



# The Cougar Chronicle

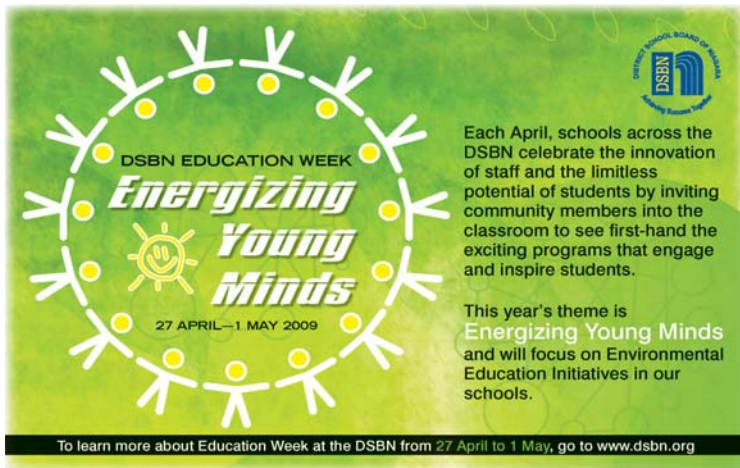
*Martha Cullimore Public School*

*Achieving Success Together*



Mrs. J. Goodfellow ~ Principal

April 2009 - Issue 8



Each April, schools across the DSBN celebrate the innovation of staff and the limitless potential of students by inviting community members into the classroom to see first-hand the exciting programs that engage and inspire students.

This year's theme is **Energizing Young Minds** and will focus on Environmental Education Initiatives in our schools.

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The last week in April is the week designated by the District School Board of Niagara as a time to celebrate the exceptional achievements of our staff and students. The logo "**Energizing Young Minds**" embodies our belief that teaching our students about the environment and the importance of protecting what we have now in order that we might continue to enjoy our resources for generations to come.

We, at Martha Cullimore, enjoy recognizing our students' accomplishments every month! April is another busy month here at school with an abundance of activities for all ages and interests. We celebrate our students success in literacy and are grateful for the many volunteers who regularly come into the school to read with our children. We appreciate the interest in our Grade One Home Reading Program and are thrilled to be able to expand this into Grade Two and beyond. The results of these efforts throughout the year are recognized in our students' academic growth and verified in the recent set of report cards that have gone home last week.

April is also a time to recognize all of the important tasks Mrs. Dixon carries out on a daily basis to make every member of the Martha Cullimore community's

life a little less stressful. We thank Mrs. Dixon for the care and concern she shows everyone here at school from those needing a bandaid, to the phone calls home, messages given, lunches delivered and everything in between. She is often the first person to greet people entering our school and it is her smiling face and cheerful greeting that sets the first impression of what a great place Martha Cullimore is. We appreciate all of the things she does for us everyday! We all want to say **thanks on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** to Mrs. Dixon for a great job every day!

## CHARACTER COUNTS AT MARTHA CULLIMORE SCHOOL!

Our character trait in April is **Fairness**. We will be encouraging our students to look for the positive in every situation, to recognize how to react optimistically and try to encourage others to be positive too! Optimism can help you when things get tough and can facilitate success. **Optimism is contagious ... pass it on!**

## GOOD NEWS ASSEMBLY

On Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> we celebrated those students who exemplified the attributes of co-operation and fairness. It is wonderful to recognize our students developing into well rounded citizens and good people.

We also enjoyed presentations by Mr. Van Wely's class and Ms. Snelgrove's class. The Choirs performed for us from their selections for the Music Fest. Martha Cullimore students excell in many areas and it was a pleasure to enjoy their talents. Congratulations to the winners of the Good News draw:

Ercan  
Mallory  
Gary  
Calvin  
Ali

Skylar  
Aidan  
Ashton  
Trevor  
Anthony

Kiara  
Akasham  
Matthew  
Bryanna  
Taylor

Kayleigh

Emily

## WELCOME TO OUR STUDENT TEACHERS

We welcome Amanda White to Ms. Snelgrove's class, Adri Aloisi to Mr. Fortuna's class and Rosalyn Shouldice to Mr. Binfield's class. These young ladies are completing their final teaching block as Brock University students. We also welcome Tara Jiggins from Lakehead University who is working with Ms. Matthews' class. We appreciate all that these young, enthusiastic professionals bring to Martha Cullimore.

## NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

Education month brings lots of exciting activities to Martha Cullimore.

The Forest of Reading book clubs come to a conclusion this month with April 25<sup>th</sup> being the voting day. The Silver Birch book club (Gr. 5 & 6) travels to Brock on the 25<sup>th</sup> for the DSBN Celebration of Literacy Silver Birch Student Conference. The conference welcomes 500 Grade 5 & 6 students from DSBN for the day to attend amazing workshops and listen to 2 keynote authors. This year the authors are traveling from Nova Scotia and Alberta to speak to our students. Plus another author and illustrator will be there to host amazing workshops based on their books. It is a spectacular day and a great opportunity for those students who attend!

The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be at our school once again! The fair will run from **Wednesday, April 30, Thursday, May 1 and Friday May 2 (am only)**. There will be a great selection of books. Not only is this another great fundraiser for the school but it is a great way to promote literacy and reading!

Research is happening all over the school in every classroom. The Grade 2 classes are currently researching the country of Ghana to compliment their Social Studies unit, Grade 3 classes are wrapping up their scrumptious unit on chocolate and starting soils to compliment their Science unit, Grade 4's are researching England, Grade 5's are closely examining life in Ancient China and the Grade 6 class are exploring technology in space to compliment their Science unit. Watch for their great research to be displayed on the bulletin boards around the school!

## SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Martha Cullimore School Council invites you to attend our next meeting on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. in the school library. We look forward to seeing you there! Mrs. Morphew has spearheaded an investigation into a Kiss and Ride program for Martha Cullimore. We thank her for her time and effort in this regard. We will be discussing her findings at this meeting. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs. Lynda McCabe, this year's School Council Chair. Her telephone number is: 905-356-6613.

Open the Doors and Let them READ!!! Mrs. Brennan

## PAUSE TO PLAY (T.V. Turn Off Week)

The first week of April is **Pause to Play** week. With statistics indicating that the average child will spend more time in front of the television than in school, and childhood obesity on the rise, Pause to Play Week is a great time to turn off the TV and get active, or at least be aware of how much T.V. your family watches. I am challenging myself and all of the Martha Cullimore families to reduce their T.V. viewing time. Here are some suggestion to help your family get on board for **Pause to Play Week**:

- a) Make the commitment! Unplug the T.V., computer and video games
- b) Go to the Library and read, read, read!

## THE COUGAR CHOIR NEWS

The month of April is a busy month in the arts department. We have the DSBN Choirfest, and the Kiwanis Music Festival.

The Junior choir and The Triple Trio are performing at the DSBN Choirfest on Friday, April 4 and our Primary choir performed on Wednesday, April 2 with outstanding results. They received a Silver Standard. Both performances will take place in the morning at The St. Catharines Collegiate. Students will be performing with other schools within the DSBN. The students have worked very hard and deserve a big round of applause for their commitment to the music.

The Grade Six students will also be performing their radio play in the DSBN Performance Showcase on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS

The staff and students of Martha Cullimore will be participating in Emergency Preparedness Drills – including Lockdown.

The goals of these drills include:

- reacting in a predictable way to an unpredictable situation
- have all students and staff in a safe and secure area
- to keep hallways clear
- to move quickly and quietly
- develop specific plans based upon the needs of our school

Each classroom teacher will be spending time talking with students about the procedures to be followed in the event of a lockdown situation. Classroom teachers will practice lockdown situations as a class, and then we will be having some school wide drills, which will help us to anticipate various situations that could be encountered.

As with fire drills, some students may become upset or scared during the drill. We will debrief each situation as a class and individually if required. We appreciate any further support you offer to your child while at home.

We appreciate your support as we work through our Emergency Preparedness Plans.

## COMMUNICATION MATTERS

*Smart Talk from your Speech-Language Pathologist*

Unfortunately there are many school-aged children who suffer from a Traumatic Brain Injury, or TBI. Bicycles, roller blades, skate boards, swimming pools, cars and sports have all been involved in causing head injuries. Many problems can result from a TBI that can significantly affect your child's learning at school, including:

- loss of short term memory
- loss of sight, or the ability to recognize objects by sight
- impairments in gross and fine motor skills (e.g., walking and writing)
- difficulty talking, due to loss of muscle tone in the lips and tongue
- difficulty using language, due to word finding problems
- increase in inappropriate behaviours and changes in moods (e.g., depression)

These problems may show up months after the child suffered the head injury. Children who suffer a TBI often receive treatment including physical, occupational and speech/language therapy. They may attend specialized academic placements before returning to a regular classroom. Thankfully, there are things parents can do to help prevent a child from getting hurt:

- Make sure your child wears a helmet that fits.
- Ensure seat belts are always worn, properly.
- Supervise your child when swimming. Do not allow diving in the shallow end.
- Practice traffic safety.

Adapted from "Children and Closed Head Injury", by R. A. Merkel-Piccini, SLP, from [www.superduperinc.com](http://www.superduperinc.com)

## DSBN ROAD RACE

**Mark your calendars for the DSBN Road Race!**



Race Date: Sunday, April 27th, 2008

Location: DSBN Education Centre, 191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines

Race day check-in / registration is between 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Events: 1km Fun Run (10 a.m.), 5km Road Race (10:30 a.m.)

**Cost:** \$10 per race entry under 20, \$20 for adults 20+. Please pay by cheque made payable to:

District School Board of Niagara. Sorry, no refunds.

Pre-registration deadline is April 10, 2008. (Runners may also register at the check-in on race day)

**The event is open to DSBN students, employees, family and friends with proceeds to support the**

**Education Foundation of Niagara and Niagara Nutrition Partners.**

- The first three 5km Road Race runners (male & female) in each age category receive a medal
- Runners 4th to 6th in each age category will receive a ribbon

**Prizes:**

- Exclusive DSBN Road Race t-shirt for every runner who registers before April 10
- The overall top male and female runners will receive trophies
- All Fun Run and 5km Road Race runners receive a participation ribbon
- Participation Award for the school with the most entries

5km Road Race categories: 9 & under, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34,35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55 & over

For the safety of runners, no roller blades, scooters, skateboards, bicycles, or similar conveyances will be permitted on the course.

## **EQAO PROVINCIAL TESTING**

The Provincial Standards testing, better known as EQAO, for the end of the Primary division (Gr. 3) and the end of the Junior division (Gr. 6) will take place between Monday, May 26th and Friday, June 6th. Please keep these dates free from appointments or scheduled absences for your children. We will provide you with the exact dates as the time approaches.

## **MARVELLOUS MATH**

You can enjoy math as a family:

- play board games and card games and talk about strategies
- Look at maps and discuss them, draw maps of areas in your house
- Bake and cook together and discuss the measurements
- Take family tallies and votes

Make math fun and exciting by sharing activities at home and recognizing that MATH is everywhere in our daily lives.

**NOTICE:** THE DATE FOR THE START OF THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM IS **THURSDAY, APRIL 10TH.**

## **RECOGNIZING.....**

- All drivers who help transport our students to basketball games and the chess tournament.
- Ms. Matthews and Ms. Bateman for their time and efforts coaching the basketball teams.
- Ms. Matthews for running the dance club
- Mr. Fortuna for supervising the handball tournament at school
- Mrs. Kiemele for her time and effort directing the choirs and special arts groups in order that they participate in the Spring fesitivals.
- Mrs. Scott's leadership and time working with the students in the Kids Are Authors Club

## **Some Grade Four Book Reports**

**This document goes for 24 pages  
make sure you only print the first  
four.**

### **APRIL NEWSLETTER MYSTERY DRAW**

*Your Comments are appreciated!*

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*I/We have read the April Newsletter.*

*Please enter our name(s) in the Newsletter Draw.*

**Child's Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations to Ethan Holly the winner of this months newsletter draw!







































