



The Storrington Star November 2011



October has been a busy month with soccer, cross country and Fire Safety Week. Students are all working hard and learning lots. Staff have been involved in several professional development opportunities around reading in which we are working together with teachers from other area schools. We also had a PD Day on October 24, where we continued to work on improving student achievement, focusing on School Improvement planning, writing and problem solving in math. We were very fortunate to have Charlene Homer, our Literacy Consultant, come and offer a workshop on "Reading with your Child" - she had lots of useful information that she shared with parents. We are hoping to have her do a presentation later this year at a School Council Meeting.

On November 14, if your child is in Grades 1 to 8, they will be bringing home a Progress Report. These reports differ from report cards in that they focus on your child's learning skills and progress in school rather than achievement. These will be a personal reflection about how your child is adjusting to the new year. Report cards will be sent home in February and June. Kindergarten parents will be invited to come for an observation or attend a conference. Please let your child's classroom teacher know if you would like to meet and conference with them.

We have amazing students here! To date we have had 368 'Kids with Character' recognition awards. Our bucket is really filling up! It's wonderful having a chance to call and share all the great things about your child.

You as parents make a big difference! Thank you for your communication, your use of agendas to keep in touch and your calls. Your input is invaluable!

Sue Perry & Ean Pattison



VOLLEYBALL TEAM NEWS

Now that soccer and cross country are finished, students in grades 6-8 are busy honing their volleyball skills. Practices are under way and the team will be playing games in the near future. Storrington will have a boy's team coached by Margaret Chung and a girl's team coached by Shane Wray. We're looking forward to the tournament coming up!

SIGNING IN

Thanks to everyone for signing in at the main office when they arrive. If you need to see your child or drop something off for them, we can do that for you or call your child to the office. If you are volunteering, please let the secretary know where you will be and wear a visitor tag while in the school. If you would like to take your child out of the school before the end of the day, please sign them out at the main office. Thank you for keeping our students safe.

OUR SCHOOL TRUSTEE

SUZANNE RUTTAN

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SCHOOL COUNCIL

**Our next School Council meeting will be
Wednesday, November 9 at 6:30.
All are welcome!**

MEND

At Storrington P. S. we have begun training our staff in the restorative MEND Approach, which deals with conflict situations by focusing on repairing harm and re-building relationships. Our current initiatives such as 'Kids with Character', Kelso's Choice and progressive discipline will become components of our restorative approach. As part of developing respectful, empathetic, caring students, staff will help students recognize each other's viewpoints and solve problems through talking and working together.

CLASS PHOTO RETAKES

Photo retakes will be on Monday, November 7th.

JINGLE BELL WALK

On Friday, December 2 we will be taking part in the Jingle Bell Walk. To help support local families, during the last week of November and throughout December we will be accepting donations of non-perishable food items that will be distributed through our community.

WINS

WINS (Winning With Instructional Navigation Supports) is a math resource designed for parents/facilitators to help students outside of the classroom setting. WINS is based on the belief that math problems can be solved in many ways. Learners understand the math better by choosing how they will do the task and then explaining what they did.

The WINS math package is designed to support student learning guided by a learning facilitator such as a parent. As learners use this package, they engage in doing mathematics, and discussing, and representing their mathematical thinking. Facilitators/parents need not feel that their role is to teach content; it is more to listen and prompt. The learning facilitator's role is to make it easier for learners to reflect on their thinking and to defend their thoughts by:

- posing thought-provoking questions (Which was easiest for you to do? Why was it easiest? Examples provided in the package);
- listening to the learner's explanations of how he/she solved the problem (I saw groups of 5 and then counted by 5s, e.g., 5, 10, 15, 20...Samples of expected learner explanations provided in the package);
- discussing alternate explanations with the learner

During the task, the facilitator/parent lets the learner choose how to complete the task, and helps the learner by asking guiding questions using sample questions provided with the package.

WINS packages can be accessed through the following website:

<http://www.edugains.ca/newsite/math2/>

Click on WINS along the left hand column. WINS is available for grades K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7 and 7-8.

LDSB School Council Liaison Presents:

Guest Speakers: Betty Borowski & Laura Mayne, authors of *Meet the Teacher: How to Help Your Child Navigate Elementary School*

Betty Borowski and Laura Mayne, authors of the book *Meet the Teacher* will be speaking about the vital role of parents helping their child navigate school. They will share practical ideas parents can use at home to support their child's learning. They will also share stories and experiences from many years in the classroom. A question and answer period will follow. Copies of their book will be available for purchase.

When: Thursday, November 3, 2011
6:45 pm – 7:15 pm EQAO Data Presentation
7:15 pm to 8:45 pm Speakers' Presentation

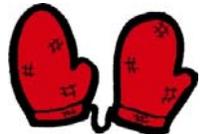
Where: The Limestone District School Board
220 Portsmouth Avenue, Kingston
*****ADMISSION IS FREE*****

KEEP THE DATE:

Our Holiday Concert will be the evening of
December 21st

MITTENS

Now that the days are getting chillier, we would appreciate it if you could please make sure your child has a pair of mitts or gloves in their backpack. If you have any at home that you don't need and would like to donate to the school, that would be great.



Healthy School Nutrition News:

This year you may have noticed that our school is making even healthier food and beverage choices. These changes help children practise what they learn about healthy eating in the classroom and show children that the school cares about their health as well as their education. We are excited about these changes and by working together, families and schools can instill positive values in our children about the importance of nutrition throughout their lives. Did you know that a healthy breakfast with foods from three of the four food groups—grains products, vegetables and fruit, milk products, and meat and alternatives will provide energy for children to concentrate and learn better throughout the school day? Take a few extra minutes each morning to enjoy a healthy breakfast as a family.