



Panther Press



December 2018

Message from the Office

November has been a busy one! Both staff and students have been involved in the Scholastic Book Fair, Random Acts of Kindness, Lunch Angels, Gr. 8 Day at Eastdale, the Adventure Campus, the Walker Living Campus, Panther Pride Assemblies, Birthday Celebrations, School Council, DSBN Academy Visits, Eastdale Open House and so much more!

December is shaping up to be just as busy! We are looking forward to singing along with our Primary students during their Christmas Sing Along. There are some special days planned so please check the calendar and participate in the days you want.

Congratulations to Mrs. King who will be retiring this month. Mrs. King has been working in our Kindergarten rooms and will be greatly missed by staff and students. We wish her the best as she starts on her new adventure! We would also like to welcome Mrs. Schwab who will be joining us for the month of December. She will be supporting students in the Gr. 1 class.

As always we want you to know the great things happening at Plymouth! Please follow us on Twitter @SchoolPlymouth or the school Remind App @9057324110. Mr. Mayhew and I would love to have all our families on the REMIND App- you never know there may be a special draw at one of our assemblies...



Panthers, remember to always

Do Your Best and Do What's Right.

DSBN Academy Parent Presentation

Is your child in Grade 5 or 6? Are they interested in the DSBN Academy for next school year? Come to the Parent Night at Plymouth on Tuesday, December 4th from 6:00 to 7:00pm. Come hear what they have to say, ask questions and meet some staff. Students in Grade 5 and 6 have heard from staff and students this week so they may have questions as well.

To sign up for the School REMIND simply download the free REMIND App and use the code **@9057324110** to join! We will use the App to remind you about upcoming special events, hot lunches, Panther Pride assemblies and more!



December's Character Trait is Empathy

This month we will be focussing on the character trait of Empathy. Students will talk about what that means to their class, the school and the world around them. What does Empathy look like and sound like at Plymouth? Here is a link to a great video to help explain what Empathy means https://youtu.be/9_1Rt1R4xbM.



Why is developing empathy important for children?

Building an understanding of what others are feeling, how their own actions can impact others, and why someone might be experiencing feelings at a particular time is a valuable life skill for children to have.

Helping young children to develop a strong sense of empathy is beneficial because:

- It helps them to build a sense of security and stronger relationships with other children and educators, positioning them well for learning
- It encourages tolerance and acceptance of others
- It promotes good mental health
- It promotes social harmony and can reduce the likelihood of bullying

The benefits of empathetic thinking flow into adult life too. Empathetic adults may have:

- Higher levels of overall happiness
- A better ability to understand others
- More success in leadership positions
- More satisfying relationships and be better at dealing with conflict
- Lower levels of stress

In a nutshell, developing empathy is a vital building block in a child's ability to regulate their emotions and is so valuable in being able to adapt and succeed in an ever-changing world.

Panther Pride Assembly

On Monday, November 26 we celebrated our Panther Pride Assembly at 9:30am. All students recognized, for either for Courage or Effort, got a Plymouth Shirt! Students are working hard to always do their best and do what's right! We encourage all winners to wear their shirts to our Panther Pride Assemblies!

SafeArrival Starting January 14th

At District School Board of Niagara, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each day. We are introducing **a new, more efficient** student absence reporting system called **SafeArrival**. This will allow Mrs. Buchanan to reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance and make it easier for you to report your child's absence.

Plymouth will send home information about the new attendance program in January!

Flu season is here!

It's important to protect you and your children from getting germs or spreading germs at home, work and school.

[The flu](#) spreads easily from infected persons through coughing and sneezing or by touching contaminated surfaces such as toys, doorknobs, eating utensils and unwashed hands.

Healthy habits can protect you and your children from getting germs or spreading germs at home, work and school.

You may not know at first that you have the flu virus. It may be a day or even a week before you get sick, and in that time you can spread the flu to others.



Stay home if you are sick
Return when you are well



Wash your hands
[Use soap and water or hand sanitizer](#)



Cover your cough or sneeze
With a tissue or into your sleeve



Keep your distance
Avoid shaking hands and close contact with people who are sick



[Get a flu shot](#)



Mindfulness

At Plymouth many of our classes have been talking about being Mindful or Mindfulness. Mindfulness means paying full attention to something. It is slowing down to really notice what you're doing. Being mindful is the opposite of rushing or multitasking. When you're mindful, you're taking your time. You're focusing in a relaxed, easy way. Many classes practice mindfulness after transitions like outdoor play. Students are learning to find a strategy that helps them be ready for their learning.

Grade 8-9 Option Sheets



At DSBN high schools, students are the stars. On November 29, our Grade 8 students were invited to attend Eastdale's Open House to see what they have to offer to help students transition to high school. In December, students will be selecting their courses for Grade 9. All option sheets are due back at school no later than Friday, December 14th. Please contact Mr. Crowe if you have any questions about this process.

SAVE THE DATE FOR
KINDERGARTEN
KICKSTART
AT THE DSBN

See a Kindergarten classroom

Meet the Kindergarten Team

Register for school

Get a fun goodie bag with learning resources

NEW THIS YEAR!
REGISTER ONLINE
DETAILS COMING SOON

Thursday, January 31, 2019 · 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

French Immersion

The French Immersion program offered at Princess Elizabeth is open to all students in Year 2 (Senior) Kindergarten. If you want your child to develop a high proficiency and fluency in Canada's two official languages, French Immersion has a great deal to offer.

FEATURES OF THE FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM:

- Development of French language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing from Grades one to twelve;
- Designed to be a second-language program for children whose first language is NOT French;
- Certificate of French Immersion Studies awarded upon successful completion of the elementary and secondary immersion programs;
- Opportunity to challenge the Diplôme d'études de langue française (DELFI) exam in Grade 12 ;
- Promotes understanding of different cultures;
- Provides additional opportunities for employment using French as the working language

Registration will open January 7th, 2019 Princess Elizabeth will be hosting their Parent Information Open House January 9th from 4:30-6:30pm. For more information, please visit www.dsbni.org/fi.

Head Lice...A Real Nuisance!



Head lice can be a real pain for both students and families. It's not your fault if you or your child has head lice. It spreads through direct hair-to-hair contact or indirectly by sharing hats, combs, brushes or headphones.

One of the first signs of head lice is an itchy scalp, but it is possible to have lice without any symptoms. If your child has an itchy scalp or was exposed to head lice, check his/her hair right away. Check again once a week for 2 weeks in case you missed them.

School Responsibilities: Our priority is to educate students about head lice and prevention. Staff will always assist with making a student with head lice feel comfortable and valued.

Parent Responsibilities: Parents/guardians should ensure that children with lice have been effectively treated with appropriate hair products and that all nits and lice have been removed. For more information, please contact the main office for treatment suggestions.

School Cash Online

Using School Cash Online, you may never have to search for spare change again! That is, unless you're looking for coffee money.

We are pleased to be able to provide you with the opportunity to approve permission forms and pay for school items, such as field trips, hot lunches and school spirit wear, online. This year we are moving away from collecting monies at the Office and using "School Cash Online".

It takes just five minutes to register for this service. You will be able access the service by visiting our school website and clicking on "School Cash Online." There, you'll find more information about the system, links to registration and support. You can use School Cash Online with confidence; it is a safe and secure portal. If you need help with this, please contact the Office and someone will help you out! If you need a computer to use please let us know. Please sign up as soon as possible so you have access to field trip permission forms, hot lunch order forms and more!



DSBNS GOT TALENT

Mr. H's Artisan Card Contest

Being Director of Education for the largest public school board in Niagara isn't easy. While it's a demanding job that keeps him hopping, Warren Hoshizaki always makes time to visit schools, where he's known as Mr. H. On his travels around the region, Mr. H has always been impressed by the incredible talent and creativity of DSBN students.

Mr. H would like to give students another opportunity to shine by designing artisan cards that can be shared with family, friends, and the wider Niagara community.

What's an Artisan Card?

Mr. H is asking students to create cards that commemorate what's special about the different months of the year. Each student entering the contest is asked to pick one month and create a piece of artwork about what makes that month stand out. For example, September marks the start of the new school year, in December, many of our thoughts turn to the holidays. Students are asked to let their imaginations run wild and create artwork that will inspire and delight.

How do I enter?

SIMPLE!

- Begin by creating your artwork. It can be any medium you prefer, including digital, mixed media, or traditional drawings or paintings.
- Submit it to your child's school along with a signed permission form
- Mr. H and his team look forward to seeing students' work!

Sounds good – when does this need to be done?

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018.

What happens if I win?

Mr. H is a big believer in celebrating successes big and small. Students whose artwork is chosen to become Artisan Cards will be invited to be recognized at the Board meeting on January 22, 2019. There, Mr. H and the Board of Trustees will congratulate students and present them with a set of their own printed artisan cards. In addition, students' artwork will be displayed on the DSBN website, where people can download and send the artisan e-cards to their friends and family.



PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE FORM

DSBN's Got Talent: Mr. H's Artisan Card Contest

DSBN Director of Education Warren Hoshizaki, known as Mr. H in schools, would like to give students an opportunity to show off their skill and creativity by designing artisan cards. To enter, create a piece of artwork to commemorate a month of the year and what makes it special.

HOW TO ENTER:

- Create artwork
- Send your artwork to your child's school or to:
Mr. H's Artisan Card Contest - 191 Carlton Street
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 7P4

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA:

- All artwork must include a signed consent form
- Submissions must be original student work
- Any medium, including mixed media and digital artwork will be accepted

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

- Students will receive a set of their own cards that include their name, grade and school
- Students will be invited to attend and be recognized at the January 22, 2019 Board Meeting
- Artwork will be displayed at the Education Centre and on the DSBN website

Student Name (please print): _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Title of Artwork: (Optional) _____

Would you like your artwork returned? No _____ Yes _____ Teacher's Name: _____

Consent: I hereby grant the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) permission to use my child's artwork and to take photographs of my child and use his/her name for use in any and all media publication in connection with the above identified contest for such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, fundraising and web content. I also authorize DSBN to distribute my child's artwork to third parties for the purpose of accomplishing the goals described above.

I have read and understand the above and agree to the conditions outlined above.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____



EarlyON Centres @DSBN



Child and Family Centre

New Hours

Plymouth Public School

Starting November 12

Monday – Friday

9 am to 5 pm

Note: Our afternoon program has a French speaking RECE.

Open July and August

9 am – 12:00

EarlyON Child and Family Centres provide free, high-quality drop-in programs for children from birth to six years of age, their parents and caregivers.

Our Centres are family-focused and offer a welcoming and fun space for Niagara's children to learn, play and connect with others. Parents and caregivers stay with their child(ren) and together experience the many benefits these centres provide.

Programs and Services are free and open to all families.

Our Centres offer:

Fun activities - reading, storytelling, sing-alongs, games and more

Friendly staff professionally trained in early childhood development

Access to other community resources you can benefit from

Connection to other families / caregivers with young children

Caregiver programs, such as infant sleep clinics and breastfeeding classes

