

Parliament Oak News for October 2009

From the Principal's Desk. . .

Wow...the first month of school is over already. Parliament Oak is certainly a busy place with so many wonderful events happening daily. It was nice to see so many parents coming to meet the staff on the night of our Open House. Our cross country and volleyball teams are in full swing and participating in regional as well as DSBN meets. Just a reminder that Friday, October 9th is a Professional Activity Day for all teachers and Monday, October 12th is Thanksgiving. There are no classes for students on those days. We are proud to remind parents of our web site. To access the site go to <http://www.dsb.edu.on.ca/schools/ParliamentOak/>. In closing, we would like to thank the students, staff and parents of Parliament Oak for making September such a great month!

☆ Peanut/Tree Nut Allergies

To help protect children with severe allergies to peanut/peanut oil/tree nuts (walnuts/hazelnuts) from having an allergic reaction and anaphylactic shock that can be life threatening, please do not send any products containing nuts or nut oil to school for lunches or snacks. If students go home for lunch, please ensure that they wash their hands before returning to school.

☆ Students of the Month

The staff find it very important to celebrate those students who achieve during the month. This month caring was our focus and these are the students who were chosen as the Students of the Month.

Mrs. Inglis Everett Pritchard, Alexander Regnander
Miss Masson Brendan Gillard, Paige Hoadley
Mrs. Berezcky Olivia Kreiger, Benjamin Tait
Mrs. Burton Arnav Mehrotra, Rosie Tait
Mrs. Pyle Christopher Crocco, Joshua Kuhn
Mr. Sarkasian Victoria Crocco, Annelise Perron
Mrs. Andrews Lauren Cain, Holly Schaaf
Mr. Pawlik Tiana Dominick, Landon Vandelaar

For the month of October staff and students will be working on the character trait of responsibility. Responsibility is demonstrating self discipline, self control, reliability and accountability for our choices, words and actions. We take care of others and our environment.

☆ Parliament Oak's 08-09 EQAO Results

How does this assessment fit in the total picture? This chart indicates the percentage of Parliament Oak grade 3 and grade 6 students who are achieving at or above the provincial standard in the EQAO testing conducted in May and June of 2009. When considering these results it is always wise to look at this snapshot within the larger context.

Assessment is an important part of the teacher's daily instructional practice: observing students' work, marking their assignments, giving tests and projects, and having their students perform various tasks. The main purpose of the teacher's assessment of student learning is to make decisions about what the child needs next for continued growth. It is personalized, and

tailored to the instruction taking place in that class. The Provincial Assessment is designed to inform us about the quality of program across the province; it also provides, for individual students, a part of the total picture, which should be used in conjunction with other assessments. For the individual student, it is the teacher's assessment, based on the year-long experience of that child, that is most meaningful.

Overall Grade 3 Achievement Percentage at Levels 3 and 4

	Reading	Writing	Math
# of students	23	23	23
# with Level 3 or 4	61%	87%	74%

Overall Grade 6 Achievement Percentage at Levels 3 and 4

	Reading	Writing	Math
# of students	26	26	26
# with Level 3 or 4	81%	69%	85%

The percentages are based on the actual number of students who participated in EQAO.

☆ Staff Welcome

We would like to welcome Mr. Rob Mead to the Parliament Oak staff. Mr. Mead will be teaching every other afternoon in Mr. Pawlik's grade 7/8 class. Mrs. Hamdani will assume the role of teacher-librarian.

☆ School Safety

If you are visiting Parliament Oak, please be sure to sign in at the office. As part of our Safe Schools initiative, we require all visitors to check in at the office. If a staff member does not recognize you, please be aware that they may ask you to check in at the office. Many parents drop off and pick up their children at school. We ask that parents not come into the school at dismissal and entry times. Parents with students in Grades 1-8 are encouraged to drop off their children and leave them in our care. We also have concerns about the traffic congestion in the parking lot during drop off and pick up

times. Please be certain there is room left so that the natural traffic flow can occur and our student's safety is not jeopardized.

☆ **Wanted: Library Committee**

Are you interested in reviving the love of reading in your child's school?

Do you have some free time on your hands and would like to become a productive member of your community?

I have the job for you! Mrs. Hamdani is looking to form a parent library committee to perform various administrative jobs and to meet once a month to plan upcoming themes to transform the library into a place where kids will enjoy coming to and find most of their favourite reading literature. Please call the school and leave your name with the Mrs. Ciazynski.

☆ **Destiny ~ Online!**

Parliament Oak School's Library is now Online! Visit us at <http://destiny.dsbn.edu.on.ca/> then click on our school name. You can now see the books that we have in our fabulous library at home and at school. Check out the latest additions to our collection using 'Destiny Quest'. Also on this homepage, you will find student-friendly links that will help you read about your favourite author, help you with a research project, and find your local public library. Make Parliament Oak library your first choice for reading and research. It is the best place to be!

☆ **Scholastic Book Fair**

Once again we will be hosting our Scholastic Book Fair from October 19-23 in the library. Students will receive information closer to the date about the choices of books they may select from.

☆ **Girls and Boys Volleyball Teams**

Congratulations to the following girls who successfully tried out and made the volleyball team:

Chloe Tribe-Sherlock, Kennedy Vandelaar, Abbie Cowherd, Tiana Dominick, Crystal Norton, Erin Papadimitriou, Chelsea Widdicombe, Samantha Corvino and Makenna Kuhn.

The boys team members are:

Gabe Lupia, Lucas Marsala, Cooper Sherlock, Levi Harper, Landon Vandelaar, Ciaran Morgan, Lucas Abruzzi, Weston Miller, Josh Lupia, Tait Robinson, and Malcolm Harper.

☆ **Toonies for Terry**

Parliament Oak School was excited to host a Terry Fox Run/Walk on Friday, September 25th.

The run/walk took staff and students to The Commons and back. Parliament Oak has raised money each year in support of the Marathon of Hope to find a cure for cancer and we were very excited to join students from all across Canada in Terry's Marathon of Hope. To support this worthy cause we asked each student to donate a

toonie to Terry's Marathon of Hope. We raised approximately \$250.00.

☆ **Student Parliament**

Miss Masson and Mrs. Hamdani are helping guide this year's Student Parliament. They are an energetic group who have all of the students' best interest at heart. The members of the Student Parliament are:

Prime Minister- Weston Miller

Executive- Lila Bata-Walsh

Deputy Minister- Scott Robinson

Treasurer- Will Cowling

Secretary- Jason Gillard

Social Committee- Hannah Marsala, Holly Schaaf, and Lauren Cain

☆ **School Council**

Council is off to a busy start – of course. We had a good turn out to our first meeting and have lots of plans for the coming year. Our first order of business was to secure two new positions on the executive and we welcome Sharon Michlik as our new treasurer and Barb Douglas as our new secretary

We will be applying for another PRO (Parents Reaching Out) grant this year with a proposal to bring a speaker series to the school. Our speakers would be asked to talk to parents about various topics that can help with the weighty responsibility of raising the best kids possible.

We will also apply for funds to bring the Red Cross in and put on a first aid course for parents.

Some members of council will be attending a Parent Council Liaison Conference in November where they will see new and innovative programs that other councils are implementing – this same conference led to the introduction of the 6+1 Traits of Writing volunteer program last year.

We discussed several fundraising ideas for this year. We want to keep fundraising fun and simple (and not too onerous!). The bottle drive will continue throughout the year – many thanks to Mr Lapointe for volunteering to drive the bottles in again this year. (Drop any bottles off near the gym door or under the stage at the side entrance any time). We will continue to sell donuts and hot chocolate during skating days and at the Christmas parade, pizza days are under way, the spaghetti dinner is a go again, and we are considering one or two other events. Thanks to all of you who submitted suggestions at the open house! We will decide on which ones to use over the next couple of months.

Last but not least, we are introducing a new program this year where Teachers and staff at the school will be recognized by the students. Every month we will have two staff members whom we will honour – Students are being asked to submit comments about the selected staff members telling us what is great about that person, or how that person makes their days at school better/ more memorable/funny/educational/... you get the idea. So please encourage your children to put some thought into this and submit some comments every month. This

month we are honouring Miss Masson and Mrs Giesbrecht. There is a box at the office for these submissions.

Thanks to all our members – new and ‘old’ - who came out to our first meeting and we always welcome new members.

Don’t hesitate to contact us any time.

Sincerely,

Toby Simmonds and Heather Davis

☆ **Snack Shack / Milk Program**

Snack Shack cards are sold for \$10.00 each. Items sold vary but generally include potato chips, Nutrigrain bars and All Natural brownies. On occasion, Chapman’s ice cream treats are available. Milk cards are also sold for \$10.00. Students have a choice of white or chocolate milk.

☆ **Pizza Fridays**

Every other Thursday is Pizza Day at Parliament Oak. Pizza is available to students in grades 1 to 8. Slices can be purchased for \$1.00 each. We offer vegetarian pepperoni and cheese. Orders are made on Thursday mornings immediately after the morning announcements.

☆ **Nutrition Nook**

“What we feed our children today influences not only their health during childhood but also during adulthood”. One hundred years ago most people grew their own food. 90% of the population ate every meal at the family dinner table. Today that is not the case. We cluster around fast food dinner tables with strangers. We zoom through drive thrus and eat our food at breakneck speeds as we race threw our busy lives. Instead of cooking each meal from fresh ingredients, we pick colourful boxes off grocery store shelves. The poor food choices we have made in the last few decades are beginning to show up today, not just because our children are heavier, but also because they are sicker.

Eating well is such an important part of taking care of ourselves and our children, from the hair on top of our heads to the tiniest cell in our body. Good food makes for happy people!!!

Tips of the month:

-Switch sugary cereals to oatmeal (add unsweetened applesauce, apple butter, berries, sliced banana or chopped apples and cinnamon rather than brown or white sugar.

-Do not use food as a reward or punishment. Food serves the purpose of nourishment.

☆ **Bottle Drive**

The School Council is continuing to raise money through the bottle recycling campaign. Parents can drop off their recyclable bottles to an area outside of the gym.

Thanks to Mr. LaPointe for handling this fundraiser on our behalf.

☆ **Festival of Lights Choir**

The Festival of Lights choir director, Brook Bateman, is looking for students interested in joining this festive choir. Saturday, October 3 is the next choir practice that will begin at 2:30 and end at 4:30 at the following address: WFOL Office, 5400 Robinson Street, Niagara Falls. The age range of the children is between 8 and 19. This is a free program. Further questions can be directed to Brooke via her email: brookebateman@yahoo.com.

☆ **Hallowe’en Activities**

We are planning several Hallowe’en activities for the students in the different divisions. Most important, let’s have a safe Hallowe’en. Communication about the events will be sent home soon.

☆ **When to Keep Your Child Home from School**

With winter coming and cold and flu season beginning please review the following guidelines when deciding whether you should send your child to school. Do not send them to school if they exhibit any of the following symptoms:

1. A temperature of more than 100 degrees
2. Nausea or vomiting
3. Stomachache
4. Diarrhea
5. Pale or flushed face
6. Persistent cough
7. Headache
8. Earache
9. Thick yellowish discharge from nose
10. Sore throat
11. Rash or infection of the skin
12. Red or pink eyes
13. Loss of energy or decrease in activity

If your child has any of these symptoms when it is time for school, it is best that he/she stay home. Most childhood illnesses are over soon and are no cause for worry. But, if the symptoms are severe or persist for more than 24 hours, you should contact your doctor or visit a clinic. *Practicing regular hand washing and teaching children to “cover their cough” are great ways to prevent the spread of illness.*

