



**MEADOWVALE NEWS**  
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[www.dsbns.org/Schools/Meadowvale](http://www.dsbns.org/Schools/Meadowvale)



MR. PETER HAWKEY, PRINCIPAL

JANUARY 2012

**WORK HARD..... HAVE FUN..... DO WHAT'S RIGHT**



Welcome to 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a Happy New Year! We had a great 2011 and the Christmas Concert was a great way to wrap it up.

The first few months of this school year have been extremely busy and productive. The next few months look like they will be equally as exciting. Grade 6's will be off to winter camp in early February. The Chess and Speech Clubs are up and running for junior students. The gymnastics and basketball teams for both boys and girls will be starting very soon. We continue to work hard on literacy and have started a focus on problem solving in mathematics. Teachers strive to provide new strategies and opportunities for our students in both math and literacy.

We are asking our students to Go 'All Out'; doing the best that they can with all their work.

Good luck with the resolutions.

### **WE ARE COUNTING DOWN TO KINDERGARTEN!**

Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

Going to school for the first time is a major step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the 'Kindergarten Countdown' open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit [www.dsbns.org](http://www.dsbns.org) and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!

Take the **KINDERGARTEN  
COUNTDOWN**

**P.A. DAY**

**There will be no school for students on Friday, January 20, 2012.  
Pizza Day will be Thursday, January 19, 2012.**

## NIAGARA ICE DOGS NIGHT

Don't forget that January 12 is Meadowvale Night at the Ice Dogs!!

If you have already purchased tickets, the family skating will run from 5:00 - 5:50 and the puck drops at 7:00. **Be sure to bring your Meadowvale Spirit!!**

People who did not purchase tickets may wish to contact the box office to determine if tickets are still available.



## COLD WEATHER ALERTS AT DSBN

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal. When making this decision, principals will often consult with neighbouring schools, talk with parents as they arrive in the morning, and if the decision to send children outside is made, will equip yard duty staff with walkie-talkies so that they can communicate with the office to sound the bells to bring students in earlier.

The health and well-being of our students is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region are often good indicators that students will stay inside.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

- Try to send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending on the weather.
- Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.
- Warm socks and boots will keep their feet warm and dry in the snow and slush.
- Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep students from losing too much of that essential body heat.
- Put on a good pair of gloves or mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website [dsbn.org](http://dsbn.org), or contact the principal.

## SCHOOL CLOSURES

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures.



Information about transportation changes and school closures will be available on the websites, social media, radio and television stations listed below as soon as it is available. Please do not phone the school for transportation or school closure information.

### Websites/Social Media:

[www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org)

[http://twitter.com/D\\_S\\_B\\_N](http://twitter.com/D_S_B_N)

<http://www.facebook.com/DSBNiagara>

### Television:

Cogeco Cable 10, CHCH Television, City TV

### Radio:

CKTB 610 am, CHML 900 am, EZ Rock 105.7 fm, Htz 97.7 fm, KLite 102.9 fm, The River 105.1 fm  
Wave 94.7 fm, Y-108 - 107.9 fm, Z 101.1 fm

At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children go to school that day rests with the parent or guardian.

Should you decide not to send your child to school when transportation has been cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call the school to inform them of your child's absence.

## JUNIOR CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Congratulations to the Mustangs Co-Ed Volleyball team which consisted of Megan, Cassandra, Emily, Brittany, Caitlin, Kody, Matthew, Dawson, and Nathan.

The team competed in a one-day tournament in December and made it to the playoff round! Mr. Lewis was very proud of the way you persevered through the tough matches and played with determination and spirit. The day was a lot of fun and the team represented Meadowvale very well!

## JUNIOR GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

The Meadowvale Girls' volleyball team had a spectacular season!!

The team members were: Megan, Cassandra, Emily, Brittany, Caitlin, Alissa, Payton, Jesalyn, Maddy, Esther, Emma G, and Michelle.

After finishing the season in first place and capturing the Tier 3 Championship for our area, the girls moved on to compete at the District level against all of the champions from around the DSBN including the schools in the tier above us.

From the 64 teams that started the journey, our girls' emerged, with a season record of 49 wins and 3 losses, as the 2nd place DSBN Championship Finalists!!

Congratulations to the girls on a winning season!

Mrs. Foote and Mr. Lewis are extremely proud of all that you have achieved.



## SPEECH CLUB

Speech Club has begun for our junior students. Please listen to the morning announcements for when and what time. Mrs. Prosser, Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Halfyard will be fine-tuning the speeches prepared by the students. We encourage our students to work on them at home.



## CHESS CLUB

Mr. Fournier is once again running a chess club for all interested students in grades 4, 5 and 6. Chess games are played in the library at lunch. Please bring your lunch.

# Parent Involvement Committee NEWS

*Happy New Year 2012!*

Our Parent Involvement Committee is looking forward to a successful year! We have a Dance-a-thon coming up in February, April hosts our annual Trivia Night and in May we have our Cakewalk.



Thanks to all who attended the Meadowvale night at Cheeky Monkeys' Indoor Playland on December 14. The kids in attendance helped raise \$102.97 for our school. All money raised will be applied towards "Scientists in School" <http://www.scientistsinschool.ca/sis-sco.php>



The Meadowvale Christmas Concert held at St. Catharines Collegiate on December 19 was a huge success! Our children were such a pleasure to watch. The PIC's 50/50 draw at the concert raised \$350.00 for Hospice Niagara. It was great to have Meadowvale students drop off a cheque on Christmas day.

Santa came to visit the students at Meadowvale once again before Christmas. He gave a gift to all students on behalf of PIC to thank you all for your fundraising efforts and support within the school. If you need to change the size, please feel free to contact us via email at: [meadowvalecouncil@gmail.com](mailto:meadowvalecouncil@gmail.com) We would be more than happy to change the shirt for another size if it has not been worn or washed. Please encourage your child to wear the t-shirt for any school spirit days, gym class or anytime to spread school cheer. We hope the kids enjoy the shirts and wear them with pride.

Have you been receiving e-mails directly from the PIC from our [meadowmailcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:meadowmailcouncil@gmail.com) account? If not and you wish to be added to our list or have a change of e-mail address, please e-mail us to be added as a contact. Our e-mails are sent directly from council members with updates on events that our committee is hosting, agendas for upcoming meetings, reminders etc. It would be our pleasure to be in touch!

We welcome all parents to attend our next council meeting on Monday, January 23 at 6:30. The meeting will be in the school library. Hope to see you there!

## **NO "SCENTS" MAKES SENSE**

At Meadowvale we certainly understand the complexities of providing a scent free environment. We recognize that students, staff, and visitors to Meadowvale may react quite significantly to scented products if they have sensitivity to them or if they have a respiratory condition such as asthma. Scented products; especially SPRAY products such as body mist, cologne, perfume, and hairspray trigger reactions ranging from mild discomfort, headaches, nausea, dizziness, rashes, eye and throat irritation, difficulties with concentration, anxiety, and/or respiratory distress. Staff, students, parents, and visitors are asked to refrain from using scented products while at school.

## **"HEY PARENTS! DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR KIDS ARE WATCHING?"**

Young people look to celebrities for reassurance about their fashion and behaviour.

The evidence is clear....

The more youth see smoking in movies, the more likely they are to start smoking.

### Ways to Protect our Kids

1. **Be aware** of what your children are viewing and learn which movies have smoking in them. Updates available every Thursday at [facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood](http://facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood).
2. **Talk to your children** about tobacco and movies and teach them to be media aware.
3. **Show your support** to get tobacco out of youth-rated films in Ontario at [smokefreemovies.ca](http://smokefreemovies.ca).
4. **Spread the word** to other parents and join the discussion on facebook and twitter. [www.smokefreemovies.ca](http://www.smokefreemovies.ca) [facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood](http://facebook.com/hookedbyhollywood)

## **VACCINES**

Niagara Region Public Health is conducting an annual review of vaccination records for all elementary school children in the Niagara region. **If the vaccination information we have on file for your child is NOT complete, you will receive a letter and questionnaire from us in the mail later this month (January, 2012).**

- Please follow the instructions for reporting your child's vaccinations to us, as outlined in the letter. Various options for reporting are available.
- If your child is overdue for one or more vaccinations, you will need to make an appointment with your child's doctor to get your child vaccinated. You can also make an appointment for your child at one of Public Health's General Immunization Clinics by calling 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.
- If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to vaccinate your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document.

Students under 18 years of age attending Ontario schools must have proof of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella (*German measles*). We are required to have this information by law (*Immunization of School Pupils Act, 1990*). **Please provide us with your child's missing vaccination information by March 8, 2012 or your child may be suspended from school.**

For more information, please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425.



## *District School Board of Niagara Expanding French Immersion for 2012*

The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. In addition, as of September 2012, we will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations. As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year (Grade 7 entry will continue in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake).

Information re: entry levels and the application process is on the DSBN website [www.dsb.org](http://www.dsb.org). Click on the Parent Tab, under Programs, click on French and International Languages, click on French Immersion Registration. Applications for Grades 1, 4, 5 and 7 (at select schools) will be online. Application packages will also be available at your child's school starting January 9, 2012. Further program information will be sent home with your child in January.

"The ability to communicate in French is a valuable skill, because French is **one** of Canada's two official languages and because it is a language used widely around the world. Research confirms that knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills and that the ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances reasoning and problem solving skills, as well as creative-thinking skills. Learning a second language not only strengthens students' ability to communicate, but also develops their capacity to understand and respect other cultures. In this way, second-language learning prepares students to participate more effectively in the workplace and in the global economy, and provides them with a distinct advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally." (pg 3 of the E.F./F.I. Curriculum Document (C.D.) 2001)

Parent Information Evenings will take place during the weeks of January 30 - February 10<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to find out more details about the French Immersion program, please attend one of the Information Evenings listed below or call your school.

Central	January 30, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Alexandra	January 30, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Parliament Oak	January 31, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Dalewood	January 31, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
McKay	January 31, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Prince Philip (Niagara Falls)	February 1, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Sheridan Park	February 1, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Gordon	February 6, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Princess Elizabeth	February 6, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Oakridge	February 6, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Briardale	February 7, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Queen Mary	February 7, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
John Marshall	February 8, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**Bienvenue!**