

APPLEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Achieving Success Together

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Month End Wrap Up - Oct. 2016

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 7—Photo Re-Take Day

Nov. 10—Progress Reports Home

Nov. 14-18—Progress Report Parent Interviews

Nov. 18th—Professional Development Day



CHOOSE TO MATTER—GATORS CARE!

This month our students will receive their 1st 'Brag Tag'. This tag will be placed on a happy face key ring to remind the students that they are special. As staff observe students showing others that they matter, or 'doing the right thing', students will be randomly awarded 'brag tags' to add to their collection. Mrs. Jones has created a beautiful selection of brag tags, talk to your children about theirs and why they received them!



HOLIDAY COMMUNITY NIGHT WITH BAKE AND HOT BEVERAGE SALE!

Please pencil Tuesday, December 13th from 5-6:30 into your calendars for our Applewood Holiday Community Night!

DSBN PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (PIC) CONFERENCE

The DSBN PIC conference takes place on Wednesday, Nov. 4th at Eden Highschool from 4-8:15pm. Don't forget to register! Day care and dinner are provided for families, so come and enjoy an informative night out!

CLOCKS FALL BACK

A reminder that Clocks fall back one hour Sunday morning, November 6th. Enjoy your extra hour of sleep!

FROM THE OFFICE

Just a reminder that **ALL STUDENTS** should be at school by 8:40 am each day when our entry bell rings so they can begin their day on time. Every time a child is late, they not only miss out on their own learning, but disrupt the learning of oth-

ers by interrupting class. If you have an appointment and will be late/absent, kindly call Mrs. Jones {905-684-4359} and leave a message. If arriving late for any reason, have students sign in at the office then send them off to class with their late slips independently. If you must pick your child up early, we need you to come up to the office and sign them out before they leave. Thanks for your help in keeping our young gators safe by ensuring we know where they are!



EQAO

We are very pleased with our EQAO results this year. These results are used to identify strengths and weaknesses within our school and also to note trends in achievement results at the school level, throughout the DSBN and provincially. The results are then used to plan for interventions to secure future academic improvements. Based on the EQAO results as well as information from other assessment materials, the staff are working to determine their learning/teaching priority for this school year.

The following chart demonstrates the percentage of grade 3 and 6 students that achieved at level 3 or 4 in the provincial testing last spring. The 'All' score is the score shared by EQAO with the public and includes **all** student results in each grade including those who may have been exempted from the test and those who are working on alternate academic programs based on their IEP's. The 'All' score results from June 2016 are shown in the table below:

3 Reading	3 Writing	3 Math	6 Reading	6 Writing	6 Math
80%	87%	60%	83%	84%	58%

PIZZA PROGRAM

As our pizza program has been running since mid-September, students have now learned the routines. Therefore, we will **NO LONGER ACCEPT ORDERS AFTER 9am THE DAY BEFORE A PIZZA LUNCH**. Thank you for your understanding. Please remember that we are going cashless in November, so try buy your pizza or treat ticket sheets soon!

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Students may enter the school as of 8:20 through the junior doors and wait by the staff room at the Breakfast Club tables to choose their breakfast options. The program will serve breakfast from **8:20-8:35** each day unless a change is needed, which students will be informed about via morning announcements.

DREAMBOX

All students at Applewood have access to Dreambox math software from school and at home! This software runs on a standard computer or on the I-Pad. Students are familiar with log-in from a standard computer via our School Web Page, but need to access I-Pads differently. The pass-code for the I-pads is 42cv/applewood Please log in under school when accessing the program! To access the program from a desktop or laptop computer, use the link on our school web-page and use the student log-in!



JUNIOR CO-ED SOCCER

The Junior Co-ed Soccer team was a great success. I would like to thank all the students who tried out for the team and those who worked so hard to make this soccer season a success. Unfortunately, due to the weather, our soccer tournament was canceled. Despite the rain, we managed to tie our first game. The students played amazing and worked hard together. Throughout the season and the tournament our Gators showed amazing school spirit and pride. Way to go Gators, you rock!!!

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to our Applewood Cross Country team! All of the members of our team ran well during our Cross Country season. Eighteen Gators raced against other Area 4 schools during our two meets at Burgoyne Woods. Thank you to our volunteer drivers who also accompanied our runners to our Burgoyne Woods meets. Three of our runners, Chloe Hutton, Jessa MacPherson & Aaron Kennedy also represented our school at the DSBN district meet in Niagara on the Lake. We are very proud of all of our participants for all of their hard work each practise and determination to finish each race that they ran! Way to go, Gators!!

Thank you for all of your support for our Cross Country team this year. We really enjoyed coaching you this year!
Mrs. Scalzo and Mrs. Whitfield, Cross Country Coaches

HALLOWE'EN

Our Halloween activities will take place on Monday Oct. 31st. As it is difficult to help dress so many younger friends, students are asked to arrive at school in their costumes. The school will then hold their annual Hallowe'en parade first thing in the morning. Students will then change and resume regular classes. Teachers will communicate specific in class activities directly to you via agendas or their classroom newsletters or

web-sites. **PLEASE** send street clothes for students in costumes to change into, with a large bag to store their costumes. Kindergarten parents will be invited to help their little ones change and take their costumes home after the parade, but our grades 1-6 will pack up independently. Please remember that weapons or accessories that could be lost or cause injury are best left at home. Lastly, please ensure that your child can walk in their costume without tripping over its length. If you wish to send treats to your child's classroom, due to food sensitivities, please pre-arrange this with your child's teacher. Please remember that **DUE TO A SERIOUS PUMPKIN ALLERGY, we are a PUMPKIN FREE SCHOOL!**



NOTE FROM PUBLIC HEALTH!

Stop the spread of Infection!

- Stay home if you are sick and return when you are well
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or in your sleeve
- Keep your distance
- Get a flu shot

For more information, talk to your school nurse or go to www.niagararegion.ca/health

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME!

Please keep your child at home and away from others if they have any of these symptoms:

- Fever*
- Diarrhea*
- Vomiting*
- Rash*
- Frequent coughing or sneezing*
- Yellow or green discharge from the nose, ears, or eyes*
- Sore throat*



HALLOWE'EN SAFETY

- Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe. Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.
- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.
- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.
- You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.

Contact your family doctor for advice about care and treatment. For more information, talk to your school nurse or go to www.niagararegion.ca/health



How to Help Struggling Readers at Home:

For parents, helping a struggling reader can be difficult. Ask your child's teacher for a book at their reading level or to try to help your child choose a book at home, try this simple test: If your child can read 95% of the words in a selected paragraph within approximately a minute, they're doing well. If they struggle, use these 7 tips to help them succeed:

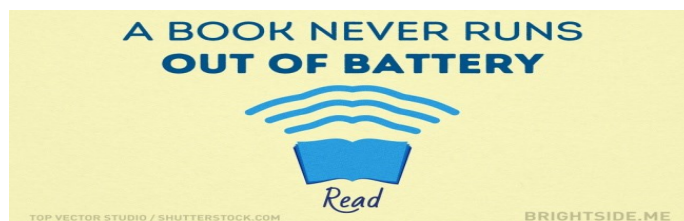
Reading success is based on 5 factors: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. *[Learn more](#) about each factor to gain a better understanding of where exactly your child may be struggling below.

1. Encourage kids to read anything—even if it isn't a book. Magazines, comics or websites can engage children, and shows them that computers and iPads aren't just for games.
2. Know your options as a parent. Talk to the teacher and discuss your child's developmental level if work is consistently too hard. Find out specific ways you can help their academic development and become a partner in their learning journey!
3. Within reason, never say no to your young reader. If your child is excited about reading about dinosaurs, for example, don't push him or her to read something else.
4. Motivate by making connections to real-world outcomes so children realize that reading is more than just a grade. For example, writing a letter to their favorite singer, or sending an e-mail to grandma, allows young readers to find meaning in what they are doing.
5. Focus on what your child CAN do. Build on his/her strengths. For example, fold spelling into another activity that your child enjoys to build a sense of competence.

Keep it positive. If your child becomes upset or starts crying, reading will seem like a punishment and that time will not be productive. Rather than being intense, keep the mood light and upbeat and keep your eyes on the goal of enjoying reading. Take a break, lighten things up and try again later!

*LEARN MORE

- Phonemic awareness:** teaching children to break apart and manipulate the sounds in words
- Phonics:** blending letters of the alphabet together to form words
- Fluency:** defined as speed, accuracy and proper expression
- Vocabulary:** loosely defined as "word knowledge"
- Comprehension:** regarded as the essence of reading. It's really our goal because it allows children to get *meaning from texts*.



KINDERGARTEN CLASSES NEED YOUR HELP!

We are desperately seeking **outdoor** play toys. When you start cleaning out your garage or toy shelves, think of donating your gently used toys, trikes, trucks, balls, chalk etc. to the school! We will make good use of them! The same can also be said of **books** that your children have outgrown that are still in good condition. A school can never have enough reading material and we will take what you no longer need off your hands!

Be warned:
I'm
bored.



This could
get dangerous!

The Elementary Progress Report

On **November 10th**, your child in SK-gr. 6 will bring home their Elementary Progress Report. A reminder that although it looks much like the Report Card, this report has a very different intent. The purpose of the Progress Report is to share early and specific feedback on your child's development of work habits and learning skills as well as his/her progress towards achieving the curriculum standards by the end of the school year.

Traditionally, when reporting to parents about their child's progress, teachers have prepared by *looking back* over the work done. The teacher evaluated your child's progress from the beginning of the school term to the current point in time, and reported on the highlights of achievement as they compare to overall curricular expectations. Teachers continue to report on Provincial Term One and Term Two Report Cards in this manner.

Reporting on the Progress Report is about *looking forward*. The purpose is to set the course for the learning journey ahead. Based on the evidence teachers see, as well as what teachers know about learning at this grade level, the report communicates the path your child is on towards achieving the grade level expectations by the end of the year. For students who are on a modified Individual Education Program, the teacher uses those modified goals when determining whether a child is progressing well, progressing very well, or progressing with difficulty.



All subjects that are part of your child's program in the first weeks of school will be assessed according to the following indicators:

Progressing Very Well: In the first weeks of school, evidence shows that the student is demonstrating consistent progress and is on track to meet and/or surpass the provincial standard set for the end of the year.

Progressing Well: In the first weeks of school, evidence shows that the student is demonstrating consistent progress and is on track to meet the provincial standard set for the end of the year.

Progressing With Difficulty: In the first weeks of school, evidence shows that the student is experiencing difficulty towards meeting the provincial standard set for the end of the year.

For subjects in which your child is Progressing With Difficulty, the teacher will discuss specific next steps plans needed for success. Teachers will be available for interviews the week of November 14th either in person or by phone or at an alternate mutually agreeable time. We look forward to partnering with you and your child for a year of great learning and growth!



YOU & YOUR CHILD ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A **KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE**

Thursday, February 2, 2017 - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



During your visit you will:

- See a Kindergarten classroom
- Meet the Kindergarten Team
- Register for school
- Get a fun goodie bag with learning resources

JUST WATCH ME!
KINDERGARTEN AT THE DSBN

Children who will be turning 4 before December 31, 2017 are eligible to start Kindergarten in September 2017.



**I Matter
At DSBN**