



# Cherrywood Chatter

4635 Pettit Avenue,  
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 6L4  
905 356-2801  
<http://cherrywood.dsbm.org>



Ms. S. Cocco, Principal

**FEBRUARY 2019**

## Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that half of the school year is behind us.

On Friday, February 8th, term 1 report cards will be coming home. I encourage you to spend some time with your child reviewing his/her achievement up to this point and to set some goals for the final report card in June. As well, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's report card, this is a good time to contact your child's teacher to discuss their progress. It is important to look at your child's learning skills comments as well. These are skills that are necessary for good life skills. Weaknesses in these areas can affect marks, peer relationships, and self-esteem. Make sure you praise your child's successes and choose goals together to work on in their areas of need. Having a plan in place that you set with your child will help them take responsibility for their learning and help set them up for success.



Grade 6/7 class trip .....	Feb. 4
Graduation Photos .....	Feb. 6
Fire Safety: Kinder - Grade 3 ..	Feb. 7
<b>Report Cards Go Home .....</b>	<b>Feb. 8</b>
100th Day of School .....	Feb. 8
Valentine's Cake Raffle .....	Feb. 14
Red, White, and Pink Day	
P.A. Day (No School).....	Feb. 15
Family Day (No School).....	Feb. 18
Pink Shirt Day .....	Feb. 27

## SAFE ARRIVAL IS LIVE!

Whether it's an illness, a medical appointment or other important event, there are times when students may need to be away from school. The District School Board of Niagara has introduced a new method for parents to report their child(ren)'s absences. Using the Safe Arrival system, parents will be able to report daily absences, and even schedule absences in one of three ways: Smartphone or tablet app, a toll free number, or website.

Information letters were sent home in January, detailing the system and how to register. If the letter did not make it home to you, please click the 'School Messenger—Safe Arrival for Families FAQ' link on our school's webpage: <http://cherrywood.dsbm.org> or contact our office.

## Inclement Weather: Bus Cancellations

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 has been cancelled and schools are open, please ensure that you **REPORT YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE** due to bus transportation cancellation/weather. Please report their absence by using the **NEW SafeArrival** system.*

## Term 1 Report Cards ... Grades 1 to 8

- ◆ On Friday, February 8th, students in grades 1 to 8 will bring home their Term 1 report card. **Communication between teachers and parents/guardians are an important support for student success. We encourage all parents/guardians to discuss the report card with your child. A formal interview with the teachers will not be scheduled, however, parents/guardians are invited to contact the school if they wish to schedule an opportunity to discuss their child's achievement and next steps for learning with his/her teacher.**
- ◆ Learning Skills and Work Habits are an important focus of the report card. These are critical life skills that students will work on from Grades 1 to Grade 12. Teachers evaluate how well students are achieving these skills for their grade level and include a comment about each student's strengths and some next steps for continued growth.
- For each subject being taught this term, your child will receive either a letter grade (Grades 1-6) or a percentage grade (Grades 7 - 8). If a subject is only being taught in Term 2, then the teacher will check NA (not applicable) for that subject on the report card. For each subject, there will be a comment that describes your child's strengths and some next steps that will support learning in Term 2.



## KINDERGARTEN COMMUNICATION OF LEARNING



On February 8, the Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document will be sent home for our Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten students.

The Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document will provide parents/guardians with comments about their child's strengths and growth in relation to the overall expectations of The Kindergarten Program (2016). The overall expectations are connected with the following four frames: Belonging and Contributing; Self-Regulation and Well-Being; Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours; and Problem Solving and Innovating.

Since September, our Kindergarten educator teams have been observing and documenting a wide range of evidence of each child's thinking and learning within a play environment. The documentation gathered will reflect your child's key learnings, recognize growth and possible next steps for learning. The next steps will provide parents/guardians with information about how we will support your child's new learning at school as it relates to the Kindergarten Program's expectations.

We recognize and appreciate your continued support throughout the year.

## CHOCOLATE BAR FUNDRAISER ... COMING IN MARCH

**Back by Popular Demand! Our Spring chocolate fundraiser will feature Laura Secord products!**



**Our kick-off date will be Wednesday, February 27th**  
Sales running until Tuesday, March 19th

Each box contains a variety of nut-free chocolate products at a cost of \$3 per item.

We welcome and appreciate your support in this tasty fundraiser.

Permission to participate letters will be sent home following the Family Day weekend.

## FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION CONTINUES ...

On-line applications began January 7, 2019 for the French Immersion program beginning September 2019 at Prince Philip for students going into Grade 1. Go to <http://www.dsbns.org> and click on the French Immersion button to complete the registration. Registration closes February 19. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office or the office at Prince Philip.

## DSBN ACADEMY APPLICATIONS

The DSBN Academy is a Grade 6 to Grade 12 public school designed to support and empower students to be the first in their family to graduate from college or university. The faculty and student body are committed to excellence and the belief that, with hard work, they can achieve their dreams.

The DSBN Academy is located at 130 Louth Street in St. Catharines.

Students that are interested in applying to the DSBN Academy must submit their completed application by February 6, 2019 to the Cherrywood office. If you have any questions, please direct them to Ms. Cocco at the office.

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

## My child is in Kindergarten or Grade 1. Does their regular attendance really matter?

"If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers. Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade." (attendanceworks.org.)

## How many days is considered chronically absent?

A student that misses 18 days during the entire school year is considered chronically absent.

If you require some assistance improving your child's attendance, please contact your child's teacher or the school office at 905-356-2801.

## Who can read on Grade Level after Grade 3?



64% of kids with good attendance in Kindergarten and Grade 1 (missed 9 or fewer days both years)



43% of kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)



41% of kids chronically absent in Kindergarten or Grade 1 (missed 18 or fewer days one year)



17% of kids with chronically absent in Kindergarten and Grade 1 (missed 18 or more days both years)