



The Panther Press



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“Achieving Success Together”

General Vanier School

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PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

By now parents will have had the opportunity to speak with their children's teacher(s) to discuss the Nov. 15th Progress Reports. Should your child be in need of some additional time or support, we remind you that our Homework Club runs after-school Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after school. All it takes is a note to have them stay. The next official report you will receive, which will include marks/grades, will be the Term One Report card, which will arrive home on Wed. Feb. 8th 2012. Part of the preparation for that will be a P.A. Day on Fri. Jan 20th.

The Accommodation Review process continued its work this past month. Its next session will be a Public Meeting on Wed. Jan. 11th at 6PM here at Vanier. In the meanwhile several of our classes are already taking advantage of the money prize we won during our Oct. Walk to School event and heading off on some special trips. On that same note, School Council now expects our bingo earnings to be lower than expected, so that will force us to stretch our trip & event dollars even further.

For those of you who ordered either Cookie Dough or Poinsettias, they will arrive on Thurs. Dec. 8th – just in time for baking and gifting. Our annual Toy & Food Charity Drive begins on Dec 2nd and runs to the 14th of the month. As usual we have a number of events planned for the last week before Christmas Break. We will be having our Sing-a-Long at 9AM on Mon., Wed. and Fri. Our Kindies will provide some special entertainment at Wednesday's event and our Celebration Assembly will follow the Friday session. Our Intermediates are hosting special drama & dance presentation on the afternoon of Tuesday, Dec. 20th. There are plenty of things happening again this month. Welcome to December!

Christmas Holidays

The last day of classes before Christmas Break will be Friday December 23rd, so we run pretty much right up to Christmas again this year. That also means we will have a fair bit of time off afterwards as well, as students will not return to school until Monday January 9th, 2012.



Attendance & Punctuality

This is a reminder that **regular class attendance and punctuality is very important to your child's education.** Arriving late to class not only disrupts his/her classmates, but the student arriving late also misses out on important instructions from the teacher and announcements regarding the activities of the day.

Lateness is a habit that should be broken early. We have many children arriving late to class, all at various time intervals, thereby disrupting the class several times with their arrivals. By setting your alarm clock 15 minutes earlier, you will not only help your child start their day off right, but relieve pressure on yourself by having a few extra minutes each morning to prepare for your day as well.

Your co-operation in getting your child to school on time is very much appreciated. Thank you for your assistance.

Let's help every child start their day happy and on time!



Used Clothing Sale at Fort Erie P.S.



On **Friday, Dec. 9th, from 9 am to 5:30pm**, and on **Saturday, Dec. 10th, from 9 to 11 a.m.**, Fort Erie Public School is held a clothing store in their school gymnasium. They only charged symbolic prices for the items (most are only 25 cents), and any profits they made will be used to purchase items for Christmas baskets for some of their neediest families.

Physical Activity

Did you know that Canadian children/youth ages six to 19 spend an average of 8.6 hours per day, or 62 per cent of their waking hours, being sedentary?

Here are some ways to help your children meet the recommended 60 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each day:

- Limit recreational screen time to no more than two hours per day
- Encourage children and youth to play outdoors
- Play outside with your children:
- Go for walks, hikes, build snowmen, go tobogganing
- Introduce your child to skates or skis so they can learn to slide
- Play catching games using a wide range of soft objects



For more information go to: www.activehealthykids.ca or www.participaction.com



Fall Progress Reports & Interviews

Parents should all have had the chance to speak with their child's teacher(s) following the November 15th Progress Report and our Interview Night. If you have not yet had that chance, please call the school at 871-5962 to set up a time. The next report, the Term One report card, will be coming home in early February,

Homework Club

If your child needs some extra help with homework, a project, or needs to use our school library or computers, our Homework Club runs from 3:15 to 4:00 PM each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday in our school library. Ms. Eves will be there to support those needing help. If you'd like your child to stay, just provide us with written permission, through a separate note or a line written into their agenda.



Fort Erie Accommodation Review Process

On **Wednesday November 16th** nearly 50 members of the community were here at Vanier to provide suggestions and ideas to the Accommodation Review Committee around how to deal with the declining number of students in Fort Erie. While most of the speakers had questions, several offered different suggestions and proposals that they felt would be possible solutions. Two weeks later on Wed. Nov. 30th, the A.R.C. reviewed the discussion and suggestions made at the Nov. 16th open meeting, and Board personnel were present to provide answers to any of the questions the committee had. At the end of that Nov. 30th meeting, the A.R.C. agreed to recommend a slightly altered version of the Board's Senior Planning Team suggestion as presented at the Nov. 3rd meeting. That option was to expand Garrison Road School's drawing area to include all students south of the



QEW, and that General Vanier's capacity be increased through some additions to accommodate those students currently attending both Rose Seaton and Fort Erie Elementary – both of which would be scheduled to close by June 2013.

The A.R.C. will formally present the details of this option at the next **Public Meeting**, scheduled for Wednesday January 11th, 2012, starting at 6:00 PM. Members of the community will have an opportunity to provide feedback to the Committee through an open microphone. If you are interested in accessing any of the meeting records and supporting documents shared in the process so far, you can do so through either the DSBN or General Vanier websites via the Accommodation Review Committee link. We hope to see everyone out on January 11th.

Grade Eights & FESS

Mr. Badger was off to FESS in early December for training on the new electronic system our grade eights will use to select their courses for next year in high school. The FESS Guidance Team will be here to speak to the class right after Christmas Break, on Fri. Jan. 13th at 9 AM. From 6:30 to 8:30 on Thursday January 19th of the week following, FESS will be holding Open House for those students and parents who are off to high school next year.



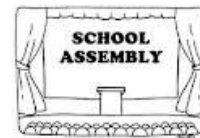
Last Week Christmas Events

In keeping with past traditions, we will be holding a Christmas Sing-a-Long from 9:00 to 9:30 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of the last week of school before Christmas Break [Dec. 19 to 23rd]. Our thanks go out to Mrs. Kucman for providing the piano accompaniment. Parents and younger brothers and sisters, and family are encouraged to drop in and help us out. At the **Wednesday December 21st** session we will also hear a short selection or two from our **Kindergarten class**. On the afternoon of **Tuesday December 20th**, the parents of our **Intermediate students** are invited to attend a special **drama & dance presentation** performance by Mr. Badger's grade 7/8 class.



Celebration Assembly

Our Celebration Assembly for December will be held on Fri. Dec. 23rd at the end of our Sing-a-Long, at about 9:30 AM. Parents, little brothers & sisters and friends are all welcome to attend.



Christmas Gift Shop

Thanks to Mrs. Carol Patten for setting it all up and to Ridgeway Downtown Dollar Store for providing the selection of items for sale. It was a big hit with our students again this year!

Drama Presentations

Our students enjoyed the Big Kid Entertainment presentation of "Rapunzel" on Fri. Nov. 17th, especially the performance of story teller Mr. Haynes and guest student actor, Kayla Brydges. Thanks to support from our Parents Group, we are able to bring great theatre into the school. Our next performance is from Carousel players on **February 23rd, 2012**. Entitled "Here to Hear", it will be presented to our Kindergarten to grade three students.



Fall Fund Raisers

For those who have ordered either **Cookie Dough** or **Poinsettias**, both orders arrived at Vanier on **Thursday December 8th**.



Poinsettia can be picked up in Room 2, while Cookie Dough will be handled in the gym. Remember: the Cookie Dough comes **frozen**, so you will want to be here on Dec. 8th to pick your order up!

Student Council

While we fell short of our \$200 target, Student Council still managed to raise \$120 on their "Lids for Kids" Day on Fri. Nov. 18th. Students were allowed to wear their hat that day for a toonie and the money raised was in support of children in Third World countries and was donated on their behalf to UNICEF. Next Council will be busy collecting non-perishable food items and new toys for their annual Christmas Food and Toy Drive for the local Salvation Army and Fort Erie Kinettes. They have promised a free pizza lunch to the class which brings in the most items. The event began with Pyjama & Slipper Day on Fri. Dec 2nd and runs until Wed. Dec. 14th. All items are due to be picked up the next day, Dec. 15th, so that they can be packaged and delivered in time for Christmas.



Friday School Spirit Days

The next Friday Spirit Day will be "Festive Spirit Day" to be held on Fri. Dec. 16th. Wear something festive to school on this day and numbers will be tallied by Students Council and points awarded to the colour teams.



School Council & Parents Group

Your School Council met again on the evening of November 22nd. The group spent a significant part of their meeting discussing what had happened with the Accommodation Review Committee process to date, especially the recommendations of the Board Senior staff. The balance of the meeting dealt with finances. While the group had set a modest Bingo budget of \$5300, profits from the last few bingos indicated that we were not likely going to earn as much as we had expected for the year. With us only having five bingos per quarter and each one on average only making about \$200 per session,



we were not likely to make our budget of \$5300. Though we can tap into our reserves, the reality is that Council will not have as much income for school trips, presentation and sports equipment as they originally expected. That will mean that parents will be asked to contribute a bit more for some trips and we will have to rely on the Walk to School award money to help pay for some of the things we have already planned. The remaining Bingo dates for this quarter are Saturdays at 1:00 PM on Dec 17th & 31st and Jan. 7th. Our next School Council meeting will be on Tues. Jan. 24th, where fundraising will be one of the topics on the agenda.

Walk to School Award Money

Two of our classes have already planned how they will be using their share of the money awarded to us for our Walk to School day in October. Our grade 7/8 class plans to go curling on Thurs., December 15th and our Kindergarten class has planned a half day trip to activity centre at Cheeky Monkeys in Niagara Falls for Wed. Dec. 14th. While there will be a nominal charge to parents, a good portion of the cost of the trip will be paid for by the award and School Council money.



Knights of Columbus Free Throw

Our students will again have a chance to test their basketball skills at the Knights of Columbus 'Free Throw Competition' on Jan. 19th 2012. Mr. Gunning is in the process of having students sign up for the opportunity to compete for the chance to represent the school in their age group, with the finalists being chosen just after we return from Christmas Break.



Intramural Soccer

Now that the weather has turned colder our indoor soccer league is up and running. Several times per week during a nutrition break, two of our colour teams square off in the gym. While each colour team has students from kindergarten to grade eight on it, each match is organized so that the younger children face off against each other, followed by a shift of older children. Points are awarded for the greatest numbers participating and for winning that day's match. Our thanks go out to Mr. Campbell and Mr. Salmon for organizing and running the league.



Niagara Regional Health Nurse Programs

Our school Health Nurse, Laurie McDowell, will be here to talk to our Primary classes on December 2nd about proper hygiene and hand-washing technique. She returns on December 13th to speak to our grade 2/3 class about drug safety.



Do you need a computer?

RCTech OUTREACH provides low-income individuals and their families with **quality renewed computers at an affordable price** to help meet their educational and career goals.

For only \$60 + HST, recipients will receive a desktop computer complete with

- monitor, keyboard and mouse
- Windows XP Professional
- MS Office 2007 Basic (Word, Excel and Outlook)
- free learning software
- two year 'no hassle' parts and labour depot warranty

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* May not be exactly as shown

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- a resident of Ontario
- a low-income individual or family
- registered in a learning, skill development or academic program

Parents or legal guardians may apply on behalf of a child or youth under the age of 18. We offer one computer, per household, every two years.

For more information contact:

RCT Niagara Centre
Terry Kuck, Program Coordinator
P: 289.480.1100 F: 289.480.1004 E:tkuck@rcto.ca

December Newsletter Draw

My child(ren) _____ brought
home this newsletter and I have read it.

Signature of Parent / Guardian

November Award Winners



Arianna J-E., Andrew P-W. and Mark B.



Noah M. and Megan D.



Kyler J.

Gage B., Graham R. and Danielle N.



Kalden A., Taylor T., Brandyse T. and Kayla B.



December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 November Celebration Assembly – 12:30 pm	3
4	5 Christmas Gift Shop	6 Christmas Gift Shop	7 Christmas Gift Shop	8 Poinsettia pick-up – Rm 2 – 8:30 – 3:30 pm Cookie Dough pick-up - gym – noon to 5:00 pm	9 <u>Used Clothing Sale at Fort Erie P.S.</u> Friday, Dec. 9th, from 9 to 5:30, and Saturday, Dec. 10 th from 9:00 – 11:00 am	10
11	12	13	14 Donations for Toy & Food drive due today JK/SK Cheeky Monkey's trip – 9:00 - noon	15 Kinettes will pick-up toy donations today 7/8 – Curling - PM	16 Festive Spirit Day	17
18	19 Carol Sing – 9:00 am	20 Gr. 7/8 Christmas Performance – 1:45 pm	21 Carol Sing – 9:00 am Kindie Performance following our Carol Sing	22	23 Carol Sing – 9:00 am December Celebration Assembly – 9:30 am	24
25	26 Christmas Holidays	27 Christmas Holidays	28 Christmas Holidays	29 Christmas Holidays	30 Christmas Holidays	31