

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Feb. 2 - Candy Gram Sales Start
- Feb. 5 - Kindergarten Open House
- Feb. 6 - Grade 8 Graduation Photos
- Feb. 10 - Last day for Candy Grams
- Feb. 13 - Candy Grams Delivered
- Feb. 13 - Grade 7/8 Class to Centennial for Craig Kielburger
- Feb. 14 - Happy Valentine's Day
- Feb. 16 - Family Day (No School)
- Feb. 18 - Hot Lunch (Pasta Day)
- Feb. 19 - Carousel Players for Primaries
- Feb. 20 - Grade 8 Intention Sheets Due
- Feb. 24 to 27 - Book Fair
- Feb. 24 - Ottawa Trip Deposit Due
- Feb. 24 - School Council Meeting 6:30
- Feb. 25 - Early Release Day
- Feb. 27 - Grade 7 Career Day at Centennial

# THE COMET

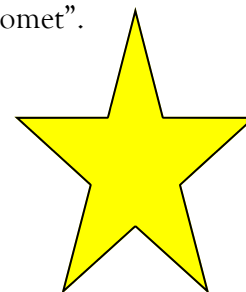
**QUAKER ROAD WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE!!!**

[www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/schools/quakerroad](http://www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/schools/quakerroad)

We are so excited to announce that our website is now up and running. Families can now get up-to-date information about Quaker Road. Starting with this month our newsletters will be posted online. We are thrilled at the environmental benefits this will

have because we will no longer have to print out copies. Plus we can include so much more in the newsletter because it will be online. Also, it will ensure that all parents get a chance to read the newsletter because they won't have to worry about their son/daughter

bringing it home. So, make sure you check the site at the beginning of each month for our newest addition of "The Comet".



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we continue our journey in 2009, I would like to take the time to thank all of the staff and students for their dedication and hard work in making Quaker Road Public School a great place to learn! Another heartfelt thanks goes out to the many parent volunteers who enrich the lives of all of our students every day! Keep up the great work! There is no doubt that February is going to

be another exciting month of learning as we continue our school-wide focus on **Reading for Meaning** (please refer to the article on pg 6, "**Every Child Reading: Top Ten Tips for Parents**") here at Quaker Road Public School.

Our next School Council meeting will be held in the Quaker Road Public School Library at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Febru-

ary 24, 2009. We look forward to seeing everyone out!

A reminder to parents that students are **not** to be dropped off at school until **8:30 a.m.** as there is no supervision in place for these students while outside on school grounds before this time.





333 Quaker Road,  
Welland, ON  
905-732-5412  
qrd@dsbn.edu.on.ca  
M. Daniels - Principal  
H. Nunnenmacher - Vice Principal  
M. Comfort - Secretary  
S. Greer - Superintendent  
L. Lemelin - Trustee

www.dsbns.edu.on.ca/schools/quakerroad



During the next couple of months our school is encouraging all families to participate in the “Pause to Play Family Challenge”. The goal of this campaign is to challenge children and their families to spend less time in front of their screens and more time being physically active. It is difficult for youth to limit media use without family support; therefore we encourage the whole family to participate and get active together!

Health Canada recommends 60-90 minutes of exercise a day for chil-

## Pause to Play

dren and youth. This might seem like a lot, but it can be divided up into 10-minute chunks of time and achieved throughout the day.

### Support your child being active...

Praise your child for their efforts in choosing an active lifestyle.

Promote non-competitive activities.

Be familiar with school activities and encourage your child to join.

Have each family member take turns choosing an activity that everyone will participate in.

Discover the pleasure of being active together.

Physical activity strengthens family relationships and fosters a sense of community so try to incorporate activities into family time.

Keep your screen time to a minimum ~ the Canadian Paediatric Society recommends no more than one hour of screen time per day for pre-schoolers and two hours or less of screen time per day for school-aged children ~ This includes television, video games and the Internet.

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following students who were our December Students of the Month. These students exhibited Caring (Giving love and attention to people and things that matter to you. When you care about people you say and do things that help them.) and Tolerance (Being able to accept things that you wish were different. When you practice tolerance, you have flexibility. You don't expect others to be just like you. You accept differences.)

- |                                                                              |                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Kdg = Myles C., Jamie C., Hailey M., Mason T., Connor G., Jordan W., Emma C. | Gr.4/5=Gannon L. & Brittany C.          |
| Gr. 1 = Ryan S. & Karlee M.                                                  | Gr. 5/6 = Ashley M. & Rylan J.          |
| Gr.1/2 = Aiden S. & Samantha B.                                              | Gr. 6 = Hannah G. & Paige C.            |
| Gr. 2 = Laine R. & Teaghan C.                                                | Gr. 7 = T.J.M & Carlie D.               |
| Gr. 2/3 = Kristen C. & Drew C.                                               | Gr. 7/8 = Entire Class                  |
| Gr. 3 = Olivia H. & Ryan D.                                                  | Gr. 8 = Tyrissa M.                      |
| Gr. 3/4 = Cassie A & Meagan R.                                               | Spec. Needs=Michele U. &Joanna C.       |
|                                                                              | January Themes = Self Discipline & Tact |

## INTERVIEW WITH MRS. CAHILL

**What have your previous teaching experiences been?**

I'm originally from Thunder Bay, Ontario where I taught for the Lakehead District School Board.

**Why did you teach?** I have always loved teaching children. I want to make a difference in their lives.

**How long have you been teaching?** I have been teaching for the DSBN for the last year, but I have had many years of experience in the field of Special Education in my hometown of Thunder Bay.

**What did you know about Quaker Road before you joined it?** I knew that it was in Welland but I had never been here before. When I first

came to the school I was very impressed on how nice it was.

**Is the school what you thought it would be?** Quaker Road is a great school the students are very respectful and kind..

**Is the job what you thought it would be?** I love teaching the special needs class, my students are hardworking and respectful It is also lots of fun!

**If there was anything you could change about your job what would it be?** I don't think there is anything I'd like to change about my job.

**What is the most memorable teaching experience that you have ever had?** I have many memorable teaching memories it is hard to pick just one.

I guess recently I would have to say that my most memorable teaching memory was when I first started here at Quaker Road. My class and all the teachers were so welcoming. I will always remember this.

**What encouraged you to go into teaching? An event or a person?** Before I started teaching I was EA. I spent many years assisting students with special needs. I always wanted to become a teacher. My husband and my children encouraged me to follow my dream and become a teacher.

**Do you have any kids?** Yes, I have a daughter named Meghan she is 16 years old, and a son named Sean who is 13 years old.

### Early Release

Day—

Wednesday,  
February 25th

Please note that we will be using a "Short Clock" on Feb. 25th.

Period 1 - 9:00-9:30

Period 2 - 9:30-10:00

Period 3 - 10:00-10:30

Break - 10:30-11:00

Period 4 - 11:00-11:30

Period 5 - 11:30-12:00

Period 6 - 12:00-12:30

Students will be dismissed at  
**12:30** to go home.

## KINDERGARTENS AND FIRST RIDE

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, the Kindergarten students attended a presentation by the First Student Canada Bus Company. Not only did the students watch a *Winnie the Pooh* video on bus safety, but they also boarded a bus and went for a drive around the neighbourhood.

The students learned about the following bus safety

rules:

- While waiting for the bus, stay far away from the road and don't talk to strangers.
- Before boarding the bus, wait until the bus has come to a complete stop.
- Always enter or exit the bus carefully, holding onto the railing as you go.
- Go directly to your seat and remain seated with your hands and feet out of the aisles.
- Always obey all the rules

given by your bus driver and don't do anything to distract them from driving (i.e. use a quiet voice, keep your hands away from an open window, etc.).

- Before you enter or exit the bus, wait for the bus and all cars to come to a complete stop.
- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, always make certain you are far enough in front of the bus to see the driver.





Kindergarten to Grade 3 all went to the gym to see a Bullying Presentation. We went Wednesday, January 21st. We listened to a person named Sandy. Sandy was a famous CFL football player. He played for the teams Toronto and Edmonton. He won 2 Grey Cups! Then he asked some volunteers to come up and help him

out. Sandy picked lots of people to come up. Guess what? I was one of the people to come up and volunteer! He was showing us how to use your power and stand up to a bully. He also showed us who to talk to if you get bullied. Next he told us that the volunteers get a prize at the end of the presentation. After, he told us

that he would take some questions. When you answer a question right you get a little mini brown football. After he took his questions he told us that we should make good choices. Next if you got a football you get it signed from Sandy. I also got a football!! Don't Bully!!

## SAY NO, KEEP YOUR POWER

By: Brandon M. Grade 5/6



This is a short report on Sandy Annunziata's bullying presentation to the junior division on January 21st. In his talk he emphasized his career in the Canadian Football

League. This is my version on the bullying presentation.

Hey kids you should NEVER ignore a bully, just tell them to STOP.

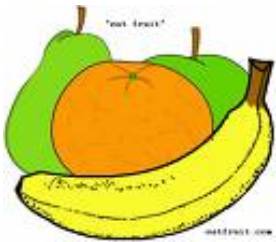
Bullies only bully kids because they are weaker and they want to steal your "power". Usually bullies have a bunch of bystanders, but don't worry they'll come to

## BREAKFAST CLUB

The Quaker Road Breakfast Club is up and running thanks to a group of hard working individuals. We would like to thank Sheila Volchert (Breakfast Coordinator) Cathy Borisenko, Betty Kruitbosch, Gizzie Kisor, Darlene dePagter, Holly Jacobsen, Anita Thompson, Jennifer Dube, Celia Mason, Michelle Merritt, Helga Moeller, Caren Yap, Fred

Romain and Roy Golden for volunteering their time to help us. A special thank you to Anna and Majdi Tbeshat (owners of Donut Diner) who have contributed to the hot breakfast. A big thank you goes to Jim Albanese (Manager) and staff of Sobey's for contributing food items to our Breakfast Club. Our own Mr. Murphy needs to be

recognized for helping with the set up and clean up every Tuesday and Thursday. We are looking to our community for donations towards our Breakfast Club. Items that we would be interested in receiving include 100% juices, bagels, fresh fruit, yogurt, cereal and cereal bars. We always try to incorporate Canada's Food Guide in our selections.





## SURF'S UP EVERYONE!!!

Get ready to make some waves at our **Scholastic Book Fair**. You'll have a fin-tastic time combining Book Fair Beach for all your favourite reads. Watch for a sea of books to arrive at high tide on **Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** throughout **Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**. Don't miss this great chance to catch the reading wave! All process will go to purchasing more books for our students to read in the library.

## INTERMEDIATE BOYS' BASKETBALL

This year's team is off to a great start. With morning practices starting at 8 a.m. the boys worked hard as a team to kick off the season with two wins. Despite the small team size, they chose to persevere and try their hardest to push one another to work together and show up for practice. Best of luck to the boys as they play their next three games. Team members consist of Devon A., Mackenzie S., Josh C., Daniel D., Will S., Alex E., Richard S., Skylar T., Elijah M. and Caleb C. Thanks to their coach Miss Fulford for dedicating her time to the team.



## JUNIOR SPEECH FINALISTS

Students in Grades 4-6 have been working hard from December until now to prepare and present speeches within their classrooms. The top students from each class presented their speeches in front of the entire junior division, judges and family members on

Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all participants on their hard work and success this year. The results are as follows:  
Grade 4: First Place = Noah S. (also the Overall Runner Up Junior Finalist), Second Place = Mercedes N. and Third Place = Braidon M.

Grade 5: First Place = Olivia P., Second Place = Breanna H. and Third Place = Jordan A.  
Grade 6: First Place = Alex A. (Overall Top Junior Finalist), Second Place = Bethany L. and Third Place = Paige C.

### BOOK FAIR

#### HOURS

\*Tues. Feb. 24 - 9-3

\*Wed. Feb. 25 -

9-3 and 4-6

\*Thurs. Feb. 26 - 9-3

\*Fri. Feb. 27 - 9-12

*Wed.* = Hat Day

*Thurs.* = Sunglasses

Day

*Fri.* = Dress for the

Beach!



## Every Child Reading: Top Ten Tips for Parents



**1. Start at the beginning.** Setting the foundation for reading success is necessary before your child begins first grade, and will be crucial to academic achievement in a variety of subjects. Research shows that reading to children as early as infancy can give them a strong base for language concepts and cognitive skills related to print. Introduce your children to colourful story and picture books to foster a love of reading. Establish a routine; reading stories at bedtime is a cozy way to promote literacy. Make it interactive.

**2. Explore your neighbourhood library together.** Take your children to the local library and introduce them to the wide selection of books, newspapers, magazines, and story telling programs that they have to offer. Also, don't forget that your library's computer provides the perfect opportunity to introduce your children to the Internet.

Go online with them and show them how to do research for school projects and papers.

**3. Volunteer at your child's school.** Studies show that parent involvement is correlated with reading achievement. Given adequate training, parents can help in the classroom by volunteering to serve as tutors in the school. Support the school's literacy efforts and advocate for effective instructional materials and modern technology, including computers and access to the Internet, so that all children have excellent learning opportunities. Discuss ways that reading performance can be reinforced in the home.

**4. Write it out.** Writing gives children opportunities to use their reading competence. Support your children's creative and expository writing efforts and encourage them to keep a journal or diary so they can practise at home.

**5. Enroll your children in after-school, child care, or summer programs that cultivate and reinforce reading skills.**

**6. Be a "Study Buddy."** You can help your child organize information, look for key ideas in books, and practise reading out loud. Point out everyday tasks like interpreting instructions, recipes, and road signs, that require solid reading skills. Be sure to have plenty of interesting reading materials at home such as books, magazines, and newspapers to encourage your child to read more frequently. Practise makes perfect.

**7. Ask for help.** If your child is having difficulty with reading, speak with your child's educator.

**8. Start the day off right.** Make sure your kids are well rested, organized, and have a nutritious breakfast every day so that they arrive at school ready to learn.

**9. Rhyme to reason.** Giving children experience with rhyming is an effective way to build phonemic awareness and requires children to focus on the sounds inside words.

**10. After reading a book, let your children hold the book and turn the pages. Encourage your children to tell the story.**

## When Should I Keep My Child Home??

Often parents ask, when is it appropriate to keep a child home due to illness. Here are some helpful guidelines:

- If your child has been up during the night due to illness and as a result has not received adequate sleep.
- When your child may pass on an illness or virus to another classmate or staff member.
- If your child is unable to participate in the regular activities of the day such as physical education, regular classroom assignments or outdoor recess.
- Always inform the school that your child will be absent and the reason for the absence.



## DSBN Road Race

Don't give up on those New Year's resolutions just yet! The 2009 DSBN Road Race takes place on Sunday, April 26 at the DSBN Education Center. You can be a 'Learner in Action' and help your community at the same time. Last year, \$10,000 was raised to support programs in

DSBN schools through the Education Foundation of Niagara and Niagara Nutrition Partners. The Road Race is a fun family activity that promotes a healthy lifestyle. In addition to the 1km fun run and 5km road race, there will be a BBQ and a fun fair. Returning this year are the fun T-

Shirt design contest and school participation award. Participation and volunteer forms will be available at the school's office later in February. You can also visit for more information and links to the participation forms. Please mark Sunday, April 26 on your calendar!



### CRAZY

### DEFINITIONS

BEE =

A Hum Bug

CARTOON =

A song you sing  
in the car.

ZEBRA =

A horse that  
escaped from  
prison.



**NO SMOKING**

## KINDERGARTEN COUNTDOWN

Do you know a child who is turning 4 or 5 in 2009? Help them get ready for their big first day of school with the DSBN's Kindergarten Countdown.

Parents and children are invited to a **KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE** at our school on *Thursday, February 5, 2009* from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Attending an open house is a great way for children and their families to see the school, meet teachers and staff, and register for the coming school year.

To find out all of the information you need to prepare your child for kindergarten, go to: [www.dsbm.org](http://www.dsbm.org) and click on "Kindergarten Countdown".

## DID YOU KNOW????

- Smoking anywhere on school property including sitting inside a vehicle could cost you \$305.
- Selling, supplying or sharing cigarettes with anyone under 19 can result in a minimum fine of \$365.

This law applies to:

**EVERYONE:** Staff, students, parents, visitors

**ANYTIME:** 24/7

**ANYWHERE:** Including school parking lots, cars in the parking lot, sports fields, driveways and courtyards

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* is designed to reduce the number of youth who start smoking and to protect Ontarians from second-hand smoke. Know the law and protect yourself!

Questions? Call the Tobacco Hotline, 905-688-8248 ext. 7393 or 1-888-505-6074



*“If you can read  
this,  
Thank a  
teacher”*

~ Anonymous Teacher ~



## READING FOR MEANING - HOME IDEAS

You can help us at home work towards our school goal of increasing students’ “Reading for Meaning”.

For the next six weeks our primary and junior divisions will be working on Inferring and our intermediate division will be working on Summarizing. At the end of the six weeks students will be assessed on inferring or summarizing. The following are ideas you can use at home to work on this with your child.

### PRIMARY IDEAS:

**Mystery Bag** = Fill and staple shut paper bags with a variety of different items. Give clues about what is inside each bag. Ask your child to use his/her sense of smell, hearing, and touch to infer what is in the bags. Remember, it is important to ask him/her which clues helped make the inference (so there is support to the guesses). After your child makes his/her predictions confirm the

**Kitchen Utensils Guessing Game** = Take out a variety of kitchen utensils that are different. Ask your child to examine them and guess at how they are used, explaining why he/she made that guess. Have your child discuss how he/she made each guess based on things he/she know (serrated blades cut, for example), and based on what they see. Confirm his/her inference and discuss if it was correct.

**Nightly Discussion** = When reading nightly ask “So, what is really going on?”. Remind your child to find clues in the text to support his/her thinking. Always ask him/her to make inferences about what is going on in the text. Prompts might include: Why do you think that happened? What evidence does the author provide to support \_\_\_\_\_? What clues did the author give that led to your conclusion?

### JUNIOR IDEAS:

**Magazines** = Use a variety of magazines and cut out different advertisements. Ask your child questions relating to the ads like: What is really going on here? What is the illustrator trying to show in the advertisement?

**Newspaper Articles** = Cut out newspaper clips and examine them asking your child some prompts like: How do you think the author feels about...? Is there information in the pictures that can help make your predictions? What’s the article really about?

**Comics** = Look at comics in the newspaper. Ask your child: What do the pictures tell us that the words do not? What do you infer happened based on the pictures?

**Television or Movies** = When actively watching TV or movies ask your child some questions like: Why does the character feel this way? How do you know? How did \_\_\_\_\_’s actions help us to know how he/she was feeling?

### INTERMEDIATE IDEAS:

**Television Watching** = Summarize and discuss something you watched as a family on television.

**Newspaper** = Read a newspaper, website or blog and summarize the contents of what was read.

**Songs** = Listen to songs or read music lyrics online and summarize the meaning behind the song

## I HAD A DREAM!!

By Brandon M. Gr. 5/6

Thoughts from the grade 5/6 class about Barack Obama. I was thinking that I might try to become President of the United States of America. Martin Luther King’s dream has now come true. I liked to see Barack Obama get to move into the White House. I felt very happy that after 43 presidents Barack was the first African-American President. I didn’t find it that interesting but, that is because I don’t know what the big deal is. When I watched Barack Obama get sworn in as President I was really proud of him! I thought it was very cool and very interesting to see Barack Obama get sworn in as the 44th President. It felt good to know that there was a new President. I thought he did really awesome, but I think he could’ve done a lot better! So, after watching America’s new President, I thought to myself again, WOW! I felt that is was a new beginning because I know that he will change the world and do the right thing! I felt good to actually watch history pass on T.V. He is a very brave man. It doesn’t matter on what skin colour you have, we’re all the same. I think Obama will turn out to be a great president.

## QUAKER ROAD STUDENTS ATTEMPT TO BREAK A WORLD RECORD

By Eli W., Jared D., Mitchell K., Alycia L., Brooke C., Makayla M., Jessica B., Gavin K.

On Friday, January 23rd at 2:00 p.m., students gathered in various locations in the school in an attempt to break The Guinness World Record of "Most Children Reading with an Adult in Multiple Locations". The record currently held in the U.S. stands as 78,791 children. More than 100,000 other readers across Canada were also registered. The attempt was organized

by parent volunteer Mrs. Galambos and Mrs. DeGasperis. Every student was placed in small groups and a teacher read 5 Robert Munsch books. Students, parents and staff wore their pajamas for a "Snuggle Up and Read feel". It was great to see the Mayor of Welland read a book to a group of students. A special thank you to the parent volunteers who assisted with being witnesses for each

group reading the five books. A special snack of milk and cookies was donated by No Frills, Price Chopper of Welland and McNab Milk of St. Catharines. All documentation from our event has been forwarded to Guinness and we will find out mid February if the world record was broken. Thanks to all the staff, students and parents for making our Family Literacy Day such a success!



## OUR INAUGURATION EXPERIENCE

By Josh C. Grade 7/8

As you all know, the 44th President of the U.S.A. was inaugurated on Tuesday, January 20th, 2009. But, what makes this so special was that we witnessed the inauguration of the first African-American President, Barack Obama. America's future is not in the palm of Barack Obama's hand. He has many promises to fill and all of America's hopes and dreams have been bestowed upon him.

On this historic day, the Junior and Intermediate grades gathered in the library to watch history unfold. We all waited patiently for the ceremonies to begin, not knowing who would perform next or who would make an appearance. For some, that wait was unbearable, watching the clock attentively, waiting for it to strike noon.

This day brought back thoughts of the wise Martin Luther King Jr's dream, that everyone will be judged by the content of their character, not by the colour of their skin. Has it been recognized? If he was still alive, he would have said that it is a great day for African-Americans everywhere and how much of a triumphant day it was for him. Without Martin Luther King Jr., Barack Obama's Presidency would have never become a reality.

I believe that everyone who watched it took away something, whether it be a better sense of equality or a ton of inspiration, whether they live in Welland, Ontario or Miami, Florida. As for everybody who didn't think it was important of that it wouldn't affect them, they came to realize that everything he does directly affects us.

Let us all hope for the best out of Obama and let us all pray that "It is America's time!"