We’ve set a goal of improving students’ writing achievement while continuing to maintain an effective literacy instructional program. Students have completed a pre-assessment of their writing skills. Our writing instruction over the next weeks will focus on generating ideas, elaborating on these with details and organizing our work into a coherent piece of writing.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, St. Davids’ students exceeded board and provincial percentages in every category of EQAO, except for Grade 6 writing. We have spent time discussing and analyzing our areas of strength and planning ways to build further successes in the area of writing. We’re now on a learning journey!

I’m really looking forward to working with our young writers and reading their work.

Mrs. Giroux

We’re All on a Learning Journey

Upcoming Significant Dates

* Nov. 15—Report Cards Distributed
* Nov. 18—Evening Interviews from 5—7:30 p.m.
* Nov. 19— Early Release Day
  Interviews from 1—3:00 p.m.
  No school in the afternoon
  No noon JK/SK transportation

See the calendar for more details.

Students of the Month

Congratulations to students chosen for their demonstration of Integrity during October.

JK/SK PM  Preston Bonner, Lauren Janzen, Sawyer Neal, Tyler Visser
Grade 1/2 Z  Zoe Abraham, Cameron Wirt
Grade 1/2 B  William Clayton, Ben Janzen
Grade 3  Ethan Carmichael, Julia Maves
Grade 4  Frank Martens, Tiffany Leung
Grade 5/6  Brooke Juras, Emma Wilson, Frank Terpak, Megan Maksymyshyn
Grade 6/7  Alex Fraser-Typer, Cody Wall, Brynna Wilson
Grade 7/8  Kyle Juras, Anna Martens, Sydney Preston

Busses

Thank you to parents for continuing to support student bus routines and behaviours. Working together with the Niagara Student Transportation Services, we have now alleviated the crowded conditions of the ‘red’ bus by adding a new small ‘orange’ bus.

We really appreciate the generally positive bus behavior of our students. The bus is an extension of the school so proper behavior and politeness is expected at all times. Students are reminded to sit according to their grade (i.e., primary students at the front, junior students

1344 York Road, St. Davids, ON, L0S 1P0 905-262-4533
Successful Parent-Teacher Interviews

Interviews with all parents will be scheduled. Thank you for making the time to meet with us to discuss your child’s progress. You should leave the interview with an understanding of the following:

1. What skills does my child need to work on?
2. What activities can we do at home to strengthen those skills? What are our next steps?
3. Does my child complete his/her work and assignments conscientiously?
4. Is my child facing any struggles in class not related to her/his schoolwork?

Interview Tips:

1. **Have a discussion at home before the interview.** Ask your children how they think they are doing and how the teacher can help meet their goals.
2. **Consider what you want to know before you go into the interview.**
3. **Discuss your observations with the teacher.** Feel free to add your own observations around your child’s behaviour, strengths and weaknesses.
4. **Find out what your child is learning.** Ask curriculum questions, find out what has been learned and what is coming up as the term proceeds. Know the skills your children will need to be successful in the term ahead (i.e., knowing how to multiply and divide fractions).
5. **Ask about strengths and weaknesses and possible problems.** Find out about problems before they happen. This information will allow students to get help before they fall behind.
6. **Ask what you can do at home to help your child.** Make a commitment to support your children’s learning.

November’s Character Trait is Respect

While we always model and teach our students about respect, during the month of November, we will increase our focus on this very important quality. We will include these six components of respect:

- Treat other people the way you want to be treated.
- Be courteous and polite.
- Listen to what other people have to say.
- Don’t insult people, or make fun of them, or call them names.
- Don’t pick on others.
- Don’t judge people before you get to know them.

Here’s a discussion you could have with your child about respect……

Different people have different likes and dislikes. To emphasize that point, you might ask your child to think about something he or she likes very much. That could be a food, an activity, a place… or anything. Then discuss something that you or someone else likes but your child doesn’t like as much. Remind your child that people should treat one another respectfully in spite of differences.
Remembrance Day

November 11th is Remembrance Day. For a small donation, students will receive a poppy in support of the Royal Canadian Legion. The assembly will take place for K-5 students at 10:45. Parents are welcome to attend. The Grade 6-8 students will be attending the Memorial Service in NOTL that morning.

Canadian Tire Money

Once again our Student Council will collect Canadian Tire money to purchase toys for children in our community. The campaign will run from November 23rd to December 7th. For the past 7 years we have managed to raise more money than the previous year. To make it even more fun, the class that brings in the most will receive a pizza party. In Dec. our Student Council will SHOP!

Sports Update—Well done cross country team! Each athlete trained hard in preparation for the meets and put forward their best effort, resulting in many top finishes. Eleven of our athletes qualified for the DSBN race on Oct. 13th at Fireman’s Park where our runners competed against as many as 96 runners. Congratulations to Brynna Wilson, our top finisher, for her 10th overall placing in her age group. Thanks to Miss Berti and Mrs. Magistrale for their time and effort!

Our Coed Soccer Team went undefeated and were victorious against Carleton in the final, winning 2 - 0. Thanks Mr. Lamb for organizing the tournament! Their winning pennant will be added soon to our display.

Parent Volunteers—We send thank you’s to......

- all of our parent drivers for their transportation of our student athletes to volleyball games, cross-country meets and soccer matches! We couldn’t compete without you!
- Mr. Colcuc who provided the JK/SKs with pumpkins. They started sorting them and lots of fun ensued!
- Mrs. Giessler who provided wonderful pictures of the Pumpkin Farm visit for our foyer computer screen.
- our Milk Mom, Mrs. Rougoor, for all her efforts in ensuring our students have a cold nutritious drink at lunchtime.

Parking Update

As long as the weather stays moderate, we’re expecting painters to come to the school this month to create signs on our asphalt surfaces that will reorganize our parking lot. They will do the following:

- Paint ‘Visitors Only’ on the southern most parking spots to create an area at the front of the school for parents and guests at the school for a short period of time.
- Paint ‘Staff Parking’ to designate spaces for our staff at the west side of the school, directly in front of the west doors. Note that these doors are not an entrance for students!
- Paint ‘Bus Route’ to indicate the lane that is currently being used for busses to pull up to the school.
- ‘White out’ the parking spaces directly south of the bus lane as there is limited clearance between these spaces and the visitors parking area.

Until such time as the painters arrive, we will continue to maintain the status quo for parking but ask that everyone be extra cautious, especially when backing up.
**Cyber Bullying**

The Internet is a wonderful research, homework and communication tool for students. It also presents a host of risks for our students including online predators and bullies. Recently teachers revisited St. Davids’ Internet rules and we hope to have an expert come to discuss safe use. Please review the following information with your child. You can help protect your child by keeping the lines of communication open and creating a set of Internet house rules!

**What is Cyber Bullying?**

Sending or posting harmful or cruel text messages or images using the Internet or devices such as cell phones.

**How can I protect my child?**

- **TALK** to your child about cyber bullying.
- **DO NOT** reply to cyber bullies.
- Use software to filter and/or block instant messaging and chat rooms (e.g. McAfee Parental Controls).
- Inform the principal if it involves her students.

**Did you know that:**

- 1 out of every 5 cases of cyber stalking becomes an off-line real-world stalking case.
- 50% of Canada’s young people use the Internet for instant messaging, 27% use daily instant messaging.
- Only 28% of parents are aware that their children use instant messaging.
- More than 50% of youth using instant messaging chat with people they’ve only met online.
- 2/3 of Canadian youth say their parents never sit with them, never use blocking, and never check the history of visits.

(Source: www.media-awareness.ca and www.safety-council.org)

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**Wynand Groen Gym**

The renaming ceremony went very well and we were thrilled at the turnout! Almost one hundred guests joined us for the Friday afternoon ceremony and over half that amount came to the evening event.

Special guests Mr. Snider and Mr. Kent asked the students, staff and guests to look around at the great gym that Mr. Groen helped obtain. We are one of the few elementary schools that have a wooden floor and we definitely possess the most pennants! We learned that Mr. Groen, who was very dedicated and caring, expected his students to be respectful and to work to the best of their abilities in the classroom and in sports. Students excelled under his leadership.

Lord Mayor Burroughs, MPP Kim Craitor, Trustee Lynn Campbell joined Superintendent Linda Kartasinski who brought greetings from DSBN. Sydney Preston, whose mother attended St. Davids and had Mr. Groen as a teacher, read a poem as a tribute.

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**Christmas Float**

Christmas is just around the corner and once again St. Davids will have a float in the annual NOTL Parade. We have had some terrific floats over the years but our greatest strength has been the number of students and parents that get involved. The more the MERRIER! Our theme this year is “One Big Happy Family!” More details will follow.

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**Fundraising**

Thank you for your support of our magazine fundraiser. From November 2 to 16th we will be participating in a Cookie Dough/Muffin Mix fundraiser. Orders can be picked up on December 7th from 11:30—5:00 p.m.