



Sheridan Park Standard



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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents & Students,

November is a time to remember, to talk about daily events and reflect on things that have occurred as we often forget to talk about the little things when life can become so hectic at times. Remember to stop and take a few minutes to reflect on your day and reflect on the hallmarks in life: birthdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, summer vacations – and even report cards.

When one reflects on achievements, milestones, accomplishments and special moments in life, the events can often be remembered or captured through home videos, pictures, journals. These devices help us to never forget the little things that happen along the way.

As Remembrance Day draws near, remember those who sacrificed their lives for us during wars. The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month marks the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918 to signal the end of World War I.

Share the following with your child: Remembrance Day is also known around the world as Poppy Day, Armistice Day and Veteran's Day. Remind them that the symbol of the poppy, which represents both loss and hope, is a way of helping us to remember.

Share John McCrae's famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. Activate your child's schema. Try the following: Think Pair Share partners, mother-son, father-daughter and encourage your partner to think about...what do I know about... and try to make connections by drawing on personal experiences, text to self, text to world, text to text.

Encourage your child to think, "this reminds me of" - all techniques that good readers use as tools to reflect on and remember along the way.

Yours in education,

JoAnna M. Roberto



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
 Between the crosses, row on row
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.
 We are the Dead. Short days ago
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved,
 and now we lie In Flanders fields.
 Take up our quarrel with the foe:
 To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.
 (Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae)

Events at the Park

Remembrance Day Nov. 11th

Remembrance Day Service
Please join us in the gym at 11am, Tuesday, November 11th for our Remembrance Day service. Mr. Diiorio and Mr. Nicholls are organizing the ceremony.

Choir & Ecohawks at Board

The school choir will be showcased as will our ECO team at the board office on Tuesday, November 11th.

Fundraising

Thank you for supporting us in this fundraising endeavour. The proceeds support field trip subsidies, transportation, digital books, technology upgrades, our Character Education program, intermediate electives and our Eco initiatives. We raised \$1,760.

Pumpkin Run

Congratulations to the following students: Kyra M., Abby V., Sydney B., Carley S., Treanne M., Decla M., Jacob G., and Leah H!! We hope you had fun carving your pumpkins with your family! Stay tuned for November...there may be a late season turkey trot!

School Council Liaison

The annual conference will be held at St. Catharines Collegiate on Wednesday, Nov. 5th, 4:30 pm. Mrs. Barton, Mr. Diiorio, Mrs. Biancaniello and our Skyhawks will be presenting! The group will present our digital reading program and the benefits of play-aways as a simple and immediate way to enjoy audio books.

Anti-Bullying Week

Bullying.org Canada is pleased to announce the sixth annual Bullying Awareness Week which will take place from November 16th-22nd. This year's theme is "Stand Up to Bullying." Student Council, Mrs. Downs and Ms. Osborne will be coordinating various activities to promote awareness.

Brandon C., and Mrs. Mawson will make and sell "One" bracelets for this event. Blue is the spirit colour for the week! For further information, check our school website!

Let's Walk

How walk-able is our community?? Walk-able communities are an important part of a healthy and vibrant community. Communities can encourage citizens to rely on their cars less and choose walking more often.

Healthy Living Niagara has issued a challenge by asking citizens of St. Catharines to "*Take a 15-minute walk along a road, walk on the sidewalk or path to visit a store, business, school or person. Then fill out a checklist!*". Brochures were distributed to all students of Sheridan Park and we are asking our community to complete the survey and return it to the office.

The information and feedback YOU give will be passed on to local officials who will assess the walk-ability of our community. An added bonus to complete the survey is the chance to win an Apple iPod Nano. Ballots were issued with the brochure.

Report Cards

Dec 3rd

First term report cards go home on Wednesday, December 3rd.



For most parents, interviews with your child (ren)'s teacher(s) will be scheduled for Thursday, December 4th after school or the morning of Friday, December 5th.

If for any reason you are unable to attend the scheduled times, please contact your child's teacher ahead of time to re-schedule.

Student-Led Conferences

Our survey last year indicated that 90% of parents and students enjoyed the positive experience of the Grades 4-8 Student-Led Conferencing. "It is a process whereby the student assumes the active role in planning, implementing, conducting and evaluating of parent conference."

Student Benefits:

- Accountability for their learning
- Students learn to evaluate their own progress
- Students gain greater commitment to school work and learning
- Builds self confidence and self esteem
- Encourages student/parent communication
- Builds communication and critical thinking skills
- Places responsibility on the student and parent
- Allows students to become actively involved

Parent Benefits:

- More information given to the parents
- Learn more about their child's learning and skills
- An opportunity to help their student set positive goals
- Active participant in their student's learning

The Royal Commission on Learning was formed to address education issues as the public sought the answer to the question: Are we preparing our students for the 21st century?

The Royal Commission's Report, *The Love of Learning* identifies the creation of school-parent councils as one of the engines that drives the process of change in Ontario's reform.

A strong thrust throughout this document is the move toward extensive inclusion of parents in the education of their children. Student-led conferencing is an effective way to engage parents in meaningful involvement in the schools. Instead of a traditional parent-teacher interview, a student-led conference allows students to sit down with their parent/guardian and share what they are learning at school (with teacher guidance).

The students prepare a portfolio including their best work and sample work that they can improve on. Your child will lead you through a detailed conference "showing off" the portfolio he/she has prepared. It is hoped that through these conferences, students will become more accountable for their daily learning and they will also feel proud of what they have accomplished. A note will come home in a couple of weeks requesting suitable times for you to attend the conference. We look forward to seeing you

From the Office**Milk Cards**

Milk cards last for 20 days. When your child is close to the end of his/her card, a reminder will be sent home. If you would like to renew your child's card please send \$15 with your child and the office with issue a new card.

**EQAO RESULTS 2007-08**

The results of the assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics for grades 3 and 6 have been released by the Ministry of Education and are available for all schools in the province on the [EQAO website](#).

There are four possible achievement levels. The provincial standard according to the curriculum is Level 3.

The table below indicates students at Sheridan Park that achieved or exceeded the provincial standard as compared to the results for the DSBN and for the province.

Grade 3

	Read	Writing	Math
School	46%	54%	62%
Board	62%	65%	68%
Province	61%	66%	68%

Grade 6

	Read	Writing	Math
School	77%	91%	77%
Board	67%	66%	58%
Province	61%	66%	67%



Please remember this is only a "snapshot" of achievement on a selected set of tasks completed over a few days out of a whole school year.

Our staff examined the results of this assessment and developed SMART goals to address areas of growth. The divisional goals will contain specific measures that focus on reading, writing and numeracy. Smart Goals will be shared in our next newsletter and posted on our website. Individual reports were sent home last month.

Eco Corner

As an ECO Gold status school, there are many initiatives we are involved in. All classrooms have an ECO Corner and are tailored to each individual class. Also our organic campaign is growing; our Student Council continues to build on this green project!

November's eco tip from Ms. Osborne...store grocery bags in your empty Kleenex boxes! We would like to extend our ECO Corner to our newsletter so stay tuned for our December newsletter. If you have a friendly eco tip, please share it with us! Also thank you to our first green family, The Langelaans will be reading our newsletter online!

Roots of Empathy

Mrs. Trussell's class has begun the Roots of Empathy program welcoming baby Austin to our Skyhawk family. The community development model brings and infant and parent from the neighborhood together with a trained instructor to raise the floor of compassion in a classroom which results in emotional understanding, an increase in pro-social behavior, and a decrease in incident of bullying and aggression.

Education Foundation Niagara
Special thanks to the [Education Foundation of Niagara](#) for its student service support.

Our Reading Programs

From the book bag program, to the digital after school book club, and the Hamilton Spectator program a recent and popular addition has been Camp Read Well. This reading incentive program sponsored by Montana's Cookhouse has had a positive impact on our students

The program theme covers six continents over six months and explores cultures, traditions and languages from around the world. Our entire primary and junior divisions have a reading rewards card.

Students have set monthly reading goals and Montana's understand the value of student accomplishment celebrating Skyhawk achievement with a free kid's meal! By working together, we can foster literacy skills and make reading an enjoyable part of our students' everyday life!

Intermediate News

Walk This Way – Nov. 5th

Secondary schools across St. Catharines will host all Grade 8 students on Wednesday, November 5th. The Grade 8 students will have the unique opportunity to experience, "A Day in the Life of a High School Student." This event will occur while the Grade 9 students participate in, "Take Your Student to Work Day."

Ottawa Trip Update:

Unfortunately, the Rev Publishing Group did not meet their print quota for 2008-09. Please stay tuned for the intermediate fundraiser! Next Ottawa payment is due Feb. 4th.

Markbook

Grade 7 and 8 students will come home with markbook reports once a term. The markbook reports include literacy, numeracy, science & history/geography marks. If you have any questions regarding the reports, don't hesitate to contact your child's homeroom or rotary teacher. Please sign and return the bottom portion of the report to your child's homeroom teacher.

Student Council News

The dance was a success! Our Pumpkin King was Zach B., and our Pumpkin Queen was Riley B. Currently the group is working on promoting Anti-bullying week and Sports Day.

The organic campaign has had a great start too. The Executive has assisted with our Breakfast Club Campaign providing students with first break snacks too! The Student Council will help School Council with the poinsettia sales and movie night.

They are planning to host a dance and potluck lunch in December as well as help out at a local soup Kitchen! Now THAT is cooperation, responsibility, school spirit and true citizenship! Thanks Mrs. Downs for all of your help!

Art Club

The intermediate art club under the direction of Mr. High was busy painting Halloween murals for the dance. The murals will be raffled off to intermediate students. They truly were works of art!



Peaks

The term 1 intermediate field trip has been booked. Students have an opportunity to gain team work experience and a chance to work on muscle endurance, muscle strength, and flexibility. Trips to Peaks Indoor Rock Climbing Club will take place in November. Thank you Mrs. Janzen for coordinating this event!

School Council

Thanks to Mrs. Sabourin for organizing the fruit kabob initiative. The kids loved this healthy treat! Boston Pizza was a hit too.

Highlights from the meeting:

- Cookie dough and poinsettia sales are back by popular demand.
- Cookie Dough Campaign is Nov. 4-17th.
- Garbage bags will be distributed shortly look for re-order forms in the February newsletter.

Congratulations to Mrs. Deluca's class for selling over \$700.00 in product. They class selected some new activities with their prize money!

Movie Night – Nov. 14th

You are invited to Sheridan Park Family Movie Night being sponsored by school council.

Date: Friday, November 14th
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Movie: *Kung Fu Panda*
Students: Kinderg. – Gr. 3
Admission: Free

Please plan to bring your comfy pillows, blankets, folding chairs, etc. Student may wear their warm PJ's if you wish!

Plan to be at the school by 6:20 p.m. to use the washroom and get settled before the movie begins at 6:30 sharp.

We would like to limit the disruptions during the movie.

Popcorn will be FREE! (you must bring your own drink)

Please note: Students must be accompanied by an adult



Mark these upcoming dates in your December calendar:

- ✓ Parent Teacher Interviews & Student Led Conferences Dec. 4 & 5
- ✓ Poinsettia Sales Dec. 4 & 5
- ✓ P.A Day Dec. 5
- ✓ Cookie Dough pick-up Nov. 26
- ✓ Xmas Concert Dec. 10 at Lakeport
- ✓ Babysitting Night Dec. 15
- ✓ Red & Green Day + student assembly Dec. 19

Sports Updates

Sports Council

Students on the Sports Council have been very busy this past month. All four volleyball teams are playing which makes the gym a very busy place!! THANK YOU to all members for being faithful in setting up the gym for the games and the stage for spectators.

P.A.L.S. Program

Beginning Monday, November 17 and Wednesday, November 19 (and every Monday and Wednesday until the end of March) at 1st break (10:40 - 11:05 am), the primary students have an opportunity to

participate in our PALS program.

All primary students will be divided into a Monday group and a Wednesday group where they can head to the gym and play games, lead by student leaders.

Student leaders in grades 6, 7 and 8 are trained in playground games and conflict resolution strategies. Our school nurse, Nancy O'Neill, will lead the 3 hour training session on Friday November 14 in preparation for the first PALS session. THANK YOU to Miss Ryding and Mrs. Trussell for volunteering to supervise these sessions in the gym.

Healthy Living Gold Status

We did it again, receiving Gold in all three categories for Healthy Living. Ms. Osborne was presented with a \$150.00 cheque from Canadian Tire. This money will go towards physical education equipment.

PE uniforms and Gym Bags

Our large shipment of shorts and t-shirts arrived during the first week of October and by now, all students in grades 4 to 8 should be fitted with their PE uniform.

As the school year progresses, students may out-grow or misplace their uniforms... In any case, we have a large stock reserve and at any time during the year students may purchase what they need or replace what has been misplaced. Gym bags are also available for a dollar at any time during the year. Students can see Mr. Nicholls or Ms. Osborne.



Junior Co-Ed soccer

Congratulations to our junior co-ed soccer team on completing a fantastic season!!! The junior Skyhawks placed 1st overall after regular season games.

The playoffs were successful as the team defeated Meadowvale in the semi-finals. Moving on to the finals against the Prince Philip Royals, it was a "barn burner" where we were tied 1 - 1 with about 4 minutes left to play.

Unfortunately for the Skyhawks, in the dying minutes of the game Prince Philip ran down the line and kicked the ball in to take the lead 2 - 1. We didn't recover and who knows what would have happened if more time was on the clock.

No matter...the Skyhawks did extremely well this season and we are proud to hang our FIRST PLACE pennant and FINALIST pennant in the gym. THANK YOU to Mr. Freel for his coaching expertise and all the parents who drove to away games.

Junior Boys Volleyball

The boys listed below have made the Junior Boys Volleyball Team. Practices are on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7:30 am sharp, our games begin the week of Monday, October 27th.

Games are played on Mondays and Wednesdays, after school. Congratulations to Michael D., Donovan G., Jaxon A., Tyler M., Braedon F., Josh J., Adam S., Zach M., Ethan W., Connor Y., Brendan L., Ricardo G., Evan O.

Junior Girls Volleyball Team

Congratulations to the following girls who will be the players on the 2008 junior girls' volleyball

team. Thanks to all girls who tried out for the team.

Amazing improvement was seen by all, even in only 3 tryouts. Leah H., Kate N., Victoria M., Asia S., Kimmy K., Chantal G., Allison W., Olivia J., Kira M., Emily E., Sloane L., Niki M., Victoria K., and Cierra M.

Skyhawks in the News

Congratulations to our very own, Chris L., whose recent performance in Grimsby was a hit. We hope to host his musical talents as a fiddler here at Sheridan Park! Stay tuned!

Elayna M. was recently featured in the National Post as she celebrates the same birthday as the paper, which celebrated its 10th anniversary and included Elayna as part of the celebration!

If you have an interesting story to share, please give Ms. Roberto a call!

Smoking Penalties

Did you know smoking anywhere on school property including inside a vehicle could cost you \$305. Selling, supplying or sharing cigarettes with any minor under 19 can result in a minimum fine of \$365.

This law applies to: everyone: staff, students, parents and visitors – at anytime, 24/7 - and anywhere, including school parking lots, cars in parking lots, sports fields, driveways and courtyards. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act is designed to reduce the number of youth who start smoking to protect Ontarians from second-hand smoke. Know the law and protect yourself! Questions? Call the Tobacco Hotline 188-505-6074, ext. 7393.

Principal's Awards

Our Principal's Awards Assembly recognized students for their fine efforts, dedication and commitment to school during the month of October. Our character trait was Cooperation.

The Character Trait for November is RESPECT.

Indicators:

Treating people with respect makes your world a nicer place to live in, whether it's at home, at school, or out in your community. And it's easy - all you have to do is treat people the way you like to have them treat you.

Here are a few ideas.

- Don't insult or make fun of people
- Listen to others speak
- Value other people's opinions
- Be considerate of people's likes and dislikes
- Don't mock or tease people
- Don't talk about people behind their backs
- Be sensitive to other's feelings
- Don't pressure someone to do something against their will

We live in a diverse world made up of many different cultures, languages, races, and backgrounds. That kind of variety can make all our lives a lot more fun and interesting, but only if we get along with each other. And to do that we have to respect each other.

In addition to the above, here are ways we can respect people who are different from us:

- Try to learn something from the other person.

- Never stereotype people.
- Show interest and appreciation for other people's cultures and backgrounds.

Teal Tickets

Meagan F., Hannah M., Rory G., Elayna M., Connor Y.W., Nikki M., Emily E., Tyler M., Kristy C., Riley S., Janine H., Mickayla B., Matthew L., Asia G.

Thanks to Mrs. Sabourin and Mrs. Fulton for taking care of the Mandarin certificates for us. And a big thank-you to Mrs. Downs for her prize donations!

Principal's Luncheon

Congratulations goes out to Mackenzie M., Michael C., and Adam P. They will have a Subway lunch with the principal! Keep up the great work!

Appreciation Board

Appreciation goes a long way! We constantly share appreciation statements on the daily announcements, and post them on our appreciation boards as part of our Tribes initiative. Your work is appreciated!!

These names are now posted:

Billy S., & Matthew L., for constantly opening and holding the doors for fellow classmates, teachers and guests!

Austin C., & Rachel W., for following the bike expectations!

Lauren H. our co-op from Eden, she is appreciated by staff and students for her ongoing commitment and dedication.

Stephen G., for his coaching commitment to our Skyhawk volleyball teams!

Intermediate Early Bird Draw

Winner was Aiden M.

Students of the Month

Mrs. Deluca JK/SK	Melissa L., Karter B., Destiny W., Gabrielle O.
Mrs. Trussell	Justina I., Hannah M.
Miss Jager	Haley D., Isabelle N.
Mrs. Breadner	Treanne M., Kellyona K.
Mrs. Mongelluzzo	Philip R., Suzanne P
Ms. Osborne	Shahe M., Kiki K., Niki M
Mrs. Barton	Brendon L. & Emily C.D.
Mr. Diiorio	Rachel C., Zach W
Mr. High	Megan A., Richard G.
Mrs. Janzen	Matthew L., Cyeira C.
Mr. Nicholls	Kiersten C., & Aaron C.

M & M Days

Support our M&M Days. Mark your calendars, profits go to the school.

November 27th

January 22nd

February 26th

March 26th

April 23rd

May 28th

Communication Matters Hearing and Language “Smart Talk” from your DSBN Board Speech-Language Pathologists

Early identification of a hearing impairment is critical to a child's overall language development and speech intelligibility, factors that will play a significant role in the child's ability to socialize, as well as to succeed in school.

An estimated 10-15% of all school-aged children have some type of hearing loss.

While some children are born with a hearing problem, others can develop hearing loss as a result of frequent ear infections, infectious diseases like measles, chicken pox, meningitis, or flu, head injury, and exposure to loud noise or music.

Most children with hearing impairments can develop good oral language skills that are not substantially different than those of their hearing peers if: the hearing loss is diagnosed before the child is 6 months old; intervention begins immediately; the child is appropriately fitted with hearing aids when necessary.

A team approach, involving audiologists, speech-language pathologists, classroom teachers and teachers with special training in the education of children with hearing impairments, throughout a student's school years will assist him/her in meeting success in school.

Many children with acquired hearing loss, including those children who experience fluctuating hearing loss as a result of recurrent ear infections

are not diagnosed properly. Some of these children are assumed to have learning or behaviour problems. When hearing is problematic, children may show any or all of the following:

- failure to pay attention when spoken to;
- give the wrong answers to simple questions;
- frequently ask for repetition of words or sentences;
- talk in an unusually soft or loud voice;
- turn up the television or CD player louder than usual;
- confuse sounds that are alike, and have problems with spelling and phonics;
- function below potential in school;
- be withdrawn and moody;
- have behaviour problems at home and at school.

If you or your child's teacher suspect a child has a hearing problem, first visit your family doctor or pediatrician. Ear infections require immediate treatment. Your doctor may then refer you to an Audiologist who will determine the severity of the hearing loss. Appropriate therapy objectives and teaching methods can then be identified.

Readers' Corner: Tips for parents and students-Find the Right Book

- B Book Length
 - ✓ Is this a good length for me?
 - ✓ Too long? Too short? Just right?
 - ✓ Do I feel like committing to this book?
- O Ordinary Language
 - ✓ Read a page aloud.
 - ✓ Does it sound natural? Does it flow?
 - ✓ Does it make sense?
- O Organization
 - ✓ How is this book structured?
 - ✓ Am I comfortable with the print size/number of words per page?
 - ✓ Does the chapter length suit me?
- K Knowledge Prior to Book
 - ✓ Read the title, view the cover page, read the summary on the back.
- W What do I already know about this topic, author, illustrator?
 - ✓ Manageable Text
 - ✓ Begin reading the book
 - ✓ Are the words too easy? Too hard? Just right?
 - ✓ Do I understand what I read?
- A Appeal of the Genre
 - ✓ What is the genre?
 - ✓ Have I read this genre before?
 - ✓ Do I like or expect to like this genre?
- T Topic Appropriateness
 - ✓ Am I comfortable with the topic of this book?
 - ✓ Do I feel I am ready to read about this topic?
- C Connection
 - ✓ Can I relate to this book?
 - ✓ Does this book remind me of anyone or anything?
- H High Interest
 - ✓ Am I interested in the topic of this book?
 - ✓ Am I interested in this author/illustrator?

Monthly Newsletter Draw

Kindly return this portion of the newsletter by Monday, November 10th.
We appreciate your feedback.

Did you read this newsletter with your child? Yes No

Family Name: _____

Please send us your e-mail address if you would like to receive your copy of the newsletter electronically by e-mail beginning in January 2009. Thank you Mrs. Peacock for looking after this eco initiative.

Email Address: _____