

The Cougar Chronicle

Martha Cullimore Public School
3155 St. Andrew St. Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2R7
<http://marthac.dsbns.org>



FEBRUARY
2021

Message from the Principal

On behalf of the staff at Martha Cullimore, we want to thank all our families for their support. We know that it can be a challenge to have your child log in each day and participate in the online learning. I believe that we are working together to do something better than if we were working alone. There is no way we could make this work without each other. We lend support and receive help from each other. We are all mustering the patience, determination and grit to keep going so that the result of our work together is fun, meaningful and successful. The staff is so grateful for your perseverance and amazing efforts. We are also so proud of our students. They are working hard! We love seeing our students connecting with us in our virtual classrooms every day. This is truly a family effort!

I also want to say how much I appreciate all the amazing staff at Martha Cullimore and thank them for the ways they are engaging with students in their virtual classrooms! I am Cougar proud of the team!

Something we are all trying to maintain right now is balance, as our regular routines have been interrupted. It is important that we ensure we are maintaining balance with our families. Take some time to care for your physical and emotional health and well-being. What can you do as a family to balance these needs? Take a family walk, play with your dog in the backyard, play a board game, or bake some special treats.

With Term 1 Report Cards and the Kindergarten Communication of Learning coming home in February, this is a great opportunity to reflect on your child's progress and set some goals for the remainder of the year. If you have any questions, comments, and or concerns, your child's teacher. Please see the important information in regard to our Term 1 report cards and the Term 1 Kindergarten Communication of Learning.

We extend a warm welcome to families with children who will be 4 or 5 years old by December 31, 2021 to register for Kindergarten in the following weeks. We look forward to connecting with you! Contact the school at 905-358-5142 or by emailing Tammy.Chilcott@dsbn.org

Stay safe and healthy, Cougars!

Mrs. T. Chilcott

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Black History Month	Feb 1-28
World Hijab Day	Feb. 1
100 th Day of School.....	Feb. 11
Spirit Day - Wear Red, Pink and White.....	Feb. 11
Chinese New Year	Feb 12-17
PA Day	Feb. 12
Family Day holiday	Feb. 15
Kindness Awareness Week	Feb. 17-21
Term 1 Reports and Kindergarten Communication of Learning go home	Feb. 18-19
Pink Shirt Day.....	Feb. 24
Spirit Day – Career Day.....	Feb. 26

WE ARE A
COMMUNITY

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



TEACHER	I MATTER STUDENT OF THE MONTH	Perseverance CHARACTER AWARD
K – Hollemans & Whalen	Amelia V, Maryam R	Logan M
K – Brennan, Camillo & Nagy	Jeremy K, Amelia P	Emily P
1/2 – Lopez	Charlie T	Zander M-J
2/3 – Cooke	Claire P	Jaxon D
3 – McGowan	Kate Y	Ryder E
4 – Dinga	Ben T	Dylan M
5 – Chubb	Bobby N, Charlie K, Chase W	Liam D
6 – Singer	Mirabel F, Kameron M	Hailey S
7 – Jane	Makenna K, Lia C	Grace C
8 – Ibey	Dale S, Danielle V	A.J. B
8 – Fortuna	Kean T, Ethan A	Reegan H

Congratulations

Character Trait for February - Cooperation

I work together with others to do something better than if we were working alone.

I lend support to others. I receive help from others.

I am patient and work through disagreements so that the result of our work together is meaningful and successful.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2021-2022 School Year



Hi! I'm Barkley, your child's Kindergarten sidekick. I'm here to tell you that it's time to register for Kindergarten!



Normally I'd invite you inside one of our Kindergarten classrooms so you and your child could look around with me, but to keep each other safe, we have to wait to do that another time. What I can do is help you find all the information you need to register your child for Kindergarten at the DSBN! I put it on <https://www.dsbn.org/earlylearners/kickstart/home> for you. It has important information like:

- How to register your child online
- A video about a typical day in Kindergarten
- A Kindergarten classroom 360° virtual tour
- An e-book about how I overcame my first day fears

Register today at [dsbn.org/kindergarten](https://www.dsbn.org/kindergarten). I can't wait to meet you and your child at school!

Pink Shirt Day

Anti-Bullying Day, also known as Pink Shirt Day, is recognized on the last Wednesday in February in Canada. On February 24, we encourage all members of the Martha Cullimore community to wear something pink to symbolize that we at Martha Cullimore will not tolerate bullying.

What is bullying?

Bullying is aggressive behaviour that is typically repeated over time. It is meant to cause harm, fear or distress or create a negative environment at school for another person. Bullying occurs in a situation where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Is conflict the same as bullying?

People may sometimes confuse conflict with bullying, but they are different. Conflict occurs between two or more people who have a disagreement, a difference of opinion or different views. Conflict between students does not always mean its bullying. Children learn at a young age to understand that others can have a different perspective than their own, but developing the ability to gain perspective takes time and the process continues into early adulthood (Stepping Stones: A Resource on Youth Development, page 26). (The above information is taken from www.ontario.ca/page/bullying-we-can-all-help-stop-it)

Family Day – February 15



All families are different and unique. Enjoy these Disney quotes about family:

“Ohana means family and family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.” –Stitch

“This is my family. I found it all on my own. It's little, and broken, but still good. Yeah. Still good.” –Stitch

“Some people are worth melting for.” –Olaf

“We may have our differences, but nothing's more important than family.” –Coco

“Life is beautiful. It's about giving. It's about family.” –Walt Disney

“Family isn't always blood. It's the people in your life who want you in theirs; the ones who accept you for who you are. The ones that would do anything to see you smile and who love you no matter what.”
Unknown Author

School Council

This group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. to discuss current issues, educational trends, and the future of our school. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 23rd from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. This meeting will be online through MS Teams.

French Immersion Registration

The French Immersion program (offered at French Immersion sites) is open to all Year 2 Kindergarten students. 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. [Check out this video about the program!](#)

Registration will open January 4th, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. and will close February 16th, 2021. For more information about French Immersion in the District School Board of Niagara visit www.dsbni.org/fi.

DSBN Academy

Learn about the DSBN Academy at the Virtual Open House on **Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM!** Join us to find out:

- How this unique program prepares students to attend, and succeed at, college and university
- What extra opportunities are offered and how your child can benefit
- If the DSBN Academy is a good fit for your child

The DSBN Academy is a Grade 6-12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university. Staff and students are committed to the belief that, with hard work, all students can achieve their dreams.



From January 11-29, Grade 5 and 6 students will participate in a Virtual Roadshow during class time to learn more about the DSBN Academy and everything it has to offer. More information about Registration and the Virtual Open House will be shared in January 2021

Online registration opens on JANUARY 7, 2021 at ACADEMY.DSBNI.ORG/APPLY. Registration will close on FEBRUARY 15, 2021. Limited spots available.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY TO DSBN ACADEMY?

- Student must live within the Niagara Region
- Student is entering Grade 6, 7 or 8 in September 2021
- Student would be the first in their family to graduate from a college or university program
 - If a sibling has attended post-secondary but the parent(s)/guardian(s) have not, the student is still considered a First Generation Student
- Student is achieving current grade level expectations or just below
- Student has demonstrated the potential for achieving "good" or "excellent" learning skills
- Student is willing to attend a school that may be out of their community with free transportation provided
- Student understands there are mandatory after-school academic supports and *ENCORE* programs
 - After-school *ENCORE* options include: Mixed sports, Board games, Photography, Yoga, Makerspace, Choir, Reading, and many more!
- Families understand that the DSBN Academy is a single track pathway beginning in Grade 9 (academic level only)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: Derek.Harley@dsbn.org - Elementary Principal

Term One Report Card Update

Elementary Provincial Report Card (Grades 1-8) and the Kindergarten: Communication of Learning

Due to the extension of remote learning, the Elementary Provincial Report Card (Grades 1-8) and the Kindergarten: Communication of Learning will be issued over two days between February 18-19. Families can expect to receive additional information about the Report Card distribution process from their school administrator, once further information about the return to “in-person learning” becomes available.

Report cards give a summary of student achievement at the end of each term. Teachers use their professional judgement and consider factors such as consistency, recent improvement and amount of evidence in order to determine students’ grades or marks. Teachers and students work together to gather evidence of their learning over time from observations, conversations and student products.

This year, the Ontario Ministry of Education updated [the math curriculum](#) for Grades 1 to 8 which started in September 2020. The new mathematics curriculum is part of a [four-year math strategy](#) designed to:

- improve student performance in math
- help students solve everyday math problems
- increase students’ employability to attain the jobs of the future

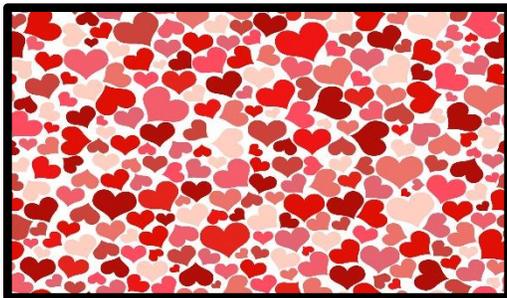
Updates to Assessment and Evaluation in Mathematics

To foster a cohesive approach to both instruction and assessment across the elementary mathematics curriculum, achievement in mathematics will be reported in the Elementary Report Card as one overall letter grade (Grades 1-6) or percentage mark (Grades 7-8), with supporting comments. Comments will describe significant strengths demonstrated by the student, and identify next steps for improvement. Teachers may also describe a student’s growth in learning.

The Ministry has provided more information about the new math curriculum for parents on the following website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/new-math-curriculum-grades-1-8>. If you have any questions, please make arrangements to speak with your child’s teacher.

Spirit Days

February 11th – Have a Heart Kindness Day – Wear red, pink and white!
Do acts of kindness for others!



February 26th – Career Day
What do you want to be when you grow up? Dress the part!



PA DAY

**Friday
February 12, 2021**

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