



Pine Grove Public School

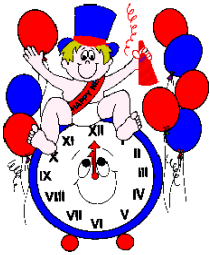
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www.dsbns.org/Schools/PineGrove

JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

FROM MRS. SMITH'S DESK...



The staff of Pine Grove School wishes you a Happy New Year and hope that 2012 is a prosperous and healthy one for each of you. We are looking forward to working with your children and celebrating their accomplishments with you. As always, we strive to make Pine Grove a safe and positive place to learn. Our main message to all students is that we treat everyone, students and adults, with respect.

Looking Back with Thanks...

Thank you for your support this past year at Pine Grove School. There are many people we would like to thank for helping our students...

- ✓ parents, grandparents and friends who supported our many fundraising activities; pizza and hot lunches, DFS Fundraising, candy cane and poinsettia sales, Harvest Lunch, Family Movie Night, gingerbread houses and our December Open House, etc.
 - ✓ our volunteer drivers who drove to trips and sporting activities
 - ✓ parents and grandparents who helped supervise class trips
 - ✓ parents, high school and college volunteers who worked with our students in the classroom
 - ✓ our hardworking Pine Grove Parent Involvement Committee
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DALEWOOD/SHERIDAN PARK FRENCH IMMERSION OPEN HOUSES...

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, they will be implementing a Grade One French Immersion Pilot at 5 locations. As well as the new grade 4 entry, Grade 5 entry will continue across the Board for the 2012-2013 school year as well as Grade 7 entry.

Information re: entry levels and the application process are on the DSBN website at www.dsbns.org. Click on the Parent Tab, under Programs, click on French and International Languages and then click on French Immersion Registration.

On Tuesday, January 31st at 6:30 p.m., Dalewood will be presenting its annual French Immersion Information Evening for students entering grades 4, 5 and 7 in September 2012 and their parents. 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.

A number of our ex-Pine Grovers in grades 7 & 8 will be presenting and will give the potential new students a glimpse of the program in action. More information is available on our board's website (www.dsbni.org), under the *Parent* heading and selecting *French and International Languages*.

Sheridan Park will be one of the five schools offering the Grade 1 French Immersion program. For more information, visit their open house on Wednesday, February 1st from 6:30 to 7:30 pm.



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. 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 DSBNI website www.dsbni.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 10th. 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.

Central	January 30, 2012	6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Alexandra	January 30, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Parliament Oak	January 31, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Dalewood	January 31, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
McKay	January 31, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Prince Philip	February 1, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Sheridan Park	February 1, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Gordon	February 6, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Princess Elizabeth	February 6, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Oakridge	February 6, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Briardale	February 7, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Queen Mary	February 7, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
John Marshall	February 8, 2012	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Bienvenue!

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR DECEMBER...

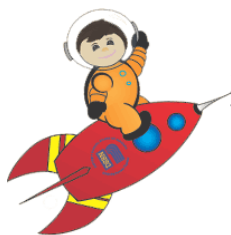
December's character education trait was HONESTY. The following students were chosen for the month of December:

TEACHER	ACADEMIC	EFFORT	GREAT WORK	CHARACTER TRAIT
Miss MacKenzie	Rhylenn	Evelyn	Nicholas	Colin
Mrs. Dyck	Dylan	Brooke	Shyann	Ayden
Mrs. Shepard	Kylee	Hayden	Thomas	Brianna
Miss Palcso	Rylee	Ava	Ben	Abigail
Mrs. McConnell	Gabriel	Owen	Wyatt	Cameron
Mrs. Delahunt	Joanna	Abby	Aaron	Koby
Mrs. Meleskie	Nate	Jordan	Ella	Jaeden
Ms. Whitesell	Mackey	Megan	Owen	Simon
Ms. Kond	Elyse	Danielle	Jordan	Meghan
Mr. Leighton	Ryan	Emiley	Alexandria	Leanne

The Character Education Trait for January is **PERSEVERANCE**. Perseverance means not giving up and trying even when others might quit or give up.

Mme Ten Brinke will be hosting our **January Student Recognition Assembly on Friday, January 27th at 2:30 p.m. in the gym.** All parents are welcome to attend.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION...



Our Kindergarten Open House for new junior kindergarten students will be held **Thursday, February 2, 2012 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** Please mark this date on your calendar. If you have a child who will be 4 years of age by December 31, 2012, he/she will be eligible to attend Junior Kindergarten beginning in September 2012. If you have a child who will be 5 years of age by December 31, 2012 and who has not attended

Junior Kindergarten, they will be registered for Senior Kindergarten. It is not necessary to register children who are currently in Junior Kindergarten at Pine Grove and who will be attending Senior Kindergarten in September 2012. These children will automatically be added to our Senior Kindergarten lists for September. Our classes at Pine Grove School are blended JK/SK classes. If you know of any families who are new to our area or have younger children, please help us out by sharing this information with them. **Please note that copies of proof of age by birth certificate, your child's immunization card and health card are required for registration.** Visit www.dsbm.org and click on "Kindergarten Registration" for all the details!

BLAST OFF TO SCHOOL!

THE 6th ANNUAL MACDONALD CUP...

On Friday, January 13th, the Grade 6 class will be continuing a tradition that started six years ago. We will be hosting a charity volleyball tournament, "The MacDonald Cup". Six years ago, the Grade 6 class at Pine Grove raised enough money for a Korean war veteran, Mr. Ed MacDonald, to go back to Korea; the place where he served our country. Each year's Grade 6 class since that time has "kept it going". We have invited four other teams from our community to participate in a fun, sportsmanship-filled day. Mr. MacDonald will be on hand during the tournament to hand out prizes and offer words of encouragement to the participants. All money raised will be donated to the Korean Veteran's Association. Feel free to drop in and cheer our team on; last year Pine Grove took home the championship!



P.A. DAY FRIDAY, JANUARY 20TH - THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS ON THIS DAY AS STAFF WILL BE INVOLVED IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

PIZZA / HOT LUNCHES...

Thank you to all the parents who support our fundraising initiatives through our lunch programs. **Hot lunches will be offered on Wednesdays during the month of January with pizza lunches each Friday.** January order forms for both went home the end of November however; it is not too late to pick up an order form for the rest of the month. Please remember that order forms **must be back by the due date** to give us time to do the ordering.



PINE GROVE SCHOOL'S NIGHT AT THE ICE DOGS...



Bring your family and friends to see the Niagara Ice Dogs take on the Belleville Bulls on Thursday, January 26, 2012. Pine Grove has been invited to participate in a free family skate from 5:00 to 5:50 p.m. before the game. The hockey game begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$13.00 per person; order forms were sent home with all students after the Ice Dogs school presentation on January 10th. **Order forms are due back to your child's teacher by January 20th.**

PEANUT/NUT SAFETY...

We would like to remind you that Pine Grove School continues to be a nut safe environment where all nuts (peanuts, walnuts, almonds, cashews, etc.) and products containing traces of nut oils are not permitted at school. Please help keep our school safe and respect the safety of our children who do have this severe allergy. Also we are a heart healthy school and are promoting healthy life styles with the children. Thank you for continuing to send in healthy snacks, lunches and drinks with your children.



If your child has had any changes in his/her medical health condition with regards to peanuts/nuts, please come to the office to pick up an Emergency Action Plan as soon as possible.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES...

We would like to remind our parents that it is best that you wait outside your child's exit doors at the end of the day. In the primary grades, we are trying to encourage independence in dressing and organizing personal belongings and the hallways outside of the classrooms can become quite congested during bell times. If you would like to speak with your child's teacher, please write a note in your child's agenda. If your child needs to leave early for an appointment, please write a note in your child's agenda to advise the teacher then come to the office; we will get your child from class and ensure they are properly signed out of the building. Thanks you for your continued co-operation.

KISS AND RIDE...



Our Kiss and Ride area can become quite congested with cars and especially with snow. When we have a snowfall, we unfortunately lose valuable parking spaces at Pine Grove School. If you are picking up your child in the Kiss and Ride area, please keep driving through until your child comes out of the building. Too many parents are parking and waiting in this area. The designated area is a quick drop off and pick up area only. Please do not hold up traffic by stopping for your child outside the designated area. This is not safe for your child and the other children in the building. If you prefer not to use the Kiss and Ride area, then please find a parking spot and meet your child at his/her exit doors. We are trying to keep all Pine Grove School members safe.



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT...

The playground equipment will be out of bounds during the snowy, winter weather (including before, during and after school). Winter conditions can make the equipment slippery and unsafe. Let's keep Pine Grove a safe place for our children!

DRESSING FOR PLAY/ SCHOOL...

Please make sure that your child comes to school dressed for the weather. The children go outside for twenty minutes during our first break and thirty minutes during the second break unless we are advised by the Niagara Regional Public Health Department of an extreme cold weather alert.

As well, please make sure that your child has a pair of indoor running shoes for physical education class. Due to health and safety regulations, children without running shoes will not be allowed to participate in gym classes. Please label your children's clothing/shoe items.



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 then 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.



If your child is not feeling well, especially if he/she has a temperature, please keep him/her home for the day. If your child is well enough to come to school, then it is expected that they are well enough to go outside for first and second fitness breaks.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING...

Another reminder about making sure you have plans in place if the school should be closed for the day or close early due to inclement weather.

Information about transportation changes and school closures will be available on the websites, radio and television stations listed below as soon as it is available. Please do not phone the school for transportation or school closure information.



Websites: www.dsbn.org, www.nsts.ca

Television Stations: COGECO Cable 10, CHCH Television, City TV, The Weather Network

Radio Stations: KLite - 102.9 fm, CKTB 610 am, Htz 97.7 fm, CHML 900 am, EZRock 105.7 fm, Y-108 - 107.9 fm, Wave 94.7 - every attempt is made to provide the public with information on bus cancellations by the 6:00 a.m.

- ✓ Make an emergency plan with your children to ensure a common understanding for arrangements, in the event that schools close early.
- ✓ **Please do not call the school for information nor expect your child to call home. All our phone lines will be necessary as we will not dismiss a student until we have contacted either parents or an emergency contact.**
- ✓ Please remember that there may be times when the District School Board of Niagara cancels transportation. Unless you hear otherwise, schools will remain open when transportation is not available.

Please advise the office of any address or telephone changes as soon as possible so we can update your children's information.

AS FAR AS SENDING YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL DURING SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE FINAL DECISION IS YOURS!

SNOW SAFETY...

At Pine Grove School, students are aware that snow must be enjoyed in a safe manner. Snowballs and/or ice may not be thrown at any time. Children may not slide on the ice. All snow forts and snow people are community structures and must be inclusive. Students are also aware that we build at Pine Grove; we don't destroy. Snow forts and structures must be respected.



The children are not allowed to throw snow on school property. Snow throwing jeopardizes the safety of other students and announcements will be made often throughout the season about snowball throwing. **We take this rule very seriously and every student has been made aware of it.** Any snow throwing will be regarded as deliberate defiance. Consequences for the first offence will be a loss of recess privileges and a note or phone call home. Repeat occurrences will result in a school suspension. Tough measures are warranted when the safety of all school members is at stake.

INFORMATION ABOUT COLD WEATHER ALERTS AT DSBN...



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together

Winter is a time of wonder for many children; many enjoy the crisp air, the freshly fallen snow and participating in a whole host of exciting winter sports and activities.

Although we feel it is important for students to spend some time outside each day exercising and socializing with their peers, there are times when bitterly cold temperatures and other inclement weather conditions require that we keep children inside.

Because Niagara is such a large geographical area, and weather conditions may vary from one municipality to the next, the decision whether or not to hold recess outdoors is made by the individual school principal.

The health and well-being of our students is a top priority at the District School Board of Niagara, and if it is determined that the weather conditions pose a risk to their safety, students will be kept indoors. Extreme cold weather alerts issued by the Niagara Region are often good indicators that students will stay inside.

Even when temperatures are not low enough to necessitate an indoor recess, it still may be quite cold outside. Here are a few tips to help ensure that your child stays warm during the cold winter months.

- Send children to school with plenty of layers, such as long underwear, sweatshirts, sweaters and pullovers. Layering their clothing will allow them to add or remove items depending on the weather.
- Students should have a warm winter coat that repels the snow, sleet and rain, while blocking the wind.
- Warm socks and boots are a must to keep their feet warm and dry in the snow.
- Hats are one of the most important parts of dressing warmly in the winter. A thick winter hat will keep students from losing too much of that essential body heat.

- Put on a good pair of gloves or mittens that are water-resistant as well. Gloves will keep kids' hands toasty warm and protect their skin from becoming damaged by the wind and chill.

If you have any questions about our inclement weather procedures, please visit the DSBN website at www.dsbm.org or contact your school principal.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY...



January 27, 2012 is Family Literacy Day in Canada. On this day, Canadian families are encouraged to read together, play together, and plan to continue to learn as a family all year long. This special day was created in 1999 by ABC CANADA, a charity that researches and promotes literacy in Canada. It is VERY important to set aside at

least 15 minutes per day to read as a family. It takes 21 days to form a habit...start today by turning off the TV and reading together! For ideas on fun things to do to celebrate literacy with your family visit the website www.familyliteracyday.ca.

THE PARENTING PLACE...

As we begin another new year, we are filled with new ideas about ourselves and our families and how we want to live. Here are some thoughts/ideas/questions to ask yourself from the book "FAMILY FIRST" written by Dr. Phil McGraw.

As a parent you have the unbelievably powerful role in shaping the tone, textures, mood and quality of your family.....meaning your children. Life is busy but the title of the book says it all FAMILY FIRST! Teaching our children that we as parents/caregivers can and will learn is a wonderful demonstration of healthy reality. So, Dr Phil asks. . .

- are you creating a family environment that brings out the best in your child?
- do you have the skills necessary to give your child the best chance at succeeding in this world?
- have you created an environment that generates feelings of safety, security, belongingness, self-confidence and strength for your child(ren)?

We know parenting is not easy.....children don't come with evolving books/information and yet, there is so much to learn. There are many ways to gain information and support during the ups and downs of parenting as our children change and grow. The library, Public Health Department, school, Early Years Centre, Parenting and Literacy Centre, parentbooks.com and Contact Niagara (905-684-3407) are just some examples that may be of help to you.

The questions posed above can start to be answered through your calm, consistent, caring, kind and enriching time spent with your child.

For more information please feel free to contact Leanne Hasenack DSBN Youth Counsellor at your school.

THE AMBASSADORS' NEWSLETTER...

Happy New Year! We hope each family had a restful holiday season. We were very busy with activities almost every day, in December, for our Ambassadors. We appreciate all their hard work and dedication. We certainly could not have done what we were able to do, without all the team work!

Fundraising - we spent the entire month of December collecting for three organizations-Wells of Hope; Community Care and the Humane Society.

We donated over 40 bags of school supplies, toothbrushes/toothpaste, warm clothing and tiny toys to Wells of Hope. Mr. Vanderzalm was delighted with our contributions. He and his wife will be delivering the donations after Christmas to the children and families of Guatemala.

We were able to donate \$304 to Community Care from our candy cane sales. This money was included in the school's donations from our Family Christmas Night.

Finally, we took our dog and cat food donations to the Humane Society. Three students were able to accompany us. We were given a tour and had a chance to have our picture taken with the 'house' dog. Each one of us fell in love with a cat or dog that needed a home!

Miss Mazachowsky and Mrs. Halfyard



FROM THE DSBN SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES...

THE DAILY FIVE

You might have wondered what your child is talking about when you hear them mention "The Daily Five." The purpose of this article is to fill you in on what The Daily Five is all about, so you don't have to nod your head while wondering what in the world your child is referring to.

The Daily Five is a way of structuring the reading block so every student is independently engaged in meaningful literacy tasks. These research-based tasks are ones that will have the biggest impact on student reading and writing achievement, as well as help foster children who love to read and write. Students receive explicit whole group instruction and then are given independent practice time to read and write independently while the teacher provides focused, intense instruction to individuals and small groups of students.

When it is up and running smoothly, students are engaged in the Daily Five, which consists of:

- Read to Self
- Work on Writing
- Read to Someone
- Listen to Reading

WORD WORK

There are very specific behaviour expectations that go with each Daily 5 component. The first few weeks are spent working intensely on building reading and writing stamina, learning the behaviours of the Daily 5 and fostering classroom community. The teacher also spends time learning about each student's strengths and greatest needs as a reader in order to best plan for each student's instruction.

Each child is taught to select "Good Fit Books" or books they can read, understand and are interested in, which they read during Daily 5. Students spend most of their time actually reading, which research supports as the number one way to improve reading. Motivation and reading enjoyment skyrocket when students are offered choice, especially when this is accompanied by extended practice and specific reading instruction for each individual child.

Please think of your child's classroom as you visit garage sales or clean your own child's bookcase. A variety of reading materials at various reading levels makes the classroom library as appealing as the local favourite bookstore or library for browsing.

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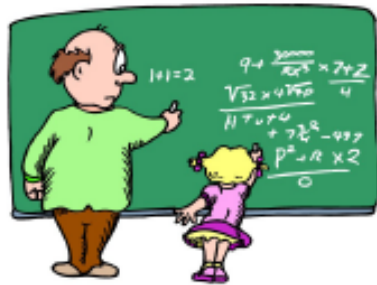


HELPING YOUR CHILD WITH MATH

Keep your eyes open for the many opportunities to discuss the math you encounter every day!

In our classrooms, we are exploring concepts, solving problems, talking about the math and practising the skills we use. To follow up from our classroom lessons, please have discussions with your child about what they learned in math class. Have them show you a problem they did in school and share their solution with you. Listen to their explanations and ask them questions about what they did and why it worked. This will be beneficial for all students in the class!

It is important for you to support your child at their level of understanding. Don't show them more than what they're ready for. Exploring the mathematics that they are doing in class more deeply is usually more beneficial than pushing ahead to get to bigger numbers or to the next concept. For example, if your child is practising adding 2 digit numbers at home ($32 + 44$), it is better to explore a variety of 2 digit numbers ($74 + 19$), rather than worrying about going ahead to 3 digit numbers. Spend time solving the 2 digit numbers in many different ways, so that your child becomes flexible in their thinking about numbers. When helping them practise their math facts, be sure to discuss and explore the concepts behind the math they are doing. Memorizing that $4 \times 6 = 24$ isn't meaningful without knowing that 4×6 represents $6 + 6 + 6 + 6$ or $4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4$ or that it is 4 groups of 6 or 6 groups of 4.



However, finding real world situations to explore the math your child is doing in school is still the best way to help them develop a better understanding of their school math. Ask them how much will it cost them to buy that new video game for \$49 and the batteries they'll need for \$15? Ask them to explain how they got their answer to you.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF LEARNING A SECOND LANGUAGE?

In addition to developing a lifelong ability to communicate with many people, students may enjoy other benefits of learning a second language including a "strengthening of their first language skills, enhancement of problem-solving and reasoning skills, the capacity for creative thinking, and the ability to respect and understand other cultures." (*The Ontario Curriculum, French as a Second Language: Core French, Grades 4 to 8.*)

In addition, it can provide a competitive advantage in the workforce by opening up additional job opportunities. According to *The Impact of Second Language Education* study, there is an urgent requirement for qualified speakers of languages other than English in areas of science, technology, medicine and global commerce.

Students of foreign languages develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. It will open the door to the world of art, cuisine, cinema, travel and literature. Some evidence also suggests that children who receive second language instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems. Students who are fluent in two languages score higher in both verbal and non-verbal intelligence. They also have higher test scores in reading, language and mathematics. (*College Bound Seniors: The 1992 Profile of SAT and Achievement Test Takers*)

By encouraging your children to continue studying a second language, you will be equipping them with the tools they need to succeed in today's growing world.

FRENCH IMMERSION

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ECO-CORNER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: DSBN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

ECO-TIPS FOR OUR GREAT CANADIAN WINTER



Air Quality: Feeling stuck inside this winter? So is the air inside your home.

Recent research has found that air inside homes can be just as polluted as the air in many large industrialized cities. Indoor air pollution is caused by a lack of ventilation and can lead to more frequent colds, respiratory problems, and other ailments and diseases. Here's a tip to keep your home and your family healthy.

Keep the house clean and use exhaust fans. House dust mites, pollens, animal dander, and other pollutants can be reduced through regular cleaning. Install and use fans vented to the outdoors in kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry rooms to improve fresh air circulation.

Thermostats: If you have a manual thermostat or no thermostat at all, one way to save energy and money this winter is to install an ENERGY STAR qualified programmable thermostat. When installed and used with the four pre-programmed temperature settings for weekend and weekdays, you can save about \$100 each year while staying comfortable.

Solar Energy: Use the sun to your advantage. Open shades, blinds and curtains that have southern exposure during sunny days in winter and close them all at night to make the most of all that free light and heat provided by our sun.

Use Better De-icers: Try to steer clear of rock salt (sodium chloride) and urea-based de-icers. Not only can they pollute habitats with plant-killing runoff, but they can also corrode concrete, destroy your lawn (even a snow-covered one), and contaminate water supplies. Better bets? Sand, which provides traction without damaging salt-sensitive landscapes, and look for 'green' alternative melters on your next trip to the hardware store.

Check out the following websites for tips/resources:

<http://www.earthshare.org/green-tips.html>

<http://www.wholeliving.com/133860/winter-green-ecofriendly-ways-stay-healthy-season>

<http://sustainablepersonalfinance.com/365-green-tips/>

The DSBN Environmental Sustainability committee wishes all students, families and staff to enjoy a safe and sustainable winter season.