



The Cougar Chronicle

Martha Cullimore Public School

Achieving Success Together



Mrs. J. Goodfellow ~ Principal

May 2009- Issue 9

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As we enter the last two months of this school year we will all be striving to achieve our goals for success in literacy and numeracy for ourselves and our students.

As the year comes to an end we start planning for the coming year too. We will be creating class lists in early June taking into consideration each child's educational needs, their learning style, ability and maturity level to provide the best academic and social environment for the student. Should you have a specific request based on educational issues please make an appointment to discuss this with Mrs. Goodfellow in the near future. Just a reminder, that the organization set forth in June may require some adjustments in September due to changing enrolments.

The coming months will be filled with various activities as the year comes to a close such as Track and Field, class trips and assemblies to celebrate our achievements. As the weather warms up we will endeavour to keep the students focused on honing their skills in literacy and numeracy with the same level of excitement as we started the year.

CHARACTER COUNTS AT MARTHA CULLIMORE SCHOOL!

The character trait we will be focusing on during the month of May will be **LOYALTY**. Loyalty to our family, friends, and beliefs. When students stand up for their friends it helps prevent bullying and when peers encourage each other to try their best it usually brings about great results. These are the lessons we will be highlighting during the month of May and striving to promote every day at Martha Cullimore.

TRACK & FIELD DATES

MARTHA CULLIMORE TRACK AND FIELD CLUB

This year Martha Cullimore will select a track and field team from the club that has been meeting since March. This format will replace the school's own track meet. The Track and Field Club has been a tremendous success and is attended faithfully by students that are committed to learning the finer points of running and jumping. Through the Club students are provided with more time and instruction, during and outside of school hours, in order to be better prepared for the various events. Winners of the events during track and field training are eligible to compete at the Niagara Falls Track and Field meet later this month.

Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

Martha Cullimore Track Qualifiers

Throughout the first two weeks of May

Niagara Falls Meet

Thursday, May 21st, 2009

District Track Meet

Wednesday, June 6th, 2009

PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Register now to join us in September, 2009 for a school year of musical fun! Forms are available from your school secretary or visit our website at:

WWW.FREEWEBS.COM/NIAGARAMUSIC
for lots of information and to download a registration form.

GOOD NEWS ASSEMBLY

On Tuesday, April 21th we celebrated the great things happening at Martha Cullimore. We recognized those students who have displayed **Fairness** in April as well as those that excelled in other areas of the curriculum. This assembly was combined with the **Jump Rope for Heart** kickoff and concluded with the Good News draw from the Cougar coupons the

students receive in recognition of good effort or good deeds every day. Congratulations to the winners this month:

Justin P. Emma Smith Calia
Mary W. Jordan S.

MAGAZINE FUND RAISER

Our second annual magazine fund raiser was very successful and we appreciate the efforts of all of those families who contributed through placing orders. Congratulations to our top sellers: Peter Rigas in Grade One, Tristyn Kelly in Grade Three and Rachael McClean in Grade Two. This initiative raised approximately \$2,200 in profits for the school. **Thanks to everyone who helped. If you would like to renew a subscription throughout the year you can do so by going onto the CCRP website and including the Martha Cullimore Code: ON2164. We will continue to receive credit for these orders.**

COMMUNICATION MATTERS

'Smart Talk' from your Board Speech-Language Pathologists

TALK ABOUT LEARNING THE HARD WAY

School can be tough enough without the added burden of hearing or understanding only a fraction of what your teacher says. And, imagine being afraid to use your speech, or language skills to answer questions or talk to your teacher and classmates.

Children with communication disorders often struggle with reading, have difficulty understanding and expressing themselves, perform poorly on tests, and sometimes avoid attending school and socializing with other children. But, speech-language pathologists and audiologists can help.

Like teachers, Ontario's Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists are regulated professionals. They are helping thousands of children in schools across Ontario become effective communicators, problem-solvers, and decision makers.

To find out more about the critical role audiologists and speech-language pathologists play in helping children overcome their disabilities, achieve academically, raise self-esteem and become active participants in the world around them, talk to an audiologist or speech-language pathologist or contact CASLPO.

Call 1.800.993.9459 or visit www.caslpo.com

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who visited the fair during the Family Math and Literacy night. Congratulations to the Kelly family for winning the \$25 in books. Mrs. Stewart's class also benefitted by winning \$25 books. The school benefits as well by earning profit from the fair. Thanks again to everyone who made a purchase at the fair.

Destiny is up and running in the library. Most of the classes have been trained on the new library program. Students can visit the website from home. Simply visit destiny.dsbm.edu.on.ca. Students can log-in using their Martha Cullimore computer log-in that they use at school. They can search for books, create a book list, write a review or visit links from the home page. It is a great, technologically advanced program that the students are very excited about.

Library circulation will end the second week of June. Please send all library books back by then.

Keep Reading,
Mrs. Brennan

MILK FOR THE YEAR

Thank you to everyone who has ordered milk throughout the year making this a successful and healthy initiative. We will be selling milk up until and including June 12th which will leave the last two weeks to sell what milk remains in the fridge. We owe a huge thank you to Mrs. Claydon and Mrs. Wilding for organizing the milk orders each month.

P. A. DAY: FRIDAY, MAY 15

FRIDAY, MAY 15, is a holiday for the students while the staff review our school improvement plan and begin setting goals for the following year.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Our **Jump Rope for Heart** event is on **Thurs. May 14**. Please dress appropriately for this event (sunscreen, hat, running shoes). All pledge money is due on that day. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause!

ALLERGY ALERT – MARTHA CULLIMORE SCHOOL IS PEANUT AWARE!

Please make sure your children do not bring peanut products or items with peanuts in them to school. We are being proactive now and setting the stage for next year.

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

Our Volunteer Luncheon will be on Friday, May 22 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. Invitations will be sent home next week. Each year we send out about 100 invitations to the luncheon! Every effort is made to invite all volunteers, however if you have volunteered and do not receive an invitation please send a note in your child's agenda indicating that you have volunteered and will be coming to the luncheon. We are thankful for your ongoing help and support and hope to see you at this luncheon where we can show you our appreciation.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Martha Cullimore School Council invites you to attend our next meeting on Monday, May 11th @ 6:30 p.m. in the school library. We look forward to seeing you there! Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Lynda McCabe, this year's School Council Chair. Her telephone number is: 905-356-6613.

SPIRIT DAYS!

We enjoy showing our school spirit by participating in the various designated days here at Martha Cullimore. This past month we had "Crazy Hair Day" and I was amazed at the creativity displayed on so many heads. Participants earn points for their Colour Houses. Thank you to everyone who made this another fun day at Martha! May will see "Favourite Team Day" on the 29th.

THE ARTS AT MARTHA CULLIMORE

Congratulations Cougar Choirs!

At the beginning of April, the Martha Cullimore Cougar Choirs performed at the DSBN Choirfest and received two gold standards and a silver standard. The students have worked hard to perfect some very difficult repertoire and have proved themselves up for the challenge.

On Wednesday, April 29th all three Martha Cullimore Choirs again performed at the Niagara Falls Kiwanis Music Festival. All three choirs gave beautiful performances and earned two firsts and one second place. The Swing Singers and the Combined Martha Cullimore/Prince Philip Combined choir received some of the highest marks of the whole festival. The Primary choir was the only choir to sing in three different languages, English, German and Japanese. The members should be congratulated on their effort and commitment for our school. Congratulations to all our students who participated! Way to go Cougars!

Our next adventure takes place in June when members will travel to Ontario Place to participate in an Arts Festival and enjoy the park for the day. Information regarding this event will be sent home with choir members soon.

This year, as a special treat, the choirs will be heading to Ontario Place for a Music Festival. The choirs will have the opportunity to perform for an adjudicator and then have the rest of the day to play at Ontario Place. This will take place on Thursday, June 12th. More information will be coming home shortly with our choir members.

EQAO MINISTRY TESTING

This May, students across Ontario will be participating in the Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary Division (Grades 1-3) and the Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Junior Division (Grades 4-6). There will be six test sessions. Students will typically complete a session in one hour. However, they may have additional time.

Please try to ensure that your child is at school and that no doctor or dentist appointments are made that week, to ensure that everyone is able to put their best effort forward.

Also, please make sure that your child has a good breakfast each morning, and a good night's sleep in order to do their very best.

Results will be sent home in the early fall.

Please remember that this is only one assessment and that we have many ways of evaluating student achievement besides this method.

Your encouragement and positive attitude towards this test will allow our students to remain calm and relaxed, which can only lead to their success.

For **Martha Cullimore** parents of students in Grades 3 and Grade 6, please mark the week of Monday, May 25th to Friday, June 5th on your calendars. The **Grade 3's** will begin this assessment on **Wednesday, May 27th** and continue until Friday, May 29th allowing time for some students to complete sections that they may have missed. The **Grade 6 class** will begin on **Monday, June 1st** and continue through until Wednesday, June 3rd.

WHAT CAN ADULTS DO WHEN A CHILD IS ANGRY?

1. Don't retaliate
2. Model the behaviour you want a child to learn.
3. Let the child know you understand how they are feeling. Validate their reality.

4. Leave explaining another point of view until the anger has been expressed.
5. Ask what they would like to do to improve things.
6. Acknowledge what they say. Reaffirm the feelings and help look at options.
7. Forcing a child into apologizing when they don't feel sorry may be forcing them to bury their anger and be teaching them to be hypocritical.

IF TWO CHILDREN ARE ANGRY WITH EACH OTHER:

1. Reflect what you see happening.
2. Separate the children if need be for safety's sake.
3. Give them both a way of venting their anger.
4. Find out what they each need.
5. Find out what they are concerned about.
6. Ask for some solutions and be prepared to offer some.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- * **Children learn how to behave from adult models.**
- * **Children learn more from what adults DO than what they say.**
- * **Good listening helps to dissipate anger and increase a child's self esteem.**

FREE & LOCAL PARENTING WORKSHOP - Wed May, 6 2009 - 7-8:30 p.m.

Held at the Niagara Falls Public Library - 4848 Victoria Ave. Just show up on time.

TOPIC - ANGER MANAGEMENT - The Explosive Child - presented by Niagara Centre for Youth Care - (NCYS)

Much of the focus of this FREE workshop will be on understanding what types of interventions have been tested & have had the most success. Treatment options will be discussed & how advantageous it is to have parental and school co-operation.

Parenting Tips - offered by Leanne Hasenack DSBN Youth Counsellor

EDUCATION WEEK A SUCCESS!

April was a "green" month at our school! From Pitch In Week to Earth Day, our students were both learning about the environment and leading the way in the greening of our school. From April 27-May 1 all schools at the DSBN celebrated Education Week. This year's theme, "Energizing Young Minds" focused very fittingly on environmental education. One of the highlights of this week was receiving an award for our Green Club initiative at the Education Breakfast at Club Italia.

During Education Week we also had our **Family Literacy & Math** evening. This was a great success

with parents being lead through activities in the classrooms to inform the adults about the learning process in math and literacy. There were also presentations in the computer lab and student demonstrations with the Smart Board. Of course one of the highlights of the evening was the raffle for the many beautiful theme baskets. Under the leadership of Mrs. Julie Maves this fundraiser was a great success raising just over \$700. Our thanks goes to Julie and her wrappers:

	Basket	Basket
Hayley B.	-Scrapbooking	Emma S. -Spa
Mitchell D.	-Chocolate	Calia B. -BBQ
Michelle G.	-Family Games	Bryce R. -Cats
Simone F.	-Italian Dinner	Jessie M. -Cooking
Mrs. Schuyler	-Day at the Beach	Barb S.
		-Disney
Hannah J.	-Movie Night	Nick D. -Dog
Mitchell M.	-Sports	

The draw ticket winners were the Zavitz, Ertemiz, Gill, Smith and McCracken families. Congratulations to all! Our thanks also go out to everyone who supported this event through their donation of items for the baskets as well as their interest in buying the tickets. Mrs. Niven and Mrs. Schuyler did a great job or organizing the informative evening.

OUR MAY NEWSLETTER DRAW

Your Comments are appreciated!

*I/We have read the May Newsletter.
Please enter our name(s) in the Newsletter Draw.
Child's Name(s):*

Parent Signature:

Congratulations to Jocelyn Cournoyea the winner of the April Newsletter draw!







































