



Phintastic News

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DECEMBER NEWS 2019

Principal's Message

The Holiday Season has quickly approached and it is hard to believe that the Winter Break is almost upon us. The past three months have been very busy and rewarding for all of us. My congratulations are extended to many of our students for the commendable work they have produced in their classrooms this Fall. As I read their Progress Reports, I was pleased to see their efforts recognized. I would also like to commend each member of the Phin staff for their enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to student success. A great deal of work has been accomplished this past term, both inside and outside the classroom. Congratulations to all of the students who met with their personal best!

We are extremely fortunate at Phin to have a number of volunteers in our school every day and our students continue to benefit from their kindness and caring. Our volunteers assist with reading programs, pizza lunch, a number of classroom activities and can frequently be found in the school library. On behalf of all the staff and students, I would like to extend our gratitude for all that you do to support our students.

A special thank you as well to the School Community Council and the amazing volunteers that continue to support our school and run many of our fundraisers. This month alone, they have donated much of their time to the on-going pizza lunches and the Holiday Basket Raffle. The baskets look amazing and the funds generated will be used to support a variety of school initiatives. Thank you for all of your generous donations to the baskets and to the SCC for making this happen.

I hope to connect with many of you over the next couple of weeks but in the case that the opportunity doesn't present itself, I would like to extend my best wishes to you and your family for a safe and happy holiday. May each of you have time to relax and enjoy the festive season. I look forward to 2020 and the challenges and opportunities it holds.

Riley Lord

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Dates to Remember....

Dec 10—Gr. 3s to Pickering Pioneer Village

Dec 10—Gr 7s to Dunbarton for Coding

Dec 17—December Concert

Dec 19—Boston Pizza Lunch

Dec 20—PJ Day, Basket Raffle Draw, Assembly, Last Day of School

Jan 6—Return to school

Jan 9—SCC Meeting @ 6:30 in the school library

Jan 13— Jr. Kindergarten registration @ 4:00 pm online only

Jan 17—PA Day (no school for students)





Phintastic News



- * **TREE OF WARMTH:** EB Phin will be once again supporting local children this year. The students will be challenged to hang as many new hats, mittens, scarfs and socks as they can on the tree in the front foyer during December. All new items will then be donated to students in the Durham Region to help keep them warm during the winter season! See the below breakdown of support by the house system.

⇒Eagles support by **HATS** , Bears support by **MITTENS**, Buffalos support by **SCARFS** , Deers support by **SOCKS**



- * **RAFFLE BASKETS:** The SCC have been busy wrapping the classroom Holiday Baskets, that you generously donated to. Baskets will be on display in the front foyer and tickets will be available on school cash online by the end of this week until Dec 18th. Tickets will also be available on the night of the Holiday Concert, December 17th.

- * **HOLIDAY CONCERT:** Our annual Holiday concerts will be taking place on Tuesday, December 17th. The kindergarten concert will begin at 6:00pm and the grade 1 to 8 concert will begin at 7:00 PM in our gym. These concerts will feature the talent and creativity of our incredible students. The dress rehearsal for the concerts will take place on the afternoon of Dec. 17th. If you are not able to attend the evening concert, we would welcome your attendance at the dress rehearsal. Come out and hear what our students can do to lift your spirits and put you in the holiday mood.



- * **BOOK FAIR A GREAT SUCCESS:** We had our annual book fair and it was a success once again! We are thankful for our E.B. Phin community! We sold over \$4,900 in books and merchandise. E B Phin will get 60% of this back to use in book orders for our classrooms and our library. A big thank you to our Phin parents, grandparents, guardians and students on a job well done! A special note of thanks to the SCC who donated \$100 per classroom in books. ~ Mr. Eastwood



- * **A MESSAGE FROM TRANSPORTATION:** Students are reminded to be at their bus stop 5-10 minutes prior to the scheduled bus stop time.
- * **VANDERMEER NURSERY PLANTS:** A special thank you to all of the families who contributed to our school fundraiser. We sold approximately \$3000 worth of poinsettias and other products for the holiday season. All orders were delivered at the school the week of November 25th.



Indoor Shoes Please:

With the cold, wet weather upon us, we are requesting that each child have a pair of indoor shoes at school to change into. It is not safe for students to only be wearing socks at school for a number of reasons. First of all, in the case of a fire drill, there is not time to locate footwear and it would be very uncomfortable and dangerous to evacuate the building in only socks. The floors can also be slippery when only wearing socks and we do not want anyone getting injured here at Phin. Lastly, indoor shoes also help to maintain the cleanliness of our building. Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes at school and if they bring them home for some reason, kindly return them on the next school day. Your support of this is greatly appreciated.



Registering for the Kindergarten Program

To attend junior kindergarten, a child must be four years old by December 31, 2020 and, to begin senior kindergarten, a child must be five years old by December 31, 2020.

All the registrations are being done on line this year. Please go to the DDSB.ca website and complete your registration form. Once the forms have been submitted to the school, we will contact you for the following documents.

Birth Certificate

Proof of Address (within our catchment area)

Immunization Records




Please note the system will not allow you to register your child in kindergarten for September 2020 prior to **January 13, 2020 @ 4:00 pm** Your child must be four years old by December 31, 2020 to attend Junior Kindergarten and, to begin senior kindergarten, a child must be five years old by December 31, 2020. Any questions, please contact the school at 905-509-2277.





Kindergarten Registration at French Immersion Centres



Registration opens on:
January 13, 2020 at 4 pm

All registration takes place
online:
<http://bit.ly/DDSBkindergarten>

Spots will be filled on a **first-come, first-served** basis.
There is **no priority** given to
siblings of students already in
the program!



This applies to the following schools:

- Frenchman's Bay PS
- Jeanne Sauvé PS
- Julie Payette PS
- Meadowcrest PS
- Michaëlle Jean PS
- Uxbridge PS
- Walter E Harris PS



Attendance Matters

Going back to school, and getting into a regular routine after the holidays can sometimes be met with a range of emotions and morale. It is not uncommon for children to feel:

- Stressed or anxious about returning to class
- Sad or upset that the break is over
- Excited to see friends again



These feelings are shared by children and adults alike. Talking about the days ahead can help, as well as reminding yourself that it doesn't take long to get yourself and children back on track when everyone works together.



This holiday season, one of the best gifts you can give your child is a good education and the habit of regular attendance!

Happy Holidays

Good attendance patterns can become an important factor in a student's overall success at school.

Did you know?

- If your child is 20 minutes late every day, they will have missed 12 days of instruction by the end of the school year.
- If your child misses only two days per month of school, they will have missed one month of instruction by the end of the school year.
- Students who are absent 15 days of school each year will have lost one year of instruction by the end of grade 12.
- Students who attend school regularly tend to be more engaged in their learning, feel more connected to the school and tend to have better academic outcomes than students who miss a lot of school.

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow. Attendance MATTERS ✓

WELL-BEING. EVERYONE. EVERY DAY.

OUR VISION IS TO CREATE SAFE, WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE LEARNING SPACES TO PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF.

INTEGRITY: SEEING STRENGTHS

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“A strength-based learning approach is one way to understand and nurture all students, while acknowledging and supporting their differences and unique gifts” (Carney, 2015, p. 95).

What we pay attention to grows. While student challenges often present as primary issues to address, **we must not lose sight of the need to build positive foundations** that can help to prevent problems, promote strengths and support student mental health and well-being. **A strength perspective builds on “what is right” with a student and “what can be”** and does not allow challenges to define the student. It is focused on seeing and encouraging students to bring their best self forward and helping them live up to this each and every day.

We must look on our children in need not as problems but as individuals with potential... I would hope we could find creative ways to draw out of our children the good that there is in each of them.
(Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

The following 9 principles are the foundation for guiding and implementing a strength-based practice (O’Connell, 2006; Rapp & Goscha, 2006; McCashen, 2005, taken from Creating Strength based Classrooms and Schools: A Practice Guide for Classrooms and Schools):

1. An absolute belief that **every student has potential**. Their unique strengths and capabilities will determine their evolving story and define who they are rather than what they’re not.
2. What we focus on becomes a student’s reality. **Focus on what a student can do** rather than on what they can’t do. See challenges as opportunities to explore, not something to avoid. Start with small successes and build upon them to create hope and optimism.
3. Being mindful that the **language we use creates a reality** – both for the educators and the student. (e.g., Saying “It looks like you tried doing this exercise another way; let’s see how it worked for you.” as opposed to saying, “Did you not hear what I told the other students?”).
4. Belief that change is inevitable and **all students can and will be successful**. All students have the urge to succeed, to explore the world around them and to contribute to their communities.
5. Positive **change occurs in the context of authentic relationships**. Students need to know school staff care and will be there for them unconditionally.
6. What a student thinks about themselves and their reality is primary. Therefore, educators must value and start the change process with what is important to the student. **It’s the student’s story that’s important**, not the expert’s.
7. Students have more confidence in journeying to the future (or the unknown) when they are encouraged to **start with what they already know**.

8. **Capacity building is a process and a goal.** Change is a dynamic process. Your ongoing support of this change has a cumulative effect.
9. It is important to **value differences** and the essential need to **collaborate**. Effective change is a collaborative, inclusive and participatory process.

The stance we take in relation to others reflects choice. We can position ourselves in ways that invite respect, curiosity, and connection. We can also position ourselves in ways that invite judgment, disconnection, and disapproval. The stance we take has profound effects on relationship and is shaped by our values and conceptual assumptions

(Madsen, 1999).

Children and youth can and will respond to the realistic challenges and expectations for academic success when educators show they **believe in students' potential for great things** and focus on supporting them to explore, understand and experience their strengths and capacities through supportive relationships, student focused interactions, differential learning environments and strength-based instructional practices. Although academic achievement is an important focus and mandate of schools, its achievement is dependent on the constructive and healthy development of students (Walsh & Park-Taylor, 2005).

Schools play an important role in nurturing student well-being because of the support and mentoring influence all school staff have in the lives of students. It has been said that parents/caregivers may be the primary influence in a child's life, but school staff are also important in a child's life and, for some children, they are a key caregiving influence.

A strength perspective builds on "what is right" with a student and "what can be" and does not allow challenges to define the student. What is one thing you can commit to that shifts your view of struggles and challenges to opportunities to learn and grow?

Need more ideas on how to do this or want to learn more about DDSB's Well-Being and Mental Health Strategy, don't hesitate to contact the DDSB Mental Health Lead, Steffanie Pelleboer at steffanie.pelleboer@ddsb.ca.

Interested in partnering with your parent community? Consider sharing the ideas on strength-based parenting found below in the Parent's Corner:

This month our school is learning about what it means to be a strength-based school. We are focusing on "what is right" with a student and "what can be" and not allowing challenges to define the student.

Strength-based parenting is about focusing and building up what is going right with your child(ren) before focusing on fixing what is going wrong.

So how can you do this? **Simply notice** one strength in your child and comment on it: "You used good judgment today when you decided to pack your school bag ahead of time," or "Thanks for making me laugh. I really love how funny you are." **Consider asking** your child(ren) about their strengths and how they can use them. When your child is nervous about a big project or event coming up, ask them, "What strengths do you have to help you with this?" Over time, your children will begin to internalize their own strengths in their self-talk. Rather than using negative self-talk like, "I'll never get this" in difficult situations, they might say, "I know if I stick to it I can learn new things."

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"Help Us Keep Our Kids Safe!"

Parking/Kiss 'N' Ride

Thank you to all parents who have already adjusted their before/after school routines to help keep our kids safe. Please look to car pool where possible and RUN/WALK/RIDE as often as you can. Remember, we are the role models for safety and courtesy. Please be patient, kind, and respectful at all times. Here are a few additional details.

Parking Lot Reminders:

- Please do not park in the staff parking lot. With our growing number of staff and volunteers, we only have a very limited number of parking spots and need to ensure that all of our staff are able to park.
- No stopping/parking at the south end of our parking lot. This is a BUS LANE ONLY. Drop/off and pick up should happen at front of the school. There is a safe sidewalk for all students to use to get to the yard.
- DRIVE SLOW! We care about all of our kids, please slow down and be aware at all times of kids getting in/out of cars.
- No 3rd lane of traffic. We only have two lanes now, the parking lane closest to the building and the moving lane that has moving traffic. If someone is stopped to allow kids in/out it will only take a moment, be patient but DO NOT drive around them, this creates unsafe conditions for everyone!
- Be courteous of those trying to leave the parking lane, allow them to enter the moving loop as this frees up a spot and keeps everyone moving.
- Use your signal indicators. It is important to indicate your intent when you are pulling into/out of the parking lane.
- Only pick up/drop off students in the zone marked on the map (see next page). Picking them up or dropping them off at the west end is dangerous as is where the buses come in/out and where parking lot cars leave from.

Parking in Alternate Locations:

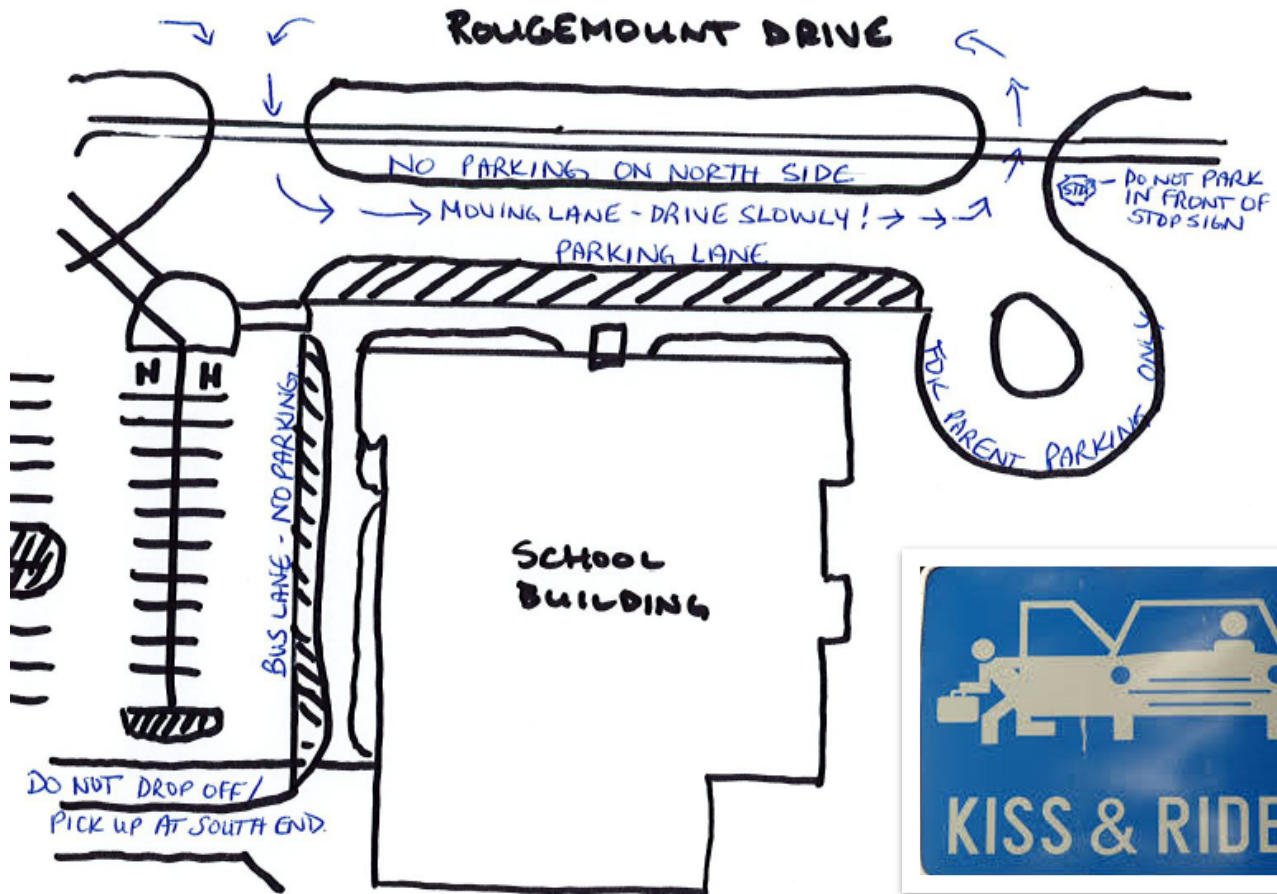
If you would like to avoid the Kiss 'N' Ride altogether, park on the neighbourhood streets. We have a list of suggestions below. Be sure to be respectful of all neighbourhood properties and by-laws such as fire hydrant restrictions. The catwalk off Fiddler's Court is a great alternate for those who wish to watch their kids safely enter the schoolyard and avoid the moving traffic.

Suggested Alternate Places to Park if Necessary (see map on next page)

- Littleford Street (note: Rougemount changes names when you cross Altona Rd. We have a crossing guard on duty at all times to safely cross Altona Road.
- Stover Crescent
- Fawndale Road
- Fiddler's Court (has a catwalk directly onto the school yard)
- Tomlinson Court



MAP of SCHOOL PARKING LOT



WE CARE ABOUT EVERY CHILD'S SAFETY!

