



# SIR ISAAC BROCK PUBLIC SCHOOL

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February 2018

## *A Message from the Office:*

2018 is off to a great start at SIB. During January a number of exciting events took place at school. We have had a number of very exciting assemblies. Mad Science was in and put on a presentation for our Grade K-6 including some intriguing science experiments. Many students signed up to attend the after school workshops which runs for eight weeks. Steve Shepell did a presentation for students in grades 4 to 8 around internet safety and safe use of media. As well, he presented to parents during an evening event hosted by school council. A group of grade 8 students represented our school at the Cardboard Boat Race for Skills Canada. Representatives from our area secondary schools presented information about grade 9 to our Grade 8 students.

This month we welcomed Mr. Chris Lyon to SIB. He will teach grade 7. We also said "goodbye" to Ms. Lindsay Skidmore, an Educational Assistant who will be missed!

February will be another busy month. We begin the month by participating in National Sweater Day on Feb. 2 and turning the heat down at school by 2 degrees to demonstrate how we can all conserve energy. A variety of Safety presentations, sports tournaments, as well as Pink Shirt Day for anti-bullying will occur during February.

We hope you all have a wonderful February.

*Natasha Skerritt & Kathy Soule*

**Pink Shirt  
Day  
February 28**

**Raise the Dough!!**

**Domino's Pizza**

**February 21<sup>st</sup>**

Supervision starts on the school yard at 8:25 and school starts at 8:40. Thanks to everyone for trying their best to be on time. Students arriving after 8:40 are asked to check in at the office before heading to class.

Did you know that upcoming dates and events are posted on our school calendar? Check our website for more information.

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next School Council meeting is Tuesday February 20<sup>st</sup> at 6:45pm in the library. As always, you are more than welcome to join us.



### Chinese New Year

We will be celebrating Chinese New Year on February 16. Students and staff will have an opportunity to order a special lunch from Mandarin Restaurant. Dumplings and/or vegetable spring rolls will be available for order on School Cash On line until February 8. Lunch will be delivered in time for second nutrition break. Students who have ordered from Montana's will receive their lunch order as usual.

### **We'd love to celebrate customs and traditions from all around the world!**

Learning more about the various celebrations that our SIB families celebrate is one of our school improvement goals at SIB. As part of this we would like to expose our students to different cultures and foods. If you have a suggestion or idea please contact your child's teacher or Ms. Skerritt or Mrs. Soule. If you are willing to come in and share ideas with us we would love to hear from you.



### **Pink Shirt Day—Wednesday, February 28th**

The key message of Pink Shirt Day is about getting students to not accept bullying under any circumstances and to not stand by when they witness acts of bullying. We would like to ask all students and staff to wear pink shirts on February 28th to support Pink Shirt, Anti-Bullying Day.

### **Grade 8 Fundraising**

Beginning February 15, Grade 8 students will be selling Kernels popcorn during recess each Thursday for \$2.00 per bag. Proceeds will support the Quebec trip.

Please support our grade 8 Quebec trip by purchasing Versey's bulbs, vegetables and herbs. Please see a Grade 7 or 8 student if you are interested in ordering. Orders due April 4 with delivery approximately 3 weeks later

## TERM 1 REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be sent home on Tuesday February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. How you interpret and respond to your child's report card is important. Listed below are some suggestions to help you read, understand and celebrate your child's report card.

1. Read the learning skills on the first page of the document first. Celebrate and acknowledge your child's efforts, improvements and strengths and who they are as a person. Pay particular attention to the comments regarding Strengths, Areas of Need and Next Steps.
2. Pay attention to the section that deals with "days absent" and "times late". Sometimes this is an area that surprises parents and offers insights into why your child may be struggling.
3. Talk about the report card together and seek your child's opinion about their accomplishments.
4. Look at the grades that your child is getting in areas that he/she is interested in; this could suggest some new areas of interests and talents of your child.
5. Set some goals with your child in areas that you both agree would benefit from improvement. Look for key phrases like "organizational skills", "focusing", "non-completion of work", and "lack of preparation" to track down what is going wrong in a particular subject area.
6. Make a plan on how to meet these goals and share in the responsibility of helping support your child to achieve these next steps.
7. Request a meeting with your child's teacher if you need clarification, want more information or need ideas and resources to support your child's learning goals.
8. Remember that the term one report card is a checkpoint. There are five more months of work ahead and a lot can change during that time. Hard work and effort do pay off.

### Report Bullying



We take all incidents of bullying seriously. If your child is the victim of bullying or sees bullying behavior at school, please encourage him/her to speak with someone at school or use our board's online reporting tool. **Report Bullying** gives students and parents 24/7 access for reporting bullying. You don't have to identify yourself – just your school – and your message gets sent directly to the school principal for follow-up. You'll find the Report Bullying button on our school's website

## Learning about Renewable Energy in Grade 5 at Sir Isaac Brock P.S.

Grade 5 students at Sir Isaac Brock had a blast learning about Renewable Energy through projects and presentations. Mrs. Kelly Miller challenged her students to create a model that uses a renewable source of energy as well as write a presentation to describe their model and all that they learned. The top five students in her class, as voted by their peers, won an opportunity to present to the principal Ms. Skerritt and the vice principal Mrs. Soule. Mrs. Soule and Ms. Skerritt were impressed with the knowledge and learning that these students acquired through this project. Adrien created a solar energy model and shared that he learned that “When solar panels work the sun goes through the PN Junction and the photons from the sun are turned into energy.” Isabel created solar powered lights in her model and she learned that “Solar energy is renewable because the sun is renewable.” Ty’s model used potato power to power a town. He learned that “a potato battery mixed with the zinc in nails and copper wire can create energy”. Izzy created a solar powered ice cream truck and she discovered that “solar power creates energy from the sun that is then stored in the battery to help make things run.” Tyler learned that “renewable energy is important because if we use non-renewable energy we will run out and then we won’t have any energy.” Tyler was able to demonstrate this with his model of a solar powered car. This exciting learning opportunity gets us one step closer to our ECO schools certification and is one of the many exciting lessons happening around SIB. Ms Skerritt and Mrs. Soule are incredibly proud of all the students at SIB and love to share the exciting things that they are learning.





## FEBRUARY 7TH IS WINTER WALK DAY!

Lots of UGDSB schools participated in Walk to School Day in October. Did you know that there is also a walk to school day in February? Let's keep the momentum going! February 7th is Winter Walk Day across Canada. It's the perfect opportunity for parents and kids to get outside together and stretch those legs! Walk to school or at school for daily physical activity, a healthier environment, safer streets, making friends and...having fun! Walking helps kids get those 60 minutes of daily physical activity they need. It's also a great cure for those winter blues and helps students concentrate better in class.

As a parent you can help your child learn about walking or riding to school safely:

- Be a good role model. Demonstrate road safety rules with your child (e.g. looking both ways when crossing the street).
- Plan a walking or riding route. Assess potential hazards with your child. Encourage your child to stick to the route.
- Remind your child about personal safety. Point out the houses of people you know where they can go for help if needed.
- Adopt a buddy system. Walk with a "walking buddy" – a sibling or a friend.
- Ask that electronics like iPods and cellphones be put in their bag while walking to school. Pedestrian safety is compromised by texting, earphones and cellphone conversation.
- Talk about the rules of the road and pedestrian safety.

Visit [www.saferoutestoschool.ca](http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca) for more information and resources on active school travel.

### **Engaging Your Child in Science at Home!**

As parents we have the wonderful opportunity and responsibility for nurturing our children's growth. Parents play a key role in the physical, emotional, and intellectual development of their child. As parents we can usually find time to read a story to our children, thereby instilling a love of literature, but we are often at a loss as to how to instill a love and appreciation for Science. Science encourages problem solving skills, curiosity and questioning, creative and critical thinking, observational skills and reinforces both literacy and math skills....and it's FUN! Here are some ideas for fostering Scientific skills in your children.

#### **6 Tips to foster Scientific Thinking at Home**

**1-See science everywhere.** Parents can take opportunities to ask "What would happen if ...?" questions or present brainteasers to encourage children to be curious and seek out answers. Children need to know that science isn't just a subject, but it is a way of understanding the world around us.

**2-Lead family discussions on science-related topics.** Dinnertime might be an ideal time for your family to have discussions about news stories that are science based, like space shuttle missions, severe weather conditions, or new medical breakthroughs. Over time, children will develop a better understanding of science and how it affects many facets of our lives. Movies and TV shows with science-related storylines are also great topics for discussion.

**3-Encourage girls and boys equally.** Many girls are left out of challenging activities simply because of

their gender. Be aware that both girls and boys need to be encouraged and exposed to a variety of subjects at a very early age.

**4-Do science together.** Children, especially elementary-age children, learn better by investigating and experimenting. Simple investigations done together in the home can bolster what your child is learning in the classroom. Check with your child's teacher on what your child is currently learning in class and what activities you can explore at home.

**5-Connect science with a family vacation.** Family vacations are a great way to explore science. It could be a hiking trip where you explore nature or a discussion on tides during a beach vacation.

**6-Show excitement for Science!**

Reference:

"NSTA Science Matters: Tips for Busy Parents - National Science ...."

<http://www.nsta.org/sciencematters/tips.aspx>.

### Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet



**February 2<sup>nd</sup> is National Sweater Day!**

*It is vital to teach our children to respect and take care of the environment.*

### Celebrate National Sweater Day on February 2nd!

*“National Sweater Day is a fun way to learn about the importance of saving energy and to inspire you to use less heat all winter. Heating accounts for 80% of residential energy use in Canada and is a significant source of emissions. If all Canadians lowered their thermostats by just 2 degrees Celsius this winter, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 4 megatons – that’s equivalent to shutting down a 600 mega watt coal-fired power station or taking nearly 700,000 cars off the road!”*

[http://www.wwf.ca/events/sweater\\_day/](http://www.wwf.ca/events/sweater_day/)

*“National Sweater Day is about valuing energy. It’s a chance to think differently about how we use energy, where our energy comes from and how we can play an important role in fighting climate change by using energy wisely, not wastefully. It is designed to help raise awareness about renewable energy and change behaviours around energy consumption in Canada.” -- World Wildlife Fund Canada*

### Ideas for your family to celebrate Sweater Day!

- **Turn down your thermostat and wear a sweater!**
- **Ask your children to brainstorm with you about ways to save energy at home.** Make a pledge to implement as many as you can.
- **Research the differences between climate and weather.** Ask your child to characterize some different climate types (polar, tropical, coastal, etc.).
- **Read a children’s book on conservation** such as: *Why Should I Save Energy?* by Jen Green. Encourage lots of discussion and questions.
- **Valentine’s Day is just around the corner** - use recycled materials to create a your cards this year!