

Senator Gibson Gazette



From the Office...
Mrs. A. Grieve, Principal
Mr. P. Stephenson, V.P.

Dear Parents,

We are hoping that spring is definitely here to stay, and with it a great assortment of activities, events, and news items. At the beginning of this month we will be celebrating with many of our volunteers during our Volunteer Tea. Your time is always appreciated!!

With the nice weather, more and more people are enjoying the walks to and from school with their dogs. We all love our pets, but please for the safety and security of all, remember to keep dogs off of school property before, during and after school when doing pickups or drop offs.

Calendar Reminder

Check the calendar for a list of most activities. 2011-2012 school year calendar is now available at www.dsbni.org.



Be a Watchful Citizen! Help Stop Vandalism!



As the good weather comes, more and more people use the school grounds as a social gathering.

Most people respect the property and the grounds. However, to help stop vandalism, we would ask that you consider taking walks around the school grounds at nights and on weekends to discourage those undesirables to 'hang out' at the school. Remember, **if you spot anyone doing vandalism, call the police!**

Teacher Requests

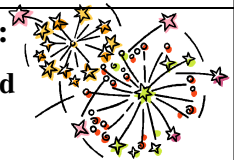
The staffing process for every school in the District School Board is still in progress. Therefore, we do not have teachers assigned to classes for next year. Also due to staffing changes and students moving in/out of our area over the summer, classes are not finalized until September.



However, if you do have any requests regarding potential teachers or class assignments, please submit them in writing to Mrs. Grieve by **Friday, May 20th**. Please remember this does not guarantee placements, but may assist in the planning process.

REMINDER:

School is closed on Monday, May 23rd for Victoria Day



Primary & Junior E.Q.A.O. Tests



The Ministry of Education and Training has informed schools and school boards that the EQAO tests will be held again in May and early June.

Senator Gibson will be conducting their tests on May 30th, thru June 9th.

Teachers have been meeting to set plans for the testing process. Through these meetings, teachers are best prepared to enable our students to achieve their potential on these tests.

Communication letters will be sent out with students in grades 3 and 6. However, we invite parents of the grade 3 and grade 6 students to contact the school for more information regarding their particular child.

Once completed, test booklets are sent away to be marked. Results are made available in the fall.

Some of the class and recess schedules will be altered slightly to allow the grade 3's and 6's proper class time to complete the tests.

Remember that children perform better on tests when they are well rested and well nourished. Also, please avoid making appointments for the students during these times!

Sun Safety

The Canadian Dermatology Association's National Sun Awareness Week happens **Monday June 6 to Sunday June 12, 2011**. The focus for this year is **SAFE FUN IN THE SUN**.



Spring is when the outdoor baseball and soccer leagues often begin. It is also a great time to remind your budding Olympians to play sun safe. Teach your athletes to be sun safe by:

- **Limiting the time spent in the sun**
If possible, try to schedule activities when the sun is not at its strongest (i.e. arrange your practices in the early morning or late afternoon).
- **Looking for shade or creating shade**

It is not always possible to avoid the sun but you can still protect yourself and your children by finding shade. The kids can rest in between quarters, innings or games in the shade.

- **Dressing for the sun**

Wear a hat with a wide brim or a flap that covers the back of neck. This shades your face and neck. Wear loose clothing to protect as much of your skin as possible (long sleeved shirt and pants). Don't forget your UVA and UVB sunglasses!

- **Using sunscreen**

Use a broad-spectrum (UVA and UVB) sunscreen with a SPF of 30 or higher. Remind your children to apply sunscreen 20 minutes before going out in the sun and re-apply every 2 to 3 hours, especially if sweating. Remember to check the expiry date.

Volunteer "Thank You" Tea

On Friday, May 6th, at 2:00 p.m., we are hosting a Tea to thank all of Senator Gibson's wonderful volunteers. We look forward to thanking you in person for all of the fabulous things you do for and with us.



Code of Conduct /Dress Code

We remind students and parents to review the Code of Conduct.



With the good weather on the way, it is important to remind students and parents that those attending Senator Gibson are expected to dress in an appropriate manner. Some clothes that we wear after school, on the weekend and during the summer, may not be appropriate at school. We know you will assist your child in understanding what is acceptable at school.

It is expected that clothing tops cover the student's front and back, and have appropriate covering over the shoulders. Shorts and Skirts should be of a length that when standing with arms down to the sides the finger tips touch the hem. Also, students will be expected to avoid wearing clothing with offensive expressions or images. Any student wearing inappropriate clothing will be asked to change here at school, or will be sent home for a change of clothing.



We appreciate your co-operation in this matter. Any questions can be directed to the office.

Track and Field

Our track and field season is here!!! The school Track & Field Meet (for grades 4-8) will be held **Tuesday, May 10th**. Our rain date is Thursday May 12th. Students have signed up for their events. Please inquire as to what events your child is in and possibly help them prepare for the meet!



Recognition Award Winners

Congratulations go out to April's award winners.

Academic:

ELP1 –Cash L, Evan L
 ELP2 –Caden M, Ashleu V
 ELP3 –Carlie E, Kiera R
 ELP4 –Preston S, Bradley V
 Gr. 1K – Emily B
 Gr. 1S – Abbey C
 Gr. 1/2 –Wyatt M
 Gr. 2 –Morgan M
 Gr. 2/3 –Michelle W
 Gr. 3W –Kevin I
 Gr. 3S – Claire L
 Gr. 3/4 – Jimmy H
 Gr. 4R – Andrew H
 Gr. 4K – Mackenzie K
 Gr. 5 – Thomas D
 Gr. 5/6 –Dalan L
 Gr. 6 – Madison J
 Gr. 7D –Alexis R
 Gr. 7P – Zac V
 Gr. 8R –Taylor T
 Gr. 8L –Heather S
 Mrs. Finlay- Jillian M

Character Trait – Co-operation:

ELP1 –Haleigh C, Aiden S
 ELP2 –Cheyanne B, Kenneth L
 ELP3 –Canaan E, Noah L
 ELP4 – Charles C, Harley C
 Gr. 1K – Jazmine D
 Gr. 1S – Andy D
 Gr. 1/2 – Brianna V
 Gr. 2 – Jack O
 Gr. 2/3 – Cody D
 Gr. 3W – Jivan M
 Gr. 3S – Blake B
 Gr. 3/4 – Jamieson L
 Gr. 4R – Angela P
 Gr. 4K –Justice L
 Gr. 5 – Tyler B
 Gr. 5/6 – Claire P
 Gr. 6 – Jessica T
 Gr. 7D – Devin W
 Gr. 7P – Tristan M
 Gr. 8R – Alex J
 Gr. 8L – Nicole Y
 Mrs. Pitre – Natasha D, Marcus F
 Mrs. Finlay –Shannon S

For May and June each teacher will be focusing on one of our 8 character traits from the year.

Keep your head in the game' with SUMMER ADVANTAGE Workbooks

Once again this year, Senator Gibson will be making available a summer activity workbook called "Summer Advantage". "Summer Advantage" is a fully coloured 192 page, activity book designed to reinforce and maintain Kindergarten to Grade 7 students' academic learning skills over the summer months. There is one 192 paged activity book per grade level from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 7. All major units and 3 summer fun units in each book are aligned with the Ontario curriculum expectations. In addition to the summer months, the books can be used all year long from September to the following June. All books have parent information pages, evaluation forms; follow up activities and a family focus. The cost of each book is \$19.05 plus HST(\$20.00 total). This is a savings of \$1-\$4 from the retail and online prices. You can visit www.summeradvantage.ca to download a free unit of the book you would like to order for further review. Bonus: with all book orders, Summer Advantage will provide attraction discount coupons to numerous attractions including Wonderland, the CN Tower, Ontario Place, Medieval Times, Wild Water Kingdom, Wings of Paradise, Centreville, South Simcoe Railway, Puck's Farm, Zooz, Bowmanville Zoo the Hamilton Civic Museums and more.

An order form and information sheet with more details about the "Summer Advantage" program will be sent home to all parents in mid May.



Me To We Club

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! We like to say many "Thanks" to everyone at Senator Gibson for making the Kraft Dinner Bug and Math Challenge a tremendous success. We collected over 1500 boxes of Kraft dinner. Apparently, this donation will last the food bank till the Fall. This is huge for them. We could not have done it without the support from the students, staff, parents and people in our school community. It was a small project but with a big heart. The lessons we learned and saw were the community effort, collaboration for a purpose, the kindness and generosity from people whose children have yet to attend Senator Gibson. Our students learned that one social justice idea, when followed through, can spark into many positive actions that can have long term impacts. Thank you to the local papers and Cogeco's 'The Source' for acknowledging the effort in the media. If you would like to view the video, go to:



<http://www.tvcogeco.com/niagara/gallery/the-source/3829-march-source-stories>

Garden Club

We would like to say a huge thank you to our garden club members for spending many lunch recesses working in our front area weeding, planting and generally cleaning up. On Friday April 29, our club will be planting a Tulip Tree in our back yard. A special thank you goes out to the Lincoln Agricultural Society and Lincoln Gardening club for donating the tree. We also had some helping hands from a local Brownies group led by Mrs. Newton. Thank you for planting the bulbs and cleaning up the yard. It is very much appreciated, and we can't wait to see what flowers pop up.

Internet Safety Presentation

Please mark **Tuesday, May 3 @ 6:30pm** on your calendar and plan to attend our **Internet Safety Presentation**. This is open to all parents. The Niagara Regional Police will be sharing information about what some of the most common issues are, what can and cannot happen legally, and how we can keep our kids safer.



Nutritious Snack Program

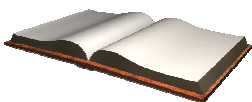
For quite some time, we have had a Student



Nutrition Program at our school. Niagara Nutrition Partners/Community Care administer some funds for this program, on behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services. The objective of this program is to promote healthy eating and is available in many schools across Ontario. Any student who would like a snack may come to the office and request one. There is no fee for this program, but financial contributions or in-kind donations are encouraged to ensure the sustainability of the program.

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME!

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

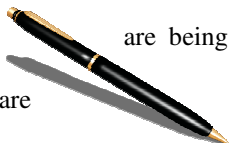


Reading/Writing Connection

“Learning to write assists children in their reading; in learning to read, children also gain insights that help them as writers. But writing is more than an aid to learning to read; it is an important curricular goal. Through writing, children express themselves, clarify their thinking, communicate ideas, and integrate new information into their knowledge base.” (Miriam Trehearne, 2006)

How do we make the connections?

- read alouds
- reading a variety of text forms
- purposeful talk
- modeled, shared, guided reading and writing
- look at the ways authors and illustrators construct meaning
- Ask students questions to extend their thinking:
 - » Who is the intended audience for this text? What makes you think so?
 - » What is the topic, focus, theme?
 - » Why do you think the author chose this setting?
 - » What are you visualizing? What details help you create this mental picture?
 - » Whose voices are being expressed? Whose voices are missing?
 - » What other text(s) does this remind you of? How are they similar? How are they different?



Math Talk – Number Sense and Numeration

- A number represents a quantity of objects.
- A numeral is a symbol that represents a number. A numeral differs from a number just as a word differs from the thing it refers to.
- A digit is a symbol in a numeral used to represent a number.

Kindergarten to Grade 3:

How many toys are on the shelves?
Opportunities for counting are all around us.

- Have your child estimate quantities and then count them aloud to check. Watch your child count toys, kitchen utensils, and items of clothing as they come out of the dryer. Help your child count by pointing to and moving the objects as he or she says each number aloud.
- Use household items to practice adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing.

Grade 4 to Grade 6:

How can numbers and operations be combined to get the greatest number?

- From a deck of playing cards, take the cards numbered from 2 to 10, shuffle them, and deal four cards to each player. Each player must create the greatest possible number by a combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of the numbers on his or her four cards. Discuss with your child the strategies that he or she used.

- Make this task easier by using fewer cards and addition or subtraction, and more difficult by using a greater number of cards and all four operations – addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Communication Matters

‘Smart Talk’ from your Board Speech-Language Pathologists

Develop Word Meaning to Improve your Child’s Comprehension

Understanding word meanings is essential for comprehending and understanding what you are reading. However, vocabulary is a weak area for many students. Given a list of words to learn, many students will complete the task but may not actually learn what the words really mean in order to develop their spoken language and vocabulary knowledge. Developing vocabulary as part of knowledge structure requires more energy and focus than simply memorizing words.

Develop vocabulary by going beyond the ‘label’ and the ‘spelling’.

- Teach word synonyms, and multiple meaning words. Also teach categories, classifications and associations between words

- Illustrate new words. Show pictures or video clips that demonstrate the meaning of the word. Help your child draw and label something illustrating the meaning of the word. Flashcards can be made more meaningful with pictures.

- play ‘vocabulary charades’. Have your child draw a word from a hat and act it out.

- Play ‘find the word used in the real world’. Help your child identify when he hears or sees a new vocabulary word being used in the real world-beyond the learning activities designed for school

Check out www.enchantedlearning.com for more ideas and fun ways to develop meanings.

