

# The Cougar Chronicle



## Martha Cullimore Public School

3155 St. Andrew St.  
Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2R7

Principal:  
T. Chilcott

### Important Dates:

#### April

- 02 Easter Monday
- 03 Raise the Flag -  
Autism  
Awareness
- 05 Mad Science
- 12 Mad Science
- 19 Mad Science
- 16 – 20 Earth Week
- 20 Trivia Night  
Fundraiser
- 22 Earth Day
- 26 Mad Science
- 27 Celebration  
Assembly

#### May

- 04 Silver Birch  
Conference
- 18 PA Day
- 21 Victoria Day
- 22 EQAO starts



## Message from the Principal

### Thank you!

As we enter the home stretch of this school year, we would like to thank all our parents and volunteers for helping to make our school as great as it is. We couldn't do what we do at Martha Cullimore without our amazing volunteers, our unsung heroes. Parents, grandparents, and community members unselfishly give of their time every day to assist in classrooms, organize special events, deliver pizza lunches, help supervise field trips, and more. They do these things for no other reason than they care! They also help ensure the academic growth, safety, and well being of every student in our school. Thank you to our wonderful School Council for their continued efforts throughout the year in making Martha Cullimore such a rewarding and fun place to be. They make such a wonderful difference at school.

### Planning for Next Year

We are in the beginning stages of planning the next school year. At this time, we expect that there will be a number of split classes. As a staff, we meet together to place students in situations that are best for them academically. A great deal of time is invested to provide the best placement for each and every student. Teachers try very hard to balance classes when they are created. There are many factors that are considered, including:

- A sense of balance
- Students that should be separated from each other for various reasons
- Grouping of students that will be able to work at various ability levels
- Individual work habits
- Whether the student is in a split grade this year, if possible
- Treating students fairly and equitably

Please be aware that we are not able to create classes based on student friendships. We are not accepting requests for specific teachers. If you have educational concerns regarding your child that you wish the school to consider in class placement, please express these in writing prior to May 4th and submit them to Mrs. Chilcott. Remember, we strive to create the best learning environment possible for each child.

### Big Changes Around the Corner

In September, Martha Cullimore will welcome some new friends. Prince Philip is becoming the north end's dedicated French Immersion school. As a result, we'll welcome current Prince Philip students heading into Grade 8 next school year. Additionally, Victoria Public School will now feed in to our school and grade 6 students will remain at Martha Cullimore for grade 7 & 8. So, in September, we'll welcome incoming students from Victoria to form a combined grade 7 class with students from both Martha Cullimore and Victoria.

Our building has plenty of space to welcome all our new friends, but our parking lot needs some improvements. Prior to September, the DSBN will upgrade our lot, adding new spaces to ensure we can provide a safe space for pick-up and drop-off.

We feel this change will have many educational benefits for our students. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school office and we will be happy to get them answered for you.

### Kindergarten Registration

It's not too late to register for Kindergarten! Children who will be turning 4 before December 31, 2018 are eligible to start Kindergarten in September 2018. Pop in for a visit or call the school office at 905-358-5142 for more information or to register.

Mrs. T. Chilcott

# Triv?a Night

DATE: Friday, April 20th, 2018  
TIME: 6pm-10pm  
COST: \$25 per person (includes full buffet dinner)  
Cash bar, 50/50 draw,  
raffle prizes, silent auction and  
first place prizes.

**Two seating options:**  
Reserve a table of 8 (\$200) or  
purchase a single/pair of tickets  
(\$25/\$50)  
and we assign your spot.

**DELPHI BANQUET FACILITIES**  
4414 PORTAGE RD

Gather your family, friends or co-workers and come join in the fun!!  
It will be a great night filled with food, drinks and lots of laughs.  
This is an evening without the kids event.

Tickets will be on sale the week of March 19th.  
Please see the Parent Council Members:  
Sharon Baka, Meg Ard, Jennifer Hay, Jan Culp, Jerry Shergold, Brie Cavanagh, Karen Hein, Tricia Watson.  
mtrivianight@gmail.com • 905-347-9346

**The proceeds raised from this event will go towards  
the Martha Cullimore Public School Technology Fund**

## Yearbook

We will be offering a wonderful, full colour yearbook to capture the memories of the 2017-2018 school year. Orders and payment can be made online in the month of May. A reminder will follow. \$15.00 Soft Cover \$25.00 Hard Cover



## Moving?

This is the time of year when staffing is underway for next year. In order to verify our student population for September, it is very important that we know about any plans you may have to move to another school. If you are planning to move, please let our school secretary, Mrs. Lamb, know as soon as possible.

## EQAO TESTING

The province wide assessment of Grade 3 and 6 students will take place at our school between:

**May 22nd to June 4th**

We ask families of these students to not plan appointments or holidays during this assessment time.

## Dance-a-thon and Bake Sale Thank You!

Due to the outpouring of generosity from our school community, our Dance-a-thon and Bake Sale on March 8th was a huge success! Again this year, we were so amazed by the number of parents who lovingly baked for the sale. It was truly difficult for the children to decide on what would satisfy their sweet tooth! The students were very enthusiastic participants on the dance floor and in gathering pledges beforehand. There were happy feet and smiles all around! We are grateful for every pledge of support. We raised \$2,580.00 toward technology for learning! Special thanks to Shannon Baka, Meg Aird and Leigh Campbell for their help with the bake sale during the day.



## Arrival and Dismissal Routines – Developing Student Independence



A significant part of each school day is spent on developing student independence and responsibility. These are important factors in every student's success, whether in kindergarten or grade 6. We have set routines at the school within which students can safely practise their independence and responsibility each day. One of these routines is arrival and dismissal. Please continue to support your child to become independent and successful with routines under the guidance of his/her teacher. We are asking parents to drop off their children before school and pick them up at dismissal, by waiting just outside their official entry/exit doors. The students are expected to use these doors as a regular part of their routine each day. Allowing students to enter and exit independently will foster their sense of independence.

Supervision before school begins at 8:15 a.m. Parents are asked NOT to drop off their children prior to 8:15 as there is no supervision on the playground until that time. Kindergarten students will remain at the north-east end of the school (front yard) until entry. All other students (Grades 1-6) should report to the school yard at the back. Allowing students to enter and exit independently will foster their sense of independence. We appreciate your cooperation and promptness with drop off and pick up times.

## Welcome to Kindergarten

The junior and senior kindergarten students who are new to Martha Cullimore School for September 2018 will be invited to an orientation in the spring, usually late May. Students and parents will also take their "first bus ride". Parents will receive an invitation to this event with more details. We are still accepting kindergarten registrations. If you haven't already registered, please contact the school office at 905-358-5142 so we can include your child in our preparations for September. We are anticipating the coming year with such excitement. We look forward to our continued partnership with you as we support all students to reach their unique and highest potential.

**Congratulations to students who made some amazing accomplishments and reached personal bests this month!**

TEACHER	I MATTER STUDENT OF THE MONTH	GROWTH MINDSET COACH OF THE MONTH
K – Hollemans Empey	Lily D, Ryder E, Amelie P	Landon L
K – Brennan Camillo	Hunter F, Xenia R	Allyson B
1 – Carnegie	Logan M, Aaron U	Emma E
2 – Reid	Lanah A, Matt Y	Justin Y
2/3 – McGowan	Joshua B, Sean L	Jaelyn M
3/4 – Jane	Paige E, Riley E, Gabriella I	Izzy H
5 – Fortuna	Ethan A, Elliott M, Nathan S	Jade H
5/6 - West	Emma M, Ryan W	Gabe A
Michaud	Taylor C, Payton, Awnesty P, Ben W,	

**The character trait focus for April is Integrity.**

**Track & Field Club begins in April!**

Students must return forms in order to participate. We look forward to the upcoming season in athletics!

**Kitchen Corner for Healthier Schools and Families - Get Active in April!**

Our health focus for April will continue to be eating well and getting active! We'll spend fitness breaks walking and counting our steps with pedometers! Each class will will have several opportunities during April to walk together and keep track of their steps during assigned breaks. We're also hoping on providing students with new fitness experiences through the month. Stay tuned for more details.



Would you like to be reminded of upcoming events at Martha Cullimore? Join Martha Cullimore's Remind in order to receive one-way update messages directly to your cell phone. Remind is a free service that lets the school send quick messages via text, push notifications, or email to everyone at once. You can stay in touch without revealing your personal contact information. Signing up for Remind is easy and is intended for parent use only. For Terms of Service, please visit <https://www.remind.com/terms-of-service>.

To receive text messages:

- Step 1. Enter the number: 289-804-1235 (This is a telephone number used for Remind. Personal Phone numbers are not shared or visible to the school.)
- Step 2. Text this message: @marthacu (This code is unique to Martha Cullimore.)
- Step 3. You will receive a welcome text from Remind and be prompted to reply with your name so that you can be added to Martha Cullimore's Remind system.

## Earth Week

The week of April 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, we'll be exploring Earth themes within our classrooms and raising awareness and appreciation for the globe, its beauty and our responsibility in its stewardship.

## Spring is Here! Some Outdoor Safety Tips

One of the most exciting things about the weather warming up is all the opportunity children have to enjoy outdoor activities such as sports, games and time with friends. With children spending more time outdoors, we would like to remind all students about the importance of staying safe.

To help ensure the safety of all children, we regularly review our safety guidelines with students. We recommend that, when you have an opportunity, that parents/guardians also discuss these guidelines with children at home.

1. Don't talk to strangers
2. Always walk to and from school with a buddy.
3. Do not take short cuts through alleys, parks, fields, etc. even if they are well lit
4. Let someone know where you are and where you are going
5. If you suspect someone is following you, RUN! Go to the nearest safe place
6. If someone makes you feel uncomfortable, go to the nearest safe place
7. Walk confidently and be aware of your surroundings
8. Never, ever get into a stranger's vehicle

We appreciate your help! By working together, we can help students enjoy their time outdoors safely and responsibly.

# April 3<sup>rd</sup> is Raise the Flag for Autism Awareness Day

On Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, DSBN and Martha Cullimore School will be celebrating World Autism Awareness Day. Please wear BLUE! Also, we are having Toonies for Autism. Please have students bring a Toonie to school to help support the Niagara Chapter of Autism Ontario. The students will be colouring paper dolls to celebrate our uniqueness.