



February 2012

Volume 3, Issue 6

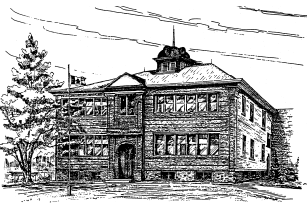


## MISSION

## STATEMENT

*We at Park believe that all students can learn. It is our purpose to facilitate that learning.*

*Park—the small school with the big heart!*



Park Public School  
217 Main St. E.  
Grimsby, ON  
L3M 1P5  
905-945-2445  
[www.park.dsbni.org](http://www.park.dsbni.org)

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION MONTH!

February is Kindergarten Registration Month in the District School Board of Niagara. Children **born in 2008** will be eligible for the **Junior Kindergarten** program. Children **born in 2007** will be eligible for the **Senior Kindergarten** program. Children who are currently attending JK in the District School Board of Niagara do not need to register for Senior Kindergarten.

Thanks in advance to all the families that plan on attending and registering at our Kindergarten Registration/Open House that will be held on February 2nd from 4 to 6 p.m. The following documents are required to complete the registration:

1. A Birth Certificate or Birth Registration
2. Immunization Certificate
3. Provincial Health Card

For your convenience, registration forms are available on the DSBN website at <http://www.dsbni.org/kindergarten>. To save time, you may wish to complete the form at home and bring it with you when you come to register. We appreciate you registering your child at this time so that we have accurate enrolment projections for September. If you know of other children in our community who would be eligible to register, we would appreciate your passing this information on to them. Registration packages are available at the school office.



## SCHOOL START TIMES



Just a gentle reminder that our morning classes begin at **8:50 am sharp** and afternoon classes begin at **12:35 pm sharp**. We are experiencing many late arrivals. Our classes begin their Literacy instruction right after the entry. Late arrivals make it difficult for students to begin their morning or afternoon on a positive note. We appreciate your efforts to minimize these disruptions to programming. Thank you.

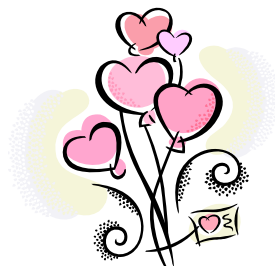
## FAMILY DAY, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

Family Day is on Monday, February 20th. There will be no classes on this day. Have a great day spending time with your families!



## SPRING CONCERT MAY 10, 2012

# FEBRUARY 2012



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Character Focus: Caring			1 Day 4 1:45 pm Primaries to Carousel Players at Nelles	2 Day 5 Kindergarten Registration/ Open House 4-6 PM Cookbook Recipes Due 	3 Day 6 Pizza Day 	4
			5	6 Day 7	7 Day 8	8 Day 9 Dental Screening
<b>Silver Wishes Campaign for West Lincoln Memorial Hospital</b>						
1 2	13 Day 2	14 Day 3 Red, Pink, and White Day  Happy Valentines Day!	15 Day 4	16 Day 5 Grade 6's to Woodend 11:35 am Mad Science Pizza Day 	1 7 Day 6 Early Release Day—Students dismissed at 11:35 AM	1 8
<b>Silver Wishes Campaign for West Lincoln Memorial Hospital</b>						
1 9	20 Family Day Holiday No Classes	21 Day 7	22 Day 8	23 Day 9 11:35 am Mad Science	24 Day 10 Pizza Day  Twin, Triplet, Class Spirit Day Sharing Assembly 10:45 AM	2 5
2 6	27 Day 1	28 Day 2	29 Day 3	March 1 Day 4 11:35 am Mad Science	2 Day 5 Pizza Day 	5



Education Quality and  
Accountability Office



## DSBN MID-YEAR ASSESSMENT

We are excited to inform the Park community of an opportunity that the **Grade three and six students** of the DSBN have once again this school year. As many of you know the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) tests student's skills in reading, writing and mathematics at key points in their elementary school education. Students are tested on the expectations in the Ontario Curriculum at the end of Grade three and six. The EQAO test assesses what student's have learned throughout the Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and the Junior Division (Grades 4-6).

Children in Grade 3 and 6 recently wrote the Language portion of the practice assessment and will participate in writing the Math portion of the **EQAO practice assessment** some time before the end of March. The test was developed by the Board using EQAO questions that were used in the past. The idea for an EQAO like assessment was generated by administrators and teachers. This assessment will provide many exciting opportunities for students, teachers and our schools. In terms of our students, this practice test will help to build their confidence and decrease anxiety. They will become familiar with the test structure and environment and also be able to apply test taking strategies for answering EQAO type questions. Students will practice selecting and using appropriate tools to help them solve problems and answer questions (graphic organizers, manipulatives, models, calculators). The students will receive immediate, explicit feedback in order to improve learning.

In addition, teachers will be provided with the opportunity to determine next steps (curricular and/or test-preparedness). They will become more aware of the EQAO test structure and environment and practice the procedures for test administration. The teachers will analyze the types of questions and formats in the test and continue to embed these in daily practice.

Finally, the school will review the supports that need to be in place (e.g., technology, scribes, manipulatives, calculators, etc.) and ensure that these supports are readily available in all classes and used on a regular basis during the school year.

**We ask that the students arrive promptly to school at entry in the morning at 8:50 am and after lunch at 12:35 pm.** Thanks for your continued support.

## SAVE THE DATE - PROVINCIAL EQAO ASSESSMENT

**During the weeks of May 28th and June 4th, students in grades 3 and 6** will write the provincial EQAO assessment. It is essential that students in these grades be in attendance at school every day these two weeks. Please do not schedule doctor or dentist appointments nor vacations during that period. If appointments have been already scheduled, most doctors offices are able to reschedule, given sufficient notice.

## VACCINES AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

At this time of year, Niagara Region Public Health conducts 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 suspension letter in the mail from Public Health next month (March 2012).

Please take a moment to ensure that your child's immunizations are up-to-date and that you have reported your child's vaccinations to Niagara Region Public Health using ONE of the following:

- WEBSITE:** [www.niagararegion.ca](http://www.niagararegion.ca)
- TELEPHONE (Immunization Report Line):** 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7459
- FAX (a copy of your child's Immunization Record):** 905-688-8225



In most cases, we are missing vaccination information about your child's:

- booster dose of diphtheria, · pertussis, · tetanus and polio (DTP/Quadracel) between the ages of 4 and 6; **and,**
- second dose of the measles, · mumps, and · rubella (MMR) vaccine.

If you are a parent/guardian not wishing to immunize your child, you will need to provide Niagara Region Public Health with an original legal exemption document (i.e., a statement of medical exemption, or a statement of conscience or religious belief affidavit). Please call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7425 if you have any questions or concerns.

## PLEASE CALL

Please remember to call the school if your child is going to be absent or late. We are required to account for every child, every day. Our answering machine is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for messages.



905.945.2445

Just dial 2 as soon as you hear the auto attendant.

## LOST & FOUND

Our Lost and Found is overflowing with many pieces of clothing and personal items. Please encourage your child to check it out for missing things. We have enough items to clothe a large family! Parents who wish to look over the items in the Lost and Found are welcome to do so. Please remember to check in at the office first. At the end of the school year, remaining items in good condition will be donated to charity.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL 'UNCRATE THE SUN' DANCE-A-THON



Park School Council is excited to be holding our 3rd annual Dance-a-Thon at Park School on **Thursday, March 8th**. All proceeds from the Dance-a-Thon will be used by the School Council to support the Park School students. The money raised through Park School Council events supports: maintaining safe playground equipment for our students, literacy classroom resources, Carousel Players Performances, and the purchase of new school team uniforms and net book computers. More information to follow.

## SILVER WISHES CAMPAIGN



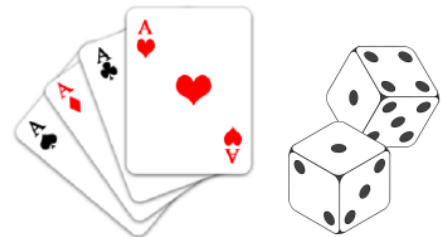
The students at Park School will once again support the West Lincoln Memorial Auxiliary in its "Silver Wishes" fundraiser. Funds from this campaign are used to purchase equipment for the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital. Between February 6th and 17th, each classroom will have a container where students may deposit coins. Please help your children to support this worthwhile event by sending your donation to school with them. Show your heart by supporting our hospital. The winning class will enjoy a pizza party courtesy of West Lincoln Memorial Auxiliary.

### HAVING FUN WITH MATH DURING THE WINTER MONTHS

On those cold days when you're stuck in the house, take the time to play games with your child. Play board games, dice games, card games, dominoes, chess and backgammon. Solve puzzles together.

While playing ask questions:

- Who is winning? By how much?
- What number do you want to roll? Not want to roll?
- How many cards do you have left?
- Which card would be the most helpful? Least helpful?
- How many dots are there on this domino?
- Where could you move that piece?
- Which piece do you want to move next time?
- How did you know that puzzle piece went there?
- How did you add up those two dice? Cards?

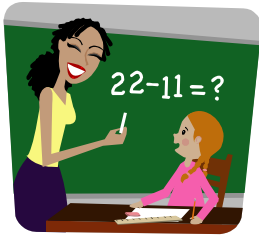


Ask questions about their thinking?

- Why did you move this piece instead of that piece?
- What did you do to try to win the game or solve the puzzle?
- Would you do the same thing next time? Why or why not?
- What could you do to make it easier to win this game?

Remember to keep it FUN!

## SOLVING PROBLEMS IN MATHEMATICS



Asking questions to get your children talking about solving problems in mathematics is a great way to deepen their understanding about what they are currently learning in math. Questions that require children to justify or explain their solutions encourage them to reflect on their learning. The following are just a few examples of questions that you can ask your children at home:

- How did you solve the problem?
- What did you do?
- What strategy did you use?
- What math words did you use or learn?
- What did you do first, next...?
- Would your strategy work for other numbers or problems?
- Why or why not?
- What did you learn today?

\*Questions taken from A Guide to Effective Instruction in Mathematics

## PARENTING PIPELINE

### CAFÉ Strategy: Ask Questions Throughout the Reading Process

Readers who are actively involved in reading ask themselves questions before, during, and after reading a selection. This not only increases their comprehension of what is being read, but it fully engages them in the reading process. As readers, when we are fully engaged in the reading process, we are more likely to remember important details and information. Asking questions is a great way for readers to monitor their comprehension of a text. In class, your child has learned that successful readers generate their own questions and that not all questions generated will be answered.

Learning to ask questions throughout the reading process is an important reading strategy because it teaches a reader to think aloud. It helps readers review important points in the text, evaluate the quality of the text, make connections, and refine predictions.

#### How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. Model this questioning process by reading to your child and stopping during the reading to question what is going on in the text. Use questions such as:
  - “What does this mean?”
  - “Is this important?”
  - “How do I think this story will end?”
  - “What does this word mean?”
  - “Do I need to read this again?”
2. Pre-select several stopping points in a text to stop and ask questions. Have your child verbalize questions he/she has at each stopping point.
3. Encourage your child to write down their questions as they read. Be sure the focus is not about finding correct answers but that it is on curiosity, wonder, and asking thought provoking questions.



#### Thank you for your continued support at home!

Written by: Allison Behne 2009 [www.thedailycafe.com](http://www.thedailycafe.com)

Ideas and strategies are taken from: The CAFÉ Book, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser



# THE PROVINCIAL REPORT CARD

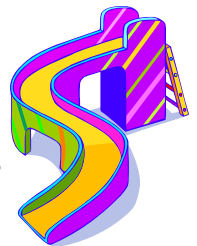
On February 9, 2012 all Grades 1-6 students will bring home the elementary report card. The Progress Report in November provided you with information about how your child was learning in the classroom and gave an indication of progress towards achieving the curriculum expectations for all subjects.

Learning Skills and Work Habits are an important focus of the new report card. These are critical life skills that students will work on from Grades 1 to Grade 12. Teachers evaluate how well students are achieving these skills for their grade level and include a comment about each student's strengths and some next steps for continued growth.

For each subject being taught this term, your child will receive a letter grade (Grades 1-6). If a subject is only being taught in Term 2, then the teacher will check NA (not applicable) for that subject on the report card. For each subject, there will be a comment that describes your child's strengths and some next steps that will support learning in Term 2. You may notice some minor changes that have taken place in the last year regarding how the subjects are reported. For example, some subject areas are now reported separately. These include: Music, Drama, Dance, and Visual Art; and Health Education, and Physical Education.

Communication between teachers and parents/guardians is an important support for student success. We encourage all parents/guardians to discuss the report card with your child. All parents/guardians are invited to contact the school if you would like to schedule an opportunity to discuss your child's achievement and next steps for learning with his/her teacher. In turn, teachers may contact parents/guardians should they feel it important to meet to discuss how they may work with you to ensure your child's success.

## WINTER USE OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT



The District School Board of Niagara has been advised by its insurer, OSBIE, that winter conditions reduce the effectiveness of resilient play surfaces. When the playspace equipment ground surfaces are frozen, it is recommended that this equipment not be used. In consideration of this important safety reminder, we request that students and their families not use the playground equipment during **or after** school hours.

## DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER



All students at Park School are expected to go outdoors for fresh air and activity during our recess and noon hour breaks. It is important that they be dressed according to the weather conditions and for safety and comfort. It is expected that if children are well enough to attend school, they are well enough to go outdoors, except in very exceptional circumstances. It is also important that our students have dry shoes to wear inside to ensure their comfort, safety and participation in physical education classes.



## PARK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER BALLOT



Please return to Park School before Friday, February 10, 2012.

Skill Testing Question: **When is Park School Council's Dance-a-thon ?** Answer\_\_\_\_\_

Students(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# It's all about FAMILY!

Family Day Free Skate! - Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Sponsored by Family and Children's Services Niagara

Lace up! Come out and have some fun! Celebrate Family Day with some fun family time!  
Free Skate time sponsored by FACS will be offered at the following locations and times:

Fort Erie	Leisureplex	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Grimsby	Peach King Arena	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
St. Catharines	Seymour-Hannah 4 Pad	9:45 am – 11:15 am
Lincoln	Jordan Arena	3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
West Lincoln	West Lincoln/Smithville Arena	11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Wainfleet	Wainfleet Arena	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm
Niagara-on-the-Lake	Meridian Arena	1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
*Niagara Falls	TD Rink at the Brink	12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Port Colborne	Humberstone Arena	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

*\*free skate and helmet rentals at Niagara Falls only*



## Foster Families Needed

Open your hearts and your home to local children and youth in need.

For more information on providing safe and temporary care for children in need

**Call 905-937-7731**

[www.facsniagara.on.ca](http://www.facsniagara.on.ca)

## GOOD FIT BOOKS

Reading “Good Fit” books is absolutely imperative if students are to progress as readers.

Children must spend the majority of their independent reading time engaged in books which they can decode and comprehend at very high levels. In her book, *Reading Essentials*, Regje Routman states that reading books which are too difficult does not help children, but in fact has an adverse affect on their growth and development as readers (page 93).

There is a very simple way to help your child choose good fit books. It is called IPICK. IPICK is an acronym that stands for: I choose books to read, Purpose, Interest, Comprehend, and Know the words.

We always have a PURPOSE when we choose a book. Whether it’s to learn about a certain topic, to continue with a beloved series, to try a new genre, to continue with works by a favorite author, or a variety of other reasons, the purpose is a key element in selecting a “good fit” book.

It is important that INTEREST not be overlooked when helping students learn to select books. Interest is crucial if we are going to get students to read the volume of material necessary to move them from survival readers to life-long readers who choose to read for information and pleasure. When we look at our own lives as readers, we realize that we seldom stick with books we are not interested in. Our motivation wanes, our minds wander, and we inevitably end up abandoning the text.

The last two things to consider when choosing a good fit book are: COMPREHEND what we are reading and KNOW most of the words. If I have a book that meets my purpose and interest, but I either can’t read it or I can’t understand the words...it isn’t a “good fit” book for me.

Here are some easy steps that you and your child can follow in order to choose “good fit” books:

1. Have your child choose a book. This is the first I in IPICK which means “I choose books to read”.
2. Ask your child, “What is your purpose for choosing this book?” You may also want to ask, “Is it for fun or to learn something?” This is the P in IPICK which means purpose.
3. Ask your child, “Is this a book you are interested in?” This is the second I, which means interest.
4. Have your child read a page of the book. After your child reads the page, ask your child, “Who did you read about and what did they do?”. This is the C in IPICK which stands for Comprehend. If it is a good fit book your child should be able to answer your question.
5. Have your child read another page (or use the same page) and ask, “Did you know the words?” This is the K in IPICK which stands for know the words. Your child should know all or almost all of the words in order for it to be a “good fit” book.

This ongoing dialogue will help children understand that books have to fit in order for us to be successful and have fun while reading. This will lead to children who are able to select books with a purpose, which they are interested in, that they can read and understand. They will go from being “pretend” readers to readers who don’t want to stop reading!

Adapted from Alicia Darby ©www.thedailycafe.com

## HOW PARENTS CAN ENCOURAGE TWEENS TO READ

By: *Reading Is Fundamental* (2008)

You know that reading is important and you want to make sure that your tween grows into adulthood with all the skills he or she needs to succeed. The following list offers suggestions for encouraging your tweens to read.

1. **Set an example.** Let your kids see you reading for pleasure.
2. **Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials.** Leave books, magazines, and newspapers around. Check to see what disappears for a clue to what interests your tween.
3. **Give tweens an opportunity to choose their own books.** When you and your tween are out together, browse in a bookstore or library. Go your separate ways and make your own selections. A bookstore gift certificate is a nice way of saying, “You choose”.
4. **Build on your teen’s interests.** Look for books and articles that feature their favorite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies, or TV shows. Give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine.
5. **View pleasure reading as a value in itself.** Almost anything your youngsters read — including the Sunday comics — helps build reading skills.
6. **Read some books written for tweens.** Young adult novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by tweens. You may find that these books provide a neutral ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.
7. **Make reading aloud a natural part of family life.** Share an article you clipped from the paper, a poem, a letter, or a random page from an encyclopedia — without turning it into a lesson.
8. **Acknowledge your tween’s mature interests.** Look for ways to acknowledge the emerging adult in your tweens by suggesting some adult reading you think they can handle.
9. **Keep the big picture in mind.** For all sorts of reasons, some tweens go through periods without showing much interest in reading. Don’t panic! Time, and these tips may help rekindle their interest.

Reading is Fundamental. *All About Adolescent Literacy*. 8 12 2011  
 <<http://www.adlit.org/article/23399/>>.