

Senator Gibson Gazette



Mrs. A. Grieve, Principal
Mr. Phil Stephenson, Vice-Principal

From the Office...

Dear Parents,

February is an exciting month here at Senator Gibson! Not only are there a number of activities to look forward to, but also February 9th is the 100th day of school this year. It is also the day that report cards go home. Wow! What a day to look forward to!

One of the big activities for this month is on February 15th when we will be combining our much anticipated Dance-a-thon with Valentine's Day celebrations. Last year's Dance-a-thon proved to be very successful and we anticipate that this year's Dance-a-thon will be even better! Not only will the students have a great time at the dance, they will continue to enjoy their day with classroom Valentine parties! The monies raised through this fundraiser will be used to supplement field trips and purchase new technology equipment. Please help your child with their "Pledge-a-lope" that will come home shortly.

Report cards go home on the 9th. Be sure to look at it with your child(ren) and encourage them to continue to strive to always do their best. Lastly, Family Day is on Monday, February 20th. School will be closed as we encourage everyone to take time to appreciate the members in each of our families.



NEXT SAC MEETING:

Monday, Feb. 13th

@ 6 pm



Family Day at District School Board of Niagara

Remember that the 20th of February is the statutory holiday known as **Family Day**. This day was created for the purpose of emphasizing and celebrating the importance of families taking time to be together. Please be advised that schools will be closed that day. We wish you and your family an enjoyable day on February 20th.

Family Day
Monday, February 20th

Basketball Season

The 2011-2012 intermediate girls' and boys' basketball season began in January. Our teams are working hard and representing the school well in all games. Play-offs are still to come.



Our boy's team is coached by Mrs. Holtby. The members of our boy's team are: Owen D, Alex S, Chase C, Carter C, Zac C, Dakota W, Ben G, Trevor D, Kyle O, Darrin T, Aaron M

The girl's team is coached by Mrs. Lewis. The members of our girl's team are: Olivia R, Bailey S, Julie D, Sabrina E, Jenna D, Chelsea B, Jayme B, Linda D, Amber M, and Jessica T.

Kindergarten Countdown

5 Visit www.dsbni.edu.on.ca or call 905-641-1550

4 Go to February Open House

3 Register at school

2 Attend Kindergarten Orientation

1 Get ready for first day

Blast off to school!



Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31, 2012 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

Going to school for the first time is a big step for children and their parents. At the DSBNI, 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.

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, February 2, 2012** from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit www.dsbni.org and click on "Kindergarten" for all the details!

Can't make the open house? No problem! Call the school at 905-563-7431 and we would be happy to set up an appointment to register your child.

Recognition Award Winners

Congratulations go out to our January's Caring and Academic winners.

Academic:

- ELP1 – Jimmy C
- ELP2 – Abby B
- ELP3 – Aiden A
- ELP4 – Kaleb D
- Gr. 1K – Conner S
- Gr. 1S – Kyra S
- Gr. 1V – Brady K
- Gr. 1/2 – Natalee L
- Gr. 2 – Hayden C
- Gr. 2/3 – Liam W
- Gr. 3C – Siera S
- Gr. 3R – Justin B
- Gr. 4 – Damian D
- Gr. 4/5 – Joy R
- Gr. 5 – Eric L
- Gr. 5/6 – Andrew H
- Gr. 6 – Dylan C
- Gr. 7/8D – Hayley P
- Gr. 7P – Chris C
- Gr. 8R – Olivia R
- Gr. 8L – Arnie C
- Mrs. Finlay – Robert D



Character Trait - Caring:

- ELP1 – Chasen A
- ELP2 – Yousef E
- ELP 3 – Sadie L
- ELP 4 – Willow V
- Gr. 1K– Elijah T
- Gr. 1S – Amelia M
- Gr. 1V – Sydney M
- Gr. 1/2 – Evan L
- Gr. 2 – Esther L
- Gr. 2/3 – Marin G
- Gr. 3C – Davy W
- Gr. 3R – Aria H
- Gr. 4 – Davina C
- Gr. 4/5 – Issaic M
- Gr. 5 – Lexus H
- Gr. 5/6 – Stacy K
- Gr. 6 – Cordelia M
- Gr. 7P – Trevor D
- Gr. 7/8D – Amy H
- Gr. 8R – Jacob M
- Gr. 8L – Chelsea B
- Mrs. Pitre – Elias D, Lauren H
- Mrs. Finlay- Shannon S

February's Character Trait is Optimism

OVER MARCH BREAK!!!!

INTRODUCING: "The BANANAGINS"
(Musical Entertainment and Shenanigans for Children)

Sandie & Frankie are thrilled to be teaming together, and are excited to bring sheer fun, energy, giggles and lots of banana fun music to your event! In fact, they've gone bananas.....Bananagins that is! Meet **Banana's the monkey!**

His silly antics will have you peeling with laughter! Come and check out the fun over March Break at the Wellness Complex!



SHOWTIME: Thursday, March 15, 2012 @ 11:00AM at the Welland Community Wellness Complex in the Theatre

TICKETS: Call 905-735-1700 ext 4000 \$1 for ages 14 & under, \$2 for ages 15 and above

Book Fair!!!

Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to Senator Gibson Public School. The fair will be open for students to view the books and other items on Tuesday, Feb. 28th. Purchasing may begin on Wednesday, Feb. 29th until Friday, March 2nd.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to purchase some fantastic books that will enhance the joy of reading at home as well as at school. A percentage of sales from the fair will result in a credit toward putting books in our own school library. It is a win - win situation for everyone.



We are again looking for volunteers to help, please call the school and speak to Mr. Stephenson if you are available to give some of your time.

Inclement Weather

During the winter months when the weather conditions are very poor, please listen to one of the following radio stations for information regarding school closures or bus cancellations:

- CKTB (610 AM) CHAM (820 AM)**
- CHML (900 AM) CHTZ (97.7 FM)**
- CHRE (105.7 FM) CKEY (105.1FM)**

Please do not call the school. The radio stations are notified before the school and our lines must remain free for emergency purposes.

The Board will call the radio stations prior to the 7:00a.m. news report. Unless otherwise advised by the media, schools will remain open when buses are cancel



Dance-a-thon



On **Wednesday, February 15th** we will be having a Dance-a-thon. Every classroom will have the opportunity to dance in the gym with a professional DJ playing some of their favourite tunes. This will be our school fundraiser so we are asking for everyone to get involved. Every student will be



Dancing Queen

bringing a pledge-a-lope home with them to help collect pledges. More information will be coming home as the event comes closer. This will be combined with classroom Valentine's parties.



Building and Supporting Your Child's Literacy through play

Playing games that encourage literacy and numeracy - such as board games, card games and word games - is a great way for parents and children to practice their literacy skills and have fun. Here is a collection of ideas to celebrate your child's literacy learning:

Find a word of the day website and try to get each family member to use the word of the day as many ways and times as they can. Have a family use contest to see how many times your family can use the word of the day today.

Find out about the world- look at [Google Maps](#). You can get directions, find restaurants, look at satellite and road maps of your destination and all points in between.

Go to a quote of the day website and print off a copy of the day's quote. Discuss what this quote means with your family. Keep track of 'quotable' things that your family members say and make your own family quote book.

Let your child help you make dinner tonight. This includes: planning the menu, reading the recipes, setting the table, helping to serve and cleaning up.

Start a journal of family activities. Include pictures in the journal that have been drawn or taken with a camera.

Visit a library or book mobile and choose books to read. Make sure that your child is able to read the text independently. Have your child show you the 'five finger rule.'

Create an acrostic poem. Put your family name vertically down the left hand side of a sheet of paper. Use

each letter to describe your family. (e.g. T- talented)

Share books. Read part of a book you are reading to your child and then have her read her book to you.

Compare the two books. What are the similarities and differences? Create a family story today. Write the first sentence and then pass it on to the next family member. This person writes the next sentence and passes it on. You can start the story at breakfast and continue to pass it on throughout the day. Share the story with everyone at supper.

Have your child draw a picture of a favourite outdoor activity. Then, go outside and do it!

Does your child want a special privilege; have a friend sleep over or an allowance? Have her write a persuasive letter to you. Discuss the letter with your child and reach a decision.

Give your child a journal. The journal can be used for fiction and non-fiction purposes and may include drawings too. The dollar store is a great place to find inexpensive journal type books.

Read a good book. Relate the book to an experience that your family will have or has had and make your child responsible for sharing the information with the rest of the family. e.g. book on soccer to help everyone brush up on the rules before you have a game at your family reunion, travel book on somewhere you plan to visit, a how to book on something that you will be making at your home....

Visit the website of a favourite author or illustrator to learn more about them. Then try creating one of your own books to pattern from a book or illustrator that you like.

Let your child start a conversation and then follow their lead by responding with interest about their chosen topic. This dialogue

encourages children to converse more is associated with children's later academic success.

Read non-fiction books about various, interesting topics. Encourage your child to ask questions and discuss what was read. Discuss any new vocabulary learned and encourage this use of those words in other situations.

Instead of using "everyday" words, use rare words that mean the same thing. Rather than talking of a siren being "loud", introduce more sophisticated words such as "deafening" or "ear-splitting".

Make up a story together. Begin with a story starter such as "Once upon a time..." and take turns adding to the story until it's done!

Encourage children to think about how others might feel and what they might do. E.g. "How would you feel if you lost your special teddy bear? What could you do to try and find it?"

Make up a new verse to a favourite song.

Go on a scavenger hunt to find items that begin with certain letters. You can extend this activity to find items that have the "long a" sound or items that end in "ing".

Write clues for a family treasure hunt.

Draw names from a hat. That person will be your secret pal. For a week or 2, secretly do something nice for that person by writing notes, making a card or writing a poem and leave it where they will find it!

Find a big word in a dictionary. Write it on a piece of paper and see how many small words your family can find in it.

Cut out words from magazines and paste together to make sentences or even a story!

Turn down the sound and read the closed caption on T.V.

Tell or write your own jokes!