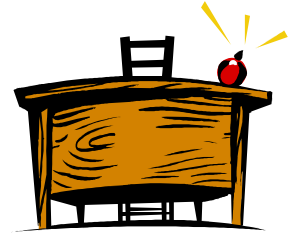


**October 2009**

*From the Principal's Desk ...*

As we begin our second month of the school year, Ferndale is bustling with activity, from sports to leadership opportunities. It was great to see so many families during the *Meet the Teacher Night* in September. If you were unable to attend and would like to speak with your child's teacher, please call the school and make an appointment.



***Big Changes for Some Students:***

A new school year brings many changes to many students. Many of our primary students are adjusting to new school routines, whether it be a Junior Kindergarten student at school for the first time or a Grade 1 student now joining us for a full-day. By now, your child should be settled into their school routines.

Our Junior students are also adjusting to changes as they begin to experience more rotary subjects and a variety of teachers. Ensuring regular communication between the school and home can be helpful in keeping students on track and maintaining a comfortable and productive atmosphere in class. The proper use of the student agenda for staying organized is also an important skill to develop in the junior grades. Take the time to read through the agenda with your child and look for areas of *organizational* improvement. Students will need direction on the type of data and the amount of detail to record in their agendas.

Intermediate students are becoming the leaders in the school. In the newsletter, there is a summary of some of the leadership opportunities that our intermediate students have embraced. As with our junior students, it is important to use the school agenda to plan for homework, assignments, and extra-curricular activities both at and beyond school. Being organized is a habit that will help them be successful students and will be of value in all aspects of their lives.

Please feel free to contact the teachers or myself if you have any questions about routines, assignments, or organization.

B. Hadfield  
Principal

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## School Arrival and Entry Time

Several students have been arriving at school very early in the morning with the expectation that they may enter the school. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff to provide supervision for students before 8:30 am. ***Any student that arrives at school before this time will not be permitted to enter the school*** unless they have a scheduled practice or meeting with a teacher. Thank-you for supporting the school in ensuring the safety of all students.



## Book Fair a Huge Success!

Thank you to all families who purchased books from our Scholastic Book Fair this year. It was the most successful book fair to date! The money raised will be used to purchase books for our classrooms and library.



## Hallowe'en

On Friday, October 30, the students of Ferndale Public School will enjoy a fun day of costumes, classroom parties, a parade and a dance for intermediate students. The staff and students will dress in costume for the afternoon only (morning kindergarten excepted). All primary students will parade outside along the front sidewalk for parents to see. The grade 7 and 8 students will dress up for their dance in the gymnasium that afternoon. Stay tuned for further details about these events from homeroom teachers as we get closer to the big day.

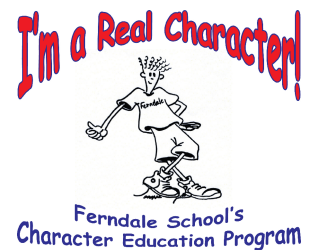


## Professional Development Day

Our first Professional Development Day of the year is scheduled for Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. The staff will be involved in curriculum meetings and program planning. There will be no classes for students that day.

## Ferndale's Character of the Month

The Character Education theme for September was respect. Teachers are on the look out for students who show respect by listening to others, accepting differing opinions and cultures, using good manners with others by being polite and courteous and treating others the same way they would like to be treated. Responsibility will be the theme for October. Students will demonstrate responsibility by displaying self-discipline, self-control, reliability and being accountable for their choices, words and actions. Many students have chores at home that support the development of this character trait.



## Ferndale School Council

The next school council meeting will take place on Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 in the library. We are always looking for new parents to join us. If you require babysitting services, please let Mr. Hadfield know in advance.



## Niagara Ice Dogs Adopt-a-School Program

Thank you to Morningstar Automotive for sponsoring Ferndale for this wonderful program. Congratulations to our Meet the Teacher Night winners Meagan Downes and Layla Thielman. They both won a pair of tickets to an Ice Dogs game.



## Breakfast Program

The Ferndale Breakfast Program will begin running on Friday, October 2 and will run every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday starting at 8:15 a.m. Thank you to all of the volunteers who dedicate their time to running this program!



## Milk Program

We continue to offer both white and chocolate milk to students at lunch time. Milk cards can be purchased through the office for \$10.00 which entitles your child to purchase 16 cartons of milk.



## Ferndale Library

You can now access the Ferndale library collection at home. Visit <http://destiny.dsbnc.edu.on.ca> and select Ferndale. Students can search for books, look at the top 10 titles at Ferndale and see what new books are available.

## Fire Safety Week

October 4 - October 10 is Fire Prevention Week. Take some time this week to review fire escape plan with your family.

## Student Leadership

There are many ways in which students display leadership everyday. Many of our Intermediate students volunteer to be *Lunch Monitors* in Primary classrooms and lunchtime *Office Helpers*. The Lunch Monitors are: Adam Abdullah, Logan Walters, Les Winwood, Ben Nicholls, Jasmine Schrubba, Antoinette Marrone, Mickey Calder, Codi Faris, Andrew Dobbstein, Hunter Sheppard, Ashley Hamon, Monica Smith, Raiou Taylor, and Jessica Bernard. Our Office Helpers are: Sasha Vince, Mary Wuhlar, Sierra Watkins, Marissa Stubbart, Caitlin Lewis, Gaby Orellana, Allison Stamp, Kelsey Kretz, Krista Roy, and Roanne Yango. We also have a group of Grade 6 students that have volunteered their time to ensure that everyone gets their milk at lunch. The *Milk Monitors* are Emily Saari, Layla Thielman, Emily Unwin, and Cassie Rolston. Thank you to all of the above students for helping to make lunch and the milk program run smoothly.

## Oral Language Development—How Families 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 favourite 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 (<http://www.smart-central.com> is a great website for nursery rhymes, while <http://www.poetry4kids.com> is wonderful for 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!