



# MEMORIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

Ms. R. Findlay  
Principal

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year!

Thank you for all your patience during early dismissal on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to staff for making sure that all students were safely home for the holidays.

During the month of January, Memorial students will be involved in a fun and exciting literacy initiative to assist in strengthening the literacy connection between home and school. Do you have any plans for Family Literacy Day on Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup>? Family Literacy Day is a national initiative that promotes the importance of reading and learning together as a family. Every year families and communities across Canada celebrate this special day at literacy-themed events. The great thing about this day is that you do not have to participate in a formal event (A formal event is: Guinness Book of Records event on January 23.) to be a part of this initiative, you can celebrate this day by simply setting aside 15 minutes of family time to read with your child(ren), playing board games like Scrabble, writing a letter or even following a recipe together. We encourage Memorial families to get reading!

We hope that 2009 is a happy and healthy year for all of our Memorial families.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. I appreciate any feedback from our community through a phone call, e-mail or in person. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas, questions or concerns.

R. Findlay, Principal  
*Achieving Success Together*

## ***"Readers Are Leaders"***

Please join us on  
**Tuesday, January 27 at 2:15 p.m.**  
in the gymnasium to celebrate literacy.

(Note: JK and SK morning families  
may join us at 8:50 a.m.  
in Mrs. White's class).

**Draw for prizes will be held.**

**Visit the Scholastic Book Fair in the library  
from January 26 -29.**

***THANK YOU GIANT TIGER AND  
NIAGARA TOOLS FOR SUPPORTING  
OUR LITERACY PROGRAM***

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ALL STAR READING PROGRAM**

Would you be able to volunteer at Memorial School for 1 ½ hours per week for the next 12 weeks? We need adult volunteers to act as reading "coaches" with several focus students in the All Star Reading Program (Grades 2 to 4). This would involve sitting

with the students one-on-one, listening as they read orally, and helping them to use reading strategies to improve their reading. Training is provided. The program will begin in January. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mrs. Tytaneck.

## **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS**

Parents and children are invited to  
**Memorial's Kindergarten Open House on  
Thursday, February 5 from 4 - 6 p.m.**

PARENTS OF CHILDREN BORN IN 2005, MAY REGISTER THEIR CHILDREN FOR JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN. If you know of a family whose child would begin Junior Kindergarten this September, please inform them that it is now time to register.

Please bring the birth certificate and proof of immunization records to complete the registration. If your child is already part of our Junior Kindergarten program, they do not need to register for Senior Kindergarten. Please contact Mrs. Hampson at the school (905-685-7347). Looking forward to seeing you!

For more information, visit the District School Board of Niagara's website at [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org) and click on "Kindergarten Countdown".

## BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT MEMORIAL

- ✧ GIANT TIGER      ✧ Niagara Tools
- ✧ Chocolates etc...      ✧ Picassos
- ✧ Pete's Pizza      ✧ Diana's House of Flowers
- ✧ Hallmark (4<sup>th</sup> Ave)      ✧ Mandarin

✧ **WE COLLECT CANADIAN TIRE MONEY**  
(please send all money to Ms. Slee - we use this money to purchase items to go into student's writing boxes)

### ✧ **STAPLES**

Every Staples Business Depot store location across Canada has a recycle bin near the ink and toner cartridges area where customers, students, parents and teachers can drop off their empty ink and toner cartridges. For every eligible ink and toner cartridge a dollar will be donated to Memorial School.

### ✧ **OFFICE DEPOT (5% back to school)**

Provide our school's ID number 80006512 (or mention our school name), our school receives credits equal to 5% to use for free supplies.

## REMINDERS

**Snowballs** - Snowballs are dangerous and parents are reminded of our "throw no snow" policy. Students throwing snowballs will receive a letter to parents and have further consequences at school. School suspension can result from failure to comply to this rule.

**Indoor Shoes** - With winter weather upon us, it is important for safety reasons that students have indoor shoes to wear at school. Our students are not allowed in the halls or to participate in gym without indoor shoes.

**Dressing Appropriately** - Hats, hoods, scarves, mittens/gloves help to ensure that students remain comfortable and protected in the cold weather. Also, proper winter boots give protection from the cold and also from slips and falls. The expectation is that students will be outside unless advisories are received from our Board indicating extreme weather conditions.

## SAFE SCHOOL ACTION PLAN REMINDER

In order to make our school a safer place and a better place to learn we continue to implement a **Safe School Action plan**. Some of this plan includes the following:

- All school visitors are expected to report to the office
- If a child is being picked up for an appointment,

please report, wait at the office and sign your child out in the Late Arrival/ Early Dismissal Book

→ If your child comes late to school, please use the front doors (all doors at the back are locked after 9 a.m.) and check in with the secretary to receive an admittance slip

→ If you are one of our valuable volunteers, we ask that you sign in the guest book on the little counter by the office and take a volunteer tag

→ Parents picking up their child at lunch or after school are asked to wait outside

→ Thank you for continuing to call the school regarding your child's attendance

Your cooperation in this matter minimizes disruption to the classroom instructional program. It is also important for children to develop independence and responsibility for themselves and their belongings. By waiting outside for your children, they will then become responsible to get ready to go home with the necessary school items.

→ Continue to use safe pick up and drop off procedures

→ Please do not leave car idling in the parking lot

These measures are for the safety and security of all our students. Please recognize our concern if we do stop and question you. These are just a few key elements to our plan. We will continue to ensure Memorial is a great place to learn, grow and achieve.

## SCHOOL VANDALISM

We earnestly seek your cooperation in reducing vandalism. Should you observe unusual activity at the school, please call in confidence the following emergency number: 905-682-8065.

## CHARACTER SKILLS

Congratulations to all of our students who consistently displayed December's skill **helpfulness**. Our skill for the month of January is **cleanliness**. The following description of this skill is as follows:

**Cleanliness**: means washing often, keeping your body clean, and wearing clean clothes. Cleanliness in your mind is concentrating your thoughts on things that are good for you. You can "clean up your act" by deciding to change when you have done something you aren't proud of or have made a mistake. Staying clean also means keeping your body free of harmful drugs.

You are practicing cleanliness when you....

- ✓ Keep your body fresh and clean
- ✓ Put things away after you use them
- ✓ Do your share to help keep your home clean and neat
- ✓ Put only healthful things in your body
- ✓ Use clean language
- ✓ When you make mistakes, clean them up

*I keep myself fresh and clean. I put my things and my life in order. I am willing and able to clean up my mistakes.*

## EXTENDED FRENCH INFORMATION NIGHT - (Grade 6 Students)

Parents and Grade 6 students are invited to learn more about the Extended French Program by attending a presentation at Queen Mary School on Thursday, January 15 at 7 p.m.. Students presently in grade six are eligible to apply to this program to begin in September 2009.

## COMMUNICATION MATTERS

### *Smart Talk From Your Board Speech-Language Pathologists: SOCIAL SKILLS*

Social skills develop as children mature. Most of us learn social skills automatically. We don't have to think about what we do and *say*, it seems to come naturally.

Poor social skills are common for children with learning challenges. Social skills include *verbal communication* as well as *nonverbal communication* (e.g. facial expression, body language) plus the ability to *think* through social situations. Having good social communication skills helps students to develop positive relationships with others. Difficulties with social language development often interferes with learning, relationships and inclusion/exclusion in school activities.

Nonverbal or physical difficulties can include: poor eye contact; difficulty maintaining appropriate social distance; body language does not match speech (e.g. emotions are stronger than the situation calls for, lack of responses to situations and people); facial expressions do not match the topic or situation (e.g. smiling inappropriately); doesn't use gestures (e.g. waving; shaking hands; nodding head).

Verbal difficulties can include: talks about random topics; constantly interrupts conversations of others;

shares too much information in a conversation; unable to take turns or difficulty waiting for or sharing a turn; insistence on being first every time; doesn't use pro-social communication (e.g. manners; giving and accepting compliments; may insult others unintentionally); doesn't know how to initiate communication with others or in group situations; avoids groups or group activities.

Thinking difficulties can include: seems unaware of other's needs or emotions when communicating; takes jokes, sarcasm, and irony literally; laughs or talks at inappropriate times; forgets to take turns in conversation; doesn't pick up on cues to continue a conversation; doesn't consider his/her words before speaking and how these will affect others.

Children with social communication difficulties need to be shown and taught to understand other peoples' feelings and behaviours. Sometimes children don't know which social skills to use and when to use them. Speak to your child's teacher if you think your child is experiencing social communication difficulties that are impacting upon learning and social success.

## DECEMBER SUPERSTARS

### Gr. 1 Miss Redman

Bryttani Hiebert  
Brycen Worden

### Gr. 1/2 - Miss Vanderbent

Liam Barrett  
Micailah Jones

### Gr. 2 - Miss Popilniuk

Isaiah Dyck  
Hayden Tosse

### Gr. 2/3 - Miss Drozd

Josh Melnyk  
Jenna D'Amico

### Gr. 3 - Miss Bombay

Molly Betts  
Ava Danz

### Gr. 4- Mrs. Steingart

Katie Stirling  
Maren Abdulla

### Gr. 5 Mrs. Nelson

Justin Webb  
Erica Bearisto

### Gr. 6 - Mr. Coles

Sarah Speck  
Cameron Thomas

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## **WEATHER PROCEDURE**

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.dsbm.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.

## **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

We will be having a Scholastic Book Fair at Memorial from January 26th- January 29<sup>th</sup> in celebration of Family Literacy Day. The book fair will be set up in the library and students will have the opportunity to attend the fair during afternoon nutrition breaks. There will be an incredible selection of books to choose from!

## **BLUE SPRUCE AND SILVER BIRCH READING PROGRAMS**

Once again this year, Memorial students will be participating in the Forest of Reading Programs in the library. Every year a selection of new Canadian books are nominated for the Forest of

Reading Program. These books are read by students across Ontario in both school and public libraries. We are excited about our involvement. Our primary students will enjoy hearing the Blue Spruce stories shared by Ms. Slee in the library and will vote for their favourite title in May. Junior students have the choice of participating in the Silver Birch reading program in which they read from a selection of both Fiction and Non-Fiction titles. After having read 5 books from either category they are able to vote for their favourite title in May.

## **DECEMBER NEWSLETTER WINNERS**

Thank you to all the families who returned the December Newsletter draw form -we had many returned to the office. Winners from December's newsletter's draw are: Liam Green (SK a.m.), Owen Flowers (Gr. 2), Emma Hegarty-Scott (Gr. 5) and Melissa Grant (Gr. 5).

### **JANUARY NEWSLETTER DRAW**

#### **FOR A "Webkinz" PRIZE**

My child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_  
Class \_\_\_\_\_ and I have read the  
newsletter.

#### **Questions:**

Does your family still have the Memorial  
2008-2009 calendar?  Yes    No

Do you refer to the calendar for special events each  
month?                    Yes    No

Should we continue to do a yearly calendar which  
is given to each family at the beginning of  
September?  Yes    No

What would you like to see in this Memorial  
calendar?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments about the calendar  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for completing  
(return to office)***

**On Thursday, December 4, 2008, a Christmas Breakfast was held at 110 James Street, St.Catharines, which was organized by the Niagara Regional Police Services United Way Committee in a wrap up to their 2008 Campaign. This was the first of what will become an annual event to help raise money for United Way.**

**Our grade 5 class lead by Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Jukes sang Christmas carols at this event. Their beautiful voices were enjoyed by all. Congratulations Grade 5 class, we are proud of you!!**