

FEBRUARY
2019

Harriet Tubman North Star Newsletter

From the Principal's desk. . .

On February 27, we will recognize **Pink Shirt Day** in support of anti-bullying. Leading up to the day staff we will reinforce with our staff and students what bullying IS and what it IS NOT. At **Harriet Tubman** we focus on prevention and the part that each and every one of us plays in making our school as safe and secure as it can be for all who come to learn every day.

One thing that is very important when trying to prevent bullying is that we have a common definition to work with. The following definition is what we have taught our students. This is what we will continue to refer to at school when discussing bullying.

"Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself."

"repeatedly" - Repeated behaviour is more than once or twice. It is behaviour that is repeated over time.

"mean or hurtful things" - This includes physical, emotional, social and cyber occurrences.

"hard time defending" - This means that there is a power or strength (physical, social or by knowing another's vulnerability) imbalance between the bully and the victim.

It is important that we refer to this common understanding of bullying when talking to our children. If you are concerned that your child is being bullied at school and you have concerns, please speak to your child's teacher, or principal.

Our children do an exceptional job at school looking out for one another. I am an extremely proud principal. Thank you for your support as parents.

On February 8th all students from JK-Grade 8 will be receiving their term one report card. The report card is different from the progress report that they received in November as it contains letter or percentage marks for each subject area. Please review the report card with your child. Communication between teachers and parents is an important support for student success. Discuss with them their strengths as well as any next steps their teachers have noted within the comments sections. Then, set some goals with your child based on the next steps. All parents are invited to contact the school if you would like to schedule an opportunity (conference) to discuss your child's achievement and next steps for learning with his/her teacher. Parents have a very important role to play in supporting your child's learning. Studies show clearly that student performance improves when parents are involved in their child's education. We, as a school, will continue to provide ongoing communication with you. You are also encouraged to communicate regularly with your child's teacher(s) and to contact the school at any time should questions or concerns arise.



Yaseen M. and Catena B. promoting
Kindergarten registration



KINDERGARTEN COMMUNICATION OF LEARNING



On February 8th, the Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document developed by the Ministry of Education will be sent home for our Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten students.

The Kindergarten Communication of Learning reporting document will provide parents/guardians with comments about their child's strengths and growth in relation to the overall expectations of The Kindergarten Program (2016). The overall expectations are connected with the following four frames: Belonging and Contributing; Self-Regulation and Well-Being; Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours; and Problem Solving and Innovating.

Since September, our Kindergarten educator teams have been observing and documenting a wide range of evidence of each child's thinking and learning within a play environment. The documentation gathered will reflect your child's key learnings, recognize growth and possible next steps for learning. The next steps will provide parents/guardians with information about how we will support your child's new learning at school as it relates to the Kindergarten Program's expectations.

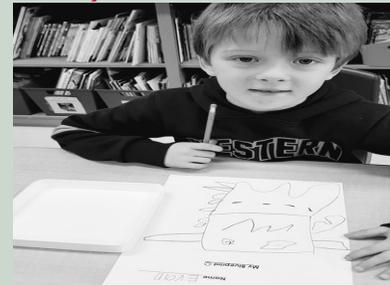
We recognize and appreciate your continued support throughout the year.



Jeanne Sauve Grade 1 French Immersion

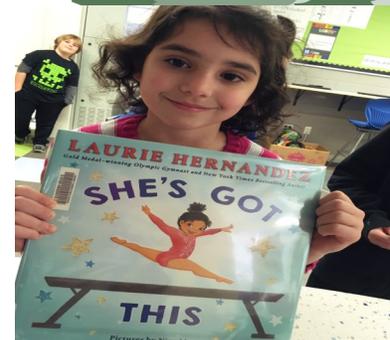
Online applications began January 9th and closes on February 19th through the DSNB website. www.dsbno.org. Programs begin in September, 2019 at Jeanne Sauve for students going into grade 1. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the principal of Jeanne Sauve at robyn.scheubel@dsbn.org or call 905-684-9461

Good engineers plan before they build....Evan F.



KEEPING CONNECTED

Do you want to keep up with the many great activities that are happening at Harriet Tubman? Simply look us up on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or sign up for the Remind app.



Ms. Bonisteel wanted every student to see themselves in the faces on the covers of library books. Her heart melted when Layan S. came to the circulation desk excited to tell her "She looks like me AND she's a REAL person too!"

DO YOUR BEST!

This month was the kick-off of our "Do Your Best" luncheons. One student from each class, grades 1-8, who are chosen by their teachers, will attend Taste Restaurant at Collegiate Highschool. Mr. Cottingham and the Culinary Arts students prepare and serve a delicious meal with a tasty treat for dessert. It is a perfect opportunity to be rewarded for great achievements. "Do Your Best, Do What's Right and Good Things Will Happen!!"

Congrats to our January winners....

Isable F., Keaton R., Marlee N., Michelle S., Samik M., Reese P., Kaydence L., Ariana M., Charlotte T., Bridgit T., Cian S., Max S.-V., Haider A., Olive G., Jack M., Griffin V., Owen C., Jack P., Conor S., Braydon W. and Julian C.



Hot Lunches



Pita Day February 1



Pizza Day February 8



Pasta Day February 22



Twinsies for the day!

Ms. Mrozek and Sofia C.

Ms. Hauser and Kayleigh D.

Promoting Good Attendance ~ All Winter Long

Every winter, bad weather ~ snow, slush, freezing temperatures or even heavy rains in warmer climates ~ can present challenges to getting children to school. So do the colds, fevers and earaches that often come with the winter months.

1. Develop back up plans for getting your children to school in bad weather.
 - a. Check to see if your child can get a ride with other families who have a reliable car that can manage the snow.
 - b. Form a "walking school bus" with other families to get students to school safely.
 - c. Join other families in a snow shovel brigade to clear the sidewalks closest to the school.
 - d. Ask if school administrators have developed plans for transporting students.
2. Keep your children healthy.
 - a. Dress them warmly for the cold weather.
 - b. Stress the importance of eating a good breakfast every morning.
 - c. Stress hand washing, particularly in the winter months. Send your child to school with a small bottle of hand sanitizer. Research shows that something as simple as hand washing can improve attendance.
 - d. Talk to your doctor or school nurse about when a sick child should come to school. Most health providers allow a child to attend with a cold, but not with a fever.

Source: www.attendanceworks.org



FRONT DOOR USE IN THE MORNING

Our front doors are to be used by our guests and parents throughout the day. Students arriving prior to the morning bell are expected to enter through their divisional doors unless they are accompanied by a parent. Parents are reminded to please sign in at the office and wear a visitors badge while you are in the school. The badge lets our students know that you are a "safe" visitor at Harriet Tubman. Let's work together to keep our students feeling safe!

Mrs. Nikkel's Kindergartens matching mold to animal footprints



Student Illness/Absence

SafeArrival is our absence management system. **SafeArrival** makes it easy for parents/guardians to make the school aware of absences and improves the safety of your children. There are 3 ways you can report your child's absence.

1. SchoolMessenger App
2. Web/Mobile Web (<http://go.schoolmessenger.ca>)
3. An Interactive toll-free phone # 1-866-606-5567



A little glimpse into our outdoor classroom at DSBN's Adventure Campus. Ms. Pypier's class had a fantastic day learning, exploring and collaborating with friends! Nature helps us to use our imagination! .

Mad Science

Mad Science, the world's leading provider of educational and entertaining science programs for children is coming to Harriet Tubman Public School! They will be getting kids excited about science with fun, entertaining and exciting activities and demonstrations.

Students and teachers will be thrilled on **March 01/19** when **Mad Science** comes to the school to do a Spectacular Science show. The assembly will be educational, entertaining and also the kick off to the **Mad Science Club**. The **Club** is a 6 week science enrichment program offered to the students. Students who join the **Science Club** will go on a voyage of discovery designed to support the Ontario Science and Technology curriculum. The topics will be different this year then when **Mad Science** was last at the school. The **Club** will take place on Wednesday, Mar. 20, 27, Apr. 3, 10, 17 and 24th from 3:05-4:05pm. **Mad Science** also performs Birthday parties, Camps and Special Events. Give them a call at 905-937-1878 and watch out for them in Malls, at Fairs, Festivals and Scouts and Guides.

TRY AT HOME ACTIVITY -ZOOM BALL

Materials: Two 1 litre plastic pop bottles, scissors, coloured construction paper, masking tape, ribbons, two plastic ring six-pack holders, two 2.4 metre stings and AN ADULT HELPER!

1. Ask your adult helper to cut the bottoms off of the two plastic pop bottles.
2. Fit the bottles together so there is neck on either end. Tape the bottles together to form a football shape.
3. Cover the bottles with construction paper and ribbon if you wish to decorate your zoom ball.
4. Take the six-pack holders and cut the rings to make four two-loop handles.
5. Thread the two strings through the bottles.
6. Tie a set of handles to the ends of each string.
7. Get a friend and now you are ready to play. Each player holds onto two handles and pulls on the strings until they are tight. Slide the zoom ball to one end. When it is at your end snap your hands apart to send the zoom ball back to your friend. To catch the zoom ball, keep your hands together.

EXPLANATION: The pushing action of the string sets the zoom ball in motion. When the zoom ball reaches the other end of the strings, an opposite pushing action, your friend snapping the strings, stops the ball for a moment and then sends it in the reverse direction.

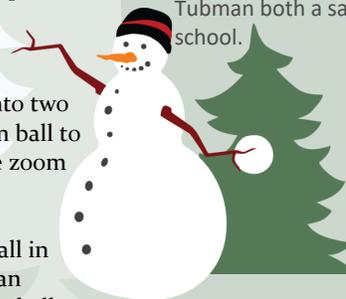
Professional Activity Day/ Family Day

Friday, February 15th is a Professional Development Day. Also, Monday, February 18th is Family Day. There will be no school for students these days.



Playground Supervision

It has come to our attention that we occasionally have children who arrive at school prior to the 8:40am bell. Teacher supervision begins at 8:20am and as such parents must understand that students who arrive prior to 8:20am are expected to remain outside. The exception to this would be if a student arrives for prearranged teacher support, a sports practice or accessing the Breakfast Club (a program that is open to all students). Should there be inclement weather (i.e. rain or extremely cold temperatures) then students will be directed to enter the school, but not prior to 8:20am. We appreciate your understanding in this matter as we continue to strive to make Harriet Tubman both a safe and welcoming school.



Congratulations to Arthur A. Harriet Tubman's semi-finalist of Mr. H's Artisan Card Contest

Ronald McDonalds' Houses

Many thanks to everyone who helped us raise money for Ronald McDonalds' Houses. **We raised \$450!** Several of our students and staff's families have stayed at a Ronald McDonald house while a member of their family was recovering from serious illnesses and/or surgeries.



We would also like to thank the Dairy Farmers of Ontario for their donations of bracelets for Harriet Tubman's Milk and Cookie Day.

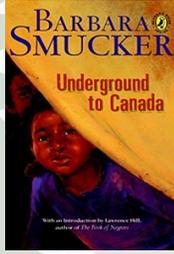
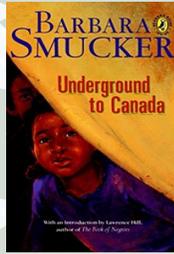
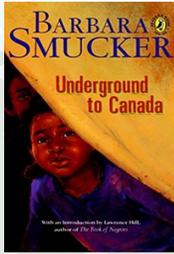
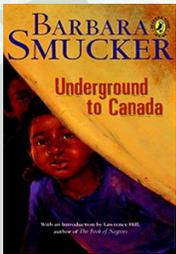


Upcoming Events in our Library

Underground to Canada Family Reading Challenge Runs January 28th through to March 20th

February is Black History Month and as part of Harriet Tubman's celebrations, we are challenging families to read Underground to Canada together. This book follows the journey of a young slave girl named Julilly as she looks to the North Star for guidance on her way to freedom in Canada. This is a great selection for students between Grades 3-6 and we really hope you will carve out time to read TOGETHER as a family. We will celebrate our reading accomplishments during Family Literacy Hour

Wednesday March 20th with food, activities and Guest Musician in the Learning Commons from 3-5pm. Are you ready to TAKE THE CHALLENGE? Email Ms. Bonisteel to register, checkout a copy of the book for your family and take home a special Reading Challenge Booklet. elizabeth.bonisteel@dsbn.org



March Break at the St. Catharines Public Library

Have you been thinking about things to do during our upcoming March Break? Did you know that the St. Catharines Public Library has tons of free or reasonably priced (\$5.00 or less) programming geared towards children, tweens and teens? There's a Geronimo Stilton Escape Room, Theatrical Presentation of the Snow Queen, Slime Science, Fortnite Battle Royale Gaming and so many other fun activities for children of all ages to attend. Activities fill up quickly SO make sure to take a look at the St. Catharines Public Library Website or follow the link below for more details. <http://www.stcatharines.library.on.ca/index.php/teens/march-break>



Valentine's Day Family Activity

Children and their Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend our Family Literacy Hour on Wednesday February 13th from 3-4pm where we will be decorating cookies, working on special Heart Suncatchers and enjoying a Valentine's Read Aloud, read by a Special Guest from the community. In lieu of paying for this event, we ask you to share the LOVE by donating a pair of new, winter socks to Southridge Shelter for their clients who experience homelessness. When you are outdoors consistently in the winter months, warm socks make a huge difference so we appreciate your generosity. E-mail Ms. Bonisteel to register your family!



DON'T FORGET: Family After School Hours

Throughout the year, the Library Learning Commons will be open every **Monday and Wednesday from 3-4pm** for parents to come in and sign-out/return books with their child, read together as a family or use the internet. You and your family are welcome to come!

Parent Drop-In

After a successful Baby and Toddler group this past Fall, starting **Tuesday January 29th** we will have a Parent Drop-In every Tuesday morning until March Break. Come sit with other parents, share a tea, chat and just decompress. If you have children, bring them along and Ms. Bonisteel will read a book and have song/activity time with your child while you socialize. No sign-up required, just know every Tuesday from 8:40-9:30 you are welcome in our Library Learning Commons. Remember to keep up with everything happening in the LLC by following Ms. Bonisteel on Twitter: @lizbonn



Celebrating Our Differences Day

Grades 3-7 students at Harriet Tubman had a wonderful learning opportunity to experience what visual impairment may be like. A fun time had by both instructors and students.



Kids, Cops and Computers

Harriet Tubman was so excited to host the Kids, Cops and Computers launch on January 23. Thanks to Connaught for being in attendance also. Our partnership with Niagara Regional Police and Merry Go Round will benefit our students and support them in becoming better equipped as 21st century learners.

