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The Sheridan Showcase

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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SHERIDAN

Talk about walking school bus and premier tools

EcoSchools Celebration

In early October Sheridan joined many other schools from both the Halton public and Catholic school boards for the annual Halton EcoSchools Celebration. Each school was recognized and, during the break out sessions, exchanged information about the eco-initiatives. Sheridan was represented by Daniel, Emily and Sophia and staff adviser, Mrs. Doyle.

RONNO

On Friday, October 14th, our Sheridan primary students luck was riding high! All 123 primary students enjoyed a 'dry' walk (between the heavy down pours) to Falgarwood school to join the Falgarwood primary students for a concert. The entertainer was "RONNO" internationally acclaimed for his songs about friendship, being in control, a Lunch bag Lizard and being D-I-F-F-E-R-E-N-T. RONNO warmed our hearts, got us up and movin' and cheered the clouds away for our walk back to Sheridan!

Sugar and Gold: The Story of the Underground Railroad

Sheridan students enjoyed the music and slide presentation by Diana Braithwaite and Chris Whitely who traced the journey of Canada's early Black settlers from slavery in the American South through the Civil War and onto the Underground Railway and finally, life in Southern Ontario. Students learned how the Underground Railway worked, including the people, the stories, songs and secret codes.

Congratulations to our "Sheridan Sharks" for excellent audience manners and good questions.

QSP Magazine Fundraiser

Thank you to the many families, extended families and friends of Sheridan for supporting literacy at home with this year's fundraiser. We hope that all our subscribers enjoy their new magazines. The proceeds will be used to support student and staff learning. Stay tuned for a final total.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Halloween Parade

Our annual Halloween parade will be on Monday, October 31st at 2:30 in the Mall. Students may choose to wear a costume or dress in black and orange. They will be changing into costumes during

the 2nd nutrition break. No masks or weapons, please.

In order to keep our students with allergies safe please do not send food treats for your child's class.

After Halloween, please continue to send healthy, nut-safe lunches and snacks. Halloween treats should be enjoyed at home instead of at school. In this way we support our allergic students, our EcoSchools goals (no litter) and our Healthy Snack initiative.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

School Council Meeting

Our next Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the staff room. All Sheridan parents are welcome, as always.

November Student Lead Parent-Teacher Conference

You will receive the November Progress Report cards on Friday November 11. You will find information regarding your child's progress in the 6 Learning Skills – responsibility, organization, initiative, collaboration, independent work and self-regulation. Conferences are being scheduled. This is an opportunity to

discuss the progress of your child and plan for continued learning success and academic achievement. Students play a role in presenting their learning profile and next steps for improvement. Students and teachers have been working hard to prepare for these conferences.

Book Fair November 16, 17 & 18

It's almost time for the annual Sheridan Book Fair! Students will have the opportunity to preview the wonderful books on offer during their regular Library time with Mrs. Doyle.

"Wish lists" that include the title and price of the books students would like to be able to purchase will be brought home.

Students who are ready to make their purchases may do so on the afternoon of Wednesday, November 16th.

Families will have the opportunity to shop and buy the evening of Thursday, November 17th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. as well as the morning of Friday, November 18th until 10:00 a.m.

Support literacy and the love of reading at Sheridan – see you at the Book Fair!

Remembrance Day Service

Please join us at our Remembrance Day Service on **Friday, November 11th at 11:15 a.m.** in the gym.

Pajama Movie Night November 24

Details will be coming soon on for this fun filled night.

Under construction- Sheridan Web site

Be sure to see what is new

www.hdsb.ca/Sheridan Stay tuned for the "official launch" in the near future.

Student Offset Fees

Each year school budgets receive a \$20 per child allocation to help off-set costs for such things as field trips, performances, agendas, music instruments, and/or workbooks (such as Math Makes Sense). At Sheridan, the costs of the student agenda and the Math Makes Sense work books were paid from the student off-set fees. The remainder of the monies has been designated for the kindergarten trips and for some of the costs for the buses for other grades' field trips.

Your fund raising money at work

School Council recently approved the following expenditures to support the literacy, numeracy and culture/community/climate goals for the School Improvement Plan.

- Field Trips - \$3.00 per student for an out-of-school experience.
- Performances and arts events
- Angel Fund

- Teacher Subsidies- for additional instructional materials
- Web site Launch (coming soon)
- Considerations from the teacher "wish list" will be made at a future time.

LEARNING MATTERS

P.A. Day—November 18

This year, Friday, November 18th has been set aside by the Halton District School Board for teachers to meet with parents and students to discuss progress and learning goals. **There are no classes for students that day.**

Bullying Awareness Week – November 13 – 19

Stand Up! (to bullying) is the theme for this years Bullying Awareness Week.

Bully Free Zone

The staff at Sheridan promote a positive school culture. In this regard, and in accordance with the Ontario Ministry of Education Policy / Program Memorandum No. 144 p2, we have established a Safe Schools Action Team (SSAT). One of the goals of the SSAT will be to create a Bullying Prevention and Intervention Action Plan for our school.

What is Bullying?

Bullying is typically a form of repeated, persistent, and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem, or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance. Bullying can take many forms. It can be physical (e.g., hitting, pushing, tripping) verbal (e.g., name calling, mocking) or social (e.g., excluding others from a group, spreading gossip or rumors). It may also occur through the use of technology (e.g., spreading rumors, images or hurtful comments through the use of e-mail, cell phones, text messaging, Internet websites, or other technology).

How to Combat Cyber Bullies

Electronic bullying or "cyber-bullying" involves someone deliberately sending or posting harmful or cruel messages and images. This is done by using technologies like the internet or cell phone. It usually takes place on a home computer and is often unknown to parents. One quarter of Canadian students who are bullied are victims of electronic bullying.

A few simple steps can help protect your child:

- Talk to your child about internet safety. Discuss online high-risk behaviour and create "what if" scenarios together to help your child recognize dangerous situations and practice responses.

- Participate with them online. If they know more than you, let them teach you.
- Monitor your child's computer use by keeping the computer in a busy area of your home.
- Regularly check your child's "buddy lists" for new and unknown names.
- Set up email and chat room accounts with your children and ensure no personal information is used. Know your child's screen names and passwords.



Teach your child to:

- Keep personal online information and passwords private (name, address, age, phone number, cell phone, school and photos)
- Only open emails from someone you know.
- Only put things online that you want others to see.
- Always be polite online. Never send messages when you are angry.
- Block unwelcome and unknown senders.
- Trust his/her instincts. Turn the computer off if something feels uncomfortable.
- Save, print and show threatening messages to a parent or guardian.
- Never arrange to meet anyone online.. no matter what.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Sheridan and the Oakville Public Library

Thanks to Mrs. Doyle who coordinated a visit to Sheridan by the Oakville Public Library on Thursday, October 13th.

This visit was oriented to the Grade 2 and the students thoroughly enjoyed the interactive retelling of the Robert Munsch favourite The Paper Bag Princess. Pretending to growl like a dragon is terrific fun!

The love of reading is alive and well both at Sheridan and the OPL who invite all Sheridan families to get reading at their local branch library.

ECO NEWS/FACTS

Walking Wednesdays are back

As always, students are encouraged to walk to school each Wednesday. This cuts down on emissions, makes our parking lot safer and less chaotic and provides good exercise.

If a Tree Falls in the International Year of the Forest, does anybody hear?

2011 was declared the International Year of the Forest by the United Nations. The goal? For government, society and industry to work to ensure our forests are managed sustainably for all. In Canada, where nearly half the land surface is covered by trees from wilderness forests to urban green spaces, the benefits are extensive.

In Halton, we have enjoyed vast canopies of trees, with little thought given to possible threats to them. Unfortunately there is a very real threat against our canopy, attacking Ash trees in particular. The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive species which, left unchecked, will destroy all ash trees in its path. Are there solutions – yes, but only if we are proactive. Unfortunately for some of our trees, it is too late. To find out what can be done visit <http://www.oakville.ca/eab.htm>
<http://www.halton.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=8310&pageId=19788>

Tree Facts:

- Newsprint, telephone directories, etc uses trees about twice as efficiently as office and printing papers, etc.
- 1 tree makes 16.67 reams of copy paper or 8,333.3 sheets
- 1 ream (500 sheets) uses 6% of a tree (and those add up quickly!)
- Every tree provides oxygen enough for 3 people to breathe.

So.....

Reduce:

- The average daily web user prints 28 pages daily - do you really need the copy?
- 10,000 trees are cut down annually in China to make holiday cards.

Reuse:

- Double-side print/copy, use G.O.O.S (good on one side paper).

Recycle:

- Only 2/3 of Ontario's printed paper and commercial packaging is being recycled.
- 1 ton (40 cartons) of 30% post-consumer content copier paper saves 7.2 trees
- 1 ton of 50% post-consumer content copier paper saves 12 trees.

Eco Celebration

On Thursday, October 13th, Sheridan was well represented at the Halton District School Board Eco Celebration by Mrs. Doyle and three of the year's EcoMonitors – Daniel, Emily and Sophia.

As an Eco-certified school Sheridan had the opportunity to share experiences (and concerns) with other like-minded schools at the Regional Municipal offices on Bronte Road.

Each school received a plaque to commemorate their accomplishments. Look for ours in the display case adjacent to the school office.

We are well underway again in search of certification for the 2011/12 academic year.

Support us in our efforts by remembering that every Tuesday is Trashless Tuesday!

Eco Fast-Fact

Did you know that idling for over 10 seconds uses more fuel than restarting your engine? That's just 10 seconds! Idling costs money, wastes fuel, damages engine components and contributes to climate change. But worst of all it lowers air quality and the emissions can trigger health conditions like asthma in vulnerable people.

At our school, students are our most vulnerable population when it comes to air pollution. We certainly don't want our kids walking through the cloud of pollution caused by idling vehicles every morning and afternoon.

Therefore we ask that you turn off engines whenever you're parked or waiting around our school.

Remember the 10 second rule! Let's work together to keep our school a healthy and safe learning environment.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

Sending Medications to school

Please note we are not able to dispense medications to your child(ren) unless it is a prescribed medication from a physician and the appropriate HDSB forms have been completed and signed by a parent. As well please refrain from sending in non-prescribed medications such as Tylenol, cough & cold products, we are unable to dispense these to your child(ren).

Kiss & Ride

Parents are asked **not to get out of their cars in the Kiss & Ride Lanes**. Students are to be dropped off on the curbside after 8:30 a.m. From there, they will be escorted via the crosswalk to the playground. **Adults who wish to leave their vehicles or who are transporting students who**

must exit the vehicle on the non-curb side, are asked to **please park in proper parking spaces in the parking lot**. In this way, we can keep the Kiss & Ride area clear and moving safely, will keep traffic moving safely through the parking lot and will avoid unnecessary and potentially serious accidents. **Also, never drive past a bus while it is loading or unloading students**. Thank you for your co-operation.

Premier Assistive Technology

Premier Assistive Technology is now available for home use by Halton students. Premier Assistive Technology is a suite of assistive technologies including a scan-and-read program; a talking word processor, a talking calculator, and a host of other products. These may be downloaded at home, at no cost to the user, by any Halton student.

To access it, please go to www.premierathome.com/Home.php and use the following login: haltondsb

Password: access

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2 New Triple P Seminars are being offered this month! Click on the link above to register.

Influenza Prevention

The Halton Region Health Dept reminds us that the best way to prevent or reduce the spread of influenza and many other illnesses is through personal protection:

- Wash hands well and often with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.
- Students are encouraged to have a travel-size container of alcohol-based hand sanitizer for personal use at school.
- Cough and sneeze into your upper sleeve or a tissue, not your hand. Dispose of tissues immediately.
- Clean commonly touched surfaces like door knobs, light switches, phones and computer equipment often.
- If you have a fever and influenza-like symptoms, stay at home until you no longer have a fever and are well.