



HAPPY
NEW YEAR!!

THE COMET

QUAKER ROAD PUBLIC
SCHOOL

JANUARY 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- * Jan. 12 - Grade 8 Visitation from Centennial
- * Jan. 13 - First Ride Presentation for Kdg classes
- * Jan. 13 - Centennial Open House 6:30 p.m.
- * Jan. 14 - Hot Lunch (Soup)
- * Jan. 14 - E.L. Crossley Open House 6:30 p.m.

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday. Many exciting learning initiatives will be taking place over the coming weeks with the month of January being no exception! On Wednesday, January 21, 2009 we will be welcoming a special guest in former CFL player, Sandy Annunziata who will be discussing the topic of bullying with students here at Quaker Road Public School. As part of character education, Sandy will discuss important issues related to bullying and what it means to be a respectful and responsible citizen. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend this exciting

your child's teacher for other exciting ways to promote reading and celebrate literacy every day of the year!

The Path to Print Awareness

One of the skills young children need to learn to read is called **print awareness**. In other words, they need to know what print looks like and to understand how it works. Children who have **print awareness** know that the little black squiggly lines on the page represent spoken language. They know that print has different purposes and they know how books work. Children do not learn about print by them-

you want to read. Then, point to and say the title, the author, and the illustrator of the book. Ask your children to repeat the name of the book with you.

3. Point to some of the words in a book as you say them, especially the repeated words.
4. After reading a book, let your children hold the book and turn the pages. Encourage your children to tell the story.
5. Occasionally point out and talk about the

6:30 p.m.

- * Jan. 15 - Eastdale
Open House 7:00 p.m.
- * Jan. 21 - Bullying
Presentation by
Sandy Annunziata
- * Jan. 23 - Family Lit-
eracy Day
- * Jan. 27 - School Coun-
cil Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- * Jan. 28 - Hot Lunch
(Subs)

Parents/guardians are wel-
come to attend this exciting
event.

Just a reminder to students
and parents that **Family Lit-
eracy Day will be held on
January 23, 2009** here at
Quaker Road Public School.
Staff will be busy as they
continue to promote our
school goal of **Reading for
Meaning** with related activi-
ties throughout the course of
the day. At home, you might
consider family story times
or special visits to the Public
Library with your children as
a way to celebrate literacy.
Please feel free to contact

books work. Children do not
learn about print by them-
selves. They need someone,
an adult or other child, to
help them learn by pointing
out and talking with them
about the letters, words and
other features found in print.

Here are some tips to help
your children develop **print
awareness**:

1. Talk about the print found
on signs and in
menus, books and
newspapers.
2. Show your children the
front and the back
of the picture book

5. Occasionally point out
and talk about the
punctuation marks.
Read with expres-
sion to show the
meaning of ques-
tion marks and
exclamation
marks.

6. Encourage your children
to play with print
everyday. Help
them write lists,
notes, and signs.

For more information about
emergent literacy, contact
your child's teacher here at
Quaker Road Public School.

A LITTLE NOTE FROM FUNDRAISING

First we would like to thank everyone who took part in this year's Cookie Dough Fundraiser. This year we raised a total of \$8456.00, giving us a profit of **\$2959.00**. We did not do as well as we have in the past, but that could be because of the economic situation we are all going through right now, or the community could be tired of the product!? Either way, we will definitely need to do further fundraising to help cover the expenses throughout the school year.

Our Top Cookie Dough Sellers were Kelsey M. (1st), Colin K. (2nd) and Caitlyn R. (3rd). The winners of the students who sold 3 or more tubs of Cookie Dough were Tausha B., Sierra S., Dylan R., Richard S., Sierra S., Richard S., Sarah C., Arrayha D., Kaitlynn K., Robert S., Aislinn B., Eli W., Dawson M., Ashley M., T.J. M., Nicole C., Anthony P., William S., Jenna M. and Xandre P.

Congratulations to all of you....good job!!

Also a big thank you to the Teachers for donating prizes and the Grade 8 students that helped unload the truck on delivery day!

Finally, thanks to those of you who shopped at M&M Meats on our Annual School Appreciation Day. We were able to raise approximately \$72. We realize it's not a lot of money, but every little bit helps!!

Thanks very much for supporting your child(ren)'s school...without your support a lot of activities, equipment and supplies would not be possible.

Your Fundraising Committee



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, 2008** 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.dsb.org and click on "Kindergarten Countdown".

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR REGARDING INCLEMENT WEATHER SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES

Winter Snowstorms: Cancelling Buses and Closing Schools – How do we decide?

The District School Board of Niagara covers the 12 municipalities across the Niagara peninsula, from Grimsby, Niagara on the Lake, Fort Erie and Wainfleet. The DSBN has 120 schools with approximately 37,000 students and 4000 staff members.

Whenever possible, we feel it is important for students to be in class continuing their education. However, student safety is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara and there are times when weather conditions will force the cancellation of transportation services and the closures of our schools. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you how these very difficult decisions are made.

Cancelling Student Transportation

When adverse weather conditions are forecasted, Niagara Student Transportation Services gathers information on road and weather conditions. From late the night before and beginning very early in the morning (4:00 a.m.), they gather data from a wide variety of sources, including the bus companies, various municipal and regional agencies, and from NSTS staff performing checks on selected routes to experience the road conditions first hand. NSTS considers the actual weather conditions, the forecasted weather, and the road conditions very carefully.

Once all available information has been collected and reviewed, the decision to cancel buses is made by NSTS, in consultation with the bus companies, if it is determined that students cannot be safely transported to schools, as well as transported home at the end of the day.

Closing Schools

The decision to close schools is separate from the decision to cancel transportation services; however, student safety remains our number one concern. The decision to close schools is made by the Director of Education.

Bearing in mind that schools offer a vital service to our parent communities, I am in constant contact with the Director of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and, after careful consideration, we decide whether it is necessary to close schools. We consider issues such as:

- Can some students safely walk to school?
- Can some staff safely get to schools to welcome students who arrive?
- Are main roads clear?

- Are main roads clear?
- Are there any other circumstances that would necessitate a school closure, such as a power outage, water main burst or loss of heat inside the school
- What are the conditions across the region? We look at whether the inclement weather affects the entire region, or if it is localized to one community
- What is the impact of closing schools?

*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.dsbns.org
www.nsts.ca

Television Stations:

COGECO Cable 10
CHCH Television
City TV

Radio Stations:

CKTB 610 am
CHML 900 am
KLite - 102.9 fm
EZRock 105.7 fm
Y-108 - 107.9 fm
Wave 94.7 fm
Htz 97.7 fm
The River - 105.1 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.

There are times when weather conditions will deteriorate throughout the morning, making it necessary to close schools mid-day. This is not a decision that is made lightly as we recognize the impact on students, parents and staff. In these circumstances, we consider the impact on all stakeholders and how to ensure at all times that the safety of our students and staff is paramount.

The decision whether or not to cancel transportation and/or close schools is made at approximately 6:00 a.m., and that information is immediately conveyed to local radio, television and newspaper outlets and posted on the appropriate websites (www.NSTS.ca, www.DSBN.org). DSBN Superintendents communicate with all principals to advise them of bus cancellations or school closures.

Despite these measures, the final decision whether or not to send your child to school during inclement weather rests with the parent or guardian.

Sincerely,

Warren Hoshizaki

Director of Education

District School Board of Niagara

AGENDAS

All students in Grades 1 to 8 are required to have a Quaker Road Public School Agenda. A reminder to students and parents that agendas are to be used daily in the classroom and will be utilized as an important communication tool between the school and home. It is important for students to get in the habit of taking their agenda home on a regular basis so as to keep parents informed of what homework, projects, or tests are coming up.

Check out the video of the E.L. Crossley Grade 8 visitation that occurred November 26th.

http://www.dsbns.edu.on.ca/Schools/ELCSS/about_fos.html

Guinness Book of World Records...

Quaker Rd School is going to help break a record!

As many of you may know, Family Literacy Day is an annual event that celebrates literacy, and the fun that goes along with reading. "ABC Canada" is a national organization that promotes literacy across the country. In January 2009, thousands of Canadians will join together with ABC Canada in an attempt to break the Guinness record of:

"Most Children Reading With an Adult, Multiple Locations" The record attempt will take place at Quaker Rd School on **Friday January 23, 2009 at 2:00pm**. The students will be arranged in groups and go to

various classrooms with a variety of ages represented in each group. Each classroom will participate in a specific reading activity involving a set of books written by Robert Munsch. Students are invited to come dressed in their **PAJAMAS** on the day of our event so they can truly "snuggle up and read"! They will also be provided with a special snack after the readings take place. Families are invited to come join in the fun and be counted in our total number of participants. ABC Canada is awarding several \$1000 prizes to schools with the most participants, so the more the merrier! If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event, please contact Mrs. DeGasperis at the school by January 12, 2009.

ICE DOGS GAME

BY: Jenna M., Natasha N., Allyssa P. and Ashley V



On December 6th, 2008 Quaker Road had the privilege of attending a Niagara Ice Dogs Game. Twelve students had the honour of singing our National Anthem at the opening of the



A BIG Thank You to the KARR Family for providing a tree and lights for our school. It looked lovely in the front entrance of our school.



had the honour of singing our National Anthem at the opening of the game. Mrs. Gracey conducted Katelyn B., Branden D., Jenna M., Brittany M., Natasha N., Allyssa P., Rachel P., Ankit S., Desiree T., Emma T., Ashley V. and Emily W. We would like to thank Ms Nunnenmacher for organizing the event. There was a full house there to watch the Ice Dogs take on the Windsor Spitfires! The Dogs played great, leading the first period 2-0, despite their efforts Windsor won 8-4. Good Luck this season, Go Dogs Go!

GUEST SPEAKER - GR. 5/6 CLASS

By: Ashley M. and Brittany V.

Did you know that Iqaluit means “place of many fish”? On Thursday, November 27th, Ms. Bratt’s grade 5/6 class had a very important speaker come to our classroom. She was originally from Iqaluit, Nunavut. Her name is Nellie Bowman. She is a neighbour to Ashley M. in grade six. Since the grade 5/6s are learning about provinces and territories in social studies, Ashley asked Nellie to come to our classroom to talk to us about where she was

from. When Nellie still lived in Iqaluit, they used to eat whale blubber, seal skin, fish, etc. The most popular sport in Iqaluit is hockey! It is very surprising that all of Nellie’s life when she lived in Iqaluit, she never got frost bite. Nellie has two children; one in grade 8 and the other in grade 5. They’ve only been to Iqaluit twice in their lifetime (it’s very expensive to fly there!).

Thank you!

The Rainforest!! By Mercedes N.

Fasten your seatbelts, and hang on tight, we’re off to the coast of Africa, to see the amazing Rainforest. Now if you’ve come hoping to see a cow, you’ve taken the wrong turn. I’m here to give you a tour of something more fascinating. Where I’m taking you is hot, wet, and FULL OF LIFE!

Listen closely, what do you hear? Those are the shrieks from monkeys hanging off the trees in the canopy. Overhead are many brightly coloured parrots and toucans. Down near the rainforest floor you will see tiny red-eyed tree frogs climbing on the branches in the under story. Mind your step, there are slimy, creepy snakes on your path on the forest floor.

Everything that lives in this forest needs the humidity, heat, and food that can be found there.

Some trees and plants that live here are insect eating plants and others that make fruits longer than a baseball bat. There are some amazing types of plants that have flowers bigger than bicycle tires. Others are ferns and flowers, such as the giant rafflesia, the biggest flower in the world. The rafflesia can be up to three feet across and weigh up to as much as twenty five pounds!

As you leave these surroundings take in the beauty and snap the last picture to remember your wonderful journey.

WE BID FAREWELL TO OUR STUDENT TEACHERS

During the months of October to December, Quaker Road Public School had 9 Brock Student teachers learning from the wonderful teaching staff. On December 18th, they completed their first teaching block. Take a moment to learn more about a few of these up and coming teachers.

Interview with Mrs. Gracey's Student Teacher Miss Jones

By Natasha N.

Where did you grow up? I grew up in Lowbanks, which isn't far from here.

Do you have any siblings? Yes, I have a sister and a brother-in-law.

Do you have any pets? Yes, I have a dog named Cassey, a cat named Phoebe, a fish named Cablanna and a crab named Crab.

What are your hobbies? My hobbies are reading, dancing, traveling, water sports and going to my cottage.

What is your favourite holiday and why? My favourite holiday is Thanksgiving because I love fall, the food, spending time with my family and all the activities.

What would a perfect day be like for you? A perfect day would be a day with nothing planned and being together with my friends and family.

Do you enjoy traveling and if so where do you want to go and why? Yes, I enjoy traveling and I would love to go to Europe. This is because I have never been, there is so much history and it would be very interesting.

If you could spend a day with anyone, who would it be and why? Maybe someone who knows lots about teaching or has done something great in the world but I think I would most likely choose one of my family members who passed away.

Why did you choose to become a teacher? I chose to become a teacher because I love working with kids, it is a very fun job and I want to make a difference.

What has been the hardest part of becoming a teacher? The hardest part would have to be going

Ms. M. Orser - Student Teacher Gr 5/6 **By: Avery E. and Debbie J.**

What is your favourite subject to teach? Why? Science because of experiments and hands on activities.

If you could not teach what would you do? I would want to be a marine biologist, a librarian, or a weather lady!

Why do you like to teach? I like to teach because I love children and I love the crazy ideas you come up with! I like to make learning fun and interactive.

What would be your favourite grade to teach? My favourite grades to teach are the junior grades.

Who inspired you to teach? My grade 8 teacher because she was the coolest teacher. She always encouraged me to follow my dreams.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I like to go out and be active, and go to my cottage. I also like to play sports and hang out with my friends and family.

What will you be going in 5-10 years? I hope I will have a family of my own, still teaching, having fun and owning a dog!

If you could be a special education teacher would you? Yes 100%.

What is your most favourite part about teaching at Quaker? Why? I love my class! I love you guys! You make me laugh, are very enthusiastic and very nice!

Do you try your best to make sure that everyone you teach understand the question's answer? Yes it's my goal! 100%! That's why I keep bugging you guys to get your work DONE! Its hard but worth it.

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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

GRADE 3/4s SHARE THEIR WRITING SKILLS

My Favourite Birthday Present

By Mansi

My favourite birthday present is a piano. I like my piano because I like music. I got it on my birthday which is on September the 9. It looks like a piano with a lot of buttons. The buttons are for what tempo you want, what tone you want to record it and if you want to listen to instruments. The keys feel kind of soft. It sounds very nice. You can choose from ten different instruments to play it. To use it choose your tempo and sound. I like my piano a lot.

My Favourite Christmas Present

By Paige

What has been the hardest part of becoming a teacher? The hardest part would have to be going from the books to the classroom.

If you had not chosen to become a teacher, what other career path might you have chosen? I think I might have become a dental hygienist.

When you become a teacher, how do you plan to influence your students? I plan to influence my students by opening their eyes to new things and challenging them.

you guys to get your work DONE! Its hard but worth it.

Miss Arnold
By Alyssa W.

Miss Arnold has been in helping as a student teacher in Mrs. Tonnos's grade 7 class since the middle of September and she has done an amazing job. She has been teaching Media Literacy in Language and Patterns in Geography. Miss Arnold has also helped coach the Intermediate Girls' Volleyball team and will be helping Mlle Lalonde with Intermediate Girls' Basketball Team. Mrs. Tonnos's class is so lucky to have her as a student teacher. Miss Arnold ROCKS!!

By Paige

My favourite Christmas present would probably be my sleeping pet because it breaths like a real dog. It's very cute and I really LOVE dogs! It feels so soft and it's a Golden Retriever puppy it even comes with its own cage. I really love all the other stuff I got but this one was my favourite!

June 2008 Quaker Road Grads at
Welland Centennial

With the first semester almost behind them, Quaker Road grads have settled in comfortably with the new routines and are meeting the challenges of secondary education at Centennial. **Ryan Armstrong, Lauren Beaudoin, Jaden Cipolla, Erika Clements, Jamie Cossette, Bethany Heaton, Emily Ihasz, Mitchell McNall** and **Connor Virgoe** are Quaker Road grads who achieved the **Principal's Honour Roll** at mid-term with an overall average of 80% or better. Many other Quaker Road grads are very close to achieving the **Principal's Honour Roll**.

Quaker Road grads have taken advantage of a **wide variety of co-curricular activities** available at Centennial. A sampling of the Grade 9 activities include Grade 9 welcome barbecue, **NSAID (OSAID) National Kick-Off** assembly, "Catch a Slice of Cougar Life" a half day activity for grade 9 students to meet their fellow grade 9 students during challenging co-operative leadership activities, Student Council Corn Roast, "Spirit Week" which featured Occupation Day, Togo Tuesday, Western Wednesday, Blue and Orange Day and Tropical Friday, Halloween Dance, Photo Day, went to work with a parent or sponsor on "Take Our Kids to Work Day" and Remembrance Day assembly.

Jesse Carter plays for the Cougar Football Team, **Zachary Hallborg** is a member of the Centennial golf team and played Junior Tennis and, **Mitchell McNall** and **Taylor Sagloski** are members of the Junior Boys Volleyball team. In the coming months, Quaker Road grads will have the opportunity to be involved with many additional co-curricular opportunities at Centennial.

Congratulations to all Quaker Road grads for a very successful transition to high school at Welland Centennial!

Welland Centennial
Secondary School

240 Thorold Road West,
Welland

Grade 8 Open House

Tuesday, January 13, 2009

6:30 to 9:00 pm.

Information Session and Tours
of the School

All Grade 6, 7 and 8 students
and Parents are welcome!

Welland Centennial provides
educational programs at the
Applied and Academic Levels.

We are known for Academics,
Arts, Technology and Athletics.

Phone (905) 735-0700

Web address:

www.wellandcentennial.com
