

GLEN RIDGE NEWS

JANUARY 2012

BALANCED SCHOOL DAY

The staff of Glen Ridge Public School has made an exciting decision to explore a Balanced School Day for the 2012-2013 school year. The Balanced School Day is being used by a majority of DSBN schools, as well as across the province.

A Balanced School Day is a way of scheduling that divides the day to maximize learning. Students enjoy two fitness/nutrition breaks and three blocks of instruction consisting of 100 minutes each. Organizing instructional time in this way gives students uninterrupted learning time with significant teaching and learning benefits.

Good reviews have been received in schools and Boards where the Balanced School Day has been implemented. These benefits include:

1. Three large uninterrupted teaching blocks are more suited to teaching and learning.
2. A more settled day - less transition time.
3. Fewer breaks means less "lost" instructional time during transitions (putting on outdoor clothing twice rather than three times).
4. It provides two 20-minute nutrition breaks. Recess snacks are often eaten hastily and on the run in the short breaks that the children now receive. The 20 minute eating time in class provides for better eating habits and digestion.
5. A better balance of nutrition, exercise and learning results in reduced student fatigue and inattentiveness. Optimum learning conditions result when nutritional needs are fulfilled.
6. Earlier nutrition time in the day for students who eat breakfast very early or who skip breakfast, allows greater focus on learning.
7. More opportunities for co-instructional activities and more efficient use for school facilities e.g. gym during the day.
8. Fewer discipline issues resulting from better proportioned play time.

We will be having a presentation on January 24th at 6:30 about the Balanced School Day. If you have any questions or would like further information please feel free to attend the presentation or call the school.

Dates to Remember:

- **January 11** - Dairy Farm of Canada Presentations
- **January 12** - Pizza Day
- **January 13** - Mad Science Presentation
- **January 16** - Grade 3 to Jordan School House
- **January 17** - Niagara Ice Dogs Ticket Orders Due
- **January 19** - Pizza Day
- **January 20** - PA Day
- **January 21** - Family Night at the Niagara Ice Dogs
- **January 23** - Dance-a-Thon Kick Off
- **January 23 & 24** - Grade 3 Mid Year EQAO
- **January 25 & 26** - Grade 6 Mid Year EQAO
- **January 26** - Artists in the Classroom
- **January 26** - Mad Science Club
- **January 30** - Celebration Assembly
- **January 31** - Mike Wade Author Presentation

BIG THANKS!!!

A **BIG Thank You** goes to Mrs. Pohorly's Grade 5/6 class for organizing such a successful Community Care Drive. A **BIGGER Thank You** goes out to the Glen Ridge Community who made the students' vision a reality. The students kept track of the weight of items brought in during our 12 Days of Giving and in the end they exceeded their goal. In total we donated over 1700 lbs of goods to Community Care and hopefully made other families' holidays special too. **TOGETHER WE DID SOMETHING!!**



SCHOOL COUNCIL CORNER

Happy New Year everyone, and Welcome Back!! I hope that you all enjoyed the time with your friends and loved ones over the Winter Break.

I wanted to again congratulate Mrs. Pohorly's grade 5-6 class on their quest to help out Community Care. If you were at the Christmas concert, you would have seen the video presentation that Mrs. Pohorly created to document their ideas and progress. It brought tears to my eyes that our Glen Ridge kids made such a difference. Thanks to the Glen Ridge Community, the class exceeded their goal and raised over 1700 pounds of items to Community Care. It clearly shows that we can make a difference if we work together!!! Thank you to the Grade 5-6 class for everything!!!!

With numerous requests to do the poinsettias yet again, we went back to Seaway Gardens who helped us out last year, ending 2011 by raising \$ 577.76 for our school. This was great; considering we had 11 families participate with 102 plants being sold!!! Thank you to all who participated in this event, I hope that you enjoyed the plants this year; we will look at other options for next year, hopefully by having the plants come from one of our own, a Grizzlies' parent's family business.

The results from the Silent Auction Survey are in. We were fortunate enough to have a few families share some fresh ideas to make the event, for next fall, more of a success. I will be passing along the results to the council members and they will be linked to the Glen Ridge website for all to view. This event is something that peo-

ple work extremely hard on, it was great to be able to have new excited faces that offered to pick up and run with this event which brought a new energy to our existing committee. Various suggestions came out of the survey, to touch on one response – all individuals who bought a ticket, and came to the event got their name put into a draw (as a thank you) for a "Niagara Get-away". This has never been done in the past, but one of our lucky parents won that (a value of over \$300.00). I can't think of a better "thank you for supporting Glen Ridge" bonus, with such an extravagant donation – sure beats flowers. More suggestions were to have the event on a Saturday, more danceable music, but not to loud, different or less games, more donations geared toward the men that attend – these are all great ideas (brings further suggestions to the committee). I will comment that with this being the major fundraiser for the school and having to pay for food & music doesn't allow for us to offer this as a free event. I like the comment about keeping it at the Golf Club so it's within the neighborhood, but we could move it back to Cats Caboose (still in the neighborhood), where drinks were cheaper, but food was more & not a lot of space. But, truth be told, the Golf Club's atmosphere is different than a bar/restaurant (but I guess it depends on what kind of event the committee is trying to achieve, we have in the past tried to venture away from the Golf Club with other venues but always come back). A topic of discussion at Council meetings has been that we look at subsidizing some trips (this was another comment) but rest assured, we are putting monies raised towards our kids. We delegated some of the funds to bring a new literacy program

into the school for students in grades 1 to 3 and are working towards upgrading the netbook compliment with funds raised at the upcoming Dance-a-Thon. Speaking of the Dance-a-Thon, this is scheduled for February 10th; we will need some volunteers for this event to be successful so if you're thinking that you would like to be involved and help out please contact myself at cgneilson@sympatico.ca or at the school office. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to come out and volunteer their time. The Dance-a-Thon is a fun time!!! Thanks to Mrs. Izzo who has already purchased the glow in the dark bracelets for our event. Stay tuned for more information coming shortly on Presswood's pep rally to be held on January 23rd.

Our next Council meeting is January 24th @ 6:30 please feel free to come out and participate & share your thoughts – your attendance is always welcomed. At this meeting, Ms Nunnenmacher has scheduled a presentation on the proposed Balanced School Day for Glen Ridge beginning September 2012 for those with questions about the schedule changes.

I will stress once again, if you have ideas that can be put towards the Silent Auction or the Fun Fair at the end of the year – please let me know that you are able to volunteer your time with the event. Your ideas and participation would be greatly appreciated.

Hope to see you January 24th!


Carrie Neilson
School Council Advisory, Chair

MAD SCIENCE IS COMING!!!

Mad Science, the world's leading provider of educational and entertaining science programs for children is coming to Glen Ridge Public School. Their mission is to spark the imagination and curiosity of children everywhere by providing them with fun, entertaining and exciting activities that instill a clear understanding of what science is really all about and how it affects the world around them. They use exciting activities and spectacular demonstrations to capture the attention and imagination of children as we found out during our assembly.

Both the students and teachers will be thrilled on 13/Jan/2012 at 1:40 PM when Mad Science comes to the school to do a Spectacular Science show. The assembly will be educational, entertaining and also the kick off to the Mad Science Club. The Club is a 6-week science enrichment program offered to the students.

Students who join the science club will go on a voyage of discovery designed to support the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum. They will explore various new topics in science including Optical Illusions, Sonic Sounds, Tantalizing Taste, Harnessing Heat, Lights Colour Action and Magnetic Magic. The Club will take place on Thursdays, (Jan 26, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, Mar 1) from 11:45 AM - 12:35 PM. www.madscience.org/





District School Board of Niagara Expanding French Immersion for 2012

The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. In addition, as of September 2012, we will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations. As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year (Grade 7 entry will continue in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake).

Information re: entry levels and the application process is on the DSNB website www.dsnb.org. Click on the Parent Tab, under Programs, click on French and International Languages, click on French Immersion Registration. Applications for Grades 1, 4, 5 and 7 (at select schools) will be online. Application packages will also be available at your child's school starting January 9, 2012. Further program information will be sent home with your child in January.

"The ability to communicate in French is a valuable skill, because French is **one** of Canada's two official languages and because it is a language used widely around the world. Research confirms that knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills and that the ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances reasoning and problem solving skills, as well as creative-thinking skills. Learning a second language not only strengthens students' ability to communicate, but also develops their capacity to understand and respect other cultures. In this way, second-language learning prepares students to participate more effectively in the workplace and in the global economy, and provides them with a distinct advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally." (pg 3 of the E.F./F.I. Curriculum Document (C.D.) 2001)

Parent Information Evenings will take place during the weeks of January 30 – February 10th. If you wish to find out more details about the French Immersion program, please attend one of the Information Evenings listed below or call your school.

Central	January 30, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Alexandra	January 30, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Parliament Oak	January 31, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Dalewood	January 31, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
McKay	January 31, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Prince Philip (Niagara Falls)	February 1, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Sheridan Park	February 1, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Gordon	February 6, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Princess Elizabeth	February 6, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Oakridge	February 6, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Briardale	February 7, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Queen Mary	February 7, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
John Marshall	February 8, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Bienvenue!

INDOOR SHOES

Please remember that **EVERY** student will need to have a pair of indoor running shoes at school so that they can be properly prepared for physical education classes, and the need for dry shoes in the classroom to avoid slips

STUDENT CLOTHING

It is a helpful idea to label all student clothing (especially in the winter) with his/her name so that it does not get lost or mixed up with another student's clothing. Check our Mabel's Labels link for really great labels for all sorts of things (a percentage comes back to the school).

www.glenridgeps.mabel.ca



mabel's labels

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

-All decisions concerning school closing are made by the Board Office, not the individual school.
-Bus and School Cancellation Information will be reported on local radio stations by 7:00 a.m. Information is also posted on the DSNB website www.dsnb.org
-Early dismissal during the school day, due to inclement weather, is also announced on local radio stations. We would ask that you review with your child what arrangements have been made in the event of an early dismissal for their arrival home.

101 South Drive,
St. Catharines L2R 4V7
905-685-9586
gle@dsbn.org

H. Nunnenmacher - Principal
R. Izzo - Secretary
J. Dickson - Superintendent
J. Fast - Trustee



GREAT NEWS!!!

A member of our community was shocked at the lack of books in our school's library and wanted to do something about it. She contacted Chapters and explained that Glen Ridge School needed more books for their library. Through her hard work and kindness we have received a donation from Chapters of \$5000 to spend on our library. We will keep you posted about our book buying adventure!! Thank you very much!!

We are Counting Down to Kindergarten!

Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

Going to school for the first time is a major step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the 'Kindergarten Countdown' open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit **www.dsb.org** and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!



Cold Weather Alerts at DSBN

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal. When making this decision, principals will often consult with neighbouring schools, talk with parents as they arrive in the morning, and if the decision to send children outside is made, will equip yard duty staff with walkie-

talkies so that they can communicate with the office to sound the bells to bring students in earlier.

The health and well-being of our students is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region are often good indicators that students will stay inside.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

- Try to send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pull-overs. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items de-

pending on the weather.

- Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.
- Warm socks and boots will keep their feet warm and dry in the snow and slush.
- Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep students from losing too much of that essential body heat.
- Put on a good pair of gloves or mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website dsbn.org, or contact the principal.