



# JORDAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

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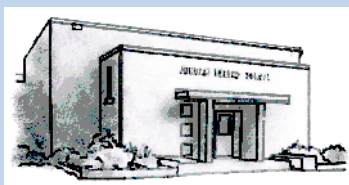


## January 2012

### Inside this issue:

Office	1
Greetings	
School Information/ Updates	2-5
Sports	3
Curriculum	6-9
Calendar	10

### Character Trait for January: Responsibility



## Greetings from the Office

Happy new year and welcome back! We trust that you enjoyed a wonderful holiday and returned well-rested and ready to accomplish more great things. Although we are returning to a new calendar month and year, we are completing the end of our first term. Over the course of the next few weeks, students will continue to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the content that has been addressed throughout term one.

The Junior Kindergarten Progress Report, the Senior Kindergarten Term 1 Report Card, and the provincial report cards for Grades 1-8, will be arriving home on **February 9<sup>th</sup>**. On this report card, students in grades 1-6 will receive letter grades (e.g., A, B, C, D) and students in grades 7 and 8 will receive percentage grades (e.g., 84%, 72%, 67%) to indicate how well they are achieving the curriculum in each of their subjects. If a particular subject or strand is not part of a student's program this term, then the NA box will be checked. This subject or strand will be reported on in June.

The Learning Skills and Work Habits are the same as the ones that were on the Progress Reports. These are essential skills that will help students be successful in both school and also as an active member of their community. The Learning Skills and Work Habits are: Responsibility; Organization; Independent Work; Collaboration; Initiative; and Self-regulation.

We hope that you are pleased to see the excellent work that our teachers are doing to ensure that the report card comments are written in parent-friendly language. Comments will identify: the **learning focus** based on curriculum, **student strengths**, and the **next steps** that students should take in order to improve their learning. We invite you to continue to communicate with us if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress and achievement. Great schools ensure that families and schools work closely together to ensure the fullest potential is reached for all our learners. **Thank you for your continued support at home!**

Karen Leskiw-Janvary, Principal  
Sara DeDivitiis, Vice Principal

## Inclement Weather

Winter is here! Coats, snow pants, hats, gloves/mittens, and boots will help to ensure that your child can comfortably play outside during our Fitness breaks. If your child is too ill to go outdoors during Fitness breaks, then he/she should not be at school. **Indoor shoes are a must** as boots cannot be worn in class and sock feet are unsafe at school.

Colder weather often brings winter colds/flu. Please consider sending in a box of tissues with your child for his/her use.

When weather conditions are dangerous, school closings and bus transportation cancellations may occur. Please do NOT call the school in the event this occurs as telephone lines must be kept open for emergency purposes. **Local radio stations: CKTB 610 am, CHML 900 am, KLite 102.9 fm, EZ Rock 105.7 fm, Y-108 107.9 fm, Wave 94.7 fm, Htz 97.7 fm and The River 105.1 fm.**

**Websites: [www.dsbm.org](http://www.dsbm.org) and [www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca)**

**Televisions Stations: COGECO Cable 10, CHCH Television and City TV.**

**Remember that the final decision to send your child to school during severe weather is your decision.**



## Grade 8 Graduation

Before we know it, our Grade 8 Graduation will be here. If you would like to offer some ideas, please forward them by note or phone call to the office. More information will follow shortly as we will be getting our plans underway in the near future.



our current play structure. Please feel free to contact any of our committee members for more information: Erin Campbell and Amanda Ewert. Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 21st @ 5:45 p.m.** in our library.

## Caring for Our Community

Jordan's community spirit and generosity were much appreciated in support of our Community Care projects in December. Thank you for your kindness with our Gently Used Coat & Boots Drive, Toy Mountain, canned goods for Community Care, as well as our "Tree of Warmth". There is no doubt that we made Christmas much happier for many local families. Many thanks to Mrs. Jeffcoate and Madame Chapman for organizing these important initiatives.

## Secondary School Open Houses

If you have a student in Grade 8, then we hope you will be able to visit Eden's Open House on Monday, January 16th at 7:00 pm and/or Beamsville District Secondary School's Open House on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.



## School Advisory Council

Please consider joining our next meeting on **Tuesday, February 21st @ 6:30**. We will be setting dates and making plans for our final fundraising initiatives and sharing information on any upcoming school events.

## Playground Committee

Our first meeting was a very productive one as our committee members made long term plans to replace

## Transportation

Please be reminded that our bus drivers should not be receiving notes to allow students on their buses for non emergency situations. As well, for insurance/liability purposes, bus drivers are only able to pick students up at one location and return them to the same location. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation with this matter.



## Camp Wahahowin

Thank you for your non-refundable deposit for our trip to camp. This is a reminder that the second installment for our Grade 7/8 trip to Camp Wahanowin is due on **Thursday, February 9th**. This next installment is for \$120.00, unless you plan to pay the entire amount on April 26th.



## Throw No Snow!



To encourage a safe outdoor environment for both staff and students, snow/ice must remain on the ground. Students are not to throw or kick snow/ice. We will continue to review our Code of Conduct with our students. Progressive

discipline will be exercised when school rules are not followed.

## Professional Activity Day

**Friday, January 20th** is DSBN's next elementary Professional Activity Day.

## "Evening of the Arts"

Our "Evening of the Arts" was a huge success! Through their fantastic performances, students highlighted each of the four components of the Arts: music, visual art, drama, and dance. Thank you for your generous donations to our food drive and Tree of Warmth, as well as for purchasing your child's artwork from the Art Gallery. The money raised from the artwork will go towards resources that will support and enhance the teaching of the Arts at Jordan. Thanks again for making this a memorable and enjoyable event!



Thank you to Mrs. Van Noort for organizing this evening!

## Intermediate Basketball Team

Our Intermediate students are currently trying out for Jordan's basketball teams. Their season begins the week of January 16th. Go Jaguars! Thank you Mrs. Sotola & Mr. Koop for coaching!



## Junior Co-Ed Volleyball

Congratulations to the Junior Co-Ed Volleyball team for finishing their outstanding season in first place. The team had an outstanding season, put forth very consistent effort, improved their skills and showed amazing teamwork and spirit. The team was also very successful at the DSBN tournament on December 14th. We finished second in our pool and advanced to the quarter finals. We played tough against Gainsborough but unfortunately, due to a slight difference in points, the team did not advance further.



We are proud of Emily L., Emily S., Carley, Mackenzie,

Abby, Chiara, Jazmin, Tanner, Harley, Noah, Jacob T., Bennett, Jacob G. and Blake. Well done team!

Many thanks to parents/ grandparents, spectators, "home referee" Mrs. Ruetz, score keepers/ lines people and parent drivers for their time and support.

A big thank you from Mrs. Brydges and Mrs. Chapman to all the girls and boys for showing their dedication, sportsmanship and enthusiasm to the sport.

Thank you to Mrs. Brydges and Mrs. Chapman for coaching our team!

## 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 for 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.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.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, and if the decision to send children outside is made, we ensure that yard duty staff communicate with the office to sound the bells if students need to be brought inside 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 pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending 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](http://dsbn.org), or contact the principal.

### Vaccines and elementary school children

Niagara Region Public Health is conducting an annual review of vaccination records for all elementary school children in the Niagara region. **If the vaccination information we have on file for your child is NOT complete, you will receive a letter and questionnaire from us in the mail later this month (January, 2012).**

- Please follow the instructions for reporting your child's vaccinations to us, as outlined in the letter. Various options for reporting are available.
- If your child is overdue for one or more vaccinations, you will need to make an appointment with your child's doctor to get your child vaccinated. You can also make an appointment for your child at one of Public Health's General Immunization Clinics by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.
- If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to vaccinate your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original

legal exemption document.

Students under 18 years of age attending Ontario schools must have proof of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles). We are required to have this information by law (*Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990*). **Please provide us with your child's missing vaccination information by March 8, 2012 or your child may be suspended from school.**

For more information, please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.



### Character Education – Responsibility

We are responsible when we demonstrate self-discipline, self-control, reliability and are accountable for our choices, words and actions. We take care of others and our environment. We hope you will be able to join us on **Monday, January 30th @ 9:15** as we recognize our responsible Jaguars, and learn about our next trait: *Integrity*. Remember to wear your Jordan clothing or our school colours for this Spirit Day!



### Newsletter Draw

We are happy that most of our families have chosen to read our monthly school newsletter on-line. Please inform the office if you wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter. Remember to complete a slip, similar to the one below, if you would like your child's name to be included in our monthly draw for a \$10.00 Tote Sweet gift certificate. If you have more than one child that would like to enter the draw, simply create a slip for each child.

I have read the newsletter.

I no longer require a hard copy of the monthly newsletter as I plan to read it on-line

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### “Hey Parents! Do you know what your kids are watching?”

Young people look to celebrities for reassurance about their fashion and behaviour.

The evidence is clear....

The more youth see smoking in movies, the more likely they are to start smoking.

#### Ways to Protect our Kids

1. **Be aware** of what your children are viewing and learn which movies have smoking in them. Up-dates available every Thursday at facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood.
2. **Talk to your children** about tobacco and movies and teach them to be media aware.
3. **Show your support** to get tobacco out of youth-rated films in Ontario at smokefreemovies.ca.
4. **Spread the word** to other parents and join the discussion on facebook and twitter.

[www.smokefreemovies.ca](http://www.smokefreemovies.ca)

[facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood](http://facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood)



# School Support Services

## ELEMENTARY

### The Daily Five

**You might have wondered what your child is talking about when you hear them mention “The Daily Five.”** The purpose of this article is to fill you in on what The Daily Five is all about, so you don't have to nod your head while wondering what in the world your child is referring to.

The Daily Five is a way of structuring the reading block so every student is independently engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. These research-based tasks are ones that will have the biggest impact on student reading and writing achievement, as well as help foster children who love to read and write. Students receive explicit whole group instruction and then are given independent practice time to read and write independently while the teacher provides focused, intense instruction to individuals and small groups of students.

When it is up and running smoothly, students are engaged in the Daily Five, which consists of:

- Read to Self
- Work on Writing
- Read to Someone
- Listen to Reading
- Word Work



There are very specific behaviour expectations that go with each Daily 5 component. The first few weeks are spent working intensely on building reading and writing stamina, learning the behaviours of the Daily 5 and fostering classroom community. The teacher also spends time learning about each student's strengths and greatest needs as a reader in order to best plan for each student's instruction.

Each child is taught to select “Good Fit Books” or books they can read, understand and are interested in, which they read during Daily 5. Students spend most of their time actually reading, which research supports as the number one way to improve reading. Motivation and reading enjoyment skyrocket when students are offered choice, especially when this is accompanied by extended practice and specific reading instruction for each individual child.

Please think of your child's classroom as you visit garage sales or clean your own child's bookcase. A variety of reading materials at various reading levels makes the classroom library as appealing as the local favourite bookstore or library for browsing.

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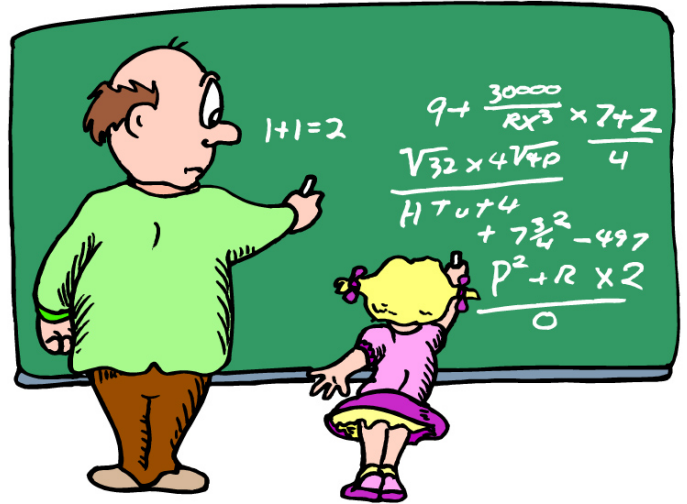


## Helping Your Child with Math

**Keep your eyes open for the many opportunities to discuss the math you encounter every day!**

In our classrooms, we are exploring concepts, solving problems, talking about the math and practising the skills we use. To follow up from our classroom lessons, please have discussions with your child about what they learned in math class. Have them show you a problem they did in school and share their solution with you. Listen to their explanations and ask them questions about what they did and why it worked. This will be beneficial for all students in the class!

It is important for you to support your child at their level of understanding. Don't show them more than what they're ready for. Exploring the mathematics that they are doing in class more deeply is usually more beneficial than pushing ahead to get to bigger numbers or to the next concept. For example, if your child is practising adding 2 digit numbers at home ( $32 + 44$ ), it is better to explore a variety of 2 digit numbers ( $74 + 19$ ), rather than worrying about going ahead to 3 digit numbers. Spend time solving the 2 digit numbers in many different ways, so that your child becomes flexible in their thinking about numbers. When helping them practise their math facts, be sure to discuss and explore the concepts behind the math they are doing. Memorizing that  $4 \times 6 = 24$  isn't meaningful without knowing that  $4 \times 6$  represents  $6 + 6 + 6 + 6$  or  $4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4$  or that it is 4 groups of 6 or 6 groups of 4.



However, finding real world situations to explore the math your child is doing in school is still the best way to help them develop a better understanding of their school math. Ask them how much will it cost them to buy that new video game for \$49 and the batteries they'll need for \$15? Ask them to explain how they got their answer to you.

## What are the benefits of learning a second language?

**In addition to developing a lifelong ability to communicate with many people, students may enjoy other benefits of learning a second language** including a "strengthening of their first language skills, enhancement of problem-solving and reasoning skills, the capacity for creative thinking, and the ability to respect and understand other cultures." (*The Ontario Curriculum, French as a Second Language: Core French, Grades 4 to 8.*)

In addition, it can provide a competitive advantage in the workforce by opening up additional job opportunities.

According to *The Impact of Second Language Education* study, there is an urgent requirement for qualified speakers of languages other than English in areas of science, technology, medicine and global commerce.

Students of foreign languages develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. It will open the door to the world of art, cuisine, cinema, travel and literature. Some evidence also suggests that children who receive second language instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems. Students who are fluent in two languages score higher in both verbal and non-verbal intelligence. They also have higher test scores in reading, language and mathematics (*College Bound Seniors: The 1992 Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers*).

By encouraging your children to continue studying a second language, you will be equipping them with the tools they need to succeed in today's growing world.



**KELLY MAC FRENCH EMERSION!**

## Eco-Corner

brought to you by: DSBN Environmental Sustainability Committee

### ECO- TIPS FOR OUR GREAT CANADIAN WINTER



**Air Quality:** Feeling stuck inside this winter? So is the air inside your home.

Recent research has found that air inside homes can be just as polluted as the air in many large industrialized cities. Indoor air pollution is caused by a lack of ventilation and can lead to more frequent colds, respiratory problems, and other ailments and diseases. Here's a tip to keep your home and your family healthy.

**Keep the house clean and use exhaust fans.** House dust mites, pollens, animal dander, and other pollutants can be reduced through regular cleaning. Install and use fans vented to the outdoors in kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry rooms to improve fresh air circulation.

**Thermostats:** If you have a manual thermostat or no thermostat at all, one way to save energy and money this winter is to install an ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat. When installed

and used with the four pre-programmed temperature settings for weekend and weekdays, you can save about \$100 each year while staying comfortable.

**Solar Energy:** Use the sun to your advantage. Open shades, blinds and curtains that have southern exposure during sunny days in winter and close them all at night to make the most of all that free light and heat provided by our sun.

**Use Better De-icers:** Try to steer clear of rock salt (sodium chloride) and urea-based de-icers. Not only can they pollute habitats with plant-killing runoff, but they can also corrode concrete, destroy your lawn (even a snow-covered one), and contaminate water supplies. Better bets? Sand, which provides traction without damaging salt-sensitive landscapes, and look for 'green' alternative melters on your next trip to the hardware store.

Check out the following websites for tips/resources:

<http://www.earthshare.org/green-tips.html>

<http://www.wholeliving.com/133860/winter-green-ecofriendly-ways-stay-healthy-season>

<http://sustainablepersonalfinance.com/365-green-tips/>

*The DSBN Environmental Sustainability committee wishes all students, families and staff to enjoy a safe and sustainable winter season.*



## *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 DSBN website [www.dsb.org](http://www.dsb.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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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!



# January 2012



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 	2 Character Focus: Responsibility	3	4 Holidays	5	6 day 2 Chicken Lunch "Rock and Ring" Curling Program Gr. JK-8	7
8	9 day 8 <i>Welcome Back!</i>	10 day 9	11 day 10	12 day 1 Food/ Milk orders going out	13 day 2 P.A. Day	14
15	16 day 3 7-9:00 p.m. Eden Open House	17 day 4 7-9:00 p.m. BOSS Open House	18 day 5	19 day 6	20	21
22	23 day 7	24 day 8	25 day 9 Food/ Milk orders due back	26 day 10	27 day 1 Wrap Lunch	28
29	30 9:15 Celebration Assembly	31		Kindergarten Open House February 2nd	