

Senator Gibson Gazette

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

It's December! Wow! As the temperature continues to fall and with anticipation that snow will soon blanket us all, the excitement for the holiday season steadily builds here at Senator Gibson. Our devoted staff has planned many activities for the student body during this month and we wish to thank them along with our parents and families for their continuing support and encouragement.



We would also like to thank all of our families and greater community for their support for Movember. Together we raised over \$1200 for Prostate Cancer Research. The support from all is amazing!

*Whether we are observing Christmas or Hanukkah or Kwanza or another celebration, this will be a month filled with fun and celebration. All are welcome to join us on **Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00pm** for our presentation of the musical, "The Legend of Polar Mountain". Also, join us for a short carol sing before our recognition assembly on **Friday, December 23**. School will return on Monday, January 9th.*

May we take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very safe and happy holiday season, and a wonderful start to the New Year!

Staff 'Christmas Lists'

The staff members at Senator Gibson are always appreciative of the kindness of the students and parents in our community. At Christmas time, our staff would like all of us to think of others. Therefore, in lieu of purchasing a gift for your child's teacher, please consider supporting the family your child's class is sponsoring through Community Care.



Book Fair!!!

During the first week of December, on Wednesday, November 30th to Friday, December 2nd, 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 for everyone.



Friday.

The book fair will be open until 4:00 on Wednesday and Thursday closing at noon on

Kindergarten Carol Sing

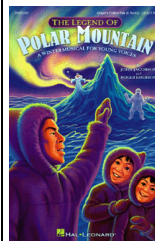
Our Kindergarten classes would like to invite you to join us for a festive carol sing on Thursday, December 22nd. The show will be in the gymnasium at 2:00 followed by some cookies and juice in the classrooms. All parents, grandparents, babysitters, etc. are welcome to attend! If possible, you are asked to bring a donation for Community Care for the performance.



School Musical

The Legend of Polar Mountain

Rehearsals for our musical "The Legend of Polar Mountain" are "breezing" by! Close to 50 of our students have been practising and working hard in order to get ready for performance night. We



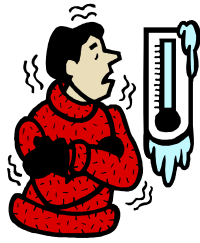
wish to thank our many volunteers for their wonderful contributions. A special thanks goes to **Mr. de Man**. We would also like to thank **Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Nowell, Mr. Gooderham** and many other staff members for their help. Performance night is **Wed., Dec. 21st @ 7:00pm**



Please be reminded that in lieu of purchasing tickets we are asking for donations of non-perishable food items to our community bins.

It's Getting Cold!!!

December brings the cold and wet weather. It can also bring some confusion to school routines. We all expect cold temperatures and some rain during this time of year. **Please dress your children appropriately for the weather!** We will attempt to allow students outside during as many recesses as possible.



If an indoor recess is necessary:

At 8:30am – students will be allowed in the hallway using their **normal** entry door. A teacher on duty will direct students to their classes when the 8:45 bell rings.

Nutrition Breaks – students remain in their classrooms and are involved in suitable quiet activities.

Snow / Snowballs

To ensure the safety of students on our playground during the winter months, it is necessary for us to ban the throwing/kicking of snow/ice. The students are constantly reminded of this rule during in-class discussions, at assemblies and over the morning announcements. Should it be found that a student has violated this rule, his/her name is recorded in the office and the appropriate consequences will be given. These include suspension for repeat offenders who endanger the safety of others. **Please remind your children of these rules!**

Also, remind your children to stay off the snow banks that will build up by parking lots they may slide into and over hidden fences and slide into the paths of cars!



Recognition Award Winners

Congratulations go out to our November's Responsibility and Academic winners.

Academic:

ELP1 – Iain C
 ELP2 – Ireland S
 ELP3 – Fiona H
 ELP4 – Christian W
 Gr. 1K – Carter M
 Gr. 1S –Anjelica M
 Gr. 1V – Erika T
 Gr. 1/2 – Abby C
 Gr. 2 –Braden K
 Gr. 2/3 –Jillian L
 Gr. 3C –Olivia H
 Gr. 3R –Breanna W
 Gr. 4 – Brock S
 Gr. 4/5 – Matthew M
 Gr. 5 – Devin S
 Gr. 5/6 –Paramveer K
 Gr. 6 –Brooke R
 Gr. 7/8D –Alyssa T
 Gr. 7P –Marlee L
 Gr. 8R –Danielle A
 Gr. 8L –Jenna D
 Mrs. Finlay –Robert D

Character Trait - Responsibility:

ELP1 – Mackenzie G
 ELP2 – Payton R
 ELP 3 – Colin F
 ELP 4 – Jacob S
 Gr. 1K – Ryan O
 Gr. 1C – Conner C
 Gr. 1V – Rowan L
 Gr. 2 – Emma C
 Gr. 2/3 – Avery O
 Gr. 3C – Conner C
 Gr. 3R – Nathan B
 Gr. 4 – Collin T
 Gr. 4/5 – Holli T
 Gr. 5 – Brianna F
 Gr. 5/6 – Elise W
 Gr. 6 – Thomas M
 Gr. 7P – Evan F
 Gr. 7/8D – Nicole L
 Gr. 8R – Brian F
 Gr. 8L – Courtney L
 Mrs. Pitre – Vicki N
 Mrs. Finlay- Dan D

December's Character Trait is Integrity

Bus & School Cancellations

As the snow comes, we can never answer all the calls that come in asking, "Is the school open?" or "Are the buses running?"



Please understand that it is not the staff at Senator Gibson that makes these decisions. Therefore, **please listen**

to local radio stations for this information!!! Some of these are:

CKTB 610	CHTZ 97.7
CHAM 820	CKEY 105.1
CHML 900	CHRE 105.7
CHSC 1220	Y108 107.9

Listen for cancellations for schools in the District School Board of Niagara and/or buses from First Student Bus Lines. These announcements are made by 7:00am. **Please do not call the school as we need these lines open for emergency calls.**

During the school day, decisions regarding school closures are usually made by DSNB personnel by 11:00am and will be announced on local radio stations. We would follow the Emergency Closure Procedures that parents have provided the school. Before we allow any students to walk home we will speak to someone on the contact list. We ask that you **review these procedures with your child** (in the event of an early dismissal) for their safe arrival home.



Wanted: In School Mentor volunteers.

37 kids are waiting to spend time with a volunteer one hour a week during school hours. The program is about motivating kids through playing board games, reading, making crafts and shooting hoops.

1 hour a week, 1 child, 1 big reason to go back to school!

Please contact Brenda @ 905-945-9353 or brendabbbs@aol.com

Physical Activity

Did you know that Canadian children/youth ages six to 19 spend an average of 8.6 hours per day, or 62 per cent of their waking hours, being sedentary? Here are some ways to help your children meet the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each day:

- Limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours per day
- Encourage children and youth to play outdoors
- Play outside with your children:
- Go for walks, hikes, build snowmen, go tobogganing
- Introduce your child to skates or skis so they can learn to slide
- Play catching games using a wide range of soft objects

For more information go to www.activehealthykids.ca or www.participation.com



Top 10 Tips To Help Your Child With Math:

1. Connect math to daily life – Let them know the importance of math! Talk about how you use math in your day-to-day life (at the store, in your job, around the house).
2. Counting can be fun and entertaining – Show them math can be fun! Sing songs (One, Two, Buckle my Shoe) and play games (card games, hopscotch, board games, Dominoes, chess).
3. Start Easy and Work up! – For example, after they've got counting by 1s, talk about skip counting and count by 2s, then 5s and 10s. Don't jump ahead too fast.
4. Use household items for practice – Practise adding and subtracting with objects from the house like spoons or pots and pans.
5. Tap into your child's curiosity – Go on a number hunt in your house.
6. Talk about time – Talk about seconds, minutes and hours, then count days and weeks. Ask them

questions: How long until bedtime? How many "sleeps" until the weekend?

7. Practice mental math using coins – Count money or have them show you how much an item costs and practise making change for when they're at the store.

8. Play the estimating game – Estimate measurements, distances, time and grocery bills and then compare to the actual.

9. Sports and math – There is a lot of math in sports such as batting averages, points per game and save percentages (discuss these as you watch the games or read the newspaper).

10. Computers + Math = Fun (there are lots of great computer games available to explore math).

Supporting Your Child With Reading At Home

When reading a book for pleasure or for information, chances are you will come to a word or two you are unsure of. You probably will use the accuracy strategy of cross checking without even thinking about it, because it is second nature to you as a reader to read accurately. Accuracy is not second nature to children learning to read. It is something that needs to be taught using a variety of strategies. It is important to slow readers down when they come to a word they don't know and teach them to apply the strategy of cross checking so they are able to fix the meaning and not just skip the word. Cross checking requires a person to constantly think and monitor meaning. It is a strategy for ensuring the words and pictures read make sense and match the letters on a page.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD WITH THIS STRATEGY AT HOME?

1. Listen to your child read. When they come to a word they are unsure of, remind them to cross check. Ask: Does the word you are reading match the picture or letters written? (they cross their right arm over their body)

Does it sound right? (their left arm crosses over their body making an X)

Does it make sense? (both arms come down with hands pointing to the ground)

* Doing physical movements with each question helps children to remember the questions.

2. If your child is having difficulty with this strategy at home, break down the process:

Have them stop reading when meaning breaks down.

Tell them to look at the letters and say the sounds or look for word chunks in words.

Remind them to use the pictures to help.

3. To make your child aware of using this strategy, give them a piece of paper and tell them to make a tally mark each time they use the cross checking strategy.

Are We Really Learning Math

There is an infinite number of websites out there which actually teach and reinforce math concepts. Here are a number of them that you may want to use, especially over the winter holidays!

Interactive Games (K-12):

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html>

Online Graphing Software:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/creategraph/>

Games, Puzzles, Practice (K-8):

<http://www.aaaknow.com/game.htm>

Math Frog Activities (gr. 4-6):

<http://cemc2.math.uwaterloo.ca/mathfrog/>

Funbrain – Games & Activities:

<http://www.funbrain.com/>

Coolmath – Activities & Links:

<http://www.coolmath.com/>

Ask Dr. Math – get answers to math questions:

<http://www.mathforum.com/dr.math/>