

# River View and FJ Rutland Times

January 2012

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## Mark Your Calendars

- January 11 - Mad Science Kick-off Assembly
- January 17 - Grade 8 Open House @ Stamford
- January 20 - PA Day (No school for students)
- January 23 and 24 - Niagara Falls Art Gallery
- January 24 - School Council, 6pm
- January 27 - Family Literacy Day
- February 2 - Kindergarten Open House
- February 9 - Term 1 Report Cards go home

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“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New Year’s Day.”  
-Edith Pierce

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## Principal’s Message

A new year, to me, is like the first page of a new notebook - crisp, untattered and replete with blank lines, awaiting filling. Do you remember those school days when you were able to go to the teacher and say, “I need a new notebook - the other one’s finished.”? Creasing that first page, I remember writing in perfect cursive and setting a goal to write as neatly and error-free as possible.

Most of us approach a new year in a similar way. We use the change in the calendar year to set goals and revisit our choices and habits for improvement. It’s safe to say, however, that those goals are difficult to achieve and habits challenging to change without the support of those around us. For this reason, the River View and FJ Rutland staffs encourage you to support your children with their own academic, social and behavioural goal-setting.

Students will ideally choose between 1 and 3 goals. They could choose 1 area for academic focus (e.g. I will improve my **writing** by including more detail.); 1 social goal (I will spend time with my cousins 2 times per month) and 1 behavioural goal (I will not have any screen time within 1 hour of going to bed). Goals should be specific, realistic and measurable. Children (like adults!) will need support to remember and focus on their goals. Spending some family time once per week reviewing each others’ goals and offering encouragement will help to keep the goals at the forefront of everyone’s minds. Our staff will gladly support the children’s goals as well, so feel free to write them in your child’s agenda.

Like those empty new calendars on our fridges, the new ‘notebooks’ will be full before we know it. As quickly as time seems to pass, let’s spend some time empowering each other to achieve our goals and make 2012 a fantastic year!

Mrs. M. Sendzik

## Construction Update

We are closed in! The photos to the left show our new gym and stage (top) and the new main office below. All of the windows and doors have been installed and all areas are water-tight.

Over the break, some of the drywalling was completed in the new office area and electrical and plumbing work continued. Also, in the current school building, the terrazzo flooring was installed at the temporary main entrance.

By the end of January, we will have 5 new SMARTboards (In addition to our current 3), and have recently purchased 4 ipads. Three SMARTboards will be installed at River View, and 2 will be kept mobile at Rutland so that staff can practise using this engaging instructional tool. We are aiming to increase our use of technology in all grades to improve student achievement. We look forward to exploring these new tools and learning about them together with your children!



## Stamford Secondary's Open House for Grade 8 Students and their Families

Grade 8 students and their families are encouraged to attend Stamford's Open House next **Tuesday, January 17 from 6:30 to 8:30pm.**

The Open House will provide families the opportunity to meet the staff, ask questions and become familiar with the building and courses offered. For a full list of DSBN Open Houses, go to [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org).

Intention sheets for Grade 9 (2012-2013) will be due by the end of January. This year, all students will be using the on-line program *Career Cruising* to complete their intention sheets. All students will be supported by FJ Rutland and Stamford staff with this process.

Please contact Mrs. Flachs, Ms. Randall, Mr. Howell or Mrs. Sendzik if you have any questions about the transition from elementary to secondary school - we are happy to help!



### Bus Delays

From time to time and often without warning, especially during the winter months, our school buses experience some type of delay. These events are often unavoidable however we do understand the inconvenience and worry they can sometimes cause. For this reason, if you are wondering if your child's bus has been delayed (or cancelled), please go to [www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca), scroll down and click on the button entitled, '*Delay and Cancellation Information*' on the right-hand side. This site will indicate whether or not your child's bus has been delayed, and will give an approximate time of delay (e.g. 5162 delayed 10 minutes). You are certainly welcome to call the school for information as well.

We appreciate your patience and understanding when these delays do occur!

## Help Choose our New Mascot

We need your help! With the merger of our 2 schools in 2012, the staffs agreed that this is a great opportunity to re-vamp the mascot and school colours for River View. We are aiming for a contemporary mascot and logo that will appeal to all students, Kindergarten through Grade 8.

We invite you to submit your mascot ideas as a family on the form provided in this newsletter. We ask that you clearly identify the mascot and provide a rationale as to why that mascot is an appropriate representation of River View School. You are welcome to submit as many ideas as you like (One per form, please. Additional forms are available at the main offices), provided that your submissions arrive at either the River View or Rutland main office by **Monday January 30, 2012.**

In February's newsletter, you will find a complete list of all of the submissions and will be able to vote for your favourite 10 mascots. The top 10 will then be narrowed to 3 by our students and staff, then the remaining 3 will go to a final vote.

This will be an exciting process for our students and we look forward to your participation.

## Throw No Snow

The safety of our students is a prime concern at River View and FJ Rutland. Thus, we have a strict policy that forbids the throwing of snow. (This includes face washing, snow down coats, kicking snow at others, etc.) Students who throw snow will be subject the following sequence of action:

**First Offence:** Loss of recess and letter home.

**Second Offence:** Loss of 2 recesses and letter home.

**Third Offence:** Loss of all recesses while snow is on the ground and phone call home.

We realize that this is a strict policy with strong consequences, but we want to encourage safe play. We prefer to be proactive and to prevent injuries on our school yards. Please discuss this policy with your child. Thanks for your cooperation!

## Kindergarten Open House

Do you know any children who will be four years of age by December 31, 2012? If so, he/she is eligible to enroll in Kindergarten (ELP) starting September 2012.

Going to school for the first time is a major step. At the DSBN, families start that journey at the 'Kindergarten Countdown' open houses. Families can visit our River View ELP classrooms, meet the teachers, and receive a gift bag filled with information that will help children develop school readiness skills.

Mark your calendar for **Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4-6 p.m.** for our Open House at River View. Families should bring *birth certificates, immunization records and health cards* to the open house to complete the registration process. Visit [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org) and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for more details!

## Winter Reminders

We remind students to bundle up and dress appropriately for outdoor play this winter. Except in extreme cases (minus 25 Celcius, as per Niagara Public Health), recess and lunch breaks will continue outdoors to provide our children a much-needed change of pace and scenery. Depending on the wind chill factor, outdoor breaks may be shortened as appropriate.

**Students are not kept in at recess due to illness** as fresh air and exercise are essential to a healthy mind and body. If your child is well enough to be at school, we consider him/her well enough to be outside. Colds and coughs will not be affected if the student is properly dressed and does not over-extend him/herself. We feel very strongly that if the child is too ill to go out for recess, it would be in the child's best interest to remain home for the day. If you believe your child is an exceptional case, please contact Mrs. Sendzik or Mr. Howell to discuss the situation.

## Mary's Cold

Mary had a little cold, but wouldn't stay at home,  
And everywhere that Mary went, the cold was sure to roam.  
It wandered into Mary's eyes and filled them full of tears.  
It jumped from there to Bobby's nose and thence to Jimmy's ears.  
It painted Anna's throat bright red, and swelled poor Jenny's head.  
Dora had a fever, and a cough put Jack to bed.  
The moral of this little tale is very quickly said -  
Mary could have saved a lot of pain with just one day in bed!

## School Council

Our next School Council meeting will take place Tuesday January 24, 2012 from **6-7:30pm** in the new *Learning Commons* at River View. Please look at our website:

<http://riverview.dsbns.org>

for the minutes from the first three meetings. You are always welcome to attend and we value your input! **New in January: Childcare will be offered in the computer lab at River View during the Council meeting to facilitate attendance.**

## Physical Education at River View during the Winter Months

Without a gymnasium, we benefitted from a mild and dry Fall that had many (if not most) of our gym classes being held outdoors.

With the cold temperatures and sometimes slippery conditions, there will be fewer opportunities to have gym outside in the coming months. For this reason, we have planned additional opportunities for physical activity.

Students in Grades 1-3 will be involved in skating and bowling in the coming months. They will also continue to use our empty classroom for gym and will take part in outdoor winter physical activities when appropriate.

## Newsletter Draw Winner

Congratulations to the Wilcox family who won December's newsletter draw! The Wilcoxes have won a family-size pizza from the Chippawa House!

## Subway Lunches are Back!

Back by popular demand are the beloved catered lunches from *Subway*. Our first sub lunch will be Thursday January 19, the day before the PA day. We have worked collaboratively with the owner of the Chippawa *Subway* location to ensure that the subs provided meet the Ministry of Education's new nutritional guidelines.

Please find below the nutritional specifications for the items offered:

### 6" Grain Wheat

Sat. Fat 0.5g  
Sodium 310mg  
Fibre 4g

### 6" Italian White Bread

Sat. Fat 0.5g  
Sodium 290mg  
Fibre 1g

### Turkey

Fat 1g  
Sodium 480mg

### Roast Beef

Fat 1g  
Sodium 405mg

### Ham (3 Slices)

Fat 5g  
Sodium 420mg

All of these values fall within the 'Sell Most' or 'Sell Less' categories of the Ministry's requirements. Please contact the office if you have any further questions about this special lunch!

## Suggestions for January Literacy and Numeracy Activities at Home

If your new year's resolutions include spending more time together as a family or providing more learning opportunities for your child, here are some ideas to help you accomplish both!

**Game On:** Set up a family board game night where a different game is played each week. Have each member of the family involved in reading instructions and game cards and keeping score.

**Sharpen Your Mind:** Do crossword puzzles, word jumbles, suduko and word searches when you have a spare moment: waiting in line, waiting at the bridge, travelling to grandma's house.

**Community Book Club:** Challenge your neighbours to read the same book in January and then meet at a convenient location (at someone's house for a pot-luck supper, for example) on Family Literacy Day, January 27, to discuss the book. It may be so much fun you'll want to hold two or three throughout the year.

**Reading Buddies:** Encourage your child to practice reading to the family dog, cat, goldfish or young sibling. Pets are great listeners and don't make a judgment if a mistake is made. Baby's brainpower benefits from being reading aloud to and they love the sound of a family member's voice and the closeness of sharing.

**Get the News!** Read news articles and magazines and then discuss current affairs together.

**Travel the World:** Take your children to the library and use your library card as a passport. Check out books on different countries to learn about their geography, celebrations and traditions. Record your journey on a world map.

**Author, Author!** Write your own adventure: Write a short story as a family with alternative endings written by each family member. Research and write your family's history: Use the Internet, family letters and documents as resources, and interview your relatives.

## Students of the Month

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized by their teachers in December:

ELP1 -	Mrs. Kowalewski & Mrs. Meli	Shafay Ejaz Logan Gallant Sophie Geier Syrenity Beaupre-Coleman
ELP2 -	Mrs. Keagan & Mrs. Schaefer	Boyd Gaffney Tanner Theal
ELP3 -	Ms. Van Lierop	Jasmine Dill Trinity Wasiloff
Grade 1 -	Mrs. Stotski	Teagan Hruska Justin Hall
Grade 1/2 -	Mrs. Costantino	Ashley Nystrom Adrienne Moody Zoe Sacuta Ethan Mooney
Grade 2/3 -	Mrs. Laakso	Ashley Ladd Joshua Parisi Rudra Gajjar Junior Cadell
Grade 3 -	Ms. Mammoliti	Hadden Maddelena Batoul Mansour Alex Shelley

## Electronic Newsletter?

Are you interested in conserving paper and tired of getting multiple copies of our monthly newsletter, or worse, not getting a copy at all? If you are interested in receiving our newsletter monthly via email, please complete and return the form below. We appreciate your conservation efforts!

Family name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email recipient's first name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_



## January Newsletter Draw

Share your thoughts: We now have the ability to send a message to all River View/Rutland families via telephone if needed. How do you feel we can best use this service?

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We appreciate your input!

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## Help Choose our new River View Mascot

Selecting a mascot for our merged school is an exciting challenge ... and we need your help!

A mascot is generally a *person, object* or *animal* that is adopted as a symbolic figure to represent the school in sporting events, spirit wear and even as a part of our school logo. It is a great way to personify the spirit of our school.

Students, parents and staff are encouraged to submit ideas using words and/or pictures in the space below or on your own piece of paper. Please include your name, grade (if applicable) and enough information to help us understand why your submission would be fitting. Submit as many entries as you wish (Extra copies of the submission form are available at the office)!

**All entries must be received at either the River View or FJ Rutland School office by January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

Name:  Grade:

My/Our Mascot Idea:

Here's why I/we think it is a good option:

*(Use words or pictures to show how the mascot connects to our school name/identity and helps to foster school spirit.)*



## *District School Board of Niagara Expanding French Immersion for 2012*

The District School Board of Niagara is pleased to now offer French Immersion beginning at the Grade 4 level across the system. In addition, as of September 2012, we will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations (including John Marshall in Niagara Falls). As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year (Grade 7 entry will continue in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake).

Information re: entry levels and the application process is on the DSBN website [www.dsb.org](http://www.dsb.org). Click on the Parent Tab, under Programs, click on French and International Languages, click on French Immersion Registration. Applications for Grades 1, 4, 5 and 7 (at select schools) will be online. Application packages will also be available at your child's school starting January 9, 2012. Further program information will be sent home with your child in January.

“The ability to communicate in French is a valuable skill, because French is **one** of Canada's two official languages and because it is a language used widely around the world. Research confirms that knowledge of a second language strengthens first-language skills and that the ability to speak two or more languages generally enhances reasoning and problem solving skills, as well as creative-thinking skills. Learning a second language not only strengthens students' ability to communicate, but also develops their capacity to understand and respect other cultures. In this way, second-language learning prepares students to participate more effectively in the workplace and in the global economy, and provides them with a distinct advantage in a number of careers, both in Canada and internationally.” (pg 3 of the E.F./F.I. Curriculum Document (C.D.) 2001)

Parent Information Evenings will take place during the weeks of January 30 – February 10<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to find out more details about the French Immersion program, please attend one of the Information Evenings listed below or call your school.

Prince Philip (Niagara Falls)	February 1, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
John Marshall	February 8, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.