

From the Principal's Desk...

Happy New Year! We hope you had an enjoyable break. As 2009 begins, Carleton staff continues to offer a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities for your children. At the same time, your children do a lot for Carleton through their participation in these activities, as well as volunteering in the office at recess and lunch, helping out with the tuck shop, running pizza days, participating in the HA Crew, organizing school-wide student council events, and handing out milk, to name just a few. As parents, we can certainly encourage them to try something new in 2009, and support their growth towards independence in many different ways.

* Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who were selected as "Students of the Month" for their demonstration of tolerance:

- 1/2L . Abbott Armstrong, Maney Sharififar
- 1/2H Emily Budd, Daniel Twining
- 2/3D Angus Robinson, Carson Suggett
- 4J . . . Mackenzie Budd, Kara Letkeman
- 5T . . . Zoe Kilpatrick, Jake Day
- 6M . . Jenna Horsthuis, Heather Robinson
- 7H . . Emma Terrio, Khadija Al-Harazi
- 7B . . . Janelle Siemens, Stephan Anastasopoulos
- SN . . Joshua Winterbottom
- SS . . . Kyle Nickerson-Pipito
- 8H . . Ariba Akhtar, Josh Brens
- 8R . . . Cody Cabral, Daniel Tough, Reem Mokbel

In January we will focus on the character trait of ambition. Students who have ambition have big dreams. They take initiative by not sitting still and waiting for life to happen.

* Thank you to our Students for. . .

- ☺ arriving at school on time and bringing their lunch with them, if they stay at noon
- ☺ using the proper entrances for entry and exit
- ☺ using your student organizer to make sure homework assignments are done on time!
- ☺ being involved in various extra-curricular activities
- ☺ having a positive attitude



* Thank You to our Parents for. . .

- ☺ calling the school when students will be absent
- ☺ stopping and checking in at the office when visiting the school
- ☺ saying goodbye at the backyard and letting primary children line up on their own
- ☺ using the student organizers to communicate with staff
- ☺ volunteering in many ways to help our students

* Congratulations!

On Thursday, December 18th, Mr. Smelle and the Special Needs class hosted a Christmas Party for all of the other Special Needs classes in St. Catharines. The classes and staff enjoyed an afternoon of crafts, snacks, dancing and carolling. They even had a visit from Santa! It was incredibly heartwarming to see how everyone "pitched in" to make the afternoon a success! We are especially proud of the grade 8 students who helped that afternoon. They set up the gym, helped the students with crafts and carols. They truly demonstrated the meaning of caring. They showed the true meaning of Christmas that afternoon, that it is better to give than to receive.

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.

Information about transportation changes and school closures will be available on the websites, radio and television stations listed below as soon as it is available. Please do not phone the school for transportation or school closure information.

Websites:

www.dsbns.org
www.nsts.ca

Television Stations:

COGECO Cable 10
CHCH Television
City TV

Radio Stations:

KLite - 102.9 fm CKTB 610 am
EZRock 105.7 fm CHML 900 am
Y-108 - 107.9 fm CHSC 1220 am
Wave 94.7 fm Htz 97.7 fm

If early dismissal becomes necessary, we will use the emergency numbers you provided on the confidential form which was sent home in September. If your contact numbers have changed, please call the office with your updated information.

PLEASE NOTE: The school may be open even though student transportation has been cancelled. The decision to send children to school is always at the parent's discretion.

* Secondary School Open Houses

Once again it is that time of year when our grade 8 students will need to be thinking about next year and the decisions that they will need to make. During January and February, our students will be given information about the high schools they should be considering. St. Catharines area schools open houses are: Laura Secord: January 13th, 7:00-9:00 PM; Governor Simcoe: January 15th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM; Eden, January 12th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, Niagara District, January 13th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM and Kernahan Park, January 12th, 6:30 -8:00 PM. Parents and students are encouraged to take advantage of the open houses. Carleton staff are available to assist students and parents in making the right choices for next year.



Do you know a child who is turning 4 or 5 in 2009?
Help them get ready for their big first day of school with the DSBN's Kindergarten Countdown.

Parents and children are invited to a KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE at our school on Thursday, February 5, 2009 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Attending an open house is a great way for children and their families to see the school, meet teachers and staff, and register for the coming school year.

To find out all of the information you need to prepare your child for kindergarten, go to: www.dsbns.org and click on "Kindergarten Countdown".

* Thank you . . .

To all who supported our community through the donation of Canadian Tire money (\$200.00) for Christmas Gifts and over 2 barrels of food and toys for Community Care. Well done!!

* School Council Update

The next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. All parents are welcome to attend.

* Lunch Supervisor Needed

We are currently accepting applications for the position of lunch supervisor. Lunch supervisors supervise students indoors from 11:40 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and then outdoors from 12:00 - 12:35 p.m.. Interested applicants should speak to Mrs. Taylor or Mrs. Hadfield

* Blue Spruce, Silver Birch, and Red Maple Book Clubs begin in January!

"Oh the weather outside is frightful, but in the library it's so delightful!" Some of the best new books available in Canada have arrived in the Carleton library for students who wish to participate in one of Carleton's three Book Clubs.

Students in grades 3-8 will have the opportunity to join thousands of kids from across Ontario in the 2009 Red Maple or Silver Birch programs. Students who participate in these programs will be given the opportunities to read great new books, and register their votes with the Ontario Library Association. Having met with some of these nominated authors, I know that these awards are considered especially prestigious because this truly is a children's choice award. Students who participate in book clubs will participate in lunch hour book club meetings as they read this exciting collection of books. As an added bonus, Silver Birch Club members will have the opportunity to attend the DSBN Silver Birch Celebration in May. Students who wish to join book clubs can pick up their permission forms at the library during the first week of school in January. Grade 1 & 2 students will also have the opportunity to participate in the Blue Spruce reading program by hearing the Blue Spruce nominated titles and voting for their favourites. Books will be read during library classes as well as during recess time readings. Book clubs are the perfect choice for book lovers at Carleton.



* Pizza Days

Pizza Day is every Friday. We offer cheese and pepperoni pizza for \$1.00 per slice.

* Junior Girls Volleyball

Congratulations to all members of the Junior Girls Volleyball team on a very successful season culminating with the Consolation Final win!. Team members were: Erica Carter, Rachel Postma, Shae Dutcher, Megan Patterson-Henry, Rachel Dietsch, Breena Hogan, Emma Burns, Carly Stephens, Heather Robinson, Linda Hajrullahu. Alex Hill, Jenna Horsthuis, Sheri Adams and Ashley Markiewicz. The girls have shown great improvement in their skills and have worked diligently for over two months! We've enjoyed a great season of fun, friendship and great volleyball.

* Intermediate Basketball

Congratulations to the following girls and boys who successfully tried out and made the Intermediate Basketball teams:

Girls: Megan Bradley, Nargis Taheri, Sheena Sisavath, Megan Williams, Chantal Filiatreault, Tianna Salmen, Erin Hall, Alex Townsley, Kahdija Al-Harazi, Danika Stevenson, Rachel Ryu, Syd Dobbie, Alexis Gilby, Zoey Mokrzynski

Boys: Tarek Ibrahim, Cody Thompson, Ryan Bruce, Robert Scott, Cody Cabral, Jordan May-Forrester, Luke Wall, Husein Zukanovic, Desmond Stewart, Raheem Leclair, Waleed Hassanien, Jesse Kirton, Jake Rustin, Dan Cruz, Nathan Brown-Wilson, Steve Falk

* Winter Safety

Please review the following playground rules with your children to ensure their safety:

- * Throw no snow. Leave it on the ground!
- * No tag or running on the playground equipment. Slide down one at a time, only.
- * Keep all loose clothing tucked in.
- * Eat snacks on the tarmac near the recycling and garbage cans, not on the equipment or further out in the yard.



- * No body contact, hands off, safe play.

If there are icy conditions, the playground equipment may be out-of-bounds.

With the colder weather, students should not arrive at school before 8:25 in the morning. Since darkness comes early on these short, winter days, students should walk with others to and from school, especially those who remain after school for extra curricular activities. Other students should go directly home without stopping to play on the equipment or in the yard. There is no direct teacher supervision at this time and students should report home immediately after dismissal.

* Campbell's Labels for Education

This year marks the eighth anniversary of the Campbell's® Labels for Education™ program, and with your help, Carleton can make this year the best ever! The Labels for Education™ program is a great way to earn FREE merchandise for our school, and label collection and redemption is so easy. Participation in the program is simple - save labels from eligible Campbell products and send them to the school. Triple your efforts by asking your friends and family to collect labels on behalf of our school! If you have any questions, or would like to help with our Labels for Education™ collection drive, please contact our program coordinator, Mrs. Dean. Thank you for your ongoing support. Together we can build a better school for our children - one label at a time.

* Communication Matters

"SMART TALK from your Speech-Language Pathologists" Social skills develop as children mature. Most of us learn social skills automatically. We don't have to think about what we do and *say*, it seems to come naturally.

Poor social skills are common for children with learning challenges. Social skills include *verbal communication* as well as *nonverbal communication* (e.g. facial expression, body language) plus the ability to *think* through social situations. Having good social communication skills helps students to develop positive relationships with others. Difficulties with social language development often interferes with learning, relationships and inclusion/exclusion in school activities.

Nonverbal or physical difficulties can include: poor eye contact; difficulty maintaining appropriate social distance; body language does not match speech (e.g. emotions are

stronger than the situation calls for, lack of responses to situations and people); facial expressions do not match the topic or situation (e.g. smiling inappropriately); doesn't use gestures (e.g. waving; shaking hands; nodding head).

Verbal difficulties can include: talks about random topics; constantly interrupts conversations of others; shares too much information in a conversation; unable to take turns or difficulty waiting for or sharing a turn; insistence on being first every time; doesn't use pro-social communication (e.g. manners; giving and accepting compliments; may insult others unintentionally); doesn't



know how to initiate communication with others or in group situations; avoids groups or group activities.

Thinking difficulties can include: seems unaware of other's needs or emotions when communicating; takes jokes, sarcasm, and irony literally; laughs or talks at inappropriate times; forgets to take turns in conversation; doesn't pick up on cues to continue a conversation; doesn't consider his/her words before speaking and how these will affect others. Children with social communication difficulties need to be shown and taught to understand other peoples' feelings and behaviours. Sometimes children don't know which social skills to use and when to use them. Speak to your child's teacher if you think your child is experiencing social communication difficulties that are impacting upon learning and social success.

* Heart Healthy News

On the cold snowy days when children can't be outdoors finding fun activities can be somewhat difficult. Here are some ideas to keep the kids entertained:

Go Skating: Using two pieces of 8 ½" x 11" paper, one for under each foot, stride forward and backward on a large carpeted or tiled area, as if you were skating. Have family skating races, create a skating circuit to follow, or make up a routine.

Tobogganing: Sit close together as if you are riding a toboggan. Put your legs around the person in front of you. Move all together by pushing with the hands. When the team gets to the turning points, all jump up and run back to the finish line.

Hot Ball: Divide into 2 teams with each team having its own side of the room. Using lightweight balls, bean bags or recycled pieces of paper scrunched into balls, throw the balls over to the other team's side in a set period of time. The object is to have as many balls as possible in the other team's area at the end of a set amount of time. The game can be played in three-minute quarters. Four quarters constitute a game.

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: Copy or mirror movements made by another person -- stretching tall, tucking into a ball, making your body into wide shapes, etc.)

Read a Story with Actions: Have kids pretend to be characters in a book and move to the story. Act out songs, stories, and poetry ("Danny O'Dare" from *Falling Up* by Shel Silverstein, 1976)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>Carleton Happenings for 2009</h1>						To Report your child absent Please Call 905-934-5243
				1 	2 Christmas Break →→→	3
4	5 Day 6 Welcome Back!	6 Day 7	7 Day 8	8 Day 9	9 Day 10 Student/Staff VB Game 	10
11	12 Day 1 Eden Open House 7-9 p.m. Kernahan Open House 6:30 - 8:00 p.m	13 Day 2 Laura Secord Open House 7-9 p.m. SS to St. John's	14 Day 3 4 pm Int. BBall vs Power Glen	15 Day 4 Governor Simcoe Open House 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	16 Day 5 Pizza Day	17
18	19 Day 6	20 Day 7	21 Day 8 Skills Canada Presentation for Gr. 7/8	22 Day 9	23 Day 10 Pizza Day	24
25	26 Day 1	27 Day 2	28 Day 3 4 pm Int. BBall vs Ferndale	29 Day 4 School Council Mtg. 7:00 pm	30 Day 5 Pizza Day	31