



The Connaught Chronicle



October 2009

Connaught School 28 Prince St. St. Catharines, ON 905.682.6609
Principal: Mrs. S. Fehrman Vice Principal: Mr. B. Mayhew
Administrative Assistants: Mrs. P. Nardangeli and Mrs. J. Brenneman
Website <http://www.dsbns.edu.on.ca/Schools/Connaught/>

Principal's Message

What a great start to our school year! Our students have already demonstrated a dedication to learning, outstanding leadership qualities, and a willingness to get involved and make Connaught the best school in the District!

Their commitment, to not only their academics, was evident in the many runners we have on the cross country team, the junior soccer players and the intermediate students who attended try outs for volleyball. As well as athletic pursuits we are beginning our Leadership Council next week and some students have already completed their first field trip of the year. The participation at the Terry Fox Run should also be commended. Well done Cougars!

Thank you for helping your students off to a great start to the 2009/2010 school year!

Mrs. S. Fehrman

Halloween Dance-a-Thon

Connaught will be staging a Halloween Dance-a-Thon in our Gymnasium to support our awesome school. Students will be asked to collect pledges from friends and family. Each student will be asked to fill out a pledge sheet. The Dance-a-Thon will be held on **Friday, October 30th**. Stay tuned for more information as the Dance-a-Thon date approaches.



Terry Fox Run

Our Annual Terry Fox Run was held Friday, Sept. 25th. Another great turn out by Connaught students, staff, and the community on an overcast day. What a great way to demonstrate Cougar Pride by being part of Terry's Dream and continuing the Marathon of Hope even after Terry's passing. Way to go Connaught!!! Thanks Mr. French for all of your hard work and organization!



Pizza Days

Pizza days continue to be held on Thursdays at lunch. We are continuing with our **pre-order system**. Students interested in purchasing pizza **must bring in the money to their homeroom teacher by Tuesday at 9 a.m.** to be able to receive their pizza on Thursday. Both cheese and pepperoni pizzas are available to order. Remember, it is imperative that **all student orders and money** are turned into their teacher on **Tuesday** to receive pizza on Thursday. Pizza is \$1.00/slice.



Milk Program

The Connaught office will be offering milk/chocolate milk each day. Students can purchase sheets of fifteen tickets at the office for \$12.00.

Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test

All Grade 4 students in the school will take the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test during the period of October 5-23, 2009. This assessment helps us to identify individual student needs and abilities, so we can ensure appropriate programs are provided. It also provides information which shows particular strengths in verbal, quantitative, and non-verbal reasoning. The assessment provides a benchmark for our school as our students complete future achievement tests - whether these tests are teacher-generated, board-wide, provincial or national.

Leadership Council

Mme Jinks and Mrs. McLean are pleased to introduce the 2009 - 2010 Connaught Leadership Council. The following students were selected for their abilities to help lead the Connaught School students in character development and in becoming even better community and global citizens.

David Cameron
Dustin Collicutt
Lailanie Gao-Ayen
Starr Green
Andrea Campos
Oliver Ledesma
Jaxon Arnold
George Dubon
Abbey Aitken
Sarah Greves
Mackenzie Peacock
Chris Lopoyda

Congratulations students as we look forward to an incredible year of school and community initiatives!
Mme Jinks & Mrs. McLean

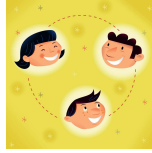


Cross Country

The Cross Country Team is off to a great start with a small but dedicated group of runners. Our athletes compete in two fall races (Sept. 30th and Oct. 7th) and hopefully a few athletes will qualify for the DSBN Cross Country Championship Meet held in mid-October. A list of athletes on the team and some selected highlights of how the team did will be in the next newsletter.

Six Simple Steps to Help Keep You and Me Healthy

1. Wash your hands often using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Ensure hands are washed:
 - After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
 - After shaking hands
 - Before eating
 - Before putting in contact lenses
 - Before touching your face
2. Avoid touching your face as much as possible.
3. Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow. Throw out used tissues right away.
4. Do not share objects that have been in other people's mouths, e.g. toothbrushes, drinks and water bottles, unwashed utensils, lip products, and mouthpieces of musical instruments.
5. Stay home if you feel sick and talk to your doctor. Staying home will help prevent the spread of infections.
6. Frequently clean common surfaces such as keyboards, doorknobs, countertops, etc.



“The Parenting Place”

Information from the Youth Counsellor at your school.

Parenting today is far more complex than it was years ago. As parents we need to cope with the adversity of our times and the many versions of right and wrong our children will face. This can be confusing to us as parents & to our children. In the book “How to Behave So Your Children Will, Too!” by Sal Severe, Ph. D, there are 3 promises highlighted that parents can make, and, work to live by that will help in becoming more successful in our parenting efforts.

1. PROMISE TO HAVE COURAGE. . . to grow & learn with your child. Be open to and accept new ideas and change. Children spend a lot of years changing. We need to modify our parenting with these changes so that our parenting is age appropriate and fair.

2. PROMISE TO HAVE PATIENCE. . . LOTS! Give your child time to change in the direction that you are trying to encourage/instill. When we try a new parenting method we need to give it a consistent try and time to have impact. Some methods can take weeks to show improvement. Our world runs fast enough as it is with cell phones, computers, 1 hour photos/dry cleaning etc. Positive and productive parenting will always take time. Something our children deserve!!

3. PROMISE TO PRACTICE. . . your good intentions. Sports teams have practices for good reason. Having a child does not mean we always know what to do or how to do it. Learning new ideas/methods and getting good at using them through practice always helps.

“Increase the Peace & Keep it Green”
Leanne Hasenack, DSBN Y.C.



Newcomer Families

ان الانتقال من بلدك الى بلد اخر ليس بالامر اليسير لذلك يقدم لك برنامج

متخصصون لمساعدتك في مجال مساعدة الجدد الى هذا البلد
SWIS القادمين

السيدة بارعة ناصر: 289-668-3197

SWIS Niagara is a partnership between the District School Board of Niagara, The YMCA of Niagara and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

The SWIS worker acts as a link between the school community and newcomers. SWIS worker can:

- Provide resources about school, community and government services in many different languages
- Help school staff with information about newcomer communities and issues
- Deliver workshops to parents and students about school and community resources.

The SWIS worker at Connaught Public School is Mrs. Nasser. She is available on Mondays from 10:30-4:00pm. Please contact her or the school to arrange an appointment for assistance.

Oral Language

How Families Can Help

Literacy development requires a partnership between home, school and community. Since oral language is the foundation of all literacy, it is essential that children have ample opportunities at school, in the community, and at home to speak and listen.

Experience with listening, speaking and singing teaches children the sounds and structures of language. These experiences, in turn, make it easier to learn to read and write.

What are some ways families can build an appreciation for language? Families could:

- talk about the day's events, a TV show/video you have watched together, or about posters/signs you see while travelling;
- look at magazine pictures/ads together. Choose a picture and model how to describe the image in complete sentences. Ask children to describe another picture in complete sentences;
- pose sentences beginning with 'If' and have children respond (e.g. If I could travel anywhere in the world, I...);
- ask clarifying ("Tell me more about the video game you played.") and open-ended ("What was your favourite part of the movie?") questions;
- build vocabulary by taking walks in different places and identifying new or interesting sights, sounds and smells;
- play card and board games which provide opportunities for conversations about the games;
- encourage paraphrasing to build listening skills (e.g. explain the rules for the game and have the child repeat the rules; explain steps in a recipe and have children rephrase what has been said);

- make read-alouds interactive (i.e. talk about predictions, alternative endings, favourite parts);
- go to <http://storylineonline.net> and listen to a famous actor read a picture book aloud, then discuss what you like/don't like about the book;
- retell familiar stories while purposefully omitting certain items and have children correct the retell;
- sing songs and recite nursery rhymes or poetry (<http://www.smart-central.com> is a great website for nursery rhymes, while <http://www.poetry4kids.com> is wonderful for poetry);
- wait patiently – without interrupting – while children find the words they want to use.

Families can and do strengthen the literacy skills of their children. When schools and families work together to promote literacy development, we can undoubtedly achieve success together!



Character Trait of the Month: RESPECT

The character trait of the month is RESPECT. All classes will be focusing on this important virtue throughout the year, with a special emphasis in October. Parents can help their children by modelling respectful behaviour and teaching them how others should be treated.

Parent Parking

Parents are asked to avoid parking in the circle in front of the school, both before and after school. Our buses are running on a different schedule this year, so we ask that parents park in the parking lots for the safety of our students.



Youngest and Only

Starting in October, monthly newsletters will go home to only those students who are the youngest or the only child in their families.

He shoots, He scores!!!

Junior intramural soccer has started off with a bang! In a league that includes such teams as the Reds, Crushers, Leafs, Rock, Penguins, and Bandits, a greater emphasis is placed on being active, trying your best, improving your skills, and mostly importantly having FUN!!! Despite having only played a few games thus far, the Junior division students have been buzzing with enthusiasm about who is going to take the championship, and get the chance to play an all-star studded team of teachers.

Don't worry if you missed out on signing up, intramurals will continue to take place every Tuesday and Thursday for the remainder of the year, and will include other great sports, and games, like pinball and beach ball volleyball. Don't miss out on your chance to get involved and have fun this year!

Lates and Absences

When a student is late, he/she **must report** to the office prior to going to the classroom to get a "**late slip**" to present to the teacher. If you know your child will be late please contact the office. This will save a phone call from Mrs. Brenneman or Mrs. Nardangeli to ensure your child's safety. If your child is ill, please be sure to notify the office prior to 9:00 a.m. We have an answering machine available for your convenience, if you need to phone in the evening or early morning. **If your child is absent and we do not receive a call, Mrs. Brenneman or Mrs. Nardangeli, our secretaries, will contact you in order to ensure that your child is safe.**