

The Cougar Chronicle



Martha Cullimore Public School

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

Principal:
T. Chilcott

Important Dates:

May

- 01 Basketball Tournament
- 04 Silver Birch Conference
- 07 Yearbook Team and Club Photos
- 14 Open House for New to Martha Cullimore Students 6 to 7pm
- 18 PA Day
- 21 Victoria Day
- 22 EQAO starts
- 22 School Council Mtg
- 23 DSBN Support Staff Appreciation Day

June

- 01 May Celebration Assembly - 2:05pm
- 01 New to K Visit and Bus Ride (9:00-10:30am)
- 04 EQAO ends
- 05 District T&F
- 08 PA Day
- 21 Gr 1 to 6 Year End Trip to Niagara
- 25 K Celebration
- 27 Report Cards Go Home
- 28 Last Day of Classes
- 28 Talent Show – 8:50am

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 22nd and end on June 1st. 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 4th. Please be aware that we are not able to create classes based on student friendships.

Tentative Classroom Organization for 2018/2019:

K, K, 1/2, 1/2, 2/3, 3/4, 4/5, 5/6, 6, 7/8, 7/8

Welcome to Full Day Kindergarten Visit – June 1st

The junior and senior kindergarten students who are new to Martha Cullimore School for September 2018 are invited to an orientation on Friday, June 1st 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

EQAO TESTING

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

May 22nd to June 1st

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

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.

Yearbook

We will be offering a wonderful, full colour yearbook to capture the memories of the 2017-2018 school year. Softcover yearbooks are \$15.00 and hardcover yearbooks are \$25.00. Orders and payment are due by May 11th through school cash online.



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 **\$4160.00!** 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 and our parents on School Council, 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 delicioud 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 Teams and Clubs Yearbook Photos!

On the morning of Monday, May 7th, we'll be taking team and club photos for this year's yearbook. This will be the only photo opportunity for teams and clubs. Be at school on time.



PA Day
May 18th
No School!

New to Martha Cullimore Grades 6, 7 & 8 Open House

Students currently in grade 6 or 7 who are attending Martha Cullimore in September 2018 are invited to come to an Open House with their family at Martha Cullimore School on May 14 from 6-7 pm. This is an opportunity for students to visit the school where they will be attending next year, meet the school administration and staff and have any questions answered. We welcome these new students and their families to Martha Cullimore, home of the Cougars!

SK French Immersion Open House

Students currently in Senior Kindergarten who have accepted a French Immersion placement for September are invited to come to a French Immersion Open House with their family at Prince Philip School, 3112 Dorchester Rd., Niagara Falls, on May 15 from 6-7 pm. This is an opportunity for students to visit the school where they will be attending next year, meet the school administration and staff and have any questions answered. For more information please contact Janice Slade, principal of John Marshall School. 905-358-3711.

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 23, Thursday May 24, Friday May 25, Monday May 28, Tuesday May 29, Wednesday May 30 and Thursday May 31**. A 'make-up' day (for students who may have missed part of the test) will be held on June 1. 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.

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



Track & Field Club Results – Coming Soon!

A big thank you to Mr. Fortuna, Mr. West and Mrs. McGowan for their investment in our Spring Track & Field Program. Students have been taking advantage of the Track and Field club to hone their skills! The Track and Field coaches are just reviewing the results finalizing the list of athletes who will be representing the Cougars at the area meet on May 15th.

Year End Trip!

Grade 1 to 6 students will be participating in a fun, educational and thrilling end of year trip, as they explore Niagara, past and present! We will discover the ancient story of Niagara Falls in 4D, experience the Niagara Fury's multisensory theatre, walk through the Butterfly Conservatory and ride the Aerial Car. An information letter and permission forms will go home shortly.

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

	I Matter STUDENT OF THE MONTH	Growth Mindset Coach of the Month
K – Hollemans Empey	Cameron, Macy, Sela, Tyson	Serenity
K – Brennan Camillo	Johnathan, Payton, Rehan	Khloe
1 - Carnegie	Giancarlo, Natalie	Dylan
2 – Reid	Declan, Kalysta, Lara	Charlie
2/3 – McGowan	Auden, Logan	Sasha
3/4 – Jane	Damien, John	Brian
5 – Fortuna	Deniz, Jackson, Kalista, Lauren	Alyssa
5/6 – West	Kalley, Riley	Dale
FR - Michaud	Charisah, Jenna O, Seth, Thomas, Valen	

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.

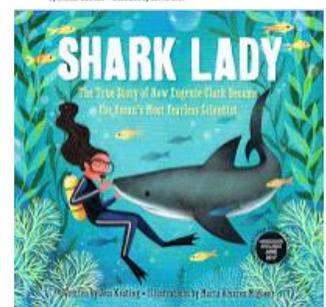
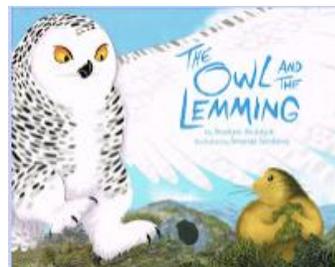
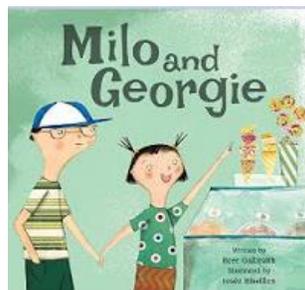
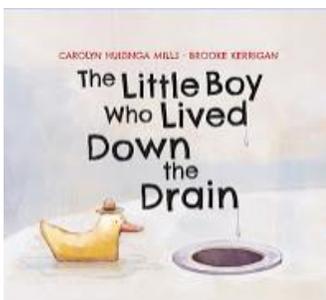
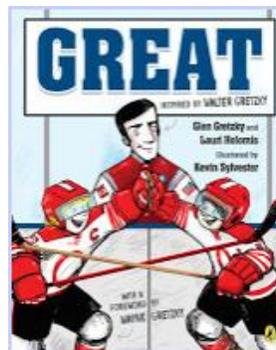
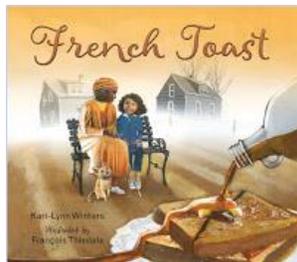
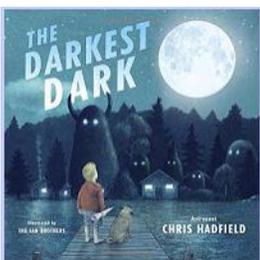
School Vandalism

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 DSBN 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.

Forest of Reading: Silver Birch and Red Maple Conference – May 4th

The Forest of Reading is Canada's largest recreational reading program, made up of eight programs and run by the Ontario Library Association. The programs are geared towards readers in kindergarten to grade twelve. The Forest of Reading is unique in that it is the readers themselves who choose the winners of each category by voting for their favourite books. Members of Martha Cullimore's Silver Birch Club (junior students) will attend the Silver Birch and Red Maple Conference on **Friday, May 4th** at the Scotiabank Centre. We are looking forward to welcoming approximately **1,500 students from 64 schools across the district** in a celebration of their reading accomplishments through the Forest of Reading program.

The Blue Spruce Award program brings recently published Canadian children's picture books to children ages 4 to 7 in kindergarten through to grade two. Some of the books we enjoyed are pictured below.



Special thanks to Mrs. Brennan for offering Silver Birch Club to the students.

Talent Show – June 28th

It is a Martha Cullimore tradition to wrap up the school year with a talent show on the last day of school. It is a wonderful opportunity to showcase a variety of student talent and interest, while bringing the community together to celebrate. The talent show will begin at about 8:50am. More information will follow as the day gets closer and we prepare.



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