



THE GARRISON ROAD GAZETTE

October Edition 2009

FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK

It's hard to believe that our first month of school has already flown by! By now our students and staff have settled into their routines, and all kinds of great learning experiences can be seen throughout the entire school. So much has already been accomplished, and we are only getting started. Thanks to all the parents and family members who participated in our 'Family Fun Fair/Drive in Movie' night. Your support of events like that is what gives our school the community and family feeling that we are so famous for. A special thanks to Mrs. Renshaw, Mrs. J. Tummillo, and Mrs. Gates for all their hard work in setting up and running the evening. Also, thanks go out to Mr. Schnitzen, our neighbor across the street who allowed many of our families to park their car in his parking lot.

Today, your child received an updated 'Code of Conduct' with some changes. Please go over this new document with your child, as it clearly outlines the rights and responsibilities of students, parents, and staff. Thanks to our school council for their input. We see the code of conduct as an integral component on our personal and professional conduct, classroom teaching, and discipline. Thank you everyone for the great start to our year, we all look forward to more fun and learning!

Ms. S. Cocco, Principal

Mr. M. Burns, Vice-Principal

TOP STORIES!



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"History is all about old guys who are dead" That is a quote from one of my students and usually the first response of most Intermediate students. That is one reason why the Grade 7's visit Fort George for a *hands on* educational adventure of history. Despite the itchy soldier coats, and the possibility of ghost encounters, students had a great time. They lived in the soldier barracks and ate the traditional food served in the 1800's. Time was spent learning about marching, artillery and students had the chance to climb Brock's monument and tour Laura Secord's homestead. Thank you to parents for their support in this overnight excursion and all our wonderful chaperones (Mr. Burns, Mrs. MacNally and Mr. Sherk). --

Mrs. Mancuso, History Teacher

Attention All Parents and Care-Givers

In order to ensure the safety and security of all of our students, the school will be locked during the lunch recess from 11:45 to 12:25.

Parents and care-givers who need to get in touch with their children during this time **MUST** sign in at the staff room window with one of our staff.

Thank you for helping us to ensure that our students are safe at all times during our school day.



SCHOOL COUNCIL & PARENT ASSOCIATION

We are pleased to announce this years School Council, and parent association:

School Council Executive

Chair: Brenda Daneyko
Vice-Chair: Kerry Jewell
Secretary: Meaghan
Coopman

Parent Association Executive

President: Kelly winger
Treasurer: Chad Gates
Secretary: Jody Gates



Bingo Co-Chair: Dennis Winger
Hot Lunch Chair: Sandy Miskolczi

SCHOOL & PARKING LOT SAFETY

For everyone's safety, parents and visitors are reminded to **ALWAYS** check in at the Office when entering the school during instructional hours. Please do not go into the hallways or the classrooms before checking in at the office. We must monitor all adults in our building. We would be most appreciative if parents would wait patiently in our front lobby until the classes are dismissed at 3:10 pm.

Just a reminder to parents who need to drop children off or pick children up, they may do so by using the main entrance by the office. Parents are requested to come into the school via the front door to pick up their children. Visitor parking is located on the north side of the school parking lot.

Please do not park in the semi-circular section of our school driveway. This is a very busy section of our parking lot during the school day, especially at arrival and dismissal times and every attempt must be

made to keep this section safe and clear. If you are picking up your children, do not leave your vehicle unattended in this area. We appreciate your cooperation concerning these safety matters.

Student Absence

Please call the school office in the morning and leave a message on our answering machine if your child is not going to be at school that day. It helps immensely when doing our attendance. If your child is home with flue-like symptoms (fever, cough) please inform us of this when you call.



Popcorn Sales

Thanks to the fund-raising efforts of our grade 7 and 8 classes, we will once again be able to sell popcorn on Tuesday's and Thursday's for \$.50 a bag. All

proceeds go towards the end of the year trips. Thanks for your support!

Garrison Road Breakfast Club

Now available 5 days a week!
Healthy breakfast with foods from at least 3 food groups are now Available to everyone. Still no cost to students! Thanks to all the parent and staff volunteers that make this possible. If anyone is available, or has a grandparent that might be willing to help, please contact the office.

STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

What an amazing year for Garrison Road School and student council. Greyhounds should be very proud of our two presidential candidates this year. After two

inspiring speeches and two weeks of campaigning the voting commenced. Katie W was voted into the President position, with Steven S. as Vice -President. Congratulations Katie and Steven. Welcome Chyna F, Sarah W and Sarah G to executive student council. Class representatives will be elected on October 2 for Grade 4 to Grade 7. We look forward to a great GRS year.



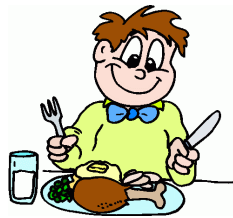
SMOKING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Did you know that smoking anywhere on school property including sitting inside a vehicle could cost you \$305?

Did you know that supplying or sharing cigarettes with anyone under 19 can result in a minimum fine of \$365?

This law applies to everyone, students and staff, at anytime - 24/7! This includes the parking lot, cars in parking lot, sports field, driveway, and courtyard.

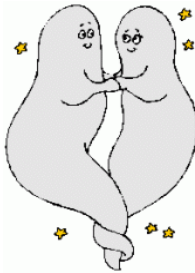
The 'Smoke-Free Ontario Act' is designed to reduce the number of youth who start smoking and to protect Ontarians from second-hand smoke.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Curriculum Night

October 7th is our annual Curriculum Night! Parents are invited to come in and learn about the curricular expectations of their child's grade, as well as much of the programming occurring in our school. Babysitting will be provided. The evening will run from 6:30 - 8:00.



Professional Activity Day

October 9th is a scheduled Professional Activity Day for staff, so students will not be attending school. Teachers will be engaged in team meetings and school growth planning throughout the day.

Thanksgiving Monday

October 12th is Thanksgiving Monday, and is a holiday for students and staff.



Family Halloween Dance Night

Come one and all to our spooky Halloween dance party on October 23rd, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Parents, students, and

the whole family are encourage to dress up and celebrate the scariest holiday of the year! There promises to be some good fun for the whole family, but the scariest part of the night will be Mr. Burns' dance moves! Tasty treats and glow bracelets will be sold.



BOOK FAIR

Students will preview the new books on Tues Oct 6 and each class will visit to make purchases on Wed Oct 7 or Thurs Oct. 8. It will also be open Wed. Oct 7 from 6 - 8 pm.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our students council will be running their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive from October 1st, to October the 7th. Students are asked to bring in canned goods and non-perishable food items for the local food bank. The class that brings in the most canned will earn a FREE popcorn party! Let's all do our best to help our community, and have a little fun too!

Haunted House & Halloween Parade

On Friday, October 30th students will be treated to a spooky haunted house by our students council. All students are invited to change into their Halloween costumes at lunchtime. The students will then participate in a costume parade through the school and around the property. Parents who wish to view the parade are welcome to bring a comfy chair and watch from the school yard.

AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

Garrison Road School has received information from available tutors in the area. Parents who are looking for extra support after school with homework or help with basic skills are encouraged to contact Mr. Burns for a referral. Times are flexible and some session may be able to take place at the school, or at home.

TERRY FOX RUN

Thanks to all the parents, students and teachers that participated in our annual Terry Fox run. We had one of most successful, and spirited runs ever! Thanks to the donations of the Garrison Road Community, we raised over \$400 dollars for cancer research. Terry would be proud!



SCHOOL TEAMS & CLUBS

Cross Country Club

All 10 members of the Cross-Country Running club have been working tremendously hard every day to prepare for the regional meet on October the 6th. Keep up the great work team!



Niagara Elementary Instrumental Music

If you are interested in having your student participate in instrumental music this year, be advised that the program has extended its 'Early Bird Special' rate for beginner students. The cost is \$250 if the student has their own instrument, or \$350 if the student would like to rent one from the DSBN.

This program offers a wide variety of instruments to choose from including Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Alto & Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, French Horn, Baritone Horn and Tube as well as Violin, Viola, Cello & String Bass. Unfortunately, Beginner Percussion is completely FULL for the 2009/2010 music year.

If you have any questions or concerns about the instrumental music program, please contact the secretary Sandi at 905 688-2949 or please check out our website at: www.freewebs.com/niagamusic



Intermediate Co-Ed Soccer

The Intermediate Co-ed Soccer team has been practicing hard to get ready for their upcoming tournament at Niagara Falls Home for Girls Soccer Club on October 5th. The team consists of:

Boys

Dakota M.
Damon K.
Jordan P.
Cole S.
Connor M.
Bradley P
Zack H
Jordan K.

Girls

Zoey P.
Katie W.
Carly M.
Nikki P.
Rykelle B.
Kathleen J.
Jamie L.

A special thanks goes out to Mr. Periera and Mr. Winger for volunteering their time during lunch hour and after school to make this team a success. Go Greyhounds!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, students and parents at Garrison Road for making me feel welcomed in this learning community. I am sure I will see you passing through the halls again. Best wishes for a great school year!

Miss Tonnos
Intermediate Soccer Coach,
Grade 2 Teacher



COMMUNICATION MATTERS

“Smart talk from your DSBN Speech-Language Pathologists”

Communication is at the core of learning and developing self-esteem. Learning how to communicate effectively with others is critical for social and academic development. Knowing the rules, communication, and behaviours that will help students to learn and live more harmoniously with others may be the most important tools they will acquire throughout their years in school. Children become more receptive to learning when they feel good about themselves, and when they feel good about themselves, they are more willing to risk academically since making mistakes is less devastating. Good communicators do the following:

- use eye contact
- observe before they communicate
- notice body language -
- listen
- take turns
- use a polite tone of voice speak clearly
- use an appropriate rate of speech
- act interested
- remain on the topic
- allow adequate space between the listener and speaker .

To help your child focus on good communication, your family might spend some time noticing all the ‘habits’ good communicators use. For example, if someone accidentally interrupts you and apologizes, you might comment on their good communication. You might also like to have each family member identify their best communication skill. Dad might be a good listener, while mom might be a good turn-taker. Once everyone is aware of communication, enhancing and learning new communication will be far easier.

KIDS QUEST & FORT ERIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

This year, the Fort Erie library, and Kids Quest program have collaborated to create an after school program designed to help children with homework, school projects and social skills. This fantastic program is completely free, and has worked wonders for many students in our area. The program is also looking for volunteers to help facilitate the program. The program is available to all students from grade 3 and up. Space for this program is limited, so please fill out the attached sheet and return it to the library or school as soon as possible. Any parents who are looking for extra support for their children’s academics are encouraged to look into this program.

NEWS LETTER DRAW FOR ICE DOG TICKETS!!

Thanks to our great partnership with The Ice Dogs Junior ‘A’ hockey club of St. Catharines, we have FREE tickets to watch all their home games EVERY MONTH!! For a chance to win a pair of tickets, all you have to do to win is sign, and return this portion of the newsletter to the office. We will contact you if your ballot is drawn. Good Luck!

Parent/Care-giver signature: _____

