

Senator Gibson Gazette

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

From the Office...

A big thank-you goes to all the Senator Gibson families and volunteers for helping our school to have another great start this year. There are many great things happening here at Senator Gibson during October including a Jr. Soccer tournament, cross country, the start of volleyball, the Ice Dogs, Halloween and of course Thanksgiving! Thanksgiving is a great time for family and friends to pause, reflect and give thanks for all the good things around us.



This month we would like to welcome Mrs. S. Heckel to our Senator Gibson Staff. Mrs. Heckel is going to be working with many teachers throughout the school in their classrooms. We know everyone will give Mrs. Heckel a great Gator welcome.

Please help us by reminding your children about routines and expectations at school. Of particular note, it is crucial that your child's attendance is regular. Students arriving late miss opening routines and fall behind on work. Our new bell times are as follows:

Morning Entry: 8:45am
1st Nutrition Break: 10:35am – 11:15am
2nd Nutrition Break: 12:55pm – 1:35pm
Dismissal: 3:15pm

Remember our supervision on the yard does not begin until 8:30, so students are not to be coming to school earlier, unless parents are staying with them, or they are coming for a supervised event.

Just a reminder:

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

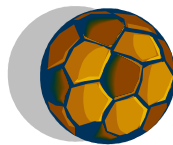
Friday, October 7th (P.A. Day)

Monday, October 10th
(Thanksgiving Monday)



Soccer Teams

Our intermediate soccer teams showed great Gator determination at their tournament this September. Although the girls didn't advance, they played great throughout the day. Thanks Mrs. Smelle and Mrs. Grieve for coaching the girls.



Mr. Pearson and Mrs. Rush would like to congratulate the Intermediate Boys' Soccer team, who were very successful and were able to advance to the semi-finals at the tournament in Grimsby. Well done Gators!

Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test

All Grade 4 students in the school will take the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test in late September or early in October. This test helps us to identify individual student needs and abilities, so we can ensure appropriate programs are provided. The test shows particular strengths in verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal reasoning.



Halloween Safety

Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe.

- Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.

- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.

- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.

- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole.

Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.



- You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.

Student Photo Retake Day!

On the morning of **Thursday October 27th**, Edge Imaging Photography will be coming



back to Senator Gibson School to take photos of students who were absent on September 29th, or whose photos did not turn out well.

Students who wish to have retakes done should have a note from home indicating their parents' direction.

No Parking Zones

The parking spots right in front of the school are designated as "NO PARKING" zones in cases of emergency (i.e., ambulance, fire trucks, police, etc.). If the Fire Chief should drive by, he has the authority to issue tickets to anyone parked in those spots, as well as any law enforcement personnel.

We thank you also for continuing to use our "Kiss and Drive" to ease congestion. Our

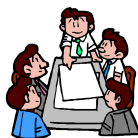


Kiss and Drive is intended for drop off or pick up of students only. The driveway in front of the school is a bus loading zone and we must keep it clear for safe loading and unloading of students. Also, please follow all signs along the street edge regarding parking, for the safety of all children.

Two parking spaces along our driveway are designated as reserved zones **from 7:30am to 8:15am** in order to help with the drop-off of the daycare children.

School Advisory Council

The first meeting of the School Council was held on Tuesday, September 27th. Thank-you to the parents and community members who came out to discuss



issues concerning our students. Elections were postponed until our next meeting which will be Monday, November 21st @ 6:00pm.

Fire Drills/Lockdown

We have held two fire drills already this school year. Each school practices three times in the Fall and three times in the Spring so we are prepared in case of a real emergency. We are also required to have two lockdown practices throughout the year. Thank you for taking the time at home to reinforce the importance of these drills and reminding your child to act safely in these situations.

Magazine Subscription Renewals

Everyone is encouraged to renew their magazines through the school to help support our class trips in June. Renewal costs are likely cheaper (or at least equal) through the school. Any coupons you have (to get a cheaper price) can be used through the school program. You can't beat it! Forms have already been sent home with each student. This campaign will end on Tuesday, October 11th.



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.

September Award Winners

On Friday September 30th we celebrated many students and their accomplishments. Congratulations to the following winners:

Academic:

- ELP1 - Julia R.
- ELP2 - Krysten R.
- ELP3 - Hayden H.
- ELP4 - Genevieve S.
- Gr. 1-1 - Tessa B.
- Gr. 1-2 - Faith V.
- Gr. 1-3 - Sophia H.
- Gr. 1/2 - Lucas S.
- Gr. 2-1 - Madison V.
- Gr. 2/3 - Mathijs d.
- Gr. 3-1 - Emily L.
- Gr. 3-2 - Davis G.
- Gr. 4-1 - Jaedyn T.
- Gr. 4/5 - Ethan W.
- Gr. 5-1 - Brittany K.
- Gr. 5/6 - Justine B.
- Gr. 6-1 - Tyler B.
- Gr. 7-1 - Madison J.
- Gr. 7/8 - Zac V.
- Gr. 8-1 - Saumya S.
- Gr. 8-2 - Tyler S.
- SESN/PJ - Benjamin B.
- SESN/JI - Vicki N.

Character Trait (Respect):

- ELP1 - Carter M.
- ELP2 - Madison S.
- ELP 3 - Emma P.
- ELP 4 - Jesse R.
- Gr. 1-1 - Pancho S.
- Gr. 1-2 - Sadie K.
- Gr. 1-3 - Brynn K.
- Gr. 1/2 - Ethan P.
- Gr. 2-1 - Hannah V.
- Gr. 2/3 - Morgan C.
- Gr. 3-1 - Bianca F.
- Gr. 3-2 - Tyler F.
- Gr. 4-1 - Jordan S.
- Gr. 4/5 - Carly J.
- Gr. 5-1 - Abigail M.
- Gr. 5/6 - Jamieson L.
- Gr. 6-1 - Aiden M.
- Gr. 7-1 - Matthew P.
- Gr. 7/8 - Qwen d.
- Gr. 8-1 - Lyndsey J.
- Gr. 8-2 - Ryan W.
- SESN/PJ - Micah D.
- SESN/JI - Elias D.

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME!

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

Foundational Literacy Skills

The foundational skills that children need to become literate are:

- phonemic awareness
- phonics
- sight words
- vocabulary
- reading/writing connections
- motivation
- developing word knowledge
- comprehension

- fluency



You can help at home by reading to your children. The benefits include

- promoting an interest in, and enjoyment of

books

- demonstrating the concepts of print
- enlarging vocabulary and comprehension
- stimulating the imagination and improving concept formation
- improving listening skills
- improving the ability to play with language (rhyming)

How do I get started?

- choose a book that you and your child will enjoy
- start with books with predictable language
- read for a short time daily, make it a habit
- hold the book so you both can see the print
- point to each word as you say it
- spend lots of time talking about the book
- stop when your child indicates that he/she has had enough
- read and reread your child's favourite books
- relax and enjoy the time together

Communication Matters

Smart Talk from the DSNB Speech-Language Pathologists:

Communication is at the core of learning and developing self-esteem. Learning how to communicate effectively with others is critical for social and academic development. Children become more receptive to learning when they feel good about themselves, and when they feel good about themselves, they are more willing to risk academically since making mistakes is less devastating.

Good communicators do the following:

- use eye contact
- observe before they communicate
- notice body language
- listen
- take turns
- speak clearly & use a polite tone
- act interested
- remain on-topic
- allow space between others

To help your child focus on good communication, your family might spend some time noticing all the 'habits' good communicators use. For example, if someone accidentally interrupts you and apologizes, you might comment on their good communication. You might also like to have each family member identify their best communication skill. Dad might be a good listener, while mom



might be a good turn-taker. Once everyone is aware of communication, enhancing and learning new communication will be far easier.

Why has Mathematics Instruction Changed?

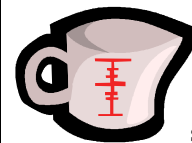
To be successful in many occupations and to be able to function in today's technological world, students must be able to process and interpret data, communicate their understanding to others and be able to apply mathematical reasoning.

Mathematical Literacy includes the ability to put mathematical knowledge and skills to functional use, and to pose and solve mathematical problems in a variety of situations

Make Math an Enjoyable Part of Every Day!

Try these easy tips in your routine:

- Point out the many ways in which math is used in everyday life!
- Include your child in everyday activities that include math (such as making purchases, mixing ingredients, setting the table)
- Play games (non-screen) that involve math including counting, time, measuring, patterns and logic.
- In addition to math tools such as calculators and rulers, use handy household items, such as a measuring cup and containers, when doing math with your child.



- Encourage your child to give explanations when solving math problems – have him or her tell you specifically what doesn't make sense if they are having trouble. Talking about how solutions are reached develops mathematical reasoning.