



Ridgeway Public School



Ridgeway Public School January /February Newsletter

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Visit our website for up-to-date information <http://www.dsb.org/Schools/Ridgeway/>

Welcome Back! On behalf of the entire staff of Ridgeway Public School, we would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! We look forward to working with you and our students throughout 2012.

The New Year is a time to celebrate our accomplishments and plan for the year ahead. As we begin 2012 at Ridgeway, I would like to commend the Ridgeway staff and students for their on-going enthusiasm, dedication and hard work. At the same time, we sincerely thank all the parents and community volunteers who enrich the Ridgeway experience for everyone.

Our first term Report Cards will be going home February 9th, 2012 and it is very important for all students to develop learning and personal goals and a plan to achieve their goals. A consistent daily effort will help to contribute to student success.

Regular attendance and punctuality is an important life skill that will assist our students throughout their life. We encourage parents to continue to model that skill for your child(ren) in order for them to establish positive school habits.

We are also excited to offer our Grade 3 students the opportunity to attend **French Immersion in September 2012 starting Grade 4.**

Some areas in the DSBN will begin Pilot sites in Grade 1. Our students who choose to enter this program in September 2012 will attend McKay Public School and transportation is provided to our families.

Our Grade 3's will be having an information session and presentation this week from students and staff from our feeder school McKay. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to become bilingual. (See attached sheet for more details).

FAMILY LITERACY DAY 2012

Our staff is preparing to make this year's theme " **Journey To Learning** " a success.

This year's theme will help illustrate to students that learning is a life long journey and is not only something we do at school but learning also happens at home, at the grocery store, at the library, and everywhere in the community.

More news to follow as to what we are planning to do as a school to celebrate this event.

PVA/ Parent Advisory Council



On Tuesday, January 17h, 2012 at 6:30 pm, our Parent Volunteer Association (PVA) Advisory Council (SAC) will be meet-

ing off site this month. We will be discussing upcoming events and initiatives and combining our Christmas Social. Interested parents are invited to all meetings. For more information about January's meeting, please contact the school. Our next regular meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 20th, 2012 at 6:30 pm** at the school.



Thank you for your generous support of the annual food and toy drive. As a result over 700 items were collected and Christmas was better for many needy families in our area. Thank you to the Ridgeway Parent Volunteers for arranging the special visit from Santa during his busy schedule. It was great to see all the happy faces!

We are Counting Down to Kindergarten!

Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

Going to school for the first time is a major step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the 'Kindergarten Countdown' open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, **February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m.** for our **Kindergarten Countdown open house.** Visit www.dsb.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!

This event is a great opportunity to visit the school, meet the staff, learn more about a day in Kindergarten and ask questions. You can even register your child at the Open House.

If you are unable to attend the Open House **please come to the school office between the hours of 9:00-12:00 and 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. on any school day to register.** It is not necessary to register children who are currently in Junior Kindergarten for Senior Kindergarten. Be sure to bring your child's **birth certificate (proof of age), immunization record and health card number.** Please "spread the word" to families in your neighbourhood who as yet have no children attending Ridgeway Public School.



Attendance and Tardiness

During the winter months, it is common for people to get sick from colds, flu and viruses. It is important to get plenty of rest, drink fluids, and have children wash their hands regularly.

Regular attendance is extremely important because of the concepts being taught on those particular days. With the breaks that are built into our schedule, students that miss school due to illness can make-up work but miss the crucial instruction.

It is also very important for students to be punctual and to start their day properly. Once in a while, circumstances prevail and students are absent or late, however, perpetual lateness affects student achievement. Our bell rings at 8:50 a.m. and announcements begin at 8:55 a.m. Students are to be at school by 8:50 a.m.

We thank you for your best efforts to have the children learn the valuable life skill of punctuality.



DSBN HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

Your Future is Here!

Grade 8 students and their families are invited to attend High School Open Houses in January 2012. For a full list of open house dates, times and details, please go to www.dsb.org

Ridgeway Crystal Beach High
Tuesday, January 18 – 6:30 p.m.



Inclement Weather

An important message about Inclement

Weather Procedures.

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures.

Information about transportation changes and school closures will be available on the websites, radio and television stations listed below as soon as it is available. Please do not phone the school for transportation or school closure information.

Websites:

www.dsb.org
www.nsts.ca

Television Stations:

COGECO Cable 10
CHCH Television
City TV

Radio Stations:

KLite - 102.9 fm
EZRock 105.7 fm
Y-108 - 107.9 fm
Wave 94.7 fm
CKTB 610 am
CHML 900 am
CHSC 1220 am
Htz 97.7 fm

If early dismissal becomes necessary, we will use the emergency numbers you provided on the confidential form which was sent home in September. If your contact numbers have changed, please call the office with your updated information.

PLEASE NOTE: The school may be open even though student transportation has been cancelled. The decision to send children to school is always at the parent's discretion.

Custody Orders

When couples separate or divorce, parents generally share custody of the children. Sometimes, however, other arrangements are made and set out in a court order. The school



cannot enforce these alternate arrangements unless we have a copy of the court order on file in your child's confidential Ontario School Record. Should you have

such a court order that we should be aware of, please speak to the principal and share the most current copy with the school office.



Snow and School Safety

We want all students at Ridgeway Public school to make safe and peaceful choices on the playground. With winter finally here, we need to remind students about the following rules:

- 1. throw NO snow**
- 2. NO sliding on the ice**

The playground equipment will be closed from December to March, when students are wearing boots, gloves, mitts or scarves. In addition, during those months, the equipment is wet and dangerous to be on. Let's work together to keep our playground safe and enjoyable for everyone.

It is an expectation that students dress appropriately for the weather. We encourage all parents to check clothing for long strings or ties that may prove to be a hazard to children at play.

MATH AT HOME



Mathematical literacy is just as important as reading literacy and just as you support your children by reading together you can also do math together.

- Model a positive attitude towards math
- Advocate how a good understanding of mathematics will help make sense of the world in the same way that effective reading does
- Math will turn up in the most unexpected places, learn to use those opportunities to help your child understand Mathematics

With young children

Identify the interesting math that lies in many of the stories that you read together

- How many ducks are there now?
- How long would it take to drive 80 km?
- Are there enough chairs for everyone? How did you know?
- Help your child to understand how numbers can be taken apart and recombined
- I can't carry all 12 books. If I make 2 trips how could I move the books? (6 and 6, 7 and 5, the 4 big books and then the 8 small books)
- Look for opportunities to have your child estimate time
- How long will it take for us to clean your room together. Let's guess and then see how close we are
- Encourage your child to explore money
- I have 10 dollars. Will that be enough to buy a card that is \$4.95 and wrapping paper that is \$4.75? How do you know?



With older children

- Play board and card games with your child
- Look at sports statistics and discuss them
- Share when you use mathematics; cooking, building, measuring, shopping
- Estimate time and distance with your child
- Have your child share in discussions about money
- How long will it be before you can save enough money to buy a skateboard if you use your allowance and the money from your paper route?



Comprehension Strategies to help students understand what they read:

Retell the Story

When parents ask their children what happened in school that day, the response is usually one of two things. Either they are given a play by play synopsis or they are given the single word answer "nothing". The strategy of retelling is similar.

Retelling a story helps readers recall what is happening in the story they are reading. It allows a reader to stop and monitor their understanding. A retelling usually includes characters, setting problems, and the solution or the main ideas of the text. It involves telling what is important without telling too much. Many times children struggle with the concept of weeding out what is important. Often they either provide every single detail or they give a vague description that is hard to follow. Use the following strategies to help your child be successful in retelling.

How can you help your child with this strategy at home?

1. When reading with your child, stop to think about what you are reading. Model this process aloud. Stop and reread if you can't remember.
2. When reading with your child, stop and have your child tell you what is happening in the story using the words: **first, next, then, last and finally.**
3. Use the following questions to prompt your child to think about the story being read:
 - Who were the main characters?
 - What problem did the main characters experience?
 - How was the problem solved?
 - How did the story end?
 - What happened first, next, and last?
4. Allow your child to become comfortable with the strategy of retelling by retelling events they are familiar with. This is where you can help your child focus on weeding out minor details by centering their attention on what's important. Use some of the following prompts or come up with some of your own:
 - Tell me about the last time our family went out to dinner.
 - Tell me about what you did at school this week.
 - Tell me about a time when you went to a birthday party.
 - Tell me about the first time you lost a tooth.

Thank you for your continued support at home!

Ideas and strategies are taken from: The CAFÉ book, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser





WE'VE GOT CHARACTER

The Ridgeway staff and students have character. For the month of December, we have been highlighting one of our DSBN Character Traits, **CARING AND COMPASSION**. Character Trait Certificate winners were for the month of December are December **"CARING AND COMPASSION"** Draw Prize Winners were:

JK/SK	<i>Alexei Tritchew</i>
JK/SK	<i>Chase Smit</i>
Gr. 1	<i>Tabitha Riegle</i>
Gr. 1	<i>Noah MacGregor</i>
Gr. 2	<i>Mackenna Gilmour</i>
Gr. 2	<i>Adrianna Grigorov</i>
Gr. 3	<i>Patrick Burke</i>
Gr. 3	<i>Dylan DeVinney</i>

Congratulations to all our students for their efforts.

JANUARY Character Trait is "HONESTY".



Chess Club

Mrs. Longval will be starting chess club for the grade one's and two's in

January. Here is a website for students to access and practice at home and help further develop their skills. www.kidchess.com

Lost but Not Found Items



We are asking students and parents to check our "Lost but not Found" bench on the main floor for any items they may have misplaced. In order to tidy up from the first term, lost items that are still in the bench by Friday, January 20th, they will be sent to charity. Please check for you child's belongings before the above date.

Cold Weather Alerts at DSBN

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal. When making this decision, principals will often consult with neighbouring schools, talk with parents as they arrive in the morning, and if the decision to send children outside is made, will equip yard duty staff with walkie-talkies so that they can communicate with the office to sound the bells to bring students in earlier.

The health and well-being of our students is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region are often good indicators that students will stay inside.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

- Try to send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pull-overs. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending on the weather.

- Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.

- Warm socks and boots will keep their feet warm and dry in the snow and slush.

- Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep students from losing too much of that essential body heat.

- Put on a good pair of gloves or mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit our website dsbn.org, or contact the principal.

ECO News

Ridgeway Public School will be collected pop cans for money. Mr. and Mrs. Thebaud have offered to house the storage of these pop cans in order



to help raise some funds for our school. We are asking students, staff and parents to save your empty pop cans. **Every**

Wednesday will be collection day here at Ridgeway. **Please put the empty pop cans in a tied (knotted) shopping bag and bring them either to the school on Wednesdays or the Thebaud residence at 439 Belleview Blvd.** They will be assisting us in delivering the cans and collecting the funds for this worthwhile ECO endeavour.

NEWSLETTER DRAW:

Please sign and return this slip to indicate that you have read the *Ridgeway Star*. One return slip, with the correct answer, will be chosen randomly.

The _____ family has read the *Ridgeway Star*.

Student

Teacher(s)

Comments:

Parent Signature: _____

Please return this page by January 13th , 2012
(December Newsletter Draw winner was Jordynn Fischer)

**Friday January
20th, 2012
PD Day**

A reminder that there will not be any school on this day as it is a PD Day for Staff for Report Card preparations.



**Early Release Day Fri-
day February 17th,
2012**

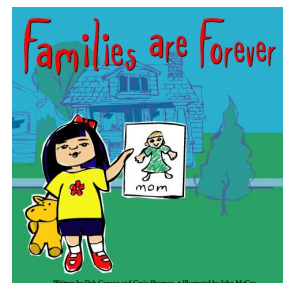
There will be no P.M. classes for students. Dismissal will be 11:20 am for the JK/SK classes and 12:10 for the grades 1-3. **There is no transportation available for JK/SK students and parents/guardians will need to make their own arrangements for pick-up at 11:20.** Bus transportation for students in grades 1 - 3 will return students home about three hours earlier than the regularly scheduled time. (If your child takes a 3:10 pm bus home, the bus will be leaving Ridgeway at 12:10 pm instead.)

We appreciate your ongoing support of this professional development activity for your children's teachers.



**Family Day
Monday, Feb-
ruary, 20th,
2012**

A reminder that there will not be any school on this day as it is a designated "FAMILY DAY" holiday. Take this time to enjoy the day with family and friends.



Written by DMO Caputo and Craig Sherman • Illustrated by John McCay

District School Board of Niagara Expanding French Immersion for 2012

The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. In addition, as of September 2012, we will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations. As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year (Grade 7 entry will continue in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake).

Information re: entry levels and the application process is on the DSBN website www.dsb.org. Click on the Parent Tab, under Programs, click on French and International Languages, click on French Immersion Registration. Applications for Grades 1, 4, 5 and 7 (at select schools) will be online. Application packages will also be available at your child's school starting January 9, 2012. Further program information will be sent home with your child in January.

"The ability to communicate in French is a valuable skill, because French is **one** of Canada's two official languages and because it is a language used widely around the world. Research confirms that knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills and that the ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances reasoning and problem solving skills, as well as creative-thinking skills. Learning a second language not only strengthens students' ability to communicate, but also develops their capacity to understand and respect other cultures. In this way, second-language learning prepares students to participate more effectively in the workplace and in the global economy, and provides them with a distinct advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally." (pg 3 of the E.F./F.I. Curriculum Document (C.D.) 2001)

Parent Information Evenings will take place during the weeks of January 30 – February 10th. If you wish to find out more details about the French Immersion program, please attend one of the Information Evenings listed below or call your school.

Central	January 30, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Alexandra	January 30, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Parliament Oak	January 31, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Dalewood	January 31, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
McKay	January 31, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Prince Philip (Niagara Falls)	February 1, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Sheridan Park	February 1, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Gordon	February 6, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Princess Elizabeth	February 6, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Oakridge	February 6, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Briardale	February 7, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Queen Mary	February 7, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
John Marshall	February 8, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Bienvenue!