

# River View and FJ Rutland Times

November 2011

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## Mark Your Calendars

- Nov. 2 - Parent Involvement Conference @ Eden Secondary
- Nov. 11 - Remembrance Day Assembly @ FJR @ 10:30am
- Nov. 15 - Progress Reports go home
- Nov. 18 - Healthy Catered Lunch
- Nov. 22 - School Council 6pm
- Nov. 27-Dec.2 - Book Fair @ RV
- Nov. 28 - Family Reading Night @ RV
- Nov. 30 - Traditional Pizza Lunch

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*"Goals are the fuel in the furnace of achievement."*  
**Brian Tracy**

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## Principal's Message

November is an important month in the education of your child. On November 15<sup>th</sup>, you will receive your child's 2011/2012 progress report card which indicates how well he/she is doing with respect to *learning skills* and *curricular achievement* up to this point in the school year. In addition to the written report card, you will be provided with the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss progress and to clarify any questions you might have.

Research indicates that students fare better in school when their parents are involved in their education. We encourage you to meet with your child's teacher this month to ensure that you have a sound understanding of his/her strengths and needs.

The timing of the progress report is mid-way through the first term. This is a great time to sit down with your child to set realistic and specific goals for the rest of the term. Ideally, your child will set 1 or 2 achievable goals, and work diligently towards achieving them over the next 2 months. Our staff members look forward to helping all students achieve their goals as it's the most rewarding aspect of being an educator!

Thank you for your on-going support of your child's education - we appreciate all you do to support learning at home!

Mrs. M. Sendzik

## Construction Update

We are thrilled to report that our brand new *Learning Commons* will be open to students by the second week of November. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the library will be up and running thanks to our fantastic librarian, Mrs. K. Spurell. The computer lab should be ready shortly after that. We are very excited to move into this new space and encourage you to come check it out during the Book Fair (Nov. 28-Dec.2).

Window sill installation continues around the school and window coverings should arrive sometime this month as well.

A new, temporary asphalt ramp has been installed at the temporary main doors allowing for easier access to the sidewalk.

Finally, a good portion of the masonry work is done in the addition. They have begun to install the steel beams for the roof and canopy. Due to structural needs of the addition, Mrs. Stotski's Grade 1 class will be temporarily re-located to allow for roofing work to occur above that classroom.



Look at our Learning Commons! What a difference 1 month makes!

## Staff Learning Journey

During the Early Release Day in September and the October PA Day, the staffs of River View and FJ Rutland reflected on classroom, system and provincial data to set our *School Improvement Plan* goal for the 2011/2012 school year.

Our data has led us to a focus on **problem solving**, both within the mathematical context as well as in other contexts (solving a dispute during recess, figuring out how to improve a piece of work, etc.).

We will be working in divisional groupings (primary, junior and intermediate) to learn more about how we can support our students in improving their problem solving skills. We will not only have the support of each other, but will also have the support of staff from DSBN's curriculum services department, including our itinerant instructional coach, Ms. Taeya Fare.

Each month, we will update you on our progress towards our goal and will share ideas that you may want to use at home to support your child's learning.

## FJ Rutland Closing Celebration Committee

**Do you like to plan events? Did you, your parent(s) or your child(ren) graduate from FJ Rutland Public School? If so, please consider volunteering to be a member of the committee that will work together to plan an event that Chippawa will never forget!**

**We are aiming to host the event sometime in May/June 2012, but these kinds of celebrations take time to plan and organize! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Mrs. Sendzik at the office.**

**Thanks in advance for your help!**

## Catered Lunches

As previously reported, the revised nutrition guidelines enacted by the Ontario Ministry of Education have required that we change the number and the kinds of catered lunches offered at our schools. The revised guidelines allow for 1 'non-compliant' day a month, when the school can sell foods and beverages that do not meet the guidelines.

For October, our 'non-compliant' day was our Family Movie Night. In June, we will need to save the 'non-compliant' day for the Fun Fair. Members of School Council agreed that for the remaining months we can host 1 non-compliant luncheon each month.

For November, we will hold 2 catered luncheons, 1 meeting the Ministry's requirements (healthy lunch catered by Commisso's), and the other will be non-compliant (Pepperoni and cheese pizza with crazy bread from Little Caesar's). These choices were based on feedback from students and parents.

## Supporting the Young Mathematician at Home

**Young mathematicians should be provided with opportunities to explore mathematics throughout their day.**

Share the times when you are using mathematics in your day so that they see and understand the importance of math in their world. Support them as they begin to grapple with mathematical ideas. Help them understand that success lies not in getting the right answer, but rather in the challenge of solving the problem. Also, let them know that you think math is important, exciting & even creative!

There are many times when mathematical thinking could be discovered while at home. Here are a few examples. Be sure to keep it fun!

### At home:

Daily chores: How long will it take us to clean the dishes? Let's time it and see if we were close.

Cooking: Measure out the flour for this recipe. What if we double the recipe?

Reading stories: How many elephants are there? How many feet would there be?

Budgeting: How much will you need to save to be able to buy that bike you want to get?

Puzzles: How did you know that piece didn't fit there?

Card Games: What number is that? Is that number bigger than mine?

Board Games: What roll do you want to get? What are the chances of that happening?

Video Games: How much is your team winning by?

I spy with my little eye, something that is smaller than a shoe box...

While knowing math facts is important, it is more important that young mathematicians have opportunities to deepen their understanding, to reason mathematically, and to use mathematics to navigate their world. Making connections between school math and the math they encounter in the real world will support this learning.

***Remember to keep it fun!***

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

There may be times during the school year where inclement weather or other situations could cause transportation cancellations or school closures. At times when student transportation has been cancelled and schools remain open, the decision of whether or not to have children in school on that day rests with the parent or guardian.

**Should you decide not to send your child to school in the event that transportation is cancelled but schools remain open, or if your child is ill or late, please ensure that you call your child's school to inform them of your child's absence.**

A key resource in any emergency is the DSNB Emergency Information form that you filled out at the beginning of the school year. Please let the school know of any changes in contact information or procedures you wish to be followed throughout the school year.

Information about transportation cancellations and school closures will be available as soon as it is available through the following channels:

**Websites:**

[www.dsnb.org](http://www.dsnb.org)

[www.nsts.ca](http://www.nsts.ca)

**Subscription Features:**

DSNB Facebook or Twitter

NSTS Transportation Delay or Cancellation Alerts

**Phone:**

Niagara Student Transportation Services 905-346-0290 Voice Auto Attendant

**Radio Stations:**

CKTB (610 AM) St. Catharines

WAVE (94.7 FM) Hamilton

CKOC (1150 AM) Hamilton

CHML (900 AM) Hamilton

CHAM (820 AM) Hamilton

Y-108(107.9) Hamilton

CHRE (105.7 FM) St. Catharines

CHTZ-FM (97.7 FM) St. Catharines

CKEY (105.1 FM) Niagara Falls/Fort Erie

K-LITE-FM (102.9 FM) Hamilton

GIANT FM (91.7 FM) Welland

**Television Stations:**

CH – Hamilton

CityTV Breakfast Television

CTV Toronto

Cogeco Channel 10

## School Council

Our next School Council meeting will take place Tuesday November 22, 2011 from 6-8pm in the new *Learning Commons* at River View. Please look at our website: <http://riverview.dsnb.org> for the minutes from the first two meetings. You are always welcome to attend and we value your input!

## Dogs on School Property

At River View and FJ Rutland, we are concerned first and foremost with student safety. We therefore request that dogs **not** be on school property while children are at school. Anyone with a service animal is more than welcome to come onto the premises or into the building at any time. Staff and members of our School Council do ask, however, that if parents/guardians are walking their pet to school with their children, please do not enter the school yard (out back) with the dog. We have several students who are allergic or are afraid of dogs, and we do not wish to put anyone in an uncomfortable or unsafe position.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

### Remembrance Day Service

Our Grade 1, ½ and 2/3 classes will be attending a Remembrance Day service at FJ Rutland on November 11<sup>th</sup>. The service will honour Canadians who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy our freedom. The assembly will begin at 10:30a.m. Please join us if you are able, as we need volunteers to help supervise the walk to and from Rutland. A permission form will come home shortly.

Our Grade 3 class along with the Grade 8 Rutland Ambassadors will be going to the City of Niagara Falls Service at the Gale Centre to represent our 2 schools at the city ceremony.

### Staffing Changes at River View

We are sad to be saying good-bye to 2 wonderful staff members this month. **Ms. Sara Foster** (evening custodian) is leaving us for a position at Forestview and **Mrs. Tamara Lockhart** (secretary) is heading to Maple Grove School in Vineland. We will miss you!

### Newsletter Draw Winner

Congratulations to the Darbyson family who won October's newsletter draw! The Darbysons have won a family-size pizza from the Chippawa House!

### Dieleman and Waste Bag Fundraiser

River View students did a fantastic job of supporting our school through the sale of waste bags and paper products for the upcoming holiday season. At this point, we believe that we have raised approximately \$2000! We are very thankful for the Chippawa community's contributions to our academic resources and extra-curricular programs.

Congratulations goes to the ELP2 (Mrs. Keagan's) class who sold the most waste bags. They will be treated to a free pizza lunch this month!

## November Newsletter Draw



Share your thoughts:

Please comment on the new layout of the monthly newsletter. Additionally, please respond: Would you be open to receiving this newsletter electronically?

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We appreciate your input!

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## We Are Learning To.... (W.A.L.T.)



Investigate, observe, annotate and record our findings in Science class.



Play cooperatively and share the classroom resources!



Build our conceptual understanding of mathematics through problem solving.



Use technology to help us listen, read, and write more effectively.

## Students of the Month

Due to a lack of a whole-school meeting place, student-of-the-month certificates were given out in classrooms this month. Congratulations to the following students who were recognized by their teachers in October:

- |                    |  |   |
|--------------------|--|---|
| <b>ELP1 -</b>      | <b>Mrs. Kowalewski &amp; Mrs. Meli</b> | Sophie Geier<br>Blaze Caddell<br>Elizabeth Evtodi<br>Lukas Cuthbert |
| <b>ELP2 -</b>      | <b>Mrs. Keagan &amp; Mrs. Schaefer</b> | Naomi Bertram<br>Liam Darte   |
| <b>ELP3 -</b>      | <b>Ms. Van Lierop</b>                  | Scarlet Nelson-Sharp<br>Aayden Wilcox                               |
| <b>Grade 1 -</b>   | <b>Mrs. Stotski</b>                    | Mackenzie Cashmore<br>Ally O'Connor<br>Jacob Hill                   |
| <b>Grade 1/2 -</b> | <b>Mrs. Costantino</b>                 | Jacob O'Connor<br>Stephanie Godzisz<br>Madison Mihaychuk            |
| <b>Grade 2/3 -</b> | <b>Mrs. Laakso</b>                     | Tanner Stevens<br>Vanessa Whalen<br>Lucas Gullage                   |
| <b>Grade 3 -</b>   | <b>Ms. Mammoliti</b>                   | Jayden Day<br>Julia Chopp<br>Damon MacArthur                        |

