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# Lion's Den

*Lion pride*

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3



NOVEMBER, 2008

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- NOV. 5-  
PICTURE  
RE-TAKES
- NOV. 7- PD  
DAY—NO  
SCHOOL
- NOV. 11-  
REMEMBRA-  
NCE  
DAY
- NOV. 12-  
LITERACY  
NIGHT

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District School Board of Niagara  
*Achieving Success Together*

Mr. S Webb, Principal

## No Surprise - When we Share!



On December 3rd, a very important event will occur - report cards will go home! While this can be a time of great joy and accomplishment, it can as well be one of apprehension and disappointment. It should not, however, be a time of surprise. Communication and the relationship between parents and teachers is critical to the success of the children. Both teachers and parents share this common interest. On-going, open communication is a necessary step in working towards our common goal. Teachers have in-depth knowledge about teaching and learning. Parents, on

the other hand, know their children best. Unless efforts are made to bring them together, sharing of critical information is lost.

Interview time is one of the many opportunities to share valuable information. Please take the time to talk to your child about their report card and take advantage of the opportunity to discuss their results with the teacher during an interview.

More detailed information regarding parent-teacher interviews will be sent home later in the month.

The best schools are places where everyone learns and everyone cares.

## Severe Food Allergy

We have a student in our school who suffers from a severe food allergy to peanuts. **This allergy can be a life-threatening allergy**, therefore, we are asking for your cooperation in helping to eliminate any foods with peanuts or peanut products in your child's lunch. A list of suggested

“peanut free” products has been sent home with each student to assist you with planning. Thank you for your cooperation with this serious matter.

**Please do not send Halloween goodies to school to help us prevent a possible danger.**

Thank you



**Communication Matters - Hearing and Language**

*“Smart Talk” from your 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:

- fail to pay attention when spoken to;

**Parent Council**

Thank you to all of the parents who turned out for our first meeting of the year. It was our best turn out in three years! A number of elected positions were filled as well as some new voices to help make Heximer an even better place.

My sincere thanks to Tanya Bunting, Erika Kutis and Sandie Gaylor for their support as Chair, Secretary and Walk-a-thon coordinator over the past two years.

For detailed minutes of the meeting, please come to our next meeting on Monday, Nov. 3 at 6:00 p.m. or come to the office.



**Marathon**

**Way to Go Heximer!**

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in this past weekends Niagara Falls International Marathon Challenge. A number of runners from our school ran the last 2.1 km's to complete

their goal of 42.2 km's since the start of school. What an incredible accomplishment!

Another large group of staff and students participated in the Marathon as well. Heximer was responsible for the water station at the 18 mile

mark, handing out water and Gatorade to all of the participants in the run. Our own Mr. Roach was a first time half marathon runner!

Thank you so much to all of the students and parents for coming out and representing our school. A very special thank you to Ms. Watson and Ms. Wilson for your organization of the event. Heximer is a great place to be!

# 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 8:10 a.m. - 8:40 a.m..

Many thanks to Rosehill Auction in Fort Erie and Latcham Marine 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: Hearing and Language cont'd

- 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 that your 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.



## Flu Shots



The flu season is just around the corner and it is time to get your free flu shot. Influenza (the flu) is a serious disease caused by a virus that affects the lungs. Approximately 1,500 people in Canada die each year from flu or its complications. The signs and symptoms of the flu are a

sudden high fever, headache, loss of appetite, severe muscle aches and pain, extreme fatigue, weakness, chills, dry cough, sore throat, runny nose, nasal congestion, sneezing and sweating. The flu virus is highly contagious and spreads easily from person to person.

to person. The flu shot is highly recommended for all people over 6 months of age, and especially those at high risk of complications related to contracting the flu. This includes children between 6 and 23 months of age, and those who have chronic medical conditions, such as emphysema, heart disease, cancer and diabetes. Getting a flu shot lowers your risk of getting sick from the flu and helps prevent the spread of the virus to others (especially the elderly and young children).

The Public Health Department offers free flu clinics during the month of November. No appointments are needed call the "Hotline" at 905-688-8248, ext. 7443/1-888-505-6074, ext. 7443, or visit [www.regional.niagara.on.ca](http://www.regional.niagara.on.ca)



**ACHIEVING  
SUCCESS  
TOGETHER**

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***Lion Pride***

**The District School Board of Ni-  
agara 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.**



## The Reading Nook— A Reading Magic Moment

Each day our students engage in a learning activity devoted to Working With Words. The purpose of this instructional block is to ensure that children read, spell, and use high-frequency words correctly, and that they learn the patterns necessary for decoding and spelling [DSBN]. Being able to read a large number of the high-frequency words allows for less decoding, more fluent reading, and increased comprehension. Your child is assigned a few of these high-frequency words to practice at home each week. There are a variety of ways to help your child learn to read and write the high-frequency words. On Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 you will have the opportunity to attend a

**Working With Words Workshop** at Heximer. This workshop is specifically designed for the parents/guardians of kindergarten through grade 5 students. Please bring your school age child with you. You will be sent home with a 'goodie bag' of Working With Words tools! Please register by returning the attached form. We hope to see you here!

**A Reading Magic Moment**  
To encourage the love of reading, children need to have access to fantastic reading material. Stephanie Harvey and Anne Goudvis [2007] explain that "**We need to fill our rooms**

**[homes] with terrific books at every level, on every conceivable topic, to ensure that kids get their hands on books that they want to read."** The library has a fantastic amount of new and interesting resources that you can borrow for use at home. The McBain Centre Library has an amazing assortment of leveled books for early readers. Take advantage of our Take Home Reading Program. Borrow books and magazines from your friends and neighbors. Encourage family members to give your children books as gifts. Purchase the \$1.99 Scholastic book specials. Don't overlook your shopping lists, store advertisements and cereal boxes. If you have literature at home your children will