



# APPLEWOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

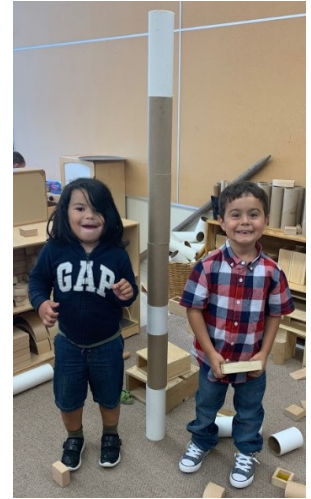
October 2019

**WOW...September has been an incredible month! Thank you all for a great start-up to the 2019-2020 school year!**



There is already much to report including that our students and staff are settling in and already engaged in active and meaningful learning in and out of the classroom. In addition to the amazing things happening in each class...the Learning Commons transformation is underway (pictures to follow), our Fall Frenzy was a great success, and the Kindergarten Outdoor Space is nearing completion. As well, ALL of the grade 1-6 students attended the Niagara Region Safety Village in Welland, twelve of our students had great races at the Cross Country Meet, and the Junior Co-ed Soccer team has started practicing for the upcoming tournament. The Green Team has been established, our Sensory Friendly Space is being built, we had an INCREDIBLE turn out for our Meet the Teacher Open House, and most

notably, we **RAISED \$1800 FOR THE TERRY FOX FOUNDATION (surpassing our #gatorgoal by a whopping \$800)!** A huge thank you to all of our dedicated staff and the volunteers who make these special things happen for our school, and particularly the students, for their commitment and spirit that is evident in everything they do!



While September has been busy, we are already looking forward to the month ahead, as well as, some of the exciting things planned for the year...Family Fun Nights, skating, singing O Canada at the Ice Dogs game and the pre-game skate, Swim to Survive for the grade 3s, Discovery Day, our Summer Sizzler, fundraising through Little Caesar's, our Scholastic Book Fair in October, the Maker Space opening, the Holiday Concert on December 18th...the calendar is filling up! If you would like to volunteer for any of these things or have other good ideas, please consider coming to one of our Parent Council meetings. We will be offering free childcare and snacks for parents and caregivers interested in being part of our AMAZING school community...just drop in! Please stay tuned for upcoming meeting dates and times. October's meeting is on the 22nd at 5:30 pm.

Having told you a little bit about our future, I now have the great pleasure of informing you about an incredible accomplishment in Applewood's (very recent) past. Last week, EQAO released the results of the 2018-2019 assessment.

Applewood's results were astonishing but not surprising...

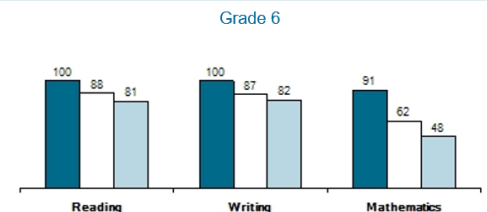
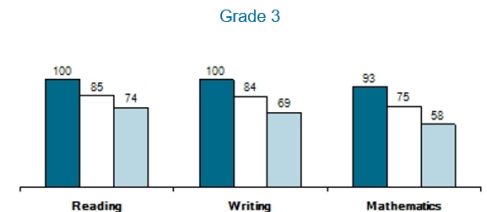
**100% of Applewood students in grade 3 AND grade 6 were at or above provincial standard in Reading.**  
**100% of Applewood students in grade 3 AND grade 6 were at or above provincial standard in Writing.**  
**93% of Applewood students in grade 3 were at or above provincial standard in Mathematics.**  
**91% of Applewood students in grade 6 were at or above provincial standard in Mathematics.**

I'll let that sink in.

Congratulations to all of our students, teachers, parents / caregivers...anyone you can think of, that contributed to this evidence of the EXCEPTIONAL work that happens here everyday! Applewood truly is a remarkable school. Thank you for sharing your incredible children with us.

Mrs. Kate Fish  
Fortunate Principal

PERCENTAGE OF ALL STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE THE PROVINCIAL STANDARD (LEVELS 3 AND 4), 2018-2019



■ School □ Board □ Province



## OCTOBER'S 'SAVE THE DATES'

- 2nd - Cross Country Meet
- 8th - "I See" & Water Safety Presentations
- 9th - Junior Coed Soccer Tournament
- 11th - PD Day (no school for students)
- 14th - Thanksgiving Monday (no school)
- 22nd - 25th Scholastic Book Fair
- 22nd - Parent Council @ 5:30
- 24th - Family Fun Night @ 6:00 pm
- 25th - Grade 6 Day @ Thorold Secondary School
- 30th - Celebration Assembly @ 9:00 am
- 31st - Hallowe'en Parade @ 9:00 am



Like and Follow us on Facebook @ApplewoodPS

## ALLERGIES - PEANUTS & PUMPKINS



Please ensure that all food brought into the school is PEANUT AND PUMPKIN FREE as we have students with life-threatening allergies in the building. Alternatives to peanuts and peanut butter are welcome in snacks / lunches. Please identify the type of alternative that is being sent in your child's agenda or lunch bag. If you have any questions, please contact the office.



## REPORTING ABSENCES

Mrs. Flora, our Administrative Assistant, is in the office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each week-day. **Please inform the office of all absences using the School Messenger App which can be downloaded in the App Store of your cell phone and online.** If you have any questions about the procedure, please feel free to contact the office for assistance. We do recognize that from time to time it is necessary to contact the school to get a message to your child. Please try to make all of the necessary arrangements with your child/ren in advance to avoid any missed communication. Students are able to use the office phone and are not to be using their cell phones during the school day, unless they ask permission to come down and use it at the office.



## SCHOOL BELL TIMES & PUNCTUALITY

**Being on time for school is extremely important for students.** Children who arrive at school at 8:30 am, when outdoor supervision begins, have the opportunity to socialize prior to coming into their classrooms, can attend Breakfast Club if they would like, and receive ALL of the quality instruction of the day without interrupting the class when they arrive. Additionally, the office is able to address attendance concerns without being interrupted. Please consider the following bell times when planning your day...let's see if we can maximize student learning in October!

8:30 a.m.	Outdoor Supervision Begins
8:45 a.m.	Entry
8:45 -10:25 a.m.	Instructional Block 1
10:25 -11:05 a.m.	Fitness/Nutrition Break
11:05 - 12:45 p.m.	Instructional Block 2
12:45 - 1:25 p.m.	Fitness/Nutrition Break 2
1:25- 3:05 p.m.	Instructional Block 3
3:05 p.m.	Dismissal



## VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS



We welcome visitors and parents at Applewood! **A reminder that you must enter through the front door, sign in at the office and wear a visitor's badge.** If you are dropping off items for your child, please leave them at the office with Mrs. Flora and she will page the student to come down to the office. If you wish to communicate with your child's teacher, please do so through the agenda, call the school or make an appointment to meet. If you are interested in volunteering (and we'd love to have you!), please feel free to come to the office to receive a Volunteer Handbook and complete the DSBN Volunteer Information Form.

## STUDENT MEDICATIONS

All medication that is to be administered to students at school must have an authorization form on file in the school. **These forms are available at the school office.** This includes allergy medication, inhalers and epipens. **If your child requires an epipen or an inhaler, please contact the office immediately so we can send home the proper paperwork and put emergency procedures in place.**



## PARENT COUNCIL

On Tuesday, October 22, 2019, Parent Council will meet in the Learning Commons from 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

Please join us for one (or more!) of our meetings! There is no long term commitment required and we value everyone's input! We would love to have more people join us to discuss our school, ideas for the future, and questions you may have. We have a great time and are working together as a team to make the Applewood School community a positive place for our children / students to learn and grow up!

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."

Jane D. Hull

Starting in October we will have grade 6 volunteers in the adjacent classroom if you would like to bring your children! They will be given a snack and do fun activities while the meeting is in progress.

## BREAKFAST CLUB



Breakfast Club is open Monday - Friday from 8:10 am - 8:40 am. It is located in the staff room and run by our greatly appreciated volunteer, Miss Hazel. Fruit, cereal, bagels, english muffins, cheese, and yogurt are available for ALL students.

Students coming in for Breakfast Club should enter from the FRONT DOOR STARTING IN OCTOBER.  
Everyone is always welcome!

## PIZZA & MILK ORDERS

All pizza and milk orders will be done through School Cash Online (in addition to all purchases made for school and permission forms for trips, etc.) one month at a time. If you have not registered for School Cash Online, please do so as soon as possible (no credit card is required) on our website ([www.applewood.dsbns.org](http://www.applewood.dsbns.org)).



## REUSABLE CUTLERY & STRAWS



As part of our commitment to eliminating single-use plastics in the school, we will not be giving plastic straws to students who have ordered milk. Additionally, we will not have plastic forks and spoons available to students during snack / lunch breaks. Please ensure that your child comes with reusable cutlery and a stainless steel straw (available at dollar stores) if they require one for drinking. If you are really ambitious, try eliminating litter from your child's lunch by packing food in reusable containers—we can all do our part...every bit counts!

## WATER BOTTLES

Hydrated students are happy students! Applewood has a water bottle filling station on each level. Students are encouraged to bring a re-useable water bottle to use at school. Please label the bottle with your child's name.



## WARM, DRY & SAFE @ APPLEWOOD



Fingers crossed, we will have a warm, dry fall however, as the weather changes and the temperature drops, please ensure that your child is coming to school with appropriate clothing and footwear. In addition to a rainboots and a jacket, for safety reasons, all students should have indoor shoes at school.

# HELPING YOUR KIDS AT HOME

## LITERACY

Your child has access to award-winning digital resources through Kids A-Z, Learning A-Z's website created for students. After your child logs in, each website your child's teacher has subscribed to is shown. Your child can work on assignments or select other resources for reading and writing practice.

You can access resources on mobile devices by downloading the Kids A-Z app from the app store.

Kids A-Z Login Instructions:

- Step 1: Go to [www.kidsa-z.com](http://www.kidsa-z.com)
- Step 2: Enter or choose the teacher's username
- Step 3: Your child finds his or her username on the class chart
- Step 4: Your child enters his or her password



How to Register for and Receive Progress Reports:

If you would like to receive activity and progress reports for your child and send him or her messages, you can register for parent access from your child's teacher. Once the teacher approves access, you can view reports and send your child messages by clicking on the parent link at the top of the screen at [www.kidsa-z.com](http://www.kidsa-z.com). Here are the three options for requesting access.

1. After your child logs in, click on the green parent button at the top right of the screen and enter your email address.
2. Send your email address(es) to your child's teacher at [firstname.lastname@dsbn.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@dsbn.org) (go to [www.applewood.dsbn.org](http://www.applewood.dsbn.org) for teacher email addresses).
3. Fill out the form that was sent home with your child and return it to his or her classroom teacher.

## MATH

Applewood School has purchased **DreamBox Learning**, a K-8 digital math program that independent studies have found to raise student achievement and better prepare children for future success.

**To Access DreamBox on a Browser:**

Your student can access DreamBox Learning from any computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All you need is a high-speed Internet connection.

If you're using a browser, use this link: <https://play.dreambox.com/login/42cv/applewood>

**To Access DreamBox on an iPad:**

To download the DreamBox Learning Math app, go to <https://www.dreambox.com/ipad>, or search for "DreamBox Learning Math" in the App Store. If you already have the app installed, you'll want to make sure the latest version of the app has been installed so your student receives the most current experience and lessons.

When prompted in the app, enter this school code: **42cv/applewood**

Create your DreamBox Account to review your student's academic progress at home in your Family Dashboard. Please follow these steps to create your free account:

You will need your child's DreamBox school login information from their teacher to login for the first time.

1. Have your student login to their profile just as they would at school.
2. Click Setup Parent Access at the bottom of the page.
3. Follow the instructions provided to create a new login and password.
4. Read Terms of Use and Privacy Policy.
5. Click "Submit".

Log into your home account after setup:

1. Go to <https://play.dreambox.com>
2. Enter your email address and password.
3. To see student progress, click the "Family Dashboard" button.



If you have any questions, please contact DreamBox Support by calling them at 877-451-7845 (weekdays 5 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pacific Time), or emailing [support@dreambox.com](mailto:support@dreambox.com).

NOTE: The DreamBox Support team is unable to provide your child's login information and password for security reasons. Please reach out to your child's teacher directly for their DreamBox login information.