



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA  
Achieving Success Together



Dewitt Carter Public School

# Dragon's Digest

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Mrs. Sue Greer - Area Superintendent  
Mr. Dave Schaubel - School Board Trustee

## December 2011 / January 2012 Newsletter

### Dewitt Carter Public School Mission Statement

"It is the mission of Dewitt Carter Public School to help our students to become well-educated, happy, secure, law-abiding citizens prepared to contribute to society."

### Peanut Allergy Alert

**We have several students with allergies some of whom are allergic to peanuts and peanut products. We ask that peanuts and products containing peanuts not be brought to school. Help us to keep Dewitt Carter a safe place for all students.**



Wow, December is upon us and 2011 is coming to an end. Where has all of the time gone? It has truly been a wonderful three months and we have a tremendous group of students, staff and community that work together to

make DeWitt Carter a comfortable and safe place to learn. We all deserve a relaxing two week holiday!

Our first report cards went home on November 15<sup>th</sup> and, for most students, it is an opportunity to take some time and celebrate their hard work. However, for some, it is a time to reflect on their strengths and the areas that need improvement. With much of the year remaining, there is still an ample amount of time to take the necessary steps to achieve personal success and reach potentials. You can do it!

Here are some simple steps that can be made to assure success:

- successful students come to school each day on time and prepared to learn
- successful students take responsibility for their own learning by completing work to their best ability
- Successful students ask questions to parents, guardians, teachers, and friends to clarify meaning and support understanding

The holiday season also brings a special feeling of love and care. This can be seen throughout the school as teachers and students transform the building into a festive palace. A tour of our halls will help you capture the holiday spirit. We hope to see all parents and friends at our holiday performances.

will take place on **Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm** and on **Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:00- 8:00 pm.**

In conclusion, on behalf of the staff at DeWitt Carter, we would like to take this moment to wish each and every one of you a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season. See you on **Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>**, when school resumes after the holidays!





## ATTENDANCE

Reminder: Please remember to call the school office to report any student absences at **(905) 834-7440**. The school does have an answering machine for any calls outside of office hours. Please feel free to call and leave a message stating your child's first and last name, the grade or teacher and the reason for the absence. Please also note that the bell rings at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Students will be marked late after 9:05 a.m. and 1:05 p.m.. Students **must** report to the office for a late slip in order to avoid an unnecessary call home. In the interest of the safety of our students, your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the library. All are welcome to attend!



## SCHOOL VISITORS

For the safety of our students, all school visitors (including parents) **must report to the main office. PLEASE DO NOT GO DIRECTLY TO CLASSROOMS.** We appreciate your understanding of this matter and have implemented this check-in procedure as part of our safe schools plan.



## Kindergarten Open House

*Do you know a child who is turning 4 or 5 in 2012?* Help them get ready for their big first day of school with the DSBN's Kindergarten Countdown.

Parents and children are invited to a **KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE** at our school on Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Attending an open house is a great way for children and their families to see the school, meet teachers and staff, and register for the coming school year.

To find out all of the information you need to prepare your child for kindergarten, go to: [www.dsbno.org](http://www.dsbno.org) and click on "Kindergarten Countdown".



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

### HOLIDAYS

December 24 -	Christmas Break
January 8	
February 20	Family Day
March 9 -18	March Break
April 6	Good Friday
April 9	Easter Monday
May 21	Victoria Day

### EARLY RELEASE DAYS

February 17

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAYS

January 20  
May 18  
June 8

### LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Thursday, June 28, 2011



## **CLUBS AND TEAMS**

### *Basketball*

Intermediate Basketball is underway and the boys and girls will be starting their perspective seasons in January. Stay tuned for results as Mr. MacJanet and Mr. De Waard prepare for an awesome season.

### *Intramurals*

Starting in the new year, we will be having our first intramurals. Dragon lairs will be competing for precious Dragon Lair Points. Get involved...it is for the whole school!

## **MATH PROBLEM FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY**

To help support our numeracy goal, all students who answer the attached Math Problem for November will be given a free item from the canteen in January. Parents, please sit down with your kids and do this together so they can see how you work through the problem. Speak out loud so the kids hear your process. This will make them better mathematicians!

Congratulations to the following students who successfully answered the math problem in November. The answer was 110 dots. The following students will receive a free canteen item on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>!



Maxinia P.      Miguel D.      Seth B.

Aiden R.      Rosemary M.      Mara A.

Khendra A.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In the event of inclement weather, the local radio stations will be notified regarding bus cancellations and school closures. The announcements will be made at approximately 7:00 a.m. Please refrain

from calling the school. The following radio stations will have the news concerning the District School Board of Niagara. These announcements may also have information regarding our bus company, First Student.



### **Local:**

CKTB 610                  CHSC 1220                  CJRN 710

CKEY FM 101.1                  CHRE FM 105.7

CHTZ FM 97.7                  GIANT 91.7 FM

### **Hamilton stations:**

CHML 950                  CKOC 1150

CHAM 820                  K-LITE FM 102.9

## **Facebook of Dewitt Carter 100years**

If you are interested in keeping up with the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and /or volunteering at this historic event, sign up for our Facebook Group! You can access the Facebook group by searching for:

**100 years of Dewitt Carter Public School**

You can then join the group and get timely updates!

## **Dragon Lair Days**

This month's Dragon Lair Days will take place on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> - Wear your Lair Colour!  
Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> - Twin Day - Dress like a twin with one of your friends!

## Office Stuff

**Lates** - Parents, please have your child ready and at school for 9:00 am. Simply getting up 5 minutes earlier might be the trick. It makes for a busy office when we have almost 30 lates a day! Also, it disrupts the classes as they are well into instruction when your child arrives! Thanks for your attention to this matter!

**Bus Loading Zone** - When picking up your child at the end of the day, please stay away from the bus loading zone. This is located immediately in front of the school and extends to the Fire Station. This is all about child safety. We are trying hard to make our routines structured. Thanks in advance for your patience as we do this!

## **Students of the Month**

The following students were celebrated at our end of the month recognition assembly. They were recognized for their hard work, class participation, school spirit and/or following our monthly character trait!



**Mrs. Keus:** Zachary, Nicholas, Tatanna

**Mrs. Laur:** Maya, Ethan, Damien

**Mrs. Winn / Longval:** Briar, Logan, Kolby

**Mrs. Brennan:** Kylan, Evelyn, Damika

**Mrs. Froude:** Rosemary, Isabel, Daphnei

**Mrs. Meinzingher :** Ethan, Eddie, Kagan

**Mrs. Forand:** Noah, Brooke, Trent

**Mrs. Churchill:** Brandon, James, Kyle

**Mr. De Waard:** Riley, Abby, Bobby

**Mrs. Garner:** Drake, Mitchell, Cameron

**Mr. Turonski:** Lucas, Emily, Madison

**Mr. Curran:** Mae, Courtney, Ashley

**PLEASE READ THIS NEWSLETTER  
THOROUGHLY - A GREAT DEAL OF  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS  
CONTAINED WITHIN!**

## COMMUNICATION MATTERS

Smart Talk From DSBN Speech- Language Pathologists

Some children may have difficulty answering certain types of questions. By changing the way you ask a question, you may get a better response. Try these suggestions:

**Ask short, clear, and direct questions.** Use simple grammar and ask for one idea at a time. Instead of "what happened at school today?", ask "what was the best thing that you did today at school?"; "what did you do in gym?", etc.

**Give your child enough time to respond.** Show you are interested in what your child has to say. Look at your child, nod your head and make comments. Recognize that some children take longer than others to compose their response. Wait for an answer to one question before asking another. Continue to keep eye contact while you wait.

**Use different kinds of questions to give your child opportunity to answer with different levels of information.** If you want short, factual answers, use questions such as yes/no, multiple choice, how many?, who?, what? and when?. For an interpretation or an evaluation, ask questions such as how?, what if?, what do you think?, why? or what makes you say that?

**Rephrase a question.** If your child doesn't answer, model the type of response you are looking for. Your child may respond better to a directive instead of a question. For example, "I had an interesting day at work. We had a visitor....., tell me about your day."





