what you read.
- * Help your child make connections between the illustrations and the text.
- * Help your child see cause-and-effect relationships. Ask: "What

might happen if...?" or "What caused this result?"

* When your child does not understand a reading assignment, encourage him or her to ask questions to help clarify understanding.

* Expose your child to many different experiences to build personal knowledge.



Grad 8 Graduation Photo Day and Graduation Date

Grad photo day will be on Thursday, April 3rd at 9 a.m. A reminder note will come home with students prior to the day.

Grade 8 graduation night will take place on Wednesday, June 17th in the Port Colborne High School Auditorium. More detailed information will come home well before this special date.

Mad Science Club

Mad Science, the world's leading provider of educational and entertaining science programs for children is coming to Steele Street Public School! They will be getting kids excited about science with fun, entertaining and exciting activities and demonstrations.

On Feb. 28th students and teachers were thrilled when Mad Science came to the school to do a Spectacular Science show. The assembly was educational, entertaining and also the kickoff to the Mad Science Club. The Club is a 6-week science enrichment program offered to the students. Students who join the Science Club will go on a voyage of discovery designed to support the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum. The topics will be different this year than when Mad Science was last at the school. The Club will take place on Thursday, Mar 24, 31, Apr 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 3:25 pm - 4:25 pm.

TRY AT HOME SCIENCE ACTIVITY - ZOOM BALL

Materials:

- Two 1 litre plastic pop bottles
- Scissors
- Optional: Coloured construction paper
- Masking tape
- Ribbons
- Two plastic ring six pack holders
- Two 2.4 metre strings • An adult helper

1. Ask your adult helper to cut the bottoms off of the two plastic pop bottles.
2. Fit the bottles together so there is a neck on either end. Tape the bottles together to form a football shape.
3. Cover the bottles with construction paper and ribbon if you want to decorate your zoom ball.
5. Take the six-pack holders and cut the rings apart to make four two-loop handles.
4. Thread the two strings through the bottles. 6. Tie a set of handles to the ends of each string.
7. Get at friend and you are ready to play. Each player holds onto two handles and pulls on the strings until they are tight. Slide the zoom ball to one end. When it is at your end snap your hands apart to send the zoom ball back to your friend. To catch the zoom ball, keep your hands together.

EXPLANATION:

The pushing action of the strings sets the zoom ball in motion. When the zoom ball reaches the other end of the strings, an opposite pushing action, your friend snapping the strings, stops the ball for a moment and then sends it in the reverse direction.

Calendar Reminder

Check the calendar for a list of most activities.



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!



