

Senator Gibson Gazette



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

From the Office...

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that March is already upon us, and with it comes the promise of spring and a week long break from school.

Also, March brings a wide variety of temperatures and sometimes wet weather. Please ensure your children are dressed warmly as we go outside three times during the day. It is important that students have something dry to put on their feet while indoors.

As always, we welcome parent volunteers in the building to assist with students or to maintain the library. Please let us know if you can help!

Please remember, for the safety and security of all students, parents are required to check in at the office and wear a visitor lanyard when in the hallways. Thank you in advance for helping us with this.

Kindergarten Registration

Even though February is the month designated for Kindergarten registrations, we will continue to accept registrations in the office. Please feel free to drop in any Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. We look forward to meeting you!!

Book Fair!!!

During the first week of March, on Wednesday, March 2nd to Friday, March 4th, Senator Gibson Public School will be hosting a Book Fair.

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.



Students will view the books on Tuesday and will bring a wish list home to you for purchasing on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. **The book fair will be open until 4:00 on Wednesday and Thursday closing at noon on Friday.** If you are able to help for any portion of the book fair please contact Mr. Stephenson at the office.

Bowling for Kids Sake (to support Big Brothers / Big Sisters)

On Wednesday March 30th, students at Senator Gibson who have returned permission and pledge sheets will be participating in a Wii bowling tournament.



"Bowl For Kids Sake" event.

All monies raised will support the Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Learners in Action at the DSBN Road Race

Don't give up on those New Year's resolutions just yet! The 2011 DSBN Road Race takes place on Sunday, April 17th at the DSBN Education Center. You can be a 'Learner in Action' and help your community at the same time. All proceeds go to support programs in DSBN schools through the Education Foundation of Niagara and Niagara Nutrition Partners.



The Road Race is a fun family activity that promotes a healthy lifestyle. In addition to the 1 km fun run and the 5 km road race, there will be a BBQ and a fun fair. Participation and volunteer forms will be available in our office. You can also visit www.efnonline.ca for more information and links to the participation forms.

March Break
Monday, March 14th
through
Friday, March 18th

Robotics and Tech Challenge Team

Congratulations to our junior and intermediate students who participated in the DSBN Robotics and Tech challenges. We are very proud of all of our competitors as they represented Senator Gibson so well.

Recognition Award Winners

Congratulations go out to February's Perseverance and Academic winners. Please join us on March 3 at 1 pm to congratulate these students.

Academic:

ELP1 – Sam H, Erika T
 ELP2 – Emerson C, Emily D
 ELP 3 – Brianna D, Aidan T
 ELP 4 – Julia R, Kyra S
 Gr. 1K – Avery O
 Gr. 1C – Hannah V
 Gr. 1/2 – Gavin K
 Gr. 2 – Jessica E
 Gr. 2/3 – Emma Lee S
 Gr. 3W – Davina C
 Gr. 3S – Josh W
 Gr. 3/4 – Noah H
 Gr. 4R – Devin S
 Gr. 4K – Serena H
 Gr. 5 – Jocelynn L
 Gr. 5/6 – Josh S
 Gr. 6 – Madison J
 Gr. 7D – Linda D
 Gr. 7P – Aaron M
 Gr. 8R – Zach W
 Gr. 8L – Alyssa S
 Mrs. Finlay- Vicki N

Character Trait -Perseverance:

ELP1 – Jesse R, Branden W
 ELP2 – Carter M-B, Jacob S
 ELP 3 – Denzell C, Braden P
 ELP 4 – Mohammad E, Kyle T
 Gr. 1K– Holly I
 Gr. 1C – Hayden C
 Gr. 1/2 – Olivia H
 Gr. 2 – Alex M
 Gr. 2/3– Jordan S
 Gr. 3W – Nathan A
 Gr. 3S – Kaitlyn S
 Gr. 3/4 – Shannon G
 Gr. 4R – Justin L
 Gr. 4K – Daniel D
 Gr. 5 – Shyann H
 Gr. 5/6 – Genele C
 Gr. 6 – Virginia T
 Gr. 7D – Carter C
 Gr. 7P – Owen d
 Gr. 8R – Stephanie B
 Gr. 8L – Josh P, Shelby C
 Mrs. Pitre – Fiona M-P, Kali S
 Mrs. Finlay- Caleb C

**March's Character Trait is
 Courage**

Lost and Found

Our lost and found items will be organized and sorted soon. They will be spread out on tables just outside the gym. Students will have opportunities to check out the tables to see if any item belongs to them. All remaining items will be donated to Community Care before March Break.

Basketball Season

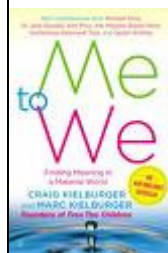
The junior girls and boys have been busy on the courts getting ready for their basketball season. Their regular season will begin after March Break. Both teams are looking forward to an exciting season. Go Gators!

Thank you to Ms. Holtby, Ms. Chambers, Mrs. Capron, and Mr. Rivett, for giving their time to coach.



'Me To We' Hat Day for EFN

On Friday February 25th, students at Senator Gibson brought in a toonie to wear their hat at school all day long! The money raised went towards the Poverty and Emergency Relief Fund



set up by the Education Foundation of Niagara. This fund helps support extraordinary emergency, personal or school-related needs of individual students brought about by financial hardship. The Me to We club would like to thank all students who contributed to this worthwhile cause. Together WE can make a difference.

MS Read-A-Thon

Our school has decided to offer participation in the MS Read-A-Thon on a voluntary basis to students this year. This is an opportunity to foster a child's love of reading while supporting the MS Society of Canada to fund research and services. Please look for information coming home.

Fresh Air Fund

YOU CAN BECOME A FRESH AIR FUND HOST!

It doesn't take much to be a host family for The Fresh Air Fund - just a little room in your heart and your home - but the experience creates friendships and memories that last a lifetime! Since 1877, New York City children growing up in low-income neighborhoods have been able to experience simple summer pleasures in rural and suburban communities in 13 Northeastern states and Canada through The Fresh Air Fund's Friendly Town program. "You see different colours and places. I went to a farm...it was so much fun!" remarks seven-year-old Sidney from Queens.

Last year, close to 5,000 New York City children experienced the thrill of summer pastimes like roasting marshmallows over a campfire and flying kites in backyards and open fields. **The Fresh Air Fund is seeking more host families in the Niagara region to open their home to a New York City child for up to two weeks this summer.**

Fresh Air host families can choose the gender and approximate age of their visitor. First-time Fresh Air children are between the ages of six and twelve. Many families find their hosting experiences so rewarding that 65 percent of all children are re-invited to stay with the same host families year after year. In 2011, The Fund will be celebrating its 135th summer of serving children!

For more information on how you can share the simple joys of summer with a city child, please contact Laura-Ann Morris at 905-835-2896 or Laura_ann_morris@hotmail.com or Eileen Lucas at elucas@cogeco.ca. You can also call 800-367-0003 or visit The Fresh Air Fund's website at www.freshair.org.

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME!

Ideas to help you help your child in Language, Math & More!

Oral Language Development— How Families Can Help

Literacy development requires a partnership between home, school and community. Since *oral language is the foundation of all literacy, it is essential that children have ample opportunities at school, in the community, and at home to speak and listen.*

Experience with listening, speaking and singing teaches children the sounds and structures of language. These experiences, in turn, make it easier to learn to read and write.

What are some ways families can build an appreciation for language? Families could:

- ⊙ talk about the day's events, a TV show/video you have watched together, or about posters/signs you see while traveling;
- ⊙ look at magazine pictures/ads together. Choose a picture and model how to describe the image in complete sentences. Ask children to describe another picture in complete sentences;
- ⊙ pose sentences beginning with 'If' and have children respond (e.g. If I could travel anywhere in the world, I...);
- ⊙ ask clarifying ("Tell me more about the video game you played.") and open-ended ("What was your favourite part of the movie?") questions;
- ⊙ build vocabulary by taking walks in different places and identifying new or interesting sights, sounds and smells;
- ⊙ play card and board games which provide opportunities for conversations about the games;
- ⊙ encourage paraphrasing to build listening skills (e.g. explain the rules for the game and have the child repeat the rules; explain steps in a recipe and have children rephrase what has been said);
- ⊙ make read-alouds interactive (i.e. talk about predictions, alternative endings, favourite parts);
- ⊙ go to <http://storylineonline.net> and listen to a famous actor read a picture book aloud, then discuss what you like/don't like about the book;
- ⊙ retell familiar stories while purposefully omitting certain items and have children correct the retell;
- ⊙ sing songs and recite nursery rhymes or poetry (<http://www.smart-central.com> is a great website for nursery rhymes,

while <http://www.poetry4kids.com> is wonderful for poetry);

- ⊙ wait patiently – without interrupting – while children find the words they want to use.

Families can and do strengthen the literacy skills of their children. When schools and families work together to promote literacy development, we can undoubtedly achieve success together!

Early Primary Mathematics The 8 Principles of Counting

It is imperative that young children develop a base understanding of math concepts to ease their later understanding of deeper mathematics concepts. These are principles that parents can help reinforce with their child at home.

⊙ **Stable Order Principle:** understanding that the counting sequence stays consistent. It is always 1,2,3,4 not 1,2,5,7

⊙ **Order Relevance Principle:** Understanding that the counting of objects can begin with any object in a set and the total will stay the same.

⊙ **Conversation Principle:** Understanding that the count for a set group of objects stays the same no matter whether they are spread out or close together.

⊙ **Abstraction Principle:** Understanding that the quantity of five large things is the same count as a quantity of five small things. Or the quantity is the same as a mixed group of five small and large things.

⊙ **One to One Correspondence Principle:** Understanding that each object being counted must be given one count and only one count.

⊙ **Cardinality Principle:** Understanding that the last count of a group of objects represents how many are in the group. A child who recounts when asked how many candies are in the set that they just counted, has not understood the cardinality principle.

⊙ **Movement is Magnitude Principle:** Understanding that as you move up the counting sequence, the quantity increases

by one and as you move down or backwards, the quantity decreases by one.

⊙ **Unitizing Principle:** Understanding that in our base ten system objects are grouped into tens once the count exceeds 9 and that this is indicated by a 1 in the tens place of a number.

Communication Matters Idioms: "Don't miss the boat!"

Idioms are a type of figurative language. They are expressions that mean something other than the literal meaning of the words used. For example, the title of this article contains an idiom: '*don't miss the boat*'. What the expression really means is 'don't miss the opportunity'; it has nothing to do with 'a boat'. Idioms can make up approximately two-thirds of the English language*. Without comprehension skills for figurative language, especially idioms, children can be confused and miss out on conversations. Direct instruction is the best way to teach many idioms. When you hear or see an idiom, explain its intended meaning. The following are several examples of idioms and their nonliteral interpretations:

-a piece of cake: very easy, as in: Doing this lesson will be *a piece of cake*.
 -put on your thinking cap: to think seriously about something, as in: You will need to *put on your thinking cap* to solve the problem.
 -give me a break: 'give me another chance', or 'I don't believe you' as in: I was only late once so *give me a break*.
 You say a dog ate your homework? *Give me a break!*

You can find many more examples of idioms by listening to conversations, watching television, reading books, etc. Different cultures use different idioms. No matter what the culture, however, understanding idioms can improve a child's understanding and usage of spoken language, reading comprehension, and/or written expression.

*Adapted from *Idioms: As Easy as ABC* by K. Stuckey and Julie Daymut, 2009 (www.superduperinc.com)