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Principal's Message...

- * Throughout the winter we will continue to focus on supporting all learners to reach their potential. As a follow up from our student/parent/teacher conferences we will be sharing a formal Term 1 report card on Feb 9th. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about their progress.
- * Now is a perfect time to continue the great work you do at home to encourage student success at school.
- * I would like to thank our Student Council for all of the work they are doing on behalf of our students. They are sponsoring "Jersey Day" on February 24th and have plans in place for a Fun Snow Play Day - all we are waiting on is the snow!

Important Dates:

February 2nd - JK Open House
February 3rd - Sub Day
February 8,9,10 - Ottawa Trip gr. 7&8's
February 10th - Gr. 4 & 5's Skating
February 15th - Public Speaking
February 16th - SK Grad Photos
February 17th - Early Release
February 20th - Family Day/No School
February 21st - Pancake Day
February 24th - Jersey Day
February 24th - Gr. 6-8 Skating



Counting Down to Kindergarten!

Children who will be four years of age or older by December 31, 2012 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten starting September 2012.

Going to school for the first time is a big step for children and their parents. At the DSBN, families start that journey together at the Kindergarten Countdown open houses. Families can visit our school, meet the kindergarten teacher, and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. for our Kindergarten Countdown open house. Visit www.dsbn.org and click on %kindergarten+ for all the details!

Can't make the open house? No problem! Call the school at 905-382-3122 and we would be happy to set up an appointment to register your child.



Early Release...

Friday, February 17th is an Early Release Day for DSBN schools. Students will be dismissed at 12:10 pm if they walk or are picked up. If they take a bus it will leave Stevensville approximately three hours earlier than normal.

Staff will spend the afternoon working on strategies related to math instruction across all grades

Parent Council...

Parent Council will meet in the Library. Please join us on Wednesday, February 15th at 3:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

Ottawa Trip

The intermediate classes (Grades 7 and 8) will be visiting our national capital from February 8 through February 10. Some of the sights they will be visiting are: the Museum of Civilization, the War Museum, Parliament, and the Supreme Court. They will be visiting Ottawa during Winterlude so the students will certainly experience some great (and cold) Canadian culture.

Public Speaking

The Stevensville School public speaking competition will take place on Wednesday, February 15. The Junior competition will begin at 9:15 and the Intermediate competition will be at 11:30. The Legion public speaking competition in Ridgeway will be on Saturday, February 18.

Coming Soon...

Documentary Nights!

A small group of social justice minded students and teachers will be organizing a series of documentary evenings that will include a movie, refreshments, and discussion. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 (and their families) should stay tuned for more information!

Intermediate Girls Basketball Team

Briagh B.
Dharma B.
Avery D.
Elysse F.
Erin M.
Amy O.
Demi Q.
Abbey S.
Hollie W.



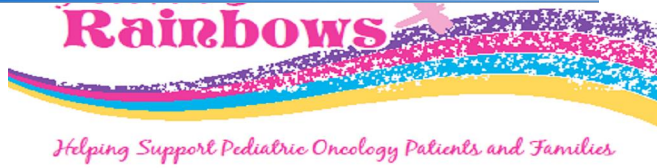
Intermediate basketball season is underway and our Stevensville boys team is currently undefeated! We began our practises and tryouts before the December break and have steadily improved leading up to the season. Our team members include: Joey A., Drake Q., Levi F., Austin W., Hunter M., Trevor C., Owen S., Alex J., Brenden G., Ethan A., and Nick B.. We have two regular season games remaining prior to the playoffs. Come out and cheer on both boys and girls teams. Playoffs start on the week of February 13th. Good luck to all of our sports teams!

Chess Club News



Once again Stevensville Public School has started our Chess Club. New students are invited to join both our Chess Club and our Beginners Chess Club. If students already know how to play then the Chess Club is a great place for them to practice and hopefully they will make the Chess Team that will represent our school in the Annual Fort Erie Tournament. If students want to learn how to play then the Beginners Club is perfect for them so that eventually they can join the Chess Club.

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Alivia's Rainbows is hosting their second annual toonie raffle/silent auction on Saturday, February 25th, 2012 at the Leisureplex in Fort Erie. Doors will open at 6pm and the raffle will start at 7. Reserved seating is available for tables of 10. So come out with a group of friends for a fun time. For more info, please contact Mrs. Vanderklei or Mrs. Lee. We appreciate all the prizes and donations that have already been made. Again, we thank you so much for your continued support and look forward to another great and successful night. Hope to see you there!

~Helping support Pediatric Oncology Patients and their families~

Free Throw Competition

Each year the Knights of Columbus hold a Free Throw Competition at the Fort Erie YMCA for youth in the town. Our school participates by conducting a school competition and then by sending our school representative to compete at the Fort Erie Competition against students from other schools. This year the following students were our School champs.

9 Year Olds Jessie K. and Madison M.

10 Year Olds Matt F. and Madison F.

11 Year Olds Andrew H. and Charity N.

12 Year Olds Drake Q.

13 Year Olds Levi F. and Avery D.

At the Fort Erie Competition those that competed did their very best and represented Stevensville School proudly. This year, **Jessie K.** tied for his age group and in a shoot-off ended up second for the 9 Year Old boys. **Matt F.** won his age group and will move on to represent Fort Erie for the 10 Year Old boys. Good Luck Matt at the next competition.



Cooking lesson for Grade 1 and 1/2 classes...

The grade 1 and 1/2 classes enjoyed their trip to the Real Canadian Superstore in St. Catharines last month. Students were given a tour of the store and a cooking lesson where they cut up toppings and made their own pizza lunch.



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Optimism

What OPTIMISM means at Stevensville:

- Being positive
- Putting forth effort even when things are tough
- Pushing yourself out of your comfort zone to accomplish difficult challenges
- Being positive and willing to try something hard
- Believing in yourself
- Not letting people tell you, you can't do something
- Being sure you can do something /telling yourself you can do it

What OPTIMISM looks like/sounds like:

- Trying your personal best
- Using positive and encouraging words
- Avoiding excuses
- The little engine that could... "I think I can, I think I can..."
- "Keep at it, don't give up"
- Seeing people asking for help and never stopping until their task is done



Congratulations to the following students for showing the character trait of Optimism this month!

Kindergarten: Chad P, Saffi C, Bo T, Emma S, Mackenzie C

Primary: Caleb S, Riley S, Caleb L, Mathew S, Claudia O, Kendall S, Maya B, Michael H, Taylor K, Alanah L

Junior: Avery S.P, Nathaniel W, Cerenna R, Danielle V, Kyle B, Emily B, Andrew V, Liam A, Gary K, Andrew M

Intermediate: Teigan L, Brenden G, Seria O, Nick B, Erin M, Elijah P

An awesome job of displaying effort- congrats to:

Kindergarten: Wyatt G

Primary: Isaac P, Mateya S, James H, Jason M, Mason S

Junior: Liam P, Luke F, April Jane W, Jonah D, Leah C, Rachael C, Abigail S, Madelyn B, Matthew C, Adam L, Andrew P

Intermediate: Aidan D, Adin F, Zachary B, Trevor C, Alex W, Amy O

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On those cold days when you're stuck in the house, take the time to play games with your child. Play board games, dice games, card games, dominoes, chess and backgammon. Solve puzzles together.

While playing ask questions:

- Who is winning? By how much?
- What number do you want to roll? Not want to roll?
- How many cards do you have left?
- Which card would be the most helpful? Least helpful?
- How many dots are there on this domino?
- Where could you move that piece?
- Which piece do you want to move next time?
- How did you know that puzzle piece went there?
- How did you add up those two dice? Cards?

Ask questions about their thinking

- Why did you move this piece instead of that piece?
- What did you do to try to win the game or solve the puzzle?
- Would you do the same thing next time? Why or why not?
- What could you do to make it easier to win this game?

Remember to keep it FUN!

Literacy- Reading with Tweens

You know that reading is important and you want to make sure that your tween grows into adulthood with all the skills he or she needs to succeed. The following list offers suggestions for encouraging your tweens to read.

1. **Set an example.** Let your kids see you reading for pleasure.
2. **Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials.** Leave books, magazines, and newspapers around. Check to see what disappears for a clue to what interests your tween.
3. **Give tweens an opportunity to choose their own books.** When you and your tween are out together, browse in a bookstore or library. Go your separate ways and make your own selections. A bookstore gift certificate is a nice way of saying, "You choose".
4. **Build on your teen's interests.** Look for books and articles that feature their favorite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies, or TV shows. Give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine.
5. **View pleasure reading as a value in itself.** Almost anything your youngsters read – including the Sunday comics – helps build reading skills.
6. **Read some books written for tweens.** Young adult novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by tweens. You may find that these books provide a neutral ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.
7. **Make reading aloud a natural part of family life.** Share an article you clipped from the paper, a poem, a letter, or a random page from an encyclopedia – without turning it into a lesson.
8. **Acknowledge your tween's mature interests.** Look for ways to acknowledge the emerging adult in your tweens by suggesting some adult reading you think they can handle.
9. **Keep the big picture in mind.** For all sorts of reasons, some tweens go through periods without showing much interest in reading. Don't panic! Time, and these tips may help rekindle their interest.

Reading is Fundamental. [All About Adolescent Literacy](#). 8 12 2011

<http://www.adlit.org/article/23399/>.