

The Cougar Chronicle



Martha Cullimore Public School
3155 St. Andrew St.
Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2R7

Principal:
T. Chilcott

Important Dates:

January

- 09 Welcome Back!
- 16 Cougar Cave Assembly
- 20 PD Day
- 23 Gr 3&6 Mid Year EQAO Practice
- 24 School Council
- 24 Gr 3&6 Mid Year EQAO Practice
- 27 Jr Soccer Tournament
- 27 Celebration Assembly 2:05pm

February

- 02 Groundhog Day
- 02 Kindergarten Open House
- 06 Mid Year EQAO Math
- 07 Mid year EQAO Math
- 10 Term 1 Report Cards go home
- 12 Bowling Fundraiser at Cataract Lanes – funds will support end-of-year trips
- 17 PD Day
- 22 Pink Shirt Day

Message from the Principal

Welcome back to school! We hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday. 2017 promises to be an eventful one as we look forward to the many exciting learning opportunities planned at Martha Cullimore School. As we return to school, we will be encouraging students to regain their focus and put forth their best efforts. Parents can help by checking their children's organizers daily, checking their assignments and working together at home.

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.

It was wonderful to see the amazing turnout for our events in December. Thank you for your very generous support with our outreach initiatives. The Martha Cullimore community certainly demonstrated the true spirit of giving!

As part of our safe school routines, we will continue to review and practise both fire drills and lockdown drills at Martha Cullimore. Within the first weeks back to school in January, we will have a school-wide lockdown drill.

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

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

TEACHER	I Matter STUDENT OF THE MONTH
K – Hollemans Empey	Blake, Ryder
K – Brennan Longhouse	Luke, Elija, Natalie
1 - Carnegie	Brooklyn, Declan, Justin
2 – Reid	Sean L, Joshua B
3 – Niven	Ashlee W
4 – Jane	Alyssa B, Liam G
4/5 – Fortuna	Nate S, Madison D, Emma M
6 – West	Brianna C, Evan M

LEGO CLUB
Tuesdays Gr 1
Thursdays Gr 2&3

Student Parliament for 2016-2017

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. It is important that they be given the opportunity to express their views on issues of concern to them. It is equally important that they are listened to and encouraged to take an active part in promoting the aims and objectives of the school. Duties may include organizing spirit days, events, programs and projects; encouraging democratic participation; and striving to promote good citizenship by example. Student Parliament Membership includes three students from each junior class (Gr 4, Gr 4/5, Gr 6).

We were very impressed by the enthusiasm of the students who demonstrated a desire to lead their peers this year. They prepared well for their speeches and should be congratulated for their fine efforts.

Well done to the following students who volunteered to run for leadership positions:

Grade 4

Ethan A
Liam G
Rylee H
Johnny B
Olivia V
Alyssa B

Grade 4/5

Jade H
Mercedes C
Danielle V
Reegan H
Riley R

Grade 6

Roberta H
Nathan S
Julia A
Kwame R

A big congratulations to the following students who were elected to membership:

Alyssa B, Liam G, Rylee H, Reegan H, Jade H, Danielle V, Julia H, Roberta H, Nathan S.

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.

Welcome to Korean Exchange Students

We are pleased to welcome two new students to Martha Cullimore and the grade six class beginning January 9th until January 23rd. Hosting foreign students is always an enriching experience for our guests and our school community.

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



JUST WATCH ME!
KINDERGARTEN AT THE DSBN

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




Family Bowling Fun on February 12, 2017! Hold the Date!

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! More details will follow.

PA DAY

Friday, January 20, 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, January 24th at 6:00 p.m.

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

Hour of Code – Dot & Dash Robot Prize Winners!

For a week in December, students across the DSBN spent time coding on the computer. Developing computational skills is important for modern learning. Coding calls for problem-solving, creativity and communication. By nurturing these skills, you will grow more confident, competent students. Congratulations to the cougar students and staff for their high level of participation in the Hour of Code activities. Our school was awarded a new Dot and Dash Robot Kit as a result. Well done!

Fill the Frames Artwork Contest! Happy 150th Birthday, Canada!

As we approach Canada's 150th year, we'd like to have a Canadiana theme to the next set of art pieces that are displayed in the library. Artwork can be created individually by students or by families together. Frame sizes and orientations are as follows:

- 1) 8x10 or 11x14 landscape (8 frames)
- 2) 16x20 landscape or portrait (4 frames)
- 3) 18x24 portrait (4 frames)
- 4) 5x7 portrait (10 frames)

We encourage students and/or families to use a variety of media including: crayon, pencil crayon, marker, pastels, charcoal, water colours, acrylics, etc. If needed, paper is available from Mrs. Chilcott. Students are welcome to submit a piece of artwork that they created in class as well. Books about Canadiana will be displayed in the library for students to reference for ideas.

All submissions should be to the school by **Friday, January 13, 2017**. Judging will take place shortly after that. Any questions can be directed to tammy.chilcott@dsbn.org. **Thank you in advance for your participation!**

January 27th is Family Literacy Day

What We Want Our Students to Know About Reading

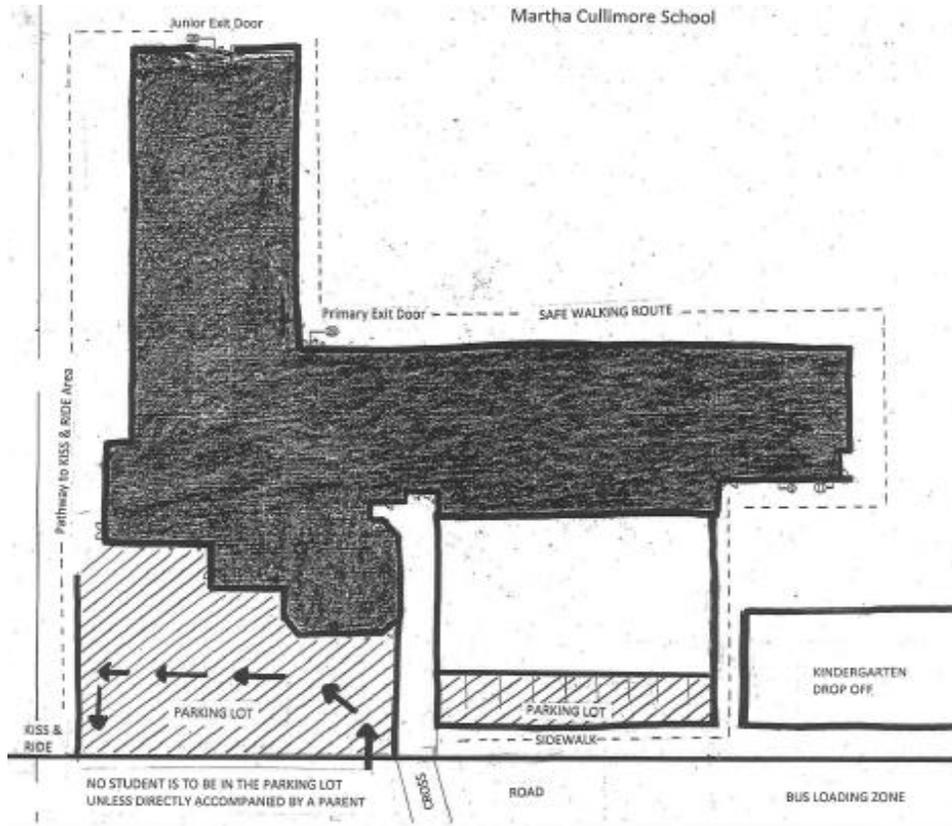
- ★ *that all readers struggle with text at some time and need to learn to negotiate difficult reading situations to understand and remember what was read*
- ★ *that they need to figure out new vocabulary and remember key words*
- ★ *that they need to recognize and repair confusion*
- ★ *that they need to have a purpose for reading in mind*
- ★ *that print materials have a variety of structures and that we read these structures in different ways e.g. narratives, textbooks, poems, magazines...*
- ★ *that good readers use thinking strategies as well as decoding strategies - question, make connections, infer, activate prior knowledge, determine importance, visualize, summarize, synthesize*
- ★ *that they need to find ways to "hold" thinking - margin notes, sticky notes, highlighting, using graphic organizers*
- ★ *that they need to reread or adjust the pace of their reading (e.g. slow down) when reading a piece of difficult text*
- ★ *that they need to use text features to aid comprehension*
- ★ *that talking to others about their reading helps them with meaning*

RECIPE TIME! Ideas from ABC Life Literacy Canada...

The kitchen is a great place for the whole family to practice literacy. Reading a recipe, measuring ingredients, and even figuring out what you need to buy from the store all use your literacy skills. As a family, pick a recipe and write out the ingredient list on a sheet of paper. Draw a picture of each ingredient, or find a picture of it in grocery store flyers or online, and glue it next to the ingredient. What do you need a lot of? What do you need just a little bit of? Visit [ABC Life Literacy Canada](http://abclifeliteracy.ca) at abclifeliteracy.ca for a great recipe for **Apple Pancakes!**

Parking Lot and Student Safety

We recognize that Martha Cullimore is a busy school with wonderfully involved parents. Often that means that the parking lot is busy, too! In order to ensure the safety of our students at each dismissal time, we require all visitors to our parking lot to follow parking lot guidelines:



- Students must use proper walkways and meet parents before entering the parking lot. All students must be directly supervised by parents when in the lot.
- Drivers wishing to drop students off directly onto safe sidewalk zones should use the Kiss & Ride lane through the parking lot and drop off at south end of the parking lot ONLY. There is access to a school sidewalk from that location.
- Never park in the through lane of the parking lot.
- Never park in the area adjacent to the bus lane.



Students are not permitted into the parking lot at any time without an adult. Convenience or timesaving is never worth the cost of a life. We ask that parents please meet their children at their exit doors and then escort them safely to the car. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and vigilance in ensuring the safety of our students.

Grade 1 French Immersion Open House

Parents and Guardians of Senior Kindergarten students interested in attending French Immersion in Grade 1 next September are invited to attend an information session at John Marshall Public School, 3910 St. James Ave., Niagara Falls, on Thursday, January 12 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Online registration begins January 9 at www.dsbni.org.

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 would like a special pink T-shirt of his/her own, they will be available for order through School Cash Online in the new year.



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:

Websites:

<http://www.dsbnet.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



January Newsletter Draw

Congrats to the Blakely family who won December's draw! Their children have won a prize from the office.

How does probability help us in our daily lives?

Family Name: _____

Child(ren)'s Grades: _____