

Hats Off to Everyone Who Contributes



I would like to make you aware of all the wonderful people who do great things for your children. Mrs. Sentance is the smiling secretary who works hard at making sure your children are safe and accounted for. She also looks after milk and pizza and this newsletter that you are now reading. And, she does a million other things every day.

Mr. Daley works hard to keep the school clean and running perfectly (unless, of course, a wind storm knocks out the power!) Did you know that he works

with a group of students after each nutrition break to clean each classroom? He has even been known to fix kids' bikes. I am sure glad that he shovelled all the snow during the long winter that we had.

If your child is a member of a sports team, club or special event, they are being coached, taught and supervised by a member of our staff. Make sure you thank them for all the extra time they spend outside of their regular duties with your children.

Thank you to everyone who supported our school by buying and selling popcorn. The campaign was a huge success thanks to the hard work of Mrs. Nault and the other members of the School Council. We hope to see you at the Comedy Night at the Fire-hall tonight.

As well as being one of our Lunchroom supervisors, Mrs. Broderick is the lady in charge of the Home Reading Program. She prepares all the books and doughtangs that get sent home and organizes the reading room. Along with a few other parents, she spends hours each day with students in grades 1-4, rereading the books that they practice at home with you.

There is still time for you to volunteer. Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart is May 6th, Track and Field is the 11th, and primary track and field on the 25th. Please check your calendar and give us a call if you can volunteer for any of our activities.

P. Holmes, Principal

Dates to Remember

May 6

Jump Rope &
Hoops for Heart

May 11

Track & Field (Gr. 4 –8)
Raindate May 12

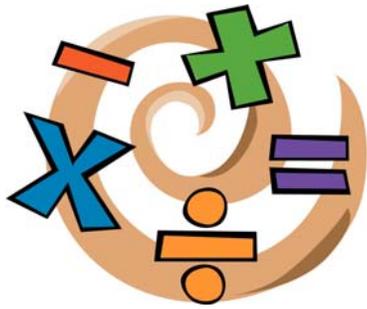
May 25

Regional Track & Field
Meet (gr. 4–8)
&
Primary Track Meet



Although our Kindergarten Open House has come and gone, there is still time to register your child for our September 2011 Early Learning Program for Junior or Senior Kindergarten children. Please contact the school office if you, a friend or a neighbour requires a registration package.





Numeracy

ONTARIO SCHOOL'S NUMERACY FOCUS

What was math like for you as a young child? When asked that question, many of us conjure up images of students sitting in rows, with heads bent over, working diligently on worksheets, practicing procedures teachers had explained. Of course, it wasn't all drill sheets; we did do problem solving. But usually this activity came at the end of a unit to see if we could now apply what we had been practicing to a real situation. We weren't asked to do problems until the teacher had explained the procedures. If we used manipulatives, they were intended to help us understand the procedure that the teacher wanted us to know. There was also an implicit power hierarchy underlying the interaction in the classroom. The teacher asked the questions and already had the answers for them that we were supposed to figure out.

Mathematics is a highly creative activity. Mathematicians solve problems but they also pose problems. They inquire. They explore relations, investigate interesting patterns, and craft proofs. They present their ideas to the mathematics community and those ideas hold up only when the logic of the argument is accepted. Real mathematicians don't line up before a wise one who checks their answers with a red pen!

Mathematicians are human beings who see the world through a mathematical lens. It is the problem that drives them. Humans across all cultures and through time have constructed beautiful mathematics to solve the problems around them, to mathematize their worlds, and to model their worlds mathematically. They constructed number systems to record how many, or how many more were needed, or how many altogether. They invented fractions to produce and record fair shares.

The Math classes at Ontario School look very different than they did when we went to school. Manipulatives abound. Children work on problems using a variety of strategies. In whole-class discussions, they are asked to justify and explain their thinking to their peers. The emphasis is on conceptual understanding, not just procedures and practice of them, and many new curricula now exist with these goals in mind. Ask your child about some of the problem solving activities they have done in the classroom. It's great stuff!

Are You



This Summer?

The staffing process for the 2011-12 school year is underway and it is important that we have accurate enrolment information for our September organization. If you are moving and your children will not be returning to Ontario in the fall, please call Mrs. Sentance as soon as possible. Also, if you know of families who will be moving into our school area, please ask them to contact us.

The transportation department is open during the summer months so if you have any address or daycare changes please feel free to contact the Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) offices directly. Our area transportation coordinator is Jeff Friesen and his telephone number is 905-346-0301. You will be notified by letter, over the summer, if your busing times or locations are changing for September.

SPORTS SHORTS

Junior Hoops

The Junior Boys and Girls Basketball teams had a fantastic season, full of nail-biting excitement.

Congrats to the Junior girls basketball team who came a long way this season for their first time every playing. Mrs. Beeke and Mrs. New are very proud of all the girls. Also a special thank you to Mrs. Sentance for all her help.

The boys worked incredibly hard, and gave their all at every game and practice, winning their division. Mr. Sheppard is very proud of the team, and can't wait to come back next year with a vengeance.

Badminton

Intermediate students have been competing to make this year's badminton team. Congratulations to those boys and girls who made the team and will compete against many other schools at E.L. Crossley and at Brock University on April 30 and May 6 respectively. Team members include:

boys singles: Logan Gauld, Justin Broderick

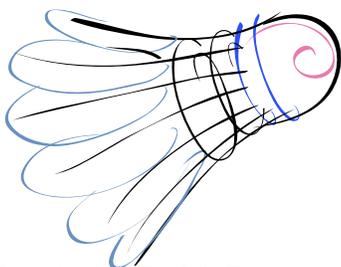
girls singles: Gillian Stanford

girls doubles: Jillian Mathieson & Morgan Snow

boys doubles: Ricky Wiley & Rowan Bryan, Joe Bleich & Wes Stewart or Dylan Holditch

mixed doubles: Bonnie McGowan & Henry Freeman, Cameron Crites & Jamea Scholtens

Miller Thorne & Hannah Nixon or Mackenzie Villeneuve



Track & Field Day

It is that time of the year again for our junior and intermediate students to participate in our Track and Field Day. Teachers have been practicing the various events with students to adequately prepare them for this day. The meet will be held at our school on Wednesday May 11, 2011. Events will occur throughout the entire day. Students will have the opportunity to purchase hotdogs, juice, water and freezies during the day for lunch and snacks. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch otherwise, as there will not be a chance for them to leave the school at any point during the day. A schedule of the events for the day will be sent home the first week of May. We welcome family members to come out and cheer on their children, but please ensure you park in designated areas.

Intermediate Coed Soccer

In May, our intermediate students will have the opportunity to tryout out for our coed soccer team. The sign up list will be posted as well as tryout dates and times. Please make sure you check the intermediate information board for details! Our one day tournament will be at the Welland Soccer Club later in May. Good luck to all those participants!

Junior & Intermediate Coed Softball

Wrapping up our sports season this year will be the softball team. Please stay tuned for postings and announcements for these teams as we prepare for try-outs and our short season.



Thank you to the Thorold Horticultural Society for donating a beautiful Redspire Ornamental Pear Tree to the school this year. We will be receiving the tree early this month and look forward to planting in the school yard.

If you would like to support the Thorold Horticultural Society, they are having an Open House on May 18th from 6:30 to 7:30pm at Holy Rosary Hall in Thorold. Plans for the evening include a plant sale, guest speaker and door prizes!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

As a school, we are teaching our students to give back and contribute to their community—near and far.

FRIDAY IS JUMP ROPE AND HOOPS FOR HEART DAY AT ONTARIO SCHOOL

Students will be participating in Jump Rope or Hoops for Heart from 1:40 to 3 PM on Friday May 6th in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Students have been collecting donations throughout the month of April and would like to thank everyone who supported this cause. If you are near the school at this time on Friday, please feel free to drop by and cheer our skippers and hoopsters on.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR OUTREACH EFFORTS IN APRIL.

We enjoyed our presentation from Loretta Penny's Down To Earth Conservation group on Ants and Plants. Students were able to purchase gifts and all kinds of neat stuff that Loretta brings with her for her presentations. A portion of the sales is donated back to the school. Also during April we sold bracelets for Breast Cancer and to support a family in our community. Thank you to everyone who supported these fundraisers.



Breakfast Club / Snack Program Donation

Our Breakfast/Snack Program receives most of its funding through donations from Niagara Nutrition Partners. As part of the funding guidelines, they ask each school to raise a portion of their program costs directly from their own community. Therefore, if you are able to make a donation to our students' nutrition program, please complete this form and drop it off at the office with your contribution.

I would like to support the Ontario School _____ Breakfast _____ Snack Program

Enclosed, please find my contribution of \$ _____. o cheque o cash

Name _____

Address _____

Would you like a receipt for your donation? __ yes __ no

Would you like to be contacted about volunteering with the Breakfast Club? __ yes __ no

Thank you!

Donations of \$15.00 or more are eligible for a charitable donation receipt for income tax purposes. CHEQUES MUST BE MADE TO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA IN ORDER TO RECEIVE AN INCOME TAX RECEIPT. If a receipt is not required then the cheque can be made directly to Ontario School.