

Senator Gibson Gazette

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

From the Office...

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching our third month in school! We continue to be a place where students are actively involved in their education. Field trips, numerous athletic, musical and humanitarian activities as well as hands on learning in core curricular areas provide our students the opportunity to achieve success. Teachers continue to work toward providing students with many opportunities to demonstrate their understanding and how they are progressing this year. We look forward to sharing during our Parent/Teacher interviews later this month.



November is also when we take the time to honour our veterans and at the same time, celebrate our peace and freedom. Please consider joining us at our Remembrance Day assembly.

Progress Reports & Interviews

Remember students in Grades 1 to 8 bring home a fall progress report card and two provincial report cards, one in February and one in June.

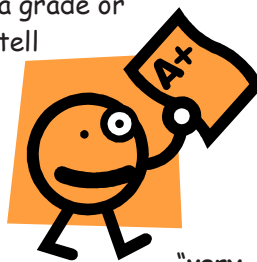
We will be sending out the Progress Reports on November 15, 2011.

Parent/teacher interview times will be arranged by homeroom teachers. Please look for a notice from your child's teacher.

The progress report card:

- encourages early and ongoing communication between you and your child's teacher
- tells you how well your child is developing the learning skills and work habits we know are essential for success
- continues to report on all academic subjects - but instead of assigning a grade or mark, it will tell you how well your child is

progressing: "very well", "well" or "with difficulty".



Essential Learning Skills and Work Habits

There are 6 learning skills and work habits:

- Responsibility
- Organization
- Independent Work
- Collaboration
- Initiative
- Self regulation

- highlights strengths and areas to improve before evaluations are completed
- includes comments from your child's teacher that are personalized, clear and meaningful.

The improved report card:

- also emphasizes and gives examples of the learning skills and work habits required
- has ample space for teachers to add meaningful, clear and personalized comments so you can understand how your child is progressing
- uses letter grades for Grades 1-6 and percentage marks for Grades 7-8 so you clearly understand how well your child is doing
- provides suggestions on how you can support your child's learning at home.

DSBN STUDENT FAMILIES IN ST. CATHARINES AND SMITHVILLE ARE INVITED TO PROVIDE A ONE-MONTH HOMESTAY FOR AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

International students are participating in The District School Board of Niagara's

KOREAN WORLD CLASSROOM PROGRAM

International students in participating schools in St. Catharines are in Grades 7 & 8 International students in participating schools in Smithville are in Grades 4-6

The homestay timeframe is Jan 11-Feb 7, 2012

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION BEING HELD

Wednesday, November 9 @ 6:30 – 7:30 .pm.

at the DSBN Education Centre 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines

-open to families in St. Catharines who ideally have a Grade 7 or 8 child themselves (other ages may be considered)

-open to families in Smithville who ideally have a Grade 4-6 child themselves (other ages may be considered)

-your child will build intercultural awareness and leadership skills as a host buddy

Registration for the information session is not required

**Please direct inquiries to:

Ligia Tobon
Canadian English Scholar Program
ligia_tobon@hotmail.com
905-354-6916
www.cespica.com

Recognition Award Winners

We continue to celebrate the successes of students. We would like to congratulate October's winners.

Academic:

- ELPO - Hailey C
- ELP2B- Alexander B
- ELP Bo- Luke W
- ELPN- Lexi E
- Gr. 1S - Maya K
- Gr. 1K - Kayla Q
- Gr. 1Sh - Carlie E
- Gr. ½- Megan H
- Gr. 2C -Connor R
- Gr. 2/3 -Charlie B
- Gr. 3R -Wyatt M
- Gr. 3C - Daniel W
- Gr. 4K - Madison C
- Gr. 4/5 - Adam H
- Gr. 5P - Ethan W
- Gr. 5/6 - Tori K
- Gr. 6C - Erin M-G
- Gr. 7P - Julie D
- Gr. 7/8 - Kyle O
- Gr. 8R - Amber M-G
- Gr. 8L - Vanessa B

Mrs. Finlay - Michael W
Mrs. Pitre- Brendan D

Character Trait (Respect):

- ELPO - Branden W
- ELP2B- Sawyer J
- ELP Bo-Madeline V
- ELPN- Alexis V
- Gr. 1S -Pavan A
- Gr. 1K -Grace T
- Gr. 1Sh - Nico A
- Gr. ½-Julia R
- Gr. 2C -Zachariah V
- Gr. 2/3 -Kelsie C
- Gr. 3R -Julia B
- Gr. 3C -Haylee B
- Gr. 4K -Brendan T
- Gr. 4/5 -Marika T
- Gr. 5P -Gurneet M
- Gr. 5/6 -Manpreet A
- Gr. 6C -Shyann H
- Gr. 7P - Virginia T
- Gr. 7/8 - Jessica T
- Gr. 8R - Emmy N
- Gr. 8L - Taylor W

Mrs. Pitre -Natasha D
Mrs. Finlay-Micah D

Next Month's Character Trait is Responsibility

THANK YOU!!



The students and staff of Senator Gibson School would like to thank everyone who assisted in making our recent magazine subscription campaign a great success!!! Without the support of our community we would not have been able to raise the money that the campaign generated. Thank you so much for helping us reach our goal. All of your subscriptions are guaranteed 100% and if you have any service concerns, please contact CCRP at 1-800-665-5133 (11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. EST) or service@ccrp.ca (not the school office). Please allow 12 - 16 weeks after the campaign ends before you receive the first copy of your subscription. As a reminder you may continue to order on-line throughout the school year at www.ccrp.ca - our school code is ON2454.

Senator Gibson at the Ice Dogs

We would like to thank all of our parents and community for supporting our school, our choir and our local OHL team. Our choir sounded absolutely awesome and it was wonderful to see so many families out enjoying the game. Thank you to our choir students for their hard work, and to Mrs. Wallace for giving her time to lead the choir.

Halloween for Hunger

The Me to We group would like to thank all of the people that took part in Halloween for Hunger. It was a great success, and all foods will be donated to Community Care.

Inclement Weather!!!

As beautiful as the weather has been, we know that the cold is



on the way. We do expect rain and cold temperatures during the fall. **Please dress your children appropriately for the weather and make sure they have an indoor pair of shoes! Let's work together to keep our floors looking great.** We will attempt to allow students outside during as many recesses as possible. If there is heavier rain, the following procedures will be followed:

At 8:35am - students will be allowed in the hallway using their **normal** entry door. A teacher on duty will supervise the students until the bell rings, and then will direct students to their classes. Nutrition Breaks - students remain in their classrooms and are involved in suitable quiet activities.

School Closures and Bus Cancellations

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures. At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children in school on that day rests with the parent or guardian.

Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that transportation is cancelled but schools remain

open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.

A key resource in any emergency is the DSBN Emergency Information form that you filled out at the beginning of the school year. Please let the school know of any changes in contact information or procedures you wish to be followed throughout the school year.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

Websites:
www.dsbn.org
www.nsts.ca

Subscription Features:
DSBN Facebook or Twitter
NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

Phone:
Niagara Student Transportation Services 905-346-0290 Voice
Auto Attendant

Radio Stations:
CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines
CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines
WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton
CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines
CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton
CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie
CHML (900 AM) Hamilton
K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton
CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton
GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland
Y-108(107.9) Hamilton

Television Stations:
CH - Hamilton
CityTV Breakfast Television
CTV Toronto
Cogeco Channel 10

Book Fair



Our first book fair will be held from November 30- December 2.

We are looking for parent volunteers to help make this a successful book fair. If you are able to volunteer a few hours during these days please call the school and speak to Mr. Stephenson. Thank you for your continued support.

Remembrance Day

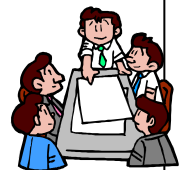
During our assembly, Senator Gibson School will recognize and show appreciation for those who served and paid the supreme sacrifice in all world conflicts.

We will hold our Remembrance Day assembly on **Thursday, November 11 at approximately 11:30 am.** We invite all Senator Gibson citizens belonging to community service groups to wear their uniforms that day. The Royal Canadian Legion will be bringing poppies to the school for all students.

A small donation for the poppy is requested but not required. Parents are welcome to attend this ceremony, but please understand that seating is limited.

School Advisory Council

Our next meeting of the School Council will be on **November 21st at 6:00 pm** in our school library. All parents and guardians are invited to join to discuss issues regarding all students in our school.



Volleyball Teams

Intermediate Boys: Our season is well underway, and all of the boys have shown wonderful sportsmanship, continued effort and dedication to our team.



Intermediate Girls': The Intermediate Girls' Volleyball team is off to a great start to their season. All team members display amazing sportsmanship, enthusiasm and teamwork in every game and practice.

Junior Volleyball: Our Junior teams have been practicing hard and are ready to start their season November 7th.

Understanding Reading Comprehension and Listening Comprehension!

Listening comprehension is the ability to follow and understand spoken language. When someone tells you a story about the movie they saw yesterday, you are using your listening comprehension to follow and understand. You pay attention to the listener's message, sort important from irrelevant information and you relate what you hear to what you already know about the information (for example- watching a movie).



Children use listening comprehension when, for example, talking to their friends, following teacher instructions, watching a t.v. program or listening to a story book being read aloud. One of the best ways to develop listening comprehension

skills is to practice! Repeat what is said to you, for example; "if I understand you correctly- you said...". Practice looking at the speaker and show with your body language that you are understanding (nodding your head).

Reading comprehension is an extension of listening comprehension, i.e. paying attention to a message, sorting information, and relating what you read to what you already know. Reading comprehension also requires understanding different kinds of books and reading material, for example; newspaper articles, novels, and even blogs! One of the best ways to develop reading comprehension is to read and talk about what you have read. Discuss story plots and characters, predict what a newspaper article is about from the title and practice retelling what you read using the most important information. Ask questions and talk about what you thought or felt about the story.

Listen-Read-Talk your way to better understanding!

adapted from: readingisgood.com

Reading Strategies We Can Share With Children

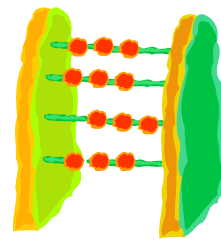
When we read we:

- * Determine what we already know about the topic
- * Establish a reason for reading
- * predict what the reading will be about and continue to make and adjust these predictions as we read
- * use all of our senses to help us see, hear, and imagine what we are reading
- * check our understanding as we read

- * make connections between what we are reading and our own experience
- * decide what information is important as we read
- * ask ourselves questions before, during, and after we read

Mathematical Learning: The Importance of Conceptual Understanding

What do we mean by mathematical understanding? Basically we all think it means that the student really "gets it", but that really isn't helpful. Carpenter and Lehrer (1999) speak to the development of understanding not only as the linking of new ideas to existing ones, but as the development of richer and more integrative knowledge structures.



These structures allow students to use the new ideas they learn, rather than being in the position of only

being able to repeat what they have learned. Carpenter and Lehrer suggest that understanding is achieved as students engage in:

- *constructing relationships
- *extending and applying their mathematical experiences
- *articulating what they know mathematically
- *personalizing mathematical knowledge

They speak to the fact that understanding is most likely to develop in classrooms that focus on problems to be solved, rather than exercises to be completed; classrooms where alternative strategies are discussed and valued; and classrooms where student autonomy is valued.

