

BERTIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

BERTIE NEWS

OCTOBER 2011

Principal's Message:

The DSBN has identified and is committed to the instruction/development of eight character traits as the components of the "Character in Action" program in all of its schools. **These include: Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Caring, Optimism, Perseverance, Courage, and Cooperation.** **Please take a few minutes to discuss these very important qualities/concepts with your children.**

Schools must also place strong emphasis on the development of academic skills, self-regulation, and teamwork skills in order to ensure that students have every opportunity of experiencing future success. The entire staff of Bertie school is fully committed to the realization of each student's potential. We will endeavour to bring this about by:

- ⤴ stressing literacy skills so that our students can read, write, speak, and listen effectively
- ⤴ emphasizing mathematics, science, and technology
- ⤴ ensuring a safe and secure environment
- ⤴ helping students to develop positive self-esteem
- ⤴ encouraging students to develop a healthy mental and physical approach to working and learning
- ⤴ guiding students to set realistic goals for themselves and providing daily guidance/direction towards the fulfilment of these goals
- ⤴ encouraging students to accept responsibility for their actions and for their learning
- ⤴ providing regular and varied opportunities for students to work in groups

It doesn't seem possible that more than a full month has already elapsed since the first day of this school year. I believe that we have had a very positive and successful beginning and we will endeavour to build on this throughout the remainder of this year. Our grade 4 students have settled in and have made a successful adjustment to their new school. Several new staff members have also joined the Bertie team and they have brought with them a variety of skills and experiences which will help to enhance student learning. It is my hope that students, parents, teachers, administration, and community support groups/agencies of Bertie will continue to work together as a united team in providing for our pupils. As partners in education, we must strive to instill a "commitment to learning" in our students. It is vital for the school and home to work together in order to bring this about and to administer to the unique, individual needs of all of the students in our school. We anticipate your continued support and thank you for encouraging your children to do their best each and every day. In addition to the character traits noted above, all of our students would greatly benefit from regular review and discussion of the following concepts/skills at home:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| ⤴ Common Sense | • Organization |
| ⤴ Problem Solving | • Initiative |
| ⤴ Effort | • Collaboration |
| ⤴ Teamwork | • Independence |

Don't forget - we like to hear from you, so if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to give us a call. Let's work together on making our students - your children the "best that they can be"! As a team we can create an environment which fosters the development of "happy, secure, well-liked, self-motivated, and responsible children.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our Students of the Month for September! Those students in each classroom who displayed a high level of respect were recognized at our assembly.

Mrs. Carlson - 4-1

Trinity Cuthbertson

Audreana Rossi

Mr. Greggio - 5-1

Randy Giroux

Abbey Weaver

Mr. Laing - 6-1

Noah Desmarais

Nicole Volzke

Mrs. Foster - 7-1

Quynn Gilmour

Quinton Lambert

Mr. Fazekas - 8-1

Jacob Schmitt

Abby Bolton

French:

Richard Gilson

Katie Young

Miss Horth - 4-2

Owen Riel

Ellie White

Mr. Maione - 5-2

David Stewart

Kelsey Volzke

Mrs. Henderson - 6-2

Rachel Kuhn

Isaac Schoenhals

Mr. Bianco - 7-2

Jonathan Larocque

Jenna Clause

Mrs. LeBlanc 8-2

Ben Pattison

Jessica Holman

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH PA DAY AND OCTOBER 10TH THANKSGIVING

There will be no classes for students on Friday and Thanksgiving Monday. On Friday, teachers will be involved in literacy workshops related to the instruction and development of curriculum during the entire day.

PROVINCIAL REPORT CARDS

We will be issuing 2 formal provincial report cards and a progress report. On November the 15th, students will bring home their progress report which will outline development in the area of learning skills/work habits. No grades will be assigned on this progress report. Its purpose is to provide parents and students with an assessment of student growth with the six main learning skills. These include responsibility, organization, independent work, collaboration, initiative, and self regulation. The progress report will also indicate the strengths/areas which need improvement for each subject area.

Parent-Teacher interviews will be scheduled for all parents to discuss each student's progress during the month of November.

The term one Provincial Report Card goes home on Feb. 9th, 2012 and the Term two Report Card will go home between June 25th and the 27th. The actual issue date of the

MEET THE TEACHERS BBQ & OPEN HOUSE

Many thanks go out to everyone who joined us for our barbecue and Open House on Sept. 21st. In spite of the heavy rainfall, we had a terrific turn out. The staff

final report card may vary from school to school.

The format of the Provincial Report Card is intended

include very personalized comments for each student. The 20th and June 8th have been designated as Report Card Days to support teachers in this endeavour.

YOUTH COUNSELLOR

Our school's Youth Counsellor Ms. Colette Woolley is available on Tuesdays. Her major function is to help students with various ways of perceiving and solving problems in their daily lives and to provide support to those who are experiencing emotional difficulties. If you would like more information or feel that your child could benefit from this service, please contact the school.

STUDENT COUNCIL 2011 - 2012

After a very successful campaign which included a "Candidates" assembly, the 2011/2012 Student Council was selected by our students. The candidates made some excellent speeches and presentations. Congratulations to all of the students who took part in this year's election. The new executive includes:

President - Kiara Kells
Vice President - Abby Bolton
Treasurer - David Walton
Secretary - Ashley Watson

Public Relations – Sarah Schwab and Holly Connoy

Social Convenors – Griffin Lee and Alexandra Laud

Class Reps:

Gr. 4-1 - Connor Connaughton

Gr. 4-2 - Makayla Sahs Bandy

Gr. 5-1 – Katie Young

Gr. 5-2 – Megan Burke

Gr. 6-1 – Britney Bailey

Gr. 6-2 – Phoebe White

Gr. 7-1 – Laura Oatley

Gr. 7-2 – Madison Bolton/Reichel Buttigieg

Gr. 8-1 – Megan Winger

Gr. 8-2 – Matthew Krieger

Many thanks to Mrs. Foster who organized the school election.

The new student council has already organized a canned food drive for St. George's Food Bank. Donations will help some needy families.

enjoyed meeting and talking with many of the parents in our community. We appreciated everyone's attendance and the positive comments which were expressed by many of our parents.

Many thanks are extended to all those individuals who helped to set up, cook, serve, and clean up. Special thanks go out to Lisa Bartlett and Dawn Detlor for their efforts in the organization of this event. Many thanks also go out to the parent volunteers who helped out throughout the evening.

ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent, please call the school before 9:00 a.m. We are obligated by law to know where our students are each day. If we do not receive a call, we will phone you throughout the day to learn of your child's whereabouts.

OTTAWA/CAMPING TRIPS 2012

Bertie school is again planning year end excursions to Ottawa for our grade 8 students and to Camp Wahonawin for our grade 7 students. Both trips will take place during the week of June 18th. The Ottawa trip involves 3 nights and 4 days from June 18th to 21st and our grade 7 students will be at camp for the entire week returning on the 22nd of June.

An information package about the Ottawa trip was sent home on Sept. 30th. It included general details about the trip and registration forms. Parents of grade 8 students are reminded that a non refundable deposit of \$100.00 is required by Oct. 12th to reserve a seat on the bus. Grade 7 students will receive additional camping information in the very near future.

Please contact Mlle DiBartolomeo if there are any questions regarding the Ottawa trip and the school's main office for information about Camp.

FUNDRAISING

The grades 7 & 8 students will be selling cookie dough to raise money for their year end trips. Order forms will go home on Thurs. Oct. 6th. All money and orders must be returned to the school by Oct. 25th. Orders will arrive at Bertie on Nov. 15th.

Students will also have the opportunity to sell poinsettias in early December and chocolate bars in March.

WHAT IS READING FOR MEANING

Reading for meaning is a process in which effective readers take an active role in their reading. They take time to activate their prior knowledge, make predictions, establish a purpose, and generate questions *before reading*. *During the reading*, they read for information and monitor their understanding in an ongoing manner. When reading with your child at home, show him/her how to be an active reader. Discuss what your child has

BOOK FAIRS

Bertie school will be holding its first Book Fair of the year during the week of Oct. 17th. Students will have the opportunity to preview books on Tues. Oct. 18th and make purchases on Wed. and Thurs. Oct. 19th, and 20th. A student from each class will have the opportunity to win a free book if they are the recipient of the "Lucky Locker" coupon which will be left in student lockers. In addition, there will be a drawing for \$25.00 in free books for a student and his/her teacher. The money raised will be used to purchase books for the library. We hope to see you there!!

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Some of our students are being dropped off in the staff parking lot, especially during inclement weather. We remind parents that the parking lot in front of the school has very limited space and it becomes very congested when it is drop off students. This is potentially a very unsafe situation. Many students who walk or ride their bikes to school arrive in this area before classes begin in the morning, at noon, and at the end of the day.

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM PARKING OR DRIVING THROUGH THE STAFF'S PARKING LOT DURING ENTRY AND DISMISSAL TIMES.

STUDENT ORGANIZERS

September was a very busy month and October promises to be very eventful as well. One of our ongoing school initiatives is to develop/improve our students' organizational skills. We have had students keep track of the many events here at Bertie, and we have distributed Student Organizers to them during the first week of school. **The organizer should come home with your child on a daily basis. Please reinforce and monitor its use and inform your child's teacher if you don't see it each day.**

TERRY FOX RUN

The entire student body participated in our Annual Terry Fox Run/Walk on Friday, September 23rd. We greatly appreciate everyone's contributions and efforts! We also extend a 'thank you' to Madame Seibert for organizing this event. Our students raised almost \$600.00 for this very worthwhile cause. Many thanks to members of our school community for their generous donations.

read. Ask him/her probing questions about the book and connect the events to his or her own life. Encourage your child to go back to the text to support his or her answers. Help your child understand the "unspoken" ideas in what he has read, such as, inferences, the main idea of the story, and the differences between facts and opinions.

GYM CLOTHES

Shorts, T-shirts, and running shoes are recommended

classes. A change of clothes is strongly encouraged for hygienic reasons and appropriate running shoes are **mandatory** for all of our students. Gym classes are scheduled approximately 4 - 5 times during each ten-day cycle. In addition, each class is expected to do daily physical activity (DPA) on those days when a gym class isn't scheduled. Please ask your child or his/her teacher to identify Physical Education days so that you can provide occasional reminders about appropriate clothing/shoes.

MILK

Canada's Food Guide recommends that children drink up to 4 glasses of milk per day to develop strong teeth and bones. We sell milk every day during the lunch hour for 65 cents.

SPECIAL LUNCH VOLUNTEERS

On Tuesdays and Fridays hot lunches are provided for the entire school. Many thanks to our noon hour supervisors **Mrs. Bartlett and Mrs. Detlor as well as our former custodian, Mrs. Bryant and other volunteers** who work hard in preparing and distributing food to our students on Hot Lunch Days!

MAD SCIENCE

Classes began on Oct. 4th and will continue each Tuesday for the next four weeks. Approximately 50 participants have been divided into three groups. This total represents the largest number of participants that we have had at Bertie. It appears that we have many students who are very enthusiastic about Science. The students involved will enjoy their classes and learn many Science concepts.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

From time to time we rely on parents to drive students to special events which are held away from the school. Volunteer drivers help us to reduce the cost of trips.

ANAPHYLAXIS AWARENESS

Please keep in mind that a few of our students have a condition called Anaphylaxis - a severe allergy that can result in death. These students can be allergic to a variety of foods and reactions to nut products appear to be quite common. We are again asking all parents in the Bertie community to help us **REDUCE THE RISKS** for these students by not sending products to your child's classroom which have been identified as harmful to any student in the class. We appreciate the support and cooperation that we have received to date from the vast majority of our parents. However, we need and are asking for the cooperation of the entire school community!

D.S.B.N. policy requires each volunteer driver to complete an information form which contains his/her driver's license and insurance information before students are transported. While we recognize that this is an additional detail that you may not have given your attention, the intent of this policy is to provide protection for our children.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

Our students will again be involved in a number of activities to celebrate Halloween. Everyone is encouraged to dress in costume on October 31st for our annual contest. **All parents are requested to respect the theme of "non-violent" costumes (i.e. no weapons or violent characterizations).** A school dance will be held on Friday, Oct. 31st at approximately 1:15 p.m. for our grades 7 and 8 students. Grades four, five, and six students will parade through downtown Ridgeway.

TAKE OUR KIDS TO WORK

"Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011"

On Wednesday, November 2nd, 2011, many of Niagara Falls students will once again be swapping textbooks for lab coats, hard hats, and other practical experiences during this opportunity to work with a parent, guardian, relative, or volunteer host. Please support this very worthwhile event for our grade 9 students.

Our grade 8 students will be visiting RCBHS on this day. They will take part in orientation activities which will help them to make the eventual transition to secondary school more easily.

WARMER CLOTHING

As the cool weather arrives, we ask all parents to ensure that our students have warmer clothing (e.g. coats, mitts, hats, proper footwear) for recess breaks. We want all of our students to be warm when they are outside. All students also need to have dry shoes on their feet during class time for their health and safety. **Please send an extra pair of indoor shoes which can be left at school for the entire winter.**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the school.

PTA NEWS!!!

On Wednesday, September 28th the first PTA meeting of the school year was held. We had a great turn out and we encourage and invite parents to attend these important monthly meetings which are held on the last Wed. of each month at 6:00 p.m. PTA Executive Members for 2011/2012 school year are:

Chair Person: Lisa Bartlett
Past Chair: Cheryl O'Hara
Secretary: Rose Learn
Treasurer: Diana Mitchell

Many thanks to members of this year's executive for their commitment and willingness to work on behalf of the students and our school. We are looking for a willing parent to assist our current Treasurer throughout the year. Since this is Diana's last year as a Bertie parent volunteer, it is our hope that there is an interested parent within the school community who would like to 'learn the ropes' with the idea that they would continue with our PTA next school year. If you would like more details, please call the school and leave your name with Mrs. Upfold and a PTA member will be happy to return your call with additional information.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, Oct. 26th at 6:00 p.m.** We invite members of our school community to attend. **Everyone is welcome!**

NO CHILD WITHOUT

Bertie is registered with the Canadian Medic Alert Foundation and as a member each student in our school is eligible to take part in the No Child Without program. This program provides protection to students through customized medical identification at no cost to the parent or school. It follows the child should he/she move to another school in Canada. Students receive a choice of a bracelet or necklet listing their medical conditions and identification number, wallet card, access to the 24 hour

BERTIE SPORTS

PARTICIPATION IN SPORTS

Being selected for a school team is an honour and a privilege and there are certain requirements that a student must follow in order to participate. Students must have their homework completed, they need to submit assignments on time, and have acceptable overall grades to represent our school as a team. Students who are regularly involved in inappropriate behaviour are not suitable representatives of their school and will not be allowed to take part.

SOCCER

The Intermediate Co-Ed Soccer Tournament was held in Niagara Falls School on Wednesday, Sept. 21st. Bertie played extremely well and a high skill level was demonstrated by our players. Our team defeated Garrison Rd. 5-0 in the first game and beat Orchard Park 6-0 in the second game. In the third game of "pool" play, Bertie defeated F. J. Rutland 4-0. In the semi-finals, our team defeated Stevensville 2-1 in an exciting game which required a second shoot out. Bertie advanced to the championship game against Prince Philip from Niagara Falls. Unfortunately, Bertie lost a close contest 3 to 0 to a very strong opponent. Congratulations to all members of the team for a fantastic effort in reaching the finals and finishing second.

Many thanks to Mr. Maione for coaching our intermediate co-ed team. We also extend our gratitude

Emergency Hotline, notification to personal contacts in case of emergency and follow-up with parents. Additional information is contained in the **No Child Without** brochure which are available at the school's office. To enrol, call 282-5378 between 9:00 and 5:00 p.m. or visit www.nochildwithout.ca.

STUDENT VOTE

Bertie Public School was proud to be involved with thousands of other schools across Ontario who participated in the Student Vote program. Mrs. Foster's class became student election officials, and created a mock polling station. Students were asked to complete a questionnaire which gave them an idea of what party they were most likely to support based on their responses. Classes were then invited to a polling station, given an official ballot with all party candidates, and sent to a screened area to place their votes. The results were then calculated and sent to the Student Vote website. Results from student elections all around Ontario will be published in the Toronto Star and are available on the Student Vote website at www.studentvote.ca after the official election.

LEGO ROBOTICS CLUB

All students will again have the opportunity to work with LEGO robots beginning in November. Members of the club will have the chance to explore, construct, and program a robot using LEGO Mindstorms computer software. Many thanks to Mille DiBartolomeo and Bianca Bianco for volunteering to organize this very worthwhile program for our students.

to all of the parents who provided our players with transportation to the tournament.

Team members are listed below:

Intermediate Co-ed Soccer Team

Justin Kuhn	Kiara Kells	Daniel Feiertag	Breanne Maidens
Richard Haynes	Korey Robins	Matthew Krieger	Maddie Wright
Tanner Cuthbertson	Jenna Clause	Alex Rossi	Jessica Holman
Ethan Burrison	Megan Mountain	Alex McAteer	Ryan LaBelle

CROSS COUNTRY

On Sept. 26th, members of our Cross Country Team represented Bertie at the annual meet for schools in Ridgeway, Stevensville, and Fort Erie. They competed at General Vanier school in Fort Erie and did extremely well. Many thanks to Madame Seibert for her organization and training of our Cross Country Team. Students who finished in the top 8 have qualified for the DSBN meet which will be held at Fireman's Park in Niagara Falls on Oct. 12th.

Members of this year's Cross Country team and results for the Fort Erie meet are listed below:

Atom

Julia Bonaldo - 3rd	Liam Ioanidis -6th	Cameron Spada	Lauren Spada
Makayla Sahs-Bandy	Kendra Eaton	Lydia Schilz	Gracie Kohinski
Gwenythe Nigh	Victoria Kuronen	Ellie White	Jayden Cline

Peewee

Katie Young - 1st	Rachel Kuhn - 2nd	Phoebe White - 5th	Katie Greenwood - 6th
Kelsey Volzke - 7th	Christine Schwab	Kate Burns	Anna Horvath
Dante Brant	Abby Menge	Trey Fischer - 6th	Kyle Starret - 7th
Randy Giroux	Cole McGeaghan		

Bantam

Ben Pikel - 3rd

Midget

Kiara Kells - 1st

VOLLEYBALL

Our teams have been finalized for the upcoming season and team members are listed below. League play will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 12th against Crystal Beach school for both our girls and boys teams. League playoffs and the DSBN tournament will take place in November. Good luck to both of our teams! Many thanks to all of the students who tried out and to Mr. Fazekas, Mrs. Foster, and Mrs. LeBlanc for organizing, preparing, and coaching our teams.

Intermediate Girls:

Abby Bolton	Holly Conney	Bridget Fernandes	Kiara Kells
Alexander Lauder	Breanne Maidens	Rachel Robinson	Jami-Lea VanLuven
Megan Winger	Tiona Pembleton	Kyanna Marr	Kasey O'Hara
Reichel Buttigieg			

Intermediate Boys:

Daniel Feiertag	Griffin Lee	Bryce Mitchell	Tanner Cuthbertson
Ryan Curran	Ethan Burrison	Michael Athoe	Tanner Schinkel
Richard Haynes	Matthew Krieger	Alex McAteer	Jon Worden

INTRA MURAL SPORTS

Bertie's Intra-mural League Program will begin next week. All of our junior students will have the opportunity to play soccer and other sports will be offered throughout the year. Games will for the most part take place during the first nutritional break. Students will be divided into teams according to our coloured House Teams which are already in place. Additional information about the sports/programs being organized will be sent home in subsequent newsletters.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

- ⤴ Be at the school bus stop early and wait in a safe place well back from the edge of the road
- ⤴ Do not play in ditches or on snow banks
- ⤴ Enter the bus in single file holding the hand rail
- ⤴ Find a seat right away and stay seated facing forward at all times – do not place things in the aisle
- ⤴ Avoid rowdy behaviour, do not throw things, don't eat or drink on the bus
- ⤴ Keep your arms and head inside the bus
- ⤴ NEVER distract the bus driver. Always follow his/her instructions
- ⤴ When you leave the bus, move away from the side
- ⤴ If you drop something near the bus, never try to pick it up because the bus driver cannot see you. Ask an adult or the driver to help
- ⤴ When getting on and off the bus, walk at least 10 big steps in front of the bus, look at the driver for a signal before crossing. Look all ways before crossing – walk, never run to a parent or caregiver who is waiting for you!

RIDGEWAY PUBLIC SCHOOL'S FALL FAIR

Ridgeway Public School will be having it's Fall Fair on Saturday, October 22, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. It is a great day and a wonderful fundraiser for our students and the community. This year, there will be games and face painting , bouncy houses, a Mad Science demonstration, and lots of special treats. In addition, there will be our traditional themed basket sale, a silent auction, and a bake sale.

We will also be having a BBQ and food for the whole family. Come join the fun and festivities and bring your family and friends to help support our school!

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

The students and staff of Bertie School would like to thank everyone who assisted in making our recent magazine subscription campaign a great success. The profits of this fundraiser will be used to support student learning/programs. All subscriptions are guaranteed 100%! As a reminder, please allow 12-16 weeks before expecting the delivery of your subscription. You may address any service concerns to CCRP at 1-800-665-5133 or service@ccrp.ca The CCRP Head Office is based in Kelowna, B.C., so you will have to allow for the 3 hour time difference when contacting them. You may also continue to support Bertie School year round by ordering directly online. Fundraising has never been so easy! Simply visit www.ccrp.ca, enter our school code ON2227 and place your order. Profits will be directed to the school automatically. Thanks again for your support.

COLOUR TEAMS UPDATE

All Bertie students and staff members have again been organized into the Blue, Gold, Green, and Red Teams. All students will be encouraged to earn points for their colour teams through positive behaviours

relating to their school work, attitudes, and school activities, etc. End-of-term “reward” the colour team with the most points. Many thanks to Mrs. Henderson for her organization and leadership in this worthwhile program.

PEOPLE OF OUR PLANET

Our Ecology Club has elected its executive members:
President – Griffin Lee
Vice President – Jacob Schmitt
Secretary – Amy Griem
Treasurer – Emily Vaughn
P.R. - Megan Winger, Abby Bolton, Kiara

SCHOOL HEALTH

The Youth Connection Nurse assigned to our school is Mrs. McDowell. She will be promoting optimal health for our students and assisting us to develop a healthy school environment. For further information, she can be reached at

Regional Niagara Public Health Department at (905) 871-6513 extension 31, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On Oct. 12th and 13th Mrs. McDowell will be at Bertie to speak to our grade 7 - 8 students about the HepB/HPV vaccine. Student immunizations will take place on Oct. 18th and in early December.

CHILD ABUSE

October is child abuse Prevention Month in Ontario. Kids shouldn't have to live with abuse. For more information visit: www.facsniagara.on.ca or www.useyourvoice.ca

DENTAL SCREENING

The Public Health Department dental staff is scheduled to visit our school during the month of November to assess students in grades 6 and 8 and other children as necessary. During this time a Registered Dental Hygienist will conduct a visual assessment of each child to determine his/her dental needs. Parents will be contacted if a student exhibits any condition requiring immediate attention. In the past, Public health programs have assisted many children who needed dental care. If your child is not in one of the targeted grades and you would like him/her to take part, please call the Public Health Dental Department at 905-688-3762 or 1-800-263-7248.

GET READY FOR FLU SEASON

Health Canada recommends an annual flu vaccination (injection) for everybody 6 months and older, including healthy people. The best time to get vaccinated is in October or November to build immunity before the height of winter viruses. But if you forget, get it in December or later - flu season usually lasts from November to April in Canada.

FIGHTING VANDALISM

We would like to remind all of our neighbours that we need everyone's help to keep vandalism under control in our community. If you see suspicious activity at the school in the evening or on the weekend, please call 685-0249 and report it to our Board Security System or notify the police department 871-2300. These are local calls from Ridgeway and could save the school considerable money by preventing damage to our building. Many thanks for your help and support!