

DISTRICT SCHOOL
BOARD OF NIAGARA

TRUSTEE

Kevin Maves
Tel: 905-356-6165

**DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATION**

W. Hoshizaki
Tel: 905-641-1550

**SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS**

Cam Hathaway
Tel: 905-641-1550

TRANSPORTATION

Heather Kyle
Tel: 905-346-0302

Principal

Todd Halliday

Secretary

Sharon Harriman
Tel: 905-354-2333
Fax: 905-354-2413

E-Mail:

Todd.Halliday@
DSBN.edu.on.ca
PRM@DSBN.edu.on.ca

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PRINCESS MARGARET PUBLIC SCHOOL



<http://www.dsbm.edu.on.ca/Schools/PrincessM/>

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JANUARY 10, 2012

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We hope that you and your family enjoyed the break.

The concert was once again a huge success. Congratulations to the staff and students who worked so hard to make the production the joyous event that it was. Our Project Share donations will help many less fortunate members of our community. Special thanks to the Student Council and Parent Council for all of their encouragement and support.

As we return to school in January, we will be focussing on wrapping up our first term. Teachers and students will be busy completing end of term assessments. Students and teachers have set goals for learning and now striving to achieve these goals. First term report cards will be going home on February 9, 2012.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Princess Margaret Parent Council works tirelessly to support our school and community.

The Council helps raise funds to support the school and provides input to the school administration when important decisions need to be made.

All parents are welcome to attend the meetings. Join us for the next meeting of the year on

Wednesday
January 18, 2012
At
6:00 pm

Our **Breakfast Club** is serving more students than ever. We are always looking for more volunteers. **Please contact the office if you can help one or two days a month.** Our students would greatly appreciate your efforts.



Holiday Concert

We look forward to working with parents and students as we continue to make Princess Margaret School a great place.



WINTER WEATHER



December brings the cold and wet weather. It can also bring some confusion to school routines. We all expect cold temperatures and some rain during this time of year.

Please dress your children appropriately for the weather!

We will attempt to allow students outside during as many recesses as possible. To ensure the safety of students on our playground during the winter months, it

is necessary for us to ban the throwing/kicking of snow/ice. The students are constantly reminded of this rule during in-class discussions, at assemblies and over the morning announcements.

Should it be found that a student has violated this rule, his/her name is recorded in the office and the appropriate consequences will be given. These include suspension for repeat offenders who endanger the safety of others.

Please reinforce these rules with your children at home!



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Congratulations to the Student Government for all their efforts to support Project Share.

Way to Go Panthers!!



Thanks for supporting Project Share



JK OPEN HOUSE

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. On February 2 from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m., families can visit our school,

meet the kindergarten teachers, and receive information that will help children in preparing for Kindergarten.

If you have a child who will be 4 years old by December 31, 2012, he/she is eligible to register for the 2012 - 2013 kindergarten program.



www.dsbn.org

FRENCH IMMERSION

Learning a second language enhances students' reasoning and creative thinking skills, develops their capacity to respect other cultures, and prepares them to participate more fully in an increasingly global marketplace.

With these opportunities in mind, at their regular meeting on December 13, 2011, Trustees approved the expansion of the DSBN's existing French Immersion program from a Grade 5 entry to one that has students starting in Grade 4. Trustee support of the program expansion will see 36 classrooms open their doors to French Immersion in September, 2012.

The development of French Immersion at the DSBN does not stop there however. Increased parent interest in the program also fueled the plan to implement a Grade One pilot in five schools this fall. Central Public School will launch the Grade One pilot for families in West Niagara, Briardale and Sheridan Park Public Schools will offer the pilot in St. Catharines, John Marshall Public School will run the Niagara Falls pilot,

and Gordon Public School will serve the communities of south Pelham.

To learn more about both the Grade Four entry into French Immersion and the Grade One French Immersion Pilot, parents are invited to attend open houses scheduled for February 2012. Open houses are also a great way to find out if the program is suitable for your child. When parents attend a French Immersion open house they will learn more about program specifics, and also ask questions that pertain to their child's specific learning and program needs.

Parents interested in enrolling their children in French Immersion will be able to register online from the DSBN website www.dsbn.org starting January 9 2012, with a deadline of February 29, 2012.

Niagara Falls:

- John Marshall Public School is accepting Grade 1 students (pilot). In 2013, the pilot will expand to include Grade 2, with Grade 3 added the fol-

lowing year.

- Students from John Marshall will continue in the French Immersion program at Prince Philip Public School for Grades 4-8.
- Prince Philip Public School will hold a parent information night on Feb. 1, 2012 @ 6:30
- John Marshall Public School will hold a parent information night on Feb. 8, 2012

For more information about French Immersion at the DSBN, please contact Kelly McDonnell at 905-227-5551 ext. 54202 or Julie Stapleton, DSBN FSL and International Languages Consultant, at 905-227-5551 ext. 52220.

Upcoming Events

**French Immersion
Open Houses**

**Gr. 4 @ Prince Philip
February 1, 2012**

**Gr 1 @ John Marshall
February 8, 2012**

**March Break
Classes End**

**Thursday March 8,
2012**

**Classes Resume
Monday March 19,
2012**

**PD Day
January 20, 2012**

**Early Release Day
February 17, 2012**

**Family Day
February 20, 2012**

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
CARING
STUDENTS



Each month Princess Margaret School will be recognizing one character trait.

This month we were looking for students who demonstrate Optimism.

We are looking for optimistic students. **Optimism** is being filled with exuberance. Optimism is being cheerful and happy. It is doing something wholeheartedly, with zeal and eagerness...giving 100% to what you do, holding nothing back. Being optimistic is being excited about something, looking forward to it. It comes from having a positive attitude. When you are optimistic you enjoy yourself. With optimism, even the dulllest job can

ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

To prevent the spread of Germs, we encourage all children to wash their hands frequently during the school day or use the hand sanitizers. If your child is not feeling well in the morning, please do not send him/her to school.

Normally, we call home to parents regarding an illness if a child has a fever or is throwing up.

Here are some helpful guidelines to consider when deciding whether to send your child to school. It is advisable to keep your child at home if:

- he/she has been up during the night due to illness and, as a result, has not had adequate sleep
- your child has had a fever or was throwing up the night before

- he/she has gone home from school the day before with a fever or other illness
- he/she has an unidentified rash not yet seen by a physician
- your child may pass on an illness to another student.



HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Starting in January, students will have another chance to visit the high schools and begin to consider courses for their grade nine year. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to visit the schools and speak with the teachers and administrators about your child's education.

High School Open House Dates 2012

A.N. Myer Tuesday, January 17 – 6:30 p.m.
Stamford Tuesday, January 17 – 6:30 p.m.
Westlane Tuesday, January 17 – 6:30 p.m.



Helping Your Child with Math

Keep your eyes open for the many opportunities to discuss the math you encounter every day!

In our classrooms, we are exploring concepts, solving problems, talking about the math and practising the skills we use. To follow up from our classroom lessons, please have discussions with your child about what they learned in math class. Have them show you a problem they did in school and share their solution with you. Listen to their explanations and ask them questions about what they did and why it worked. This will be beneficial for all students in the class!

It is important for you to support your child at their level of understanding. Don't show them more than what they're ready for. Exploring the mathematics that they are doing in class more deeply is usually more beneficial than pushing ahead to get to bigger numbers or to the next concept. For example, if your child is practising adding 2 digit numbers at home ($32 + 44$), it is better to explore a variety of 2 digit numbers ($74 + 19$), rather than worrying about going ahead to 3 digit numbers. Spend time solving the 2 digit numbers in many different ways, so that your child becomes flexible in their thinking about numbers. When helping them practise their math facts, be sure to discuss and explore the concepts behind the math they are doing. Memorizing that $4 \times 6 = 24$ isn't meaningful without knowing that 4×6 represents $6 + 6 + 6 + 6$ or $4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4$ or that it is 4 groups of 6 or 6 groups of 4.

However, finding real world situations to explore the math your child is doing in school is still the best way to help them develop a better understanding of their school math. Ask them how much will it cost them to buy that new video game for \$49 and the batteries they'll need for \$15? Ask them to explain how they got their answer to you.

Develop Word Meanings to Improve Your Child's Comprehension Skills

Understanding word meanings is essential for comprehending and understanding what you are reading. However, vocabulary is a weak area for many students. Given a list of words to learn, many students will complete the task but may not actually learn what the words really mean in order to develop their spoken language and vocabulary knowledge. Developing vocabulary as part of knowledge structure requires more energy and focus than simply memorizing words. Develop vocabulary by going beyond the 'label' and the 'spelling'.

Teach word synonyms (words that mean the same thing e.g. night, evening, dusk), antonyms or opposites (night and day), and multiple meaning words (e.g. block; a lego block, a city block, a building block). Also teach categories, classifications and associations between words (e.g. a shoe and sock go together -are associated; and belong in the clothing category as 'things you wear').

Illustrate new words. Show pictures or video clips that demonstrate the meaning of a word. Help your child draw and label something illustrating the meaning of the word. "Flashcards" can be made more meaningful with pictures, as well.

excellent academic program

winning athletic teams

programs suited to you

participate...get involved

explore new ideas

five specialist high skills majors

friends for life

become a global citizen

gain technical skills

explore artistic talents

everybody is somebody

Why Stamford?

exciting

positive learning environment

Arts programs

committed to the success of every student

be a hornet

diversity

join a club

play on a team

develop confidence

your future... your school... you're invited...
Tuesday, January 17, 2012 - 6:30 pm

OPEN HOUSE

discover why

