

The Cougar Chronicle



Martha Cullimore Public School

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

Principal:
T. Chilcott

Important Dates:

February

- 02 Groundhog Day
- 02 Kindergarten Open House
- 06 – 10 "You Matter" Candy Grams for Sale 50 cents each
- 06 Mid Year EQAO Math – Gr 3
- 08 Mid year EQAO Math – Gr 6
- 10 Term 1 Report Cards go home
- 12 Bowling Fundraiser at Cataract Lanes – funds will support end-of-year trips
- 14 Valentines Day
- 14 Candy Grams delivered
- 17 PD Day
- 20 Family Day
- 22 Pink Shirt Day
- 22 "We Matter" Colour House Huddles
- 28 Celebration Assembly

March

- 03 Dance a Thon & Bake Sale
- 13 – 20 March Break
- 21 Funky Sock Day
- 22 Pink T Shirt Day

Message from the Principal

Term 1 report cards will be sent home on February 10th. Please watch for these report cards in your child's backpack. Also, please continue to talk to your child about how he/she is doing in regard to learning skills. Teachers have been assisting students in setting and monitoring learning skills goals throughout the year.

Kindergarten Communication of Learning

On February 10, the new Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document developed by the Ministry of Education will be sent home for our Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten students.



The new Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document will provide parents/guardians with comments about their child's strengths and growth in relation to the overall expectations of The Kindergarten Program (2016). The overall expectations are connected with the following four frames: Belonging and Contributing; Self-Regulation and Well-Being; Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours; and Problem Solving and Innovating.

Since September, our Kindergarten educator teams have been observing and documenting a wide range of evidence of each child's thinking and learning within a play environment. The documentation gathered will reflect your child's key learnings, recognize growth and possible next steps for learning. The next steps will provide parents/guardians with information about how we will support your child's new learning at school as it relates to the Kindergarten Program's expectations.

We recognize and appreciate your continued support throughout the year.

We extend a warm welcome to families with children who will be 4 or 5 years old by December 31, 2017 to our Kindergarten Open House on February 2nd. Doors open at 10:00am until 6:00pm. Looking forward to seeing you!

Mrs. T. Chilcott

YOU & YOUR CHILD ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, February 2, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



During your visit you will:

- See a Kindergarten classroom
- Meet the Kindergarten Team
- Register for school
- Get a fun goodie bag with learning resources



Children who will be turning 4 before December 31, 2017 are eligible to start Kindergarten in September 2017.



An Evening with Dr Stan Kutcher – For Parents

Dr. Stan Kutcher is the Sun-Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health and the Director World Health Organization Collaborating Care in Mental Health Policy and Training at Dalhousie University and IWK Health Centre in Canada. He is a renowned expert in adolescent mental health and leader in mental health research, advocacy, training, and policy and has been involved in mental health work in over 20 countries. Dr. Kutcher will share his research, promote child and youth well-being and teach all of us about building resilience in our children and youth during a parent evening.

Monday, May 1, 2017
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
A.N. Myer S. S.
Gymnasium
Refreshments and
Daycare provided



Free Admission



DSBN Academy

DSBN Academy is a Grade 6 to Grade 12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university. Come learn more about the opportunities offered at DSBN Academy. All families are welcome to attend the Open House at DSBN Academy on January 31, 2017 from 6:30 to 7:30pm.

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

TEACHER	I Matter STUDENT OF THE MONTH
K – Hollemans Empey	Abby, Harmony, Katie, Lincoln, Mia
K – Brennan Longhouse	Benjamin, Flora
1 - Carnegie	Chase, Colton, Justin, Matt
2 – Reid	Jaelyn, Jordan,
3 – Niven	Damian, Natina, Olivia
4 – Jane	Addie, A.J., Lola-Jane,
4/5 – Fortuna	Abby, Ben, Sofia
6 – West	Andy, Jake, Zen
FR - Michaud	Lindsay P

Family Bowling Fun on February 12, 2017!

The School Advisory Council is hosting a Family Bowling Event for the community at Cataract Lanes on Sunday, February 12th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Proceeds from this event will be used to offset the cost of end of year trips. A \$10 per person bowling package includes shoe rental, two pieces of pizza and one hour of bowling! Up to eight people can bowl on a lane. We look forward to seeing you there! Chips, candy bars, juice boxes and water will also be available for purchase.



PA DAY

Friday, February 17, 2017

There will be no school as teachers will be involved in professional activities.

ALWAYS DRESS FOR THE WEATHER:

- HAT
- MITTENS/GLOVES
- SCARF
- BOOTS
- SNOW PANTS



School Council Meeting – Tuesday, February 28th at 6:00 p.m.

Come out and be a part of the exciting school life at Martha Cullimore!

Student Parliament for 2016-2017 & Make Change for Children 2017

The purpose of our Student Parliament is to encourage student voice and engage all students within a healthy and vibrant school culture. Every student has a valued contribution to make to their school. To that end, we are encouraging our community to donate to the Education Foundation of Niagara's Student Financial Need Fund!

All funds raised stay in Niagara and go directly to help our DSBN students in need. Our Week of Change kicks off February 22nd 2017 but schools are encouraged to run the campaign anytime until the end of June 2017! On each of our monthly spirit days, we're asking students to bring in pocket change (quarters, loonies, toonies) and drop it into the Make Change for children bucket.



Reach out and help DSBN students!

All funds stay in Niagara and directly help our DSBN students in need with shoes, warm winter clothes, food, field trip support & basic necessities!

Student Parliament Spirit Days:
 Feb 22 – Pink Shirt day
 March 21 – Funky Sock Day
 April 28 – Crayola Day
 May 12 – Crazy Hair Day

Please consider donating change on these days!

Student Parliament is offering two new ways for Cougars to keep in touch and communicate by way of a Suggestion Box and a "How Are You Feeling?" Box. In these ways, students are able to anonymously share their ideas, along with their feelings.

Dance-a-thon on March 3rd!

As we continue to fundraise for our playground repairs and technology for learning, students are encouraged to take on the Dance-a-thon challenge and dance for an entire block on March 3rd! Student Parliament will survey students to create a fun playlist. Students should only collect pledges from friends and family members. Pledges may be made online or by sending cash into the office. The last day for returning pledges is **Thursday, March 2, 2017.**



There will also be a **Glow Bracelet and Bake Sale** that day. Please consider supporting our fundraiser by sending in nut-free, single-serving baked goods the morning of the Dance-a-Thon. We thank you in advance for your support of our playground and technology!

Cougars Soccer Team

Martha Cullimore enjoyed a successful day at the Niagara Falls Indoor Soccer tournament. The Cougars played entertaining soccer all day with each game featuring countless fine plays and lots of excitement. The team finished tied for 1st in their pool consisting of teams from Kate S. Durdan, Greendale, and John Marshall. The team took their undefeated record into the semi final, but came up just short against Stevensville Public. Congratulations on a job well done!



You displayed heart and determination all day long, and for that, we are all very proud. Thanks to the families and friends of Martha Cullimore for their support at the tournament. Hats off to Ryan, Roberta, Nathan, Mani, Madison, Josh, Joseph, Jenna S., Jenna O., Julia, Jayke, Gabe, and Brianna. Way to go, Cougars! Thank you to Mr. Fortuna for coaching the team!

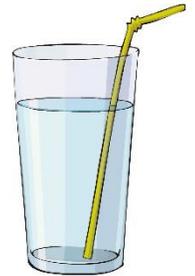
Monthly Pink Shirt Days – Fourth Wednesday of Each Month!

At Martha Cullimore, we want to work together to maintain a school culture that is respectful, welcoming and mindful of every individual's uniqueness – we all matter at our school. As a reminder of this, we've designated the fourth Wednesday of each month to be a PINK T-SHIRT DAY! If your son or daughter ordered a special pink T-shirt of his/her own, they will be delivered to school by mid-February in time for our next Pink T-Shirt Day.



Kids Are Sweet Enough Without Added Sugar

The Niagara Healthy Kids Community Challenge (www.healthykidsniagara.ca) has teamed up with communities across Ontario to launch the Water Does Wonders Pledge Campaign. Why Pledge? To be part of the solution! Kids are drinking way too many sugary drinks, which has a negative impact on their health, their teeth, and their minds. We can all help by making water easier to access and by not serving sugary drinks to children. By taking the pledge, you are affirming your commitment to improved health for our kids.



Sign the pledge at www.waterdoeswonders.ca!

If you choose to be recognized, your family will be featured on our Hall of Pledges. Your pledge will also help Niagara earn Top Community status on the Hall of Pledges.

Author Visit in April

We look forward to the upcoming visit of author and illustrator, Kevin Sylvester, to Martha Cullimore School in early April. He has a number of well-loved and celebrated children's picture books, fiction stories and non-fiction texts, which we're sure have come across your path at some point: the Silver Birch Award-Winning Neil Flambe and the Marco Polo Murders, The Neil Flambe Capers, Splinters, Don't Touch That Frog! and Gold Medal for Weird (to name a few). Aside from writing and illustrating, Kevin is a broadcaster based in Toronto. We look forward to gaining insights about he uses visualization and idea planning to ceate such wonderful and engaging texts.



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.

We look forward to keeping you connected at Martha Cullimore.

Winter and Snow Safety

Students at Martha Cullimore School are not allowed to throw or kick snow while on school property. Cold, frozen snow presents a threat to student safety especially when thrown. Parents/Guardians are asked to please review this policy at home and we will continue to remind students here at school. Consequences for throwing snow are as follows:

- 1st time: Letter home with a detention
- 2nd time: Letter home and Loss of Privileges/Detention
- 3rd time: Formal at-home suspension



There are often large snow banks around the school and beside student pathways due to snow removal. STUDENTS ARE TO STAY OFF AND AWAY FROM ALL SNOWBANKS AT ALL TIMES. They are often icy and students risk falling off into the way of traffic.

Inclement Weather Procedures

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures.

At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children in school on that day rests with the parent or guardian. **Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.**

A key resource in any emergency is the DSBN Emergency Information form that you filled out at the beginning of the school year. Please let the school know of any changes in contact information or procedures you wish to be followed throughout the school year.

For secondary schools it may become necessary to cancel late buses. Notice will be provided via school announcements and on the websites and subscription features by 11:30 a.m.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

Radio Stations:

CKTB (610 AM) or CHRE (105.7 FM)
or CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) in St.
Catharines
WAVE (94.7 FM) or CKOC (1150 AM)
or K-LITE FM (102.9 FM) in Hamilton
CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort
Erie GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland

Television Stations:

CH – Hamilton, CityTV Breakfast
Television, CTV Toronto, Cogeco
Channel 10

Websites:

www.dsbns.org/inclementweather/
www.nsts.ca

Subscription Features:

DSBN Facebook or Twitter
NSTS Transportation Delay or
Cancellation Alerts

Phone:

Niagara Student Transportation
Services 905-346-0290
Voice Auto Attendant

