

# The Cougar Chronicle



## Martha Cullimore Public School

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

Principal:  
T. Chilcott

### Important Dates:

#### May

- 01 Parent Night  
With Dr Stan  
Kutcher
- 09 Regional Track &  
Field
- 10 Water Festival  
Gr 3 & 4
- 12 Jump Rope for  
Heart Kick – Off  
Assembly
- 12 Crazy Hair &  
Board Game  
Day
- 12 Yearbook Orders  
Due
- 16 Gr 6 Visit to  
Prince Philip
- 17 Orchestra Visit
- 18 K to Firemans  
Park
- 24 EQAO starts
- 26 Celebration  
Assembly

#### June

- 06 Prince Philip  
Open House for  
grade 6s
- 07 DSBN T&F
- 08 Jump Rope for  
Heart
- 09 PD Day
- 12 & 13 Gr 6 Camp  
Cave Springs

## Message from the Principal

It's hard to believe we are entering the final two months of the school year. In our classrooms, students are continuing to work hard to meet the curriculum expectations for their grade level. It is wonderful to look back on the year so far and reflect on how each child has grown and achieved goals. During the month of May, our students will be involved in many special events. Please check the calendar for updates.

EQAO will also begin for our grade 3 and 6 students on May 24<sup>th</sup> and end on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is important that our students do not miss school during the testing schedule.

## 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. In grades where there is more than 1 possible placement, our goal will be to develop balanced classes. In the right environment, students develop a sense of belonging, the feeling that they can make a noticeable contribution, and can progress well in academic, social and emotional domains. We will use several criteria to determine class placements: students' ability, interests and talents; gender; learning and teaching styles; work habits; social blending, treating students with equity and fairness; and parental input. With regards to parental input, we will gladly accept any **educational** rationale that you feel would be important for us to consider when determining class placement for next year. This information must be shared with us in writing by May 8<sup>th</sup>. Please be aware that we are not able to create classes based on student friendships.

## Tentative Classroom Organization for 2016/2017:

K, K, 1, 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6

## Welcome to Full Day Kindergarten Visit – June 2nd

The junior and senior kindergarten students who are new to Martha Cullimore School for September 2017 are invited to an orientation on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am. 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.

Mrs. T. Chilcott

## Supports for Parents – A Great Night With Dr Stan Kutcher – May 1st

The A.N. Myer Family of Schools is hosting an important event for parents this coming May. It's called "Helping Students Be Their Best Selves". Dr Stan Kutcher will offer tools and strategies to help our children develop resiliency and positive coping skills to deal with stress and anxiety. We'd like as many parents from the community as possible to come out. It is our hope that this event continues to strengthen the support network for parents and schools, through relationship and understanding. Please come out and invite a friend or two!

### Helping Students Be Their Best Selves

**DSBN PRESENTS**  
**Workshops with Dr. Stan Kutcher**

Achieving a sense of good mental health and wellness is so important for students. Dr. Stan Kutcher, a world renowned expert in adolescent mental health, will provide parents with concrete tools and strategies to help their children develop positive coping skills to deal with both stress and anxiety.

**EVENT INFORMATION**

**MONDAY, MAY 1**  
A.N. Myer Secondary School, 6338 O'Neil St., Niagara Falls

**6:00 p.m.**  
Doors Open • Refreshments • Community Carousel

**7:00 p.m.**  
Dr. Stan Kutcher Presentation • Q & A

Child-minding is available for children ages 4-12 upon registration by April 24

To register go to [dsbn.org](http://dsbn.org) or to your school website

HOSTED BY:  
A.N. Myer, Cherrywood, John Marshall,  
Martha Cullimore, Orchard Park,  
Prince Philip, St. Davids






## 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 24th to June 2nd**

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

## School Vandalism

Now that the warm weather has arrived, we seek your cooperation in reducing school vandalism. Should you observe an unusual activity at our school, please call in confidence either of the following

emergency numbers: 905.682.8065 or 905.563.1293. Also, if you notice children on the roof, please contact the Niagara Regional Police (905.688.4111) as this is extremely unsafe and those engaging in this behaviour are trespassing on DSNB property. We appreciate your assistance with these matters. As you can imagine graffiti and other damage is very costly to remove/repair, not to mention how unsightly it can be.

## Yearbook

We will be offering a wonderful, full colour yearbook to capture the memories of the 2016-2017 school year. Softcover yearbooks are \$15.00 and hardcover yearbooks are \$25.00. Orders and payment are due by May 12<sup>th</sup> through school cash online.



### Volunteer Tea on Thursday June 15th at 12:35pm

If you are a Martha Cullimore volunteer, please come to our volunteer tea so that we can show you how much we appreciate all that you do! Please let us know if you can come by sending an RSVP to the office.

### Remembering our Author Visit on April 5th

What a great visit we had with author and illustrator, Kevin Sylvester, on April 5<sup>th</sup>. He inspired us with his zest for life, creativity and love of writing! We gained insights about how he uses visualization and idea planning to create such engaging texts. And boy, did we laugh!



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

TEACHER	I Matter STUDENT OF THE MONTH
K – Hollemans Empey	Cole, Giancarlo, Tyson
K – Brennan Longhouse	Carter, Rehan, Samantha
1 - Carnegie	Evie, Charisa, Lara, Zander
2 – Reid	Josiah
3 – Niven	Emma, Lana
4 – Jane	Abby, Carmine, Delsin, Deniz, Jeffrey, Lauren
4/5 – Fortuna	B.J., Caden, Chris, Liam, Payton
6 – West	Caleb, Lucas, Mani
FR - Michaud	Andy, Delsin, Johnny, Melodee, Thomas



## A Tremendous Trivia Night Thank You!

Parents, family, friends and community members joined in for the fun at the Trivia Night this month in support of our school's technology fund. The Trivia Night brought in an amazing **\$4060.00!** We are so grateful for the generous spirit of all who supported the event.

None of this would have been possible without the skillful leadership of Mrs. Watson who rallied community members and local businesses to produce wonderful results. We appreciate the generosity of Mr. Rigas and his family, as they graciously donated the **Delphi** banquet hall space, the delicious food, and staff to support the event. The donation of funds will allow us to purchase new technology for learning. Students will benefit for years to come. We will give a full report on specific purchases soon. We are very grateful for Mrs. Watson and Mr. Rigas' efforts and collaboration with our school council.

## School Climate Survey 2016-2017 – Spring Survey Fast Facts for Parents

### What?

The school climate survey is an opportunity for students and parents to provide information about their experiences of school safety, acceptance, inclusion, and well-being. It is a web-based survey that guarantees anonymity of the respondents. A summary of results will be shared with staff, School Councils, and Safe Schools Teams for planning purposes.

### Why?

A safe, inclusive and accepting school creates an environment for students to do their best in the classroom and beyond. Hearing the student and parent 'voice' is key to the development and implementation of school and board level improvement plans. Students and parents participating in the survey will not be asked for any personal information that will reveal their identity.

### Who? When? Where?

#### Students:

- The DSNB will be surveying all students in Grades 4 to 12 from **April 24 to May 19.**

#### Parents:

- The parent survey will be available via a "**School Climate Survey**" link on the school's website from **May 1 to May 19.**
- Parents will be required to enter the Survey Access Code **7-MBZ-002-L** to participate in the school's survey.
- The survey must be completed in one sitting.

### Additional Information:

For more information about the school climate surveys, please visit:

- The Learning Bar at [www.thelearningbar.com](http://www.thelearningbar.com) for student survey information
- The Ministry of Education at [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/climate](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/climate) for parent survey information

**Questions?** If you require further information, please contact our school office.

**We value your voice and we thank you in advance for your participation!**

### Track & Field Club

A big thank you to Mr. Fortuna, Mr. Brook, Mr. West and Mrs. Niven for their investment in our Spring Track & Field Program. Students have been taking advantage of the Track and Field club to hone their skills! Congratulations to the Track & Field Team who will be representing the Cougars at the regional meet on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Silver Birch Club

A big thank you to Mrs. Brennan for inspiring a love for reading through her investment in the Silver Birch Club. They will enjoy the Blue Spruce and Silver Birch Conference on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

## 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.

**The Story String Quartet from Niagara Symphony Orchestra** – on May 17<sup>th</sup> students will experience an interactive story-telling concert where they are involved in putting ideas to music!



## Whole School Yearbook Photo!

On the morning of Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> we'll be gathering together for a whole school photo! Be at school on time. The photo will be taken at 9:00a.m.



## Fight the Bite!

Ticks, mosquitos and rabid animals have no boundaries and can be a risk to you and your family when walking to and from school or work, waiting at the bus stop, family trips, and while playing in the yard at home or at the park.

Protect yourself and your family from West Nile Virus:

- Reduce standing water where mosquitoes breed
- Cover up, wear long sleeved shirts, long pants, hats socks and shoes
- Repair any damaged window screens
- Use insect repellants containing DEET or Icardin (follow manufacturer's instructions)

Reduce the risk of Lyme disease:

- Wear light coloured clothing to help spot ticks
- Use insect repellants containing DEET or Icardin (follow manufacturer's instructions)
- Check yourself, your children and pets for ticks after being outdoors
- Cut your grass and dispose of leaf litter where ticks can live

Prevent rabies:

- Vaccinate your pets
- Do not feed or approach any wild, stray or strange animals
- Do not trap, transport, keep or pet any wild animals
- Do not try and nurse sick animals back to health

Presently, all of these diseases exist in Niagara. For more information, contact Niagara Region Public Health. 905-688-8248 ext. 7767 or 1-888-505-6074

## EQAO Testing - Grades 3 and 6

Our testing dates are set for this year. Please take note that students in Grades 3 and 6 **will write EQAO Wednesday, May 24 , Thursday May 25, Friday May 26, Monday May 29, Tuesday May 30, Wednesday May 31 and Thursday June 1**. A 'make-up' day (for students who may have missed part of the test) will be held on June 2. The 3s will write first block (8:35-10:15) and the 6s will write second block (10:55-12:35).

**Please avoid booking any appointments for these days or planning vacation time. It is very important that ALL of our students take part in the testing.** Thank you in advance for your support and more information will be shared with our Grade 3 and 6 families closer to the testing.

## SK French Immersion Open House

There is an Open House for SK students who will be attending John Marshall for French Immersion next year on May 25 from 6-7 pm at 3910 St. James Ave. Students will have an opportunity to tour the school, see the classrooms and meet the staff. Contact Principal Janice Slade with any questions. 905-358-3711 or janice.slade@dsbn.org.

**SOCIAL NETWORKING  
& ONLINE SAFETY**  
AN EVENING FOR PARENTS  
WITH PAUL DAVIS  
MAY 17, 2017  
6:30 PM  
JOHN MARSHALL

TOPICS INCLUDE:  
SNAPCHAT/TWITTER/INSTAGRAM/FACEBOOK  
SMARTPHONES AND DIGITAL TRAILS  
CYBERBULLYING - TEXTING - SEXTING  
ONLINE GAMING & ONLINE SECURITY

PAUL HAS DELIVERED HIS MESSAGE TO 350,000  
STUDENTS ALONG WITH THE ONTARIO PROVINCIAL  
POLICE, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE &  
CANADA BORDER SERVICES



TWITTER: @PAULDAVISSNS

## LD @ Home

LD@home is a free resource created by the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) for parents of children ages K to gr 8 with learning disabilities (LDs). The website, [www.LDatHome.ca](http://www.LDatHome.ca), provides information, resources, and a supportive environment for parents in Ontario. LD@home works with Ontario school boards to provide parents with information that educators feel is relevant while reaching their goal to ensure that students with LDs are successful, both in school and for the rest of their lives. For more details, please visit their website.

## Summer Heat

We are happy to offer the Summer HEAT program again this summer. This learning program provides students, entering JK to Grade 4 in September 2017, with three weeks (5 days a week) of literacy and numeracy learning experiences. The 2017 program will run from Monday, July 10th to Friday, July 28th from 8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. daily.

Summer HEAT will take place at the following sites:

- St. Catharines - Edith Cavell, Connaught, Lincoln Centennial, Harriet Tubman
- Beamsville - Senator Gibson
- Welland - Diamond Trail, Princess Elizabeth
- Niagara Falls - Simcoe Street, Valley Way
- Port Colborne - De Witt Carter
- Fort Erie - Peace Bridge
- Ridgeway - John Brant
- Thorold - Prince of Wales (S)

Please call the school office for more information.

## Dress Code Reminders

With warm weather upon us, please see below for a reminder of our school dress code. The underlying principle is that students should come to school dressed for work, not for a trip to the beach or the mall.

### Please keep in mind:

- Tank tops need to have a strap of at least 3 finger widths
- All apparel should be free from inappropriate language/pictures
- Shorts must be an appropriate length (mid-thigh)
- Undergarments should not be exposed
- Hats and sunglasses are appropriate at recess, but not indoors