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# Lion's Den

*Lion pride*

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 4



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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

DEC 7- 8 BOOK  
FAIR

DEC 14-FOOD  
DRIVE ENDS

DEC 16- MOVIE  
NIGHT

DEC 21- STAMFORD  
BAND

DEC 22- HOLIDAY  
OPEN HOUSE

DEC 23-LAST DAY  
OF CLASS

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Mr. S Webb, Principal

## Season's Greetings Heximer!



Christmas is one of the most important times of the year. For many of us it is a time to reflect on whatever their faith means to them and for others it is simply a good opportunity to relax with friends and family.

One of the great strengths of our school is the way that we have welcomed people from many different cultures, while still maintaining our best traditions.

For everyone though, it is a time to reflect on the past, and to look to the future with confidence. A time of celebration and of compassion too. Many of us will be thinking of close friends and

family whom we may have lost during the year.

Christmas is also a time for communities to come together, to give and to share and to be at peace, a time to build the kind of respect for each other, that helps us to be stronger. Our hope for 2012 is that the goodwill and respect that we all enjoy at Christmas will last all year round.



## HEXIMER STANDS UP TO BULLYING!

In our on-going efforts to educate our students about bullying, its effects and strategies to deal with it, the staff and students of Heximer are taking a stand against bullying. As a registered member of Stand Up, staff and students will begin in January, to wear their pink Stand Up shirts on Fridays to signify our stance against bullying.

### Why Pink?

The color of the STAND UP pledge shirts, is based on a campaign started by Travis Price and David Shepherd, two senior students

who took a stand against a grade 9 student being bullied for wearing a pink shirt. This act of leadership provides a great example for those who are "on the fence" about displaying their own personal stance against bullying.

Together, we can make a difference!



# Communication Matters: Word Meaning

## Parent Council

### Develop Word Meanings to Improve Your Child’s Comprehension Skills

Understanding word meanings is essential for comprehending and understanding what you are reading. However, vocabulary is a weak area for many students. Given a list of words to learn, many students will complete the task but may not actually learn what the words really mean in order to develop their spoken language and vocabulary knowledge. Developing vocabulary as part of knowledge structure requires more energy and focus than simply memorizing words.

Develop vocabulary by going beyond the ‘label’ and the ‘spelling’.

- Teach word synonyms (words that mean the same thing e.g. night, evening, dusk), antonyms or opposites (night and day), and multiple meaning words (e.g. block; a lego block, a city block, a building block). Also teach categories, classifications and associations between words (e.g. a shoe and sock go together - are associated; and belong in the clothing category as ‘things you wear’).
- Illustrate new words. Show pictures or video clips that demonstrate the meaning of a word. Help

### PARENT PRINTS



#### Wrapping Holiday Gifts? Go GREEN.

A simple bow might be enough to dress up a gift for holiday gift giving without wasting all that extra gift wrapping paper.

Whenever you receive a gift, save wrapping paper, packaging and bows to use for your own gift-wrapping in the future.

Reuse newspaper and paper bags for wrapping or packaging materials.

And save boxes. Fancy boxes can be used for more presents and plain boxes can be reused for storing small items in the home or office.

Get creative. Reuse ribbons, rubber bands, strings, children's drawings, fabric bags, baskets and other fun materials to deliver your gifts so they look decorative yet avoid waste. When you wrap your gifts in containers that can be reused, like plastic pails or tote bags, your wrapping becomes an additional present.

Read more: [How to Use Green Gift Wrap Ideas for Holiday Gift Giving | eHow.com](http://www.eHow.com)

## Project Share Food Drive

Heximer Avenue School’s food drive kicks off Friday, December 2nd and runs until Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Donations of non-perishable food items and Canadian Tire money will be accepted in the containers outside the school office. One dollar (\$1.00) of

Canadian Tire money will be equivalent to 1 pound of food and will be added to our final weight. Prizes will be given for the 3 schools with the highest pound per student ratio. First prize is a free school dance/activity. Second and third prizes are a school

pizza party. So come on everyone! Show what amazing things our Lion’s Quest community can do and “ROAR” in those donations!



# Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club is offered to all students free of charge. This service is provided by the generous support from Niagara Nutrition Partners, private donations and organizations that kindly donate product and funds. Breakfast is served from 8:20 a.m. - 8:40 a.m..

Many thanks to Rosehill Auction in Fort Erie for their donations to our breakfast club program and to all of the volunteers who donate their time. You make a difference!

Please consider making a donation to our Breakfast Club by dropping off a breakfast item (cereal, juice boxes, etc. ). Your support is appreciated.



## Communication Matters:

your child draw and label something illustrating the meaning of the word. "Flashcards" can be made more meaningful with pictures, as well.

- Play "vocabulary charades." Have your child draw a word from a hat and act it out.

- Play "find the word used in the real world". Help your child identify when he hears or sees a new vocabulary word being used in the real world - beyond the learning activities designed for school.

Check out the following web site for more ideas

and fun ways to develop word meanings:

[www.enchantedlearning.com](http://www.enchantedlearning.com)

## Holiday Open House

On Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> Heximer will be hosting its first annual Holiday Open House from 1:30 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. Students and their parents will have the opportunity travel in their colour house teams to a variety of fun holiday activities and crafts to help celebrate the Holiday spirit. We hope you can make it!





**ACHIEVING  
SUCCESS  
TOGETHER**

**The District School Board of Niagara and Heximer School, are committed to student success by working together to inspire and empower all learners to reach their full potential.**

**We value Relationships, Respect and Responsibility.**

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***Lion Pride***



## Book Nook: Oral Language Development—How You Can Help

Literacy development requires a partnership between home, school and community. Since oral language is the foundation of all literacy, it is essential that children have ample opportunities at school, in the community, and at home to **speak and listen**. Experience with listening, speaking and singing teaches children the sounds and structures of language. These experiences, in turn, make it easier to learn to read and write. What are some ways families can build an appreciation for language?

Families could:

- talk about the day's events, a TV show/video you have watched together, or about posters/ signs you see while traveling;
- look at magazine pictures/ads together. Choose a picture and model how to describe the image in complete sentences. Ask children to describe another picture in complete sentences;
- pose sentences beginning with 'If' and have children respond (e.g. If I could travel anywhere in the world, I...);
- ask clarifying ("Tell me more about the video game you played.") and open-ended ("What was your favorite part of the movie?") questions;
- build vocabulary by taking walks in different places and identifying new or interesting sights, sounds and smells;
- play card and board games which provide opportunities for conversations about the games;
- encourage paraphrasing to build listening skills (e.g. explain the rules for the game and have the child repeat the rules; explain steps in a recipe and have children rephrase what has been said);
- make read-alouds interactive (i.e. talk about predictions, alternative endings, favourite parts);
- go to <http://storylineonline.net> and listen to a famous actor read a picture book aloud, then discuss what you like/don't like about the book;
- retell familiar stories while purposefully omitting certain items and have children correct the retell;
- sing songs and recite nursery rhymes or poetry;
- wait patiently – without interrupting – while children find the words they want to use.

Families can and do strengthen the literacy skills of their children. When schools and families work together to promote literacy development, we can undoubtedly **achieve success together!**

