

# The Cougar Chronicle

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



DECEMBER  
2020

## Message from the Principal

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What is truly wonderful about this time of year, is the common bonds we share, regardless of our beliefs. Whether you are celebrating Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, or another special event this holiday season, the staff at Martha Cullimore wishes you a safe and joyous time with your family. We are very grateful that you have entrusted your children to our care and want you to know how much we value each unique individual. We commit to supporting each child and celebrating their accomplishments with them. The support you give them enables them to shine in their academic work and believe in themselves.



This year has brought much change to our lives but it has also shown us that when we work together, support each other, and focus on the good, that anything is possible! Thank you to our amazing community (parents, students, and staff) for supporting each other during the last number of months and in particular, in making our return to school such a success. At Martha Cullimore, we believe that good character and good citizenship are integral components of academic achievement and success in life. We believe that parents and teachers, working together, can achieve great things for children. We are very proud of the positive climate in our school and are committed to working together for even greater student success in the new year.

### Project Share Food Drive

As we prepare for the winter season, there is an opportunity for us to reach out to the community by way of a Seasonal Food Drive with Project Share. Please find the date below to send non-perishable food items for the collection bin. It is important that **students only bring food donations on their assigned date**, as that is the only time their class will have access to the donation bin.

Kindergarten - Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
Grades 1-3 - Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Grades 4-6 - Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>  
Grades 7-8 - Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

Project share is in high need of the following:

- baby food and formula
- canned fruits, vegetables and pasta sauce
- canned salmon, chicken, tuna and beans
- peanut butter

Donations will not be accepted after December 11<sup>th</sup> as we must let food items sit for a number of days before Project Share picks up.  
Thank you.

Thank you for reaching out with us to help others in the community!

Mrs. T. Chilcott

## Mrs. Houde is Retiring

Mrs. Houde is retiring at the end of December and we sure will miss her around Martha Cullimore. We thank her for her wonderful work on behalf of students across the DSBN over the years. We have enjoyed Mrs. Houde and appreciate the friendship she brings to us each day. We wish her an amazing retirement full of rest, happiness and all her favourite things. Happy retirement, Mrs. Houde! We love you!

*Best wishes*

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

TEACHER	I MATTER STUDENT OF THE MONTH	CARING CHARACTER AWARD
K – Hollemans & Whalen	Jackson H, Ryker P	Emerson G
K – Brennan, Camillo & Nagy	Louisa M	Wesley P
1/2 – Lopez	Olivia S	Morgyn K
2/3 – Cooke	Ben S	Jaydynn J
3 – McGowan	Xenia R	Hailey H
4 – Dinga	Matilda S, Jack D	Natalie B
5 – Chubb	Mya M, Zander R, Sasha C	Kalysta T
6 – Singer	Julia W	Kameron M
7 – Jane	Emma M, Eric R	Ryan R
8 – Ibey	Mya H-G, Evan L	Rebecca S
8 – Fortuna	Alyssa B, Cadyn R	Deniz G

## Character Trait for December - Responsibility

I am responsible for my thoughts, words and actions. I am accountable for my choices. I admit my mistakes and work to correct them. People can depend on me to honour my commitments. I demonstrate active citizenship.

## Winter Break

Winter Break is from December 21<sup>st</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>. We will look forward to seeing our families on January 4, 2021 after a restful and healthy break!

## Dressing for the Weather

As colder weather approaches, please be aware that children are expected to be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions every day. Rain coats, sweaters, boots and umbrellas allow us to enjoy the outdoors as long as rain is light or misty. Coats, hats, boots and mittens/gloves are soon going to be necessary for your child to enjoy the outdoor fitness breaks and gym classes. Students will continue to have gym classes outside during this time. Students that are well enough to be at school are expected to be outside with their friends during fitness breaks as indoor supervision is not available during this time. As the winter season approaches, classroom teachers will be opening up lockers for student use for outdoor clothing items. Backpacks, lunches, and other personal items will continue to be stored on the back of your child's chair.

## Winter Clothing

If you need a winter coat or snow pants, please contact the school office by phone or email ([mcu@dsbn.org](mailto:mcu@dsbn.org)) to inquire about the support we can provide in getting these much needed items for your children.

Even though we will be re-opening our gym soon, all students will continue to have gym classes outside, in the winter months. Kindergarten children will also continue to have outdoor exploration time during the winter months.

## Student Safety and Supervision

Your child's safety is very important to us at Martha Cullimore. In order to help us keep your child safe, we ask that you keep in mind the supervision schedule for students. Supervision for students in Grades 1-8 begins at 8:20 in the back of the school. Students should not be arriving prior to 8:20, as supervision is not provided. We request that once students arrive at school, they go immediately to their class designated space to ensure their safety, and remain there to ensure physical distancing. After school, supervision is provided for our students that take the bus home. Upon leaving school property, students and parents are encouraged to continue maintaining physical distancing.

## Inclement Weather Procedures

On rainy days, we ask that students who travel to school by walking or car arrive as close to the 8:35am bell as possible. Dress for the weather, as classes will continue to meet in their class community area outdoors all year for staggered entry. If it is very wet or stormy, students will be admitted early to report directly to their classrooms.

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 contact the school to inform us of your child's absence.** You can call Safe Arrival when your child will be absent or late to school. Use the automated phone system or use your mobile device by downloading the SchoolMessenger app.

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.

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

### Websites and Subscription Features

[www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org) DSBN Facebook or Twitter  
[www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca) NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

**Phone:** Niagara Student Transportation Services 905-346-0290 Voice Auto Attendant

### Radio Stations:

CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines	CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines	CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines
CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie	WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton	K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton
CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton	CHML (900 AM) Hamilton	Y-108(107.9) Hamilton
CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton	GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland	

## Guidance from Niagara Region Public Health

We all appreciate guidance and reassurance as we need to make decisions that pertain to the health and wellbeing of our children, family and school community. We share this responsibility together.

When your child becomes ill or for more information:

- Niagara Region Public Health Info-Line at 905-688-8248 or toll-free at 1-888-505-6074, press 7 then 2

This line is available:

- Monday to Friday, 9:15 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday, 9:15 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

## What to do if your child has COVID-19 symptoms

Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should NOT enter school or child care. They should return home to self-isolate. The next steps for children depend on what kind of symptoms they have. For information visit our website <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/reopen/schools.aspx> - scroll down to "Prevention and Protection" and click on "what to do when a child has COVID-19 symptoms." Adults with any one symptom of COVID-19 should always self-isolate and seek assessment by a health care provider or self-refer for testing. **It does not matter what kind of symptom they have.**

**DECEMBER 7-10, 2020!**

**DSBN**  
Virtual  
SECONDARY 20  
SNEAK PEEK 20

**DSBN**  
DISTRICT  
SCHOOL BOARD  
OF NIAGARA

**dsbn.org/sneakpeek | #DSBNSneakPeek**

AN Myer will be making a virtual visit with our grade 8 students on December 4<sup>th</sup>!



**At the DSBN, French Immersion starts in Grade 1**

**Save the Date** | TUESDAY, DECEMBER **15th** 2020

**6:30-7:00PM**

Please join us for our Virtual Information Night for families considering French Immersion!

**Go to [dsbn.org/fi](https://dsbn.org/fi) to register!**

Registration for the French Immersion program (starting September 2021) offered at Prince Philip School (3112 Dorchester Road, Niagara Falls) is open to all students in Year 2 (Senior) Kindergarten. 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.

# MR. H's ARTISAN CARD CONTEST

DSBN Director of Education Warren Hoshizaki, known as Mr. H in schools, would like to give students an opportunity to show off their skill and creativity by designing artisan cards. To enter, create a piece of artwork to commemorate a month of the year and what makes it special.

Mr. H would like to give students another opportunity to shine by designing artisan cards that can be shared with family, friends, and the wider Niagara community.

## WHAT'S AN ARTISAN CARD?

DSBN Artisan Cards commemorate what's special about the different months of the year. Each student entering the contest is asked to pick one month and create a piece of artwork about what makes that month stand out. For example, September marks the start of the new school year, in December, many of our thoughts turn to the holidays. Let your imaginations run wild and create artwork that will inspire and delight.

## HOW DO I ENTER?

### SIMPLE!

- Begin by creating your artwork. It can be any medium you prefer, including digital, mixed media, or traditional drawings or paintings
- Bring it to your school along with a signed permission form

### OR

- Take a clear photo of your artwork and permission form and email them to [communications@dsbn.org](mailto:communications@dsbn.org)

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to the volume of submissions, only winning entries will be returned.

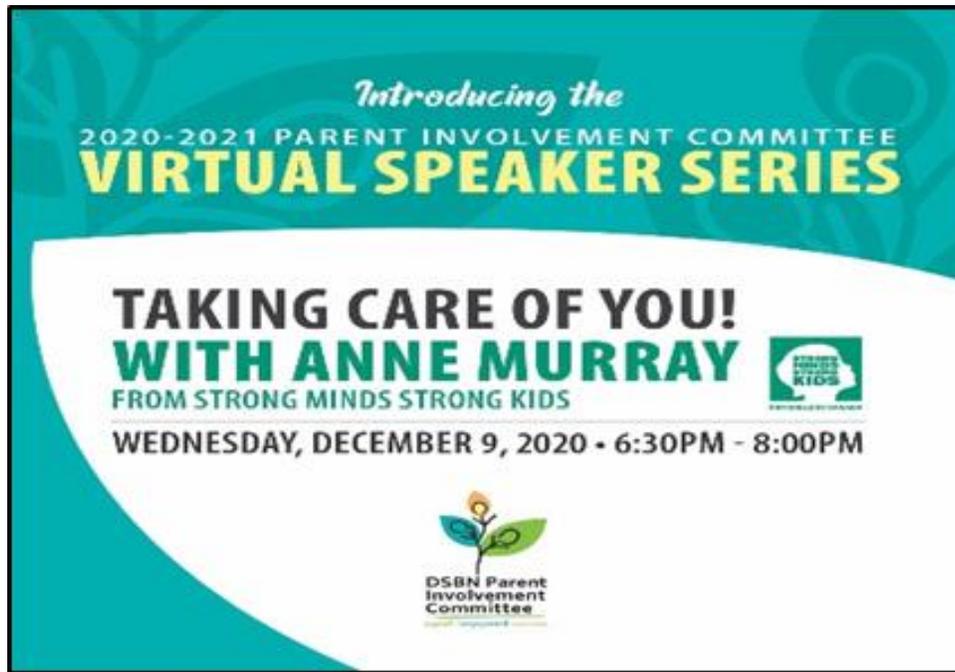
## WHAT HAPPENS IF I WIN?

Mr. H is a big believer in celebrating successes big and small. Students whose artwork is chosen to become Artisan Cards will be invited to be recognized at a virtual Board meeting on January 26, 2021. There, Mr. H and the Board of Trustees will congratulate students. A certificate and a package of printed cards featuring the winning artwork will be sent to each winner.

Take a look at some previous winning art!



The DSBN is excited to introduce the 2020-21 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Virtual Speaker Series! Parents and families can join these free and interactive presentations over the school year, and hear from influential speakers about a variety of topics that are helpful to families



## December Spirit Days!

There are many ways that students can show their cougar pride throughout the year. We look forward to having lots of fun together during December before the holidays.

- Fri Dec 4 – Winter Wonderland Day – blue, white, snowflakes, snowman!
- Fri Dec 11 – Festival of Lights Day – dress in holiday lights!

### Week Of Spirit!

- Mon Dec 14 – Christmas & Holiday Hair/Hat Day
- Tues Dec 15 – Ugly Christmas & Holiday Sweater Day
- Wed Dec 16 – Christmas Character Day
- Thur Dec 17 – Red & Green Christmas Accessory Day
- Fri Dec 18 – Twas the Night Before Christmas Break Pajama Day

