



ST. DAVIDS PUBLIC SCHOOL



June 2011

1344 York Road, St. Davids, ON, L0S 1P0

905-262-4533

This is the first of two newsletters for June. We will issue a second one before the end of school.

Thank you to parents and the community for a great year! We appreciate the support of parents as we work together to provide outstanding programs and opportunities for students. We have accomplished great things at St. Davids this year and look forward to next year!

Parent Council—Please consider being involved in your child’s school community by joining the Parent Council Group. This worthy group meets once a month at St. Davids School. Information will be sent out in September.



Registrations for 2011-2012

If you know someone who is new to the community, please invite them to come by the school before the end of the year to register their child(ren). The school office will be open starting Monday, August 29 for registrations. Please make sure that you bring proper identification and immunization to assist with registrations. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 905 262 4533. Thank you!

EQAO TESTING

The province wide assessment of Grade 3 will take place at our school from May 31st to June 3rd. The Grade 6 assessment will take place from June 6th to 9th. We thank you for not planning appointments or holidays during this time period and for ensuring your children are on time. Thank you to the Parent Council for providing us with nutritious snacks during this period.

MAGAZINES

This coming fall our school will be providing the opportunity to renew and/or purchase new magazine subscriptions through our fundraising program. Please ignore any notices from the publishers asking you to renew now and instead, support our school’s fundraising efforts in the fall. Please share this message with other family and friends who order through our program. As always, you will receive the best price while our school retains a substantial portion as profit (approx. 40%). Thank you for your continued support!



Queenston Firefighters

A huge thank you to the Queenston Firefighters for their support of our Me to We campaign. They held a pasta dinner on Friday, May 13th and profits were split between Me to We and a Niagara man with cancer expenses.

Our support of Me to We is one way we are showing the next generation how to become global citizens. Through this program we are teaching compassion, courage and commitment to community.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH
May Theme - PERSEVERENCE

Mrs. Black:	Cade I. Julia V. Marlena A. Jamie M.
Mrs. Furtney:	Grace M. Oishi R. Braden L.
Mrs. Kotsanis:	Macgregor A. Jordan D.
Mrs. Cook & Mrs. Koabel:	Elizabeth P. Christian M. Kurtis Z.
Mrs. Richmond:	Bosten P. Tristan B.
Mr. Climenhage:	Julia J. Ryan E. Hunter H. Sydney A.
Mrs. Magistrale:	Emily T. Cody W. Brynna W.
Mr. Lamb:	David M. Jake T. Tanner N.
Mrs. Borrowman:	Brianna B. Helena V. Jake T.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION

Grade 8 graduation will be taking place on Tuesday, June 28th at 6:00 p.m. in the gym. We look forward to the families and friends of our graduates attending our ceremonies. Congratulations to Mr. Lamb's grade 8 students for such a wonderful year at St. Davids! We wish them all the best as they move on to Grade 9 in September.



Thank you to our Parent Council for their wonderful support of our graduates this year!

SCHOOL TRIPS—It has been customary in our school that students have one trip that meets the curriculum expectations for the grade and extends for the day. Our staff has worked diligently to make sure the following trips are well-planned and learning experiences for their students. Please ensure your child arrives at the time indicated on the trip permission form so our buses can depart promptly.

- JK/SK to Grade 3 will be heading off for a day at Marineland on June 21st.
- Grade 4 will be enjoying Medieval Times with Parliament Oak School on June 6th. These students worked hard during the month of May to fundraise most of the cost of the bus through their jar sale. Well done Grade 4s and Mrs. Richmond! Thank you to parents who helped subsidize the remainder.
- All Grade 5 and 6 students will be travelling to Canada's Wonderland on June 22nd for science related activities.

Grade 7 and 8 students enjoyed their four day trip to Ottawa in February.

Balanced School Day Update—As reported in the last newsletter, we will be moving to a Balanced School Day schedule in September. We will be sending home further information for families in the fall to help everyone make a smooth transition to this new way of dividing our school day. Our start and end times will not change. If you are in the school, please check out the information posted in the front foyer.

Teams/Club Members

Badminton Update

Our Grade 8 Badminton team competed at the DSBN Championships at Brock University in May.

Team members:

Alexandra Braun	Joshua Davis
Ben Glauser	Lukas Koch
Rachel Miller	Eric Nagel
Jessica Wiens	Isaac Bjorgan
Jesceca Davy	Donald Hill
Kyle Juras	Anna Kobryn
Tara Miller	Tanner Neufeld
Brittany Osti	Sydney Preston
Jake Turner-Tourbin	

Congratulations Silver Birch Readers:

Elijah	Adam	Taylor	Ashleigh
Megan	Isabella	Hunter	Aedan
Brooke	Lexxi	Jasleen	Bosten
Tiffany	Emily	Bryanna	Taylor
Emma	Julia	Alicia	Hudson
Nancy			

Congratulations Red Maple Readers:

Brianna	Maddi	Madison	Jesceca
Matt			

TRACK AND FIELD

Congratulations to all students who participated in St. Davids Track & Field Meet on May 9 and to those students who represented our school at the Zone Meet on Tuesday, May 24th at West Park School. The District Meet will take place on June 13th.



SUN SAFETY



On sunny days, students need to take precautions against sunburn and sunstroke. Children are reminded to limit their physical activity and remain in shady areas. They should wear clothing that covers most of their body, wear a hat and sunscreen. We also encourage children to have a water bottle available at school.

DRESS CODE

All St. Davids School members are expected to dress appropriately for an academic setting and contribute to an overall positive image of our school. Short shorts, miniskirts, cut-offs, or t-shirts with inappropriate messages are not acceptable. (For the correct length of shorts, students are asked to extend their arm down to check that the shorts meet their thumb.) Straps on student tops must be at least two to three fingers wide with no undergarments showing. Students will be asked to change or put on a jacket if clothing is inappropriate.

We are still accepting applications for the *NEW* French Immersion Programs at Parliament Oak P.S. for September 2011! Students presently in Grade 4 and 6 have the opportunity to apply for the Grade 5 and Grade 7 French Immersion programs. These programs are designed to provide English speaking children with opportunities to become highly proficient in French as well as in English. For information please contact Kelly McDonnell at 905-227-5551 ext. 52402, Lorraine Gower, FSL Consultant, ext. 52220 or Nicole Morin at 905-227-5551 ext. 52316.

Supporting The Growth of Your Children Over the Summer

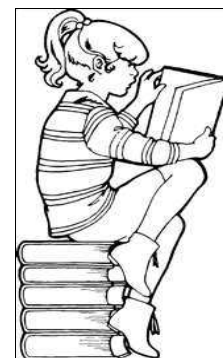
Recent research strongly supports the need for children to continue reading and writing during the summer-time. Studies indicate that in order to maintain gains made during the school year, children must keep up a learning routine when not in school. We all realize that one of the most exciting things about summer is all the time children have to pursue their interests, such as sports, summer camps and time with friends. But please make time to explore and expand upon these interests by shared experiences, reading and writing. One of the most beneficial things that parents can do is to help their children develop background knowledge which allows them to make links between what they know and what they are learning. Here are ideas to help your child enrich background knowledge through fun summer experiences.



- Read a book that takes place in another part of the country or world. It's a great way to experience new places. For example, look at a map of Canada with your child and talk about the parts of the country he or she would like to visit. Then search on-line or visit your local library to learn more about that region; for example national parks and historic sites. The whole world awaits!

- Visit a local museum or historical site. Check your newspaper's weekend listings or information about museums and exhibits near you. Go to the local library to find historical sites in your area or engaging stories about the past. Learning about the past is another way to leave the everyday world behind while still in town.

- Travel to the stars. The night sky is fascinating, not only to kids but to adults too. If you can't head north, pitch a tent in the backyard and look up at the stars. Can you find the Big Dipper or the North Star? Tell stories late into the night. Can't get away? Take a trip to the stars with the help of a good book about the planets and the stars.



- Enjoy the great outdoors. Take time to hike, swim, catch fireflies, look at birds or plants, or just meander through your neighbourhood, making sure to talk about where you're going, what you see and sharing what you did with other family members or friends. Visit area parks, playgrounds, trails, horticultural centres, or beaches. 'Visit' the wilderness by reading.

Niagara Student Transportation Services

Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) is a consortium between the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board. The mandate of NSTS is to plan and manage safe, efficient and effective transportation services for the students of Niagara. NSTS is open all summer planning the 2011-2012 transportation routes. You can find your child's transportation eligibility information, bus stop location and times on the NSTS website in late August for the 2011-2012 school year. You will need your child's Ontario Education Number (OEN) which is located on your child's report card to log-on to the secure website. For JK students who have not been assigned an OEN, a letter will be mailed directly to your home if your student is eligible for transportation. For information, please visit the NSTS website www.nsts.ca or call 905-346-0290.



Are You Moving? If your family will be moving prior to September, please let us know immediately. Our organization for next year is well underway and accurate student enrolment projections are needed. Remember, our answering machine is always on and we will be checking messages periodically over the summer.

Class Organization 2011/2012

The grade and class organization of a school is based on predicted enrolment and staffing. We are thrilled that we have increased by one section of Kindergarten (likely PM) and we have been joined by Mrs. M. Saxton. But it is with great sadness that we will say goodbye to Mrs. P. Neuman who will be moving to another school in the fall. In June, the staff will spend a considerable amount of time organizing classes for the new school year. Decisions are based on a variety of factors including providing for a good gender, personality, interest and ability mix. (see side box) The “primary class size cap” is also an important factor which will delay our final class placement decisions until late August. However, here is our **predicted DRAFT** organization for September 2011:

JK/SK	Mrs. T. Black
JK/SK	Mrs. M. Saxton
Gr. 1	Mrs. J. Kotsanis
Gr. 2/3	Mrs. M. Furtney
Gr. 3	Mrs. B. Cook (am), Mrs. K. Koabel (pm)
Gr. 4/5	Mr. J. Climenhage
Gr. 5/6	Mrs. R. Magistrale
Gr. 7/8	Mr. K. Lamb
Gr. 7/8	Mrs. K. Richmond
Music	Mrs. P. King
French	Mme P. Borrowman
EA	Mrs. D. Wall
Lrng. Res.	Mrs. L. Gava

Please note, this organization is **subject to change** should our enrollment or staffing change in the fall. If you have a request to make regarding class placement for your son/daughter based on significant educational merit, please submit this **in writing to Mrs. Giroux by June 15th** and/or make an appointment to speak to Mrs. Giroux so that we can factor this information in to our decision-making.

Student Placement Policy

As staff changes and student demographics may result in the necessity of split grades in some classes across the school, it is important that parents understand the process used to identify students who would be placed in a particular class. When split classes occur, the following criteria will apply when decisions about student placement are made:

- The student’s learning style
- The student’s social maturity
- The student’s ability to undertake some work with relative independence
- The student’s attitude toward, and commitment to, school work
- The student’s organizational skills
- The student’s peer relationships
- The student’s need for specific type(s) of role models
- The number of identified special needs of I.E.P students in one class
- Separation of siblings where suitable
- Resulting class size

Depending on student needs, the priority given to one or more of these criteria may vary.

Library Books—It’s time to get ready for summer holidays in the library. All library books are **due on June 9th**. We will be doing an inventory of our books during the month of June. Parents, please encourage your children to look around the house for any school library books that may have been forgotten. Thank you in advance for your assistance!

