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Principal



Understanding and Planning Next Steps

Recently, our Grade 3 and 6 EQAO testing results were released. Teachers and principals use this information in many ways to improve student achievement, which includes looking at “grouped” scores (like the ones displayed) as well as individual student results. We look at this information as a snapshot of one class at one time as well as a trend over a number of years. We combine the information from this assessment with everyday classroom indicators of success to ensure that the strategies we are using are contributing to the most learning possible. Staff will use this information to adjust our School Growth Plan and to advise parents of individual and class plans for improvement in different areas. We are proud of our results this year and will be sharing the results of our planning over the next school year.

<u>Results</u>	<u>Board</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Board</u>	<u>Grade 6</u>
<u>Reading</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>83</u>
<u>Writing</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>83</u>

Our Literacy Goal this year is writing: Term 1's focus is conventions; Term 2's focus is word choice and Term 3's focus is sentence fluency. Each class will have grade and age appropriate expectations, activities to demonstrate the learning and assessments. Our Mathematics Goal is Problem Solving. Using Bancho (grouping similar solutions), Gallery Walks (seeing other ways to solve) and Congress (explaining) students become critical thinkers and gain a deeper understanding of their learning. Reading for meaning will be applied to both literacy and mathematics.

NOVEMBER 2009

We will be showcasing 8 character traits this year and this month we have chosen respect. On the 27th we will honour students that have demonstrated respect in a variety of ways!

Applewood and DSNB Websites

Applewood's website has a wealth of information to keep you informed. Take some time to browse through it. You can find it by typing "Applewood DSNB" in your search engine, or typing the direct url <http://www.dsnb.edu.on.ca/Schools/Applewood/>. You will find important dates and information regarding events in the school, school and classroom newsletters, some class homework, suggestions for extra work, sports information, School Council meeting dates and the list goes on. We welcome suggestions on ways to improve our website. You can email Mrs. Vince at sally.vince@dsn.edu.on.ca. Please note that every effort is made to keep our website up to date, but please remember that sometimes it is not always possible to have items posted immediately.

As well the DSNB website offers Premier Tools and research programs that will support students at home. Please have a look and access these valuable resources to support learning at home and increasing resources for research and home study, right at your fingertips. Any questions please contact your child's home room teacher and they will be able to direct you!

Volunteer Reading Program

We would like to continue the volunteer reading program at our school. This is intended to give our children an opportunity to practice strategies to become independent, self-directed, successful readers. Initially, only some students will be involved in one-on-one coaching sessions with a volunteer coach. The number of students who can access the program is dependent on the number of volunteer coaches. We are targeting the primary grades, but some students from the junior grades may access the program as well. We will train the coaches to use specific strategies to reinforce concepts being taught in the classrooms. All the necessary materials will be provided. We welcome any time coaches can give to the school. It may be as little as one time per week or as much as three times per week. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer reading coach please complete the bottom portion of this letter and return it to the school. You will be contacted for a short training session. If you know a grandparent, other relative, friend or community member who would be interested in helping, please tell them to contact the school at 905-684-4359.



Our Library will be transformed into a book fair from Scholastic Books this week: Nov 2-6. The students will be able to visit the fair on Tuesday and Wednesday. Parents are welcome, Thursday after school and throughout the evening until 7:30 p.m. After that it will be packed up! Although it will be here for a short time, we are looking forward to seeing you! All proceeds will go towards buying new books for our library. Thanks in advance for supporting this event! See you there. A special thank you to all the students that have volunteered to "work" during the Book Fair.



School Council Update

The Applewood School Council has been busy during the first two months of school! Two meetings have been held, some new members have come out and lots of decisions have been made. 2009/10 is going to be a great year at Applewood! Some of the exciting things planned for this school year are:

- PRO Grant submission to create a resource library for parents
- Cookie Dough Fund Raiser to refurbish our playground
- Playground Maintenance

As in the past, the Council will be subsidizing many of the costs associated with activities at the school including 50% of all bussing costs, yearbooks, and many of the classroom and team requests. We are always looking for new members to join the committee, bring fresh ideas and get to know other Applewood parents. The meetings for the remainder of the school have been scheduled for 6:30 pm and will be held in the Applewood Staff Room on: Monday, November 16, Monday, December 14, Monday, January 18, Tuesday, February 16, Monday, April 19, Monday, May 17 and Monday, June 21.

Hope to see you there! Please contact Co chairs: Gillian McWilliams or Chris Grover (Chair) for more information.

Executive Members also include:

Melissa Riley: Treasurer

Michelle MacPherson: Lunch Coordinator

Mrs. Lawrence, Chris Grover, Gillian McWilliams and Michelle MacPherson will attend DSBN School Council Conference in the evening on November 4 at Westlane Secondary School, Niagara Falls.

Lunchtime At Applewood

It is great news to report that our students behaviour during our 20 minute break before going outside for fresh air is great. Thank you parents for sending great lunches and snacks and remembering to pack cutlery if needed! All that preparation helps our students maximize their eating time! 100% of the School Council Members supported students eating in the gym. It has become a time when students can visit, help younger students and be Milk Monitors.



A special thanks to Ms. Hoekstra, who is always planning our activities that keep us all moving! Although this is the final year to receive this certificate, we were awarded triple gold from Healthy Living Niagara for providing and educating our students to be living healthy. The certificate will be proudly displayed in the trophy case in the front hall. Congratulations Ms. Hoekstra! On behalf of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay presented by Coca Cola and RBC and supported by the Government of Canada, she was confirmed as one of 12, 000 Olympic Torchbearers who will hold history in her hands when she carries the Olympic Flame in the Vancouver 2010 Torch Relay. Her story will help create the path of northern lights along this 45, 000 kilometre journey, Dec 21st.

Junior Volleyball Teams 2009/10

Congratulations to the following students that are our girls volleyball team members: Ilisa, Olivia, Kayla, Hannah, Brenna, Kayleigh G., Riley, Sydnie, Hailey, Jennifer D., Nicole, Rachel, Jessica, Shaima. Thanks to Mrs. Vince for volunteering to coach our girls.

Congratulations to the following students that are our boys volleyball team members: John R., Tyler M., Owen W., Brent F., Sam M., Kurt C., Zack D., Djordje F., Jared P., Hunter B., Jordyn H., Ethan G., Charlie B., Corey L.

Thanks is also extended to Mrs. Warkentin and Ms. Hoekstra for volunteering to coach our boys. It looks like an exciting season! Go Gators~! GO!



Remembrance Day

We continue to plan for our Remembrance Day assembly @ 10:30 a.m. on November 11th. The students have been working in music class and Literacy classes and some of these creations will be apart of the assembly. Students associated with organizations that have uniforms like Girl Guides and Scouting are encouraged to wear them on that day.

Parents and Friends of Applewood are also welcome to attend our assembly.

PE Clothes

Most of our junior students remember these clothes and change into them quickly so that they are ready for their planned activities and sports with Ms. Hoekstra. We appreciate your support to ensure that the clothes are returned home for regular washing.

Oh yes!

The Lost and Found Box is overflowing. Next time you are in the school, please look for any items that may be wishing they were back home with you! Thanks! **Unclaimed clothing is sent to charity on a regular basis!**

Playground Safety Reminder

As the cold weather approaches, parents are reminded to watch for clothing that could become entangled in playground equipment. Long scarves, drawstrings and loose clothing can be a potential choking hazard for young children. As the weather conditions change, we decide daily when the playgrounds are closed for safety reasons. The students are notified and supervised carefully.

Emergency School Closing...

It seems prudent now that December will soon be upon us, to review the procedure we follow when schools are closed, transportation is cancelled or buses run early due to weather conditions. All information regarding the announcement to close the school will be announced on the following local stations: CHSC 1220; CKEY FM 101.1; CKTB 610; CHRE FM 105.7. In most cases, information regarding school closing or transportation changes will be broadcasted before 7:00 a.m. Should it become necessary to close the school during the day, we will follow the directions you gave us on the Student Verification form to insure your child safely returns to a supervised home. Please make sure we have the correct information!

Professional Development Days: School Closed~ Friday, Nov 13th and December 4th (Interview afternoon following morning classes) Although Reports do not go home until Dec. 2. Teachers are available for interviews throughout Nov 30 -Dec 4. Arrangements can be made. More information to follow.