



130 Rykert St., St. Catharines, ON L2S 2B4

February 1, 2018

February NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Kindergarten Open House - Feb. 1st
- Mad Science - kick off assembly Feb. 2nd at 11:10 a.m.
- 'I Matter' Assembly - Feb. 2nd at 1:30 p.m.
- Underground Railroad Presentation - Feb. 8th
- 100th Day of School - Feb. 9th
- Term 1 Reports go home - Feb. 9th
- Sub Lunch - Feb. 14th
- PD Day - Feb. 16th
- Family Day (No School) - Feb. 19th
- Grade 7 Visit to Collegiate - Feb. 27th
- School Council - Feb. 27th at 6:00 p.m.
- Pink Shirt Day - Feb. 28th
- Pita Lunch - Feb. 28th

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE



It is hard to believe that we are almost finished Term 1. We are thrilled about how successful our students have been and look forward to their ongoing perseverance as they work their way through Term 2.

Thanks to our wonderful community that continues to support the Westdale staff and students so wholeheartedly. Great schools ensure that families and schools work closely together to ensure the fullest potential is reached for all our learners.

Mr. Scott & Mrs. Wittig

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Our next scheduled School Council meeting is set for **Tuesday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m.**

If you would like to take a more active role in your child's school, please consider coming out. We encourage any and all interested parents to attend.

Parents as Partners



SUB LUNCH

The next sub lunch will be on **Wednesday, February 14th**. Orders can be placed through School Cash Online.



Contact us at:
 Phone: 905-682-9284
 Email: wes@dsbn.org



Twitter @westdale_ps



JANUARY'S 'I MATTER' WINNERS

As an Individual

Levi K. Evy A.
Dahlyla M. Olivia W.
Steven S. Elijah R.
Francis D. Kayleigh G.
Zach M.

As a Learner

Rahf A. Rondell D.
Jada O. Malia S.
Sahil M. Julianna L.
Raed A. Tyler B.
Adel A. Harshita S.
Shannon L. Sam B.
Owen H.

As a Community Member

Faisal A. Izaak B.
Emily T. Marcus C.
Owen S. Nevaeh W.
Chase R. Laila H.
Mason L.



Thursday, February 1, 2018
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

During your visit you will see:

- A Kindergarten classroom
- Meet the Kindergarten team
- Register for school
- Get a fun goodie bag with learning resources

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

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.

For secondary schools it may become necessary to cancel late buses. Notice will be provided via school announcements and on the websites and subscription features by 11:30 a.m.

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

Websites:

www.dsbns.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

WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton

CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton

CHML (900 AM) Hamilton

CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton

Y-108(107.9) Hamilton

CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines

CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines

2DayFM (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie

K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton

GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland

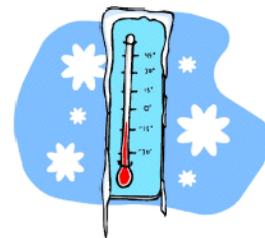
Television Stations:

CH - Hamilton

CTV Toronto

CityTV Breakfast Television

Cogeco Channel 10 (Jack.Custers@cogeco.com)



TERM 1 REPORT CARD

On February 9, 2018 all Grades 1-8 students will bring home the Term 1 elementary report card. The Progress Report in November provided you with information about how your child was learning in the classroom and gave an indication of progress towards achieving the curriculum expectations for all subjects.



Learning Skills and Work Habits are an important focus of this report card. These are critical life skills that students will work on from Grades 1 to Grade 12. Teachers evaluate how well students are achieving these skills for their grade level and include a comment about each student's strengths and some next steps for continued growth.

For each subject being taught this term, your child will receive either a letter grade (Grades 1-6) or a percentage grade (Grades 7 & 8). If a subject is only being taught in Term 2, then the teacher will check NA (not applicable) for that subject on the report card. For each subject, there will be a comment that describes your child's strengths and some next steps that will support learning in Term 2.

Communication between teachers and parents/guardians is an important support for student success. We encourage all parents/guardians to discuss the report card with your child. All parents/guardians are invited to contact the school if you would like to schedule an opportunity to discuss your child's achievement and next steps for learning with his/her teacher.

KINDERGARTEN COMMUNICATION OF LEARNING

On February 9, the Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document developed by the Ministry of Education will be sent home for our Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten students.



The new Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document will provide parents/guardians with comments about their child's strengths and growth in relation to the overall expectations of The Kindergarten Program (2016). The overall expectations are connected with the following four frames: Belonging and Contributing; Self-Regulation and Well-Being; Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours; and Problem Solving and Innovating.

Since September, our Kindergarten educator teams have been observing and documenting a wide range of evidence of each child's thinking and learning within a play environment. The documentation gathered will reflect your child's key learnings, recognize growth and possible next steps for learning. The next steps will provide parents/guardians with information about how we will support your child's new learning at school as it relates to the Kindergarten Program's expectations.

We recognize and appreciate your continued support throughout the year.

PARKING ISSUES



A number of reminders have gone home in our newsletters, via our phone system and staff have been trying hard to remind drivers in person of our parking lot guidelines, however we have not seen an improvement in the level of safety for everyone and **we need your help!**

A few suggestions to consider if driving your child(ren) to school:

- 1) Expect that the process will take some time....our kids are worth it! Every school parking lot is congested at the start and end of the day, so we need to accept this is part of the daily routine.
- 2) For older and responsible students, arrange to meet with your child(ren) to walk them home. This will allow you to avoid the congestion of the lot!
- 3) Carpool! This will reduce the number of cars in our lot.

Please remember that our parking lot guidelines are in place for 1 reason only: **to keep our students and other community members safe.** We implore you to consider this on the days when you're in a rush and need to be somewhere else long ago -- it's for the kids! Staff are not trying to cause you more stress when we approach your vehicle with a reminder of these guidelines, it's simply out of care and concern for our entire community.



KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, February 1, 2018 is Kindergarten OPEN HOUSE registration day, **10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** If you live within the Westdale Public School area and have a child who will be 4 years of age by December 31, 2018, he/she is eligible to attend our full day Kindergarten program beginning September, 2018. Please note that copies of proof of age by Birth Certificate or Birth Registration, proof of Immunization, and proof of address are required to complete registration. Any legal documents regarding custody arrangements are requested as well. Please note that an address of a grandparent, child care giver etc. cannot be used to register your child. Your address (where you and your child reside) is critical to the registration process. Also, please bring your Kindergarten child with you when you come to register at the school. See you on February 1, 2018!

CHESS CLUB

The Westdale chess team is 38 members strong (grades two to eight)! We are in the process of teaching many students how to play the game of chess, and we have several returning members who are working toward developing more efficient strategies for checkmating their opponents. We meet 3 times a week in the learning commons. Several students from each grade will be selected to represent Westdale at the upcoming Area 3 Tournament, to be held Monday, March 26 at Oakridge Public School.



SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

School Cash is an online portal that allows you to pay for any school service, product, or event all online. The system is active and we recommend that you can register by visiting our school website on the School Cash Online button.

Registration should take less than five minutes.

Register:

- Visit www.dsbn.org/schoolcash and select "Register Now"
- Complete the three registration steps
- **NOTE:** *You must create your profile using your name and not your children's*

Confirm Your Account:

- You will receive a confirmation email from School Cash Online
- Click on the link provided
- Sign in to your account using your email and password



UPDATES USING REMIND

We are asking our parents to join the "Westdale Families Remind" group.

Instructions:

- Using your cell phone, enter this number - 289-812-3838
- Text this message - @westdalef

The "Remind" app will keep you informed of upcoming events happening at Westdale.



WESTDALE'S TWITTER PAGE

You can also follow Westdale events on Twitter. Follow us at - @westdale_ps



FINAL THOUGHT

"The time is always right to do what is right".

-Martin Luther King Jr.