



# January 2018 Newsletter



Ontario Public School  
550 Allanburg Rd.  
Thorold, ON, L2V 1A8  
905-227-2851  
[ont@dsbn.edu.on.ca](mailto:ont@dsbn.edu.on.ca)  
<http://ontario.dsbn.org>

M. Milani  
Principal

## News from the Office!

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Below you will find important dates coming up here at Ontario. As always, feel free to visit or call the office if you have any questions.

- January 19<sup>th</sup> is a P.A. Day.
- Kindergarten Open House is on February 1, 10am-6pm
- A big thank you for all your Community Care donations

## Principal's Message

Welcome to 2018! The New Year is a time to reflect, celebrate our accomplishments, make resolutions and plan for the year ahead.

There are a number of staff changes to report. Welcome back to Mme. Garrett! While we are excited to see her back, we are sad to see Ms. Rowland go. Thanks Ms. Rowland for all of your hard work. Congratulations to Mrs. Wylie who has begun her next chapter - retirement! Congratulations as well to Mrs. S. Smith, our Educational Assistant who just retired as well. We will miss you all. Ms. Cowan has accepted the Long-term assignment to replace Mrs. Wylie until June. Welcome to Ms. Teague, our new Educational Assistant. Welcome to Ms. Bergen who has accepted a .25 position here until June.

We had a friendly competition with Dream Box. Mr. Derosie's Kindergarten class won with his students having most time logged on. In December, we tracked student participation. We had over 94% participation. Way to go Knights! Students continue to put forth their best effort in reaching their goals in order to improve. We continue to work hard in Language and Math (specifically problem solving). Together, we are raising a community of thinkers. Students are challenged to think through problems and use the strategies they've been taught. Keep working hard Knights!

It was great to see so many parents, grandparents and friends join us for the Kindergarten Concert and the Carol Sing. It was wonderful to get together as a community! Thanks to Mrs. Kraus, Ms. McMahon, Mr. Derosie, Mr. Kraus and Mrs. Blackburn for their time and effort. Thanks to all of our wonderful teachers, support staff, and students for their contribution in making these events a success. Thanks to our Parent Council for providing hot chocolate, cookies and their time!

Our Santa Shop fundraiser was again a successful event this year because of the hard work of our volunteers. Mrs. Szockyj, Mrs. Dilella and Mrs. Robichaud start weeks in advance planning, purchasing and storing gifts. Many volunteers come in for the Santa Shop days and help students purchase and wrap presents. The Santa Shop has been running for 25 years and it's a fun, worthwhile tradition. Thanks to everyone!

December brought many other opportunities to see our strong school spirit, and giving ways, in action. Collectively we filled three bins for the Community Cares food drive. Student Council and Ms. Rowland kept us busy with spirit days and activities. Thanks very much!

Please continue to communicate your thoughts, ideas and concerns. The door is always open.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
M. Milani

## Parent Council

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Thank you to everyone that volunteered their time during Santa Shop this year! Our children definitely enjoy this event and we wouldn't be able to run it without all of your help! We would also like to send a special thank you to everyone that donated Canadian Tire Money and other items to help in making our Santa Shop such a success! Congratulations to Mrs. Kraus' & Ms. McMahon's Kindergarten class for raising the most Canadian Tire Money!! They will have a free pizza lunch for their efforts. ☺ Also, there will be information coming home about our **Pasta Night** that is being held on February 1. Our next School Council meeting is Thursday, Jan 11<sup>th</sup>.



## IceDogs Tickets

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Mark your calendars! Ontario School night at the IceDogs is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Cheer on the IceDogs at the Meridian Centre. Tickets will be available in February on School Cash On-Line or you can send your order form and money in to the office.

## Parking Lot

When picking up and dropping off, parents are asked to please park, and walk their children across the parking lot and bus area. With the many cars and our busses arriving/departing around the same time, the congestion is causing traffic jams and unsafe conditions for students.

## Is Your Child's Vaccination Record Up to Date?

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The *Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)*, Amending Reg. 645 of R.R.O. 1990, requires Public Health to collect and maintain immunization records for all school-aged children in Niagara. At the beginning of December 2017, letters were mailed to parents/legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students who have **incomplete immunization records on file at Public Health**.

If you received this **Immunization Notice** in the mail (blue form) please ensure that you provide the required immunization information to Public Health in order to avoid suspension from school. Suspension will take effect in May 2018. If you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to call the Vaccine Preventable Disease program at **1-888-505-6074** or **905-688-8248 ext. 7425** Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## French Immersion Registration

If your child will be starting **Grade 1** in September, one of the important choices you will make is whether you want to consider French Immersion.

The French Immersion program is open to all students who are entering **Grade 1**. It provides your child with opportunities to develop proficiency in Canada's two official languages and to learn about another culture.

Many parents also believe that French Immersion will give their child additional career opportunities. We live in an increasingly global economy, so proficiency in more than one language is considered to be both an advantage for career development and for competitive advantage in the job market.

French Immersion is designed for students wishing for a concentrated program where French is the language of instruction for a significant portion of the school day.

Information evening sessions are held at the French Immersion School sites for both parents, and students who are entering **Grade 1** in 2018.

Online applications will begin January 8th, 2018 at noon.

We encourage you to apply at: [www.dsbn.org/fi](http://www.dsbn.org/fi). You will need your child's OEN number, which is located on the upper right hand corner of their report card.

In late March, Parents/Guardians will be contacted by letter or email to confirm their child's acceptance to the program.

For more information, please attend the information session at:  
John Marshall Public School  
3910 St. James Avenue, Niagara Falls Thursday January 11, 2018  
6:00- 7:00 p.m.

## Kindergarten Open House

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Knights to Ontario. Children who will be 4 by Dec 31, 2018 are eligible to register for our Kindergarten Program. See you on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

