

# Agincourt Road Public School Newsletter

January 2010  
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Agincourt Road Public School  
1250 Agincourt Road  
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[www.agincourtps.ocdsb.ca](http://www.agincourtps.ocdsb.ca)



## Mark your calendars!

- "Optimism" Assembly  
January 15 (AM)
- Ministry Audit  
January 15 (PM)
- School Council Meeting  
7:00PM  
January 19
- Beatty/Marcotte/Silieff/  
Smyth Field Trip to  
Science & Tech Museum  
January 20
- Scientists in Schools  
(Grade 4)  
January 27
- Beatty/Marcotte  
Library Visit  
January 27 (PM)
- Kindergarten Winter  
Play Day)  
January 27

## Principal's News

### New Year's Goal Settings

January means the mid-year point for your child in the 2009-2010 school year. It is also a good time for taking stock and setting goals. By now, your child has a solid foundation for their learning and the teacher has formed clear objectives and goals for each student. However, there's truth to the old saying, "Nothing succeeds like success." And, one of the best ways to help children succeed is to teach them how to set achievable goals, reach them and then set even higher ones. Parents can encourage children to set goals they can reach, for example, in doing their chores, getting ready for school on time, planning activities for the week, doing homework, or achieving a better grade on the next test. It is our hope that by working together, teachers and parents can strengthen student learning by helping them set realistic goals for the rest of this school year.

In addition to setting individual goals, as a staff we establish several goals for the entire school. We reported in the fall, that after reviewing the results of our EQAO data and the expectations of the province for all of our students, we determined that improvement was needed in the area of linear measurement. Teachers and students worked hard to make the gains necessary to improve our scores and we are pleased to report that we have increased students' level 3 and 4 proficiency from thirty-one percent to seventy percent. Well done!

**Shirley Brackenbury**  
Principal

**Elizabeth Doering**  
Vice-Principal



Parents are reminded not to park in the drop-off zone. It is creating a traffic jam in the parking lot. Now that the snow has arrived, it is even more important we continue to keep the traffic flowing.



**Congratulations!**  
**Nissa, a Grade 5**  
**student, is Agincourt's**  
**Top Speller for the**  
**2010 CanWest Spelling**  
**Bee/Competition.**

## New Year's Reading Resolutions

Before the silly hats and horns are put away, talk to your child about making a "reading resolution" for the new year.

To make reading a priority, plan to:

- 📖 Read with your child every day. Set aside some time when everybody in the house reads.
- 📖 Read aloud. Traditional bedtime reading aloud works, but some families take turns reading aloud during breakfast. Decide on a special read-aloud time for your family.
- 📖 Give books or gift cards to book stores for birthdays and other celebrations.
- 📖 Subscribe to a children's magazine.
- 📖 Make weekly trips to the library.
- 📖 Read newspaper articles together.

To make sure you can keep your resolutions:

- 📖 Keep reading materials handy.
- 📖 Limit TV. You can always record your child's favorite show.
- 📖 Track your progress. Help your child mark the calendar every day your family reads aloud. Then reward yourselves. Watch a movie based on a favorite book—or plan a trip to a bookstore.

*Source: Elizabeth Knowles, Boys and Literacy: Practical Strategies for Librarians, Teachers, and Parents, ISBN: 1-591-58212-1 (Libraries Unlimited, a member of the Greenwood Publishing Group, www.lu.com).*

*Your child's safety is our number one concern. If your child is going to be absent or late, please call our Safe Arrival Line 613-225-2754*

## Update

Thank you to the School Council for its generous donation in November to the school's operating budget. So far, we have purchased leveled take-home books for the senior kindergarten/grade 1 English programs and the grade 3 French Immersion classes (\$3,500). We have completed a sports inventory and have received new pinnies, indoor broomball equipment, and other enriching items for our gym cupboards (\$1,600). Several classes have booked the Scientists in Schools Program and there is still a bit of money to spend.

We are hoping to purchase "big books" that follow the science curriculum and perhaps a digital microscope (\$3200). A few of our classes went on field trips during December and we were able to pay for the busses for these classes. We have a bit more money to spend on field trips. We have not spent any of the arts money yet (\$1600). We are waiting to hear back from a few artists. So far, we have purchased another math carpet and will purchase manipulatives after completing a school-wide inventory to determine what is needed (\$3200).

## Weather Reminder

January means frosty mornings and lots of cold weather. Parents are again reminded to ensure that their children are dressed for the weather each day with warm winter clothing. It is very helpful, too, if all items of clothing are labeled. Should parents be having any difficulties with providing warm winter clothing, please contact the school.

Just a reminder that when the school busses are cancelled, they are cancelled for the entire day (morning and after school). We continue to have a few children confused and upset as to how they are getting home on days when the busses are cancelled.



## Kindergarten Registration

In order to assist with planning for September 2010, the OCDSB is asking parents who wish to register their children for Junior Kindergarten (children born in 2006) and Senior Kindergarten (children born 2005) to do so from Monday February 1 to Friday February 5. Early registration will assist the Transportation Department with student transportation plans, Human Resources in the hiring of new teaching staff, and in the calculation of projected enrolments for September 2010. It will also assist Principals in the planning of their September 2010 staff contingent. If you know neighbouring families who have kindergarten age children, please inform them of the above details. Thank you in advance.

Even though the OCDSB has set aside this period, registrations will still be accepted after February 5. At the time of registration, please bring:

- Proof of age in the form of a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, registration of birth card, or passport. Registration can not be completed without one of these forms of identification.
- Proof, per the Ottawa Health Department regulations, that your child has received proper immunization. If your child has lived outside Canada for more than three months in the last two years, call the Health Department Immunization Line at 714-4108 for additional information.
- Your child's Ontario Health Card.

Please note that students already registered in the Junior Kindergarten program do not need to register again.

### Kindergarten Registration

In order to assist with planning for September 2010, the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is asking parents wanting to register their children for junior and senior kindergarten to do so from Monday, February 1 to Friday, February 5, 2010.

Please bring your child's birth certificate, immunization record, and health card.



More kindergarten registration information can be found on the OCDSB website at [www.ocdsb.ca](http://www.ocdsb.ca)

## Silver Birch, Blue Spruce and Tamarack

Silver Birch and Blue Spruce reading programs are back at Agincourt and will start in January. These are province-wide reading programs sponsored by the Ontario Library Association. This is the eleventh year for these programs and the ninth year Agincourt has participated. All of the books nominated in these programs are Canadian.

Silver Birch is for grades 4-6 and includes ten fiction and ten non-fiction titles nominated for the award. The students who participate must read at least five titles in one or both categories in order to vote for their favourite book. The vote is province wide and in a formal procedure. It takes place in May with the winning author receiving the prestigious Silver Birch Award at the International Children's Festival in Toronto in June. There are twenty-five spots open in the program for all grade 4-5 students.

Silver Birch Express is the same type of program but for grade 3 with only ten titles and these are easier reads. There are also twenty-five spots available in this program and the same rules apply: five titles must be read before a participant can vote and in both programs they are responsible for tracking their progress.

This year a French program called Tamarack has been added for grades 4-5. There are ten nominated titles and five titles must be read before a student can vote.

Blue Spruce is the program for kindergarten students to grade 2. The ten nominees are picture books. This program is run on a class basis with the books being read to a class but each student will have a chance to vote in May the same at the Silver Birch and Tamarack students.




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Cathy Nevins

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We're on the Web!  
[www.agincourtps.ocdsb.ca](http://www.agincourtps.ocdsb.ca)

## Optimism and Character Assembly

The response from the students to our "class empathy challenge" was far beyond our expectations. Some of the activities included:

102-Donations to the Ottawa Food Bank  
103-Donations to the Ottawa Food Bank  
108-Toy donation to Toy Mountain  
126-Donations to the Ottawa Food Bank  
151-Donations to the Ottawa Food Bank  
155 -Donations to the Ottawa Food Bank  
203-Fundraiser to the children of Sierra Leone for school supplies  
207-Book donation to CHEO  
209-Fundraiser for the Defenders of Wildlife Charity  
212-Book Donation to CHEO  
224-CHEO fundraiser (bake sale) and Food Drive  
P1-Vow of Silence thinking of those with a hearing impairment  
P2-Vow of Silence/Recess fast thinking of those who do not have a voice and are hungry

Kindergarten classes donated to the Food Bank. All students learned the song, "Don't Laugh at Me." Lara C, a grade 3 student, donated her ponytail for the Angel Hair for Kids program. Many students participated in the Winter Clothing Drive.

We are looking forward to our assembly on "optimism" in the morning of January 15. We have been challenged to a "school cheer-off" from another school. There will be a special performance by some of our grade 2 students. Teachers will be encouraging the students to be more optimistic and adopt an "I can do it" attitude. The good news is that we can teach optimism. Parents can help by practising optimistic thinking. When you achieve success, don't downplay it with false modesty, but give yourself credit for a job well done. When things go wrong, don't catastrophize; put things in perspective.

## Ministry Audit

We will be welcoming representatives from the Ontario Ministry of Education on January 15 (p.m.) and February 5 (all day).

Officials will be undertaking an audit of the entire school and see what is working well and what areas need improving.

## Smoke-Free School Property under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act



Did you know that all school property, including the school grounds, is smoke-free, under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act? Smoking is prohibited in public and private schools, along with the school property, such as sports fields, playgrounds, and parking lots. This includes smoking in vehicles while picking up your child from school. The fine for smoking or holding a lit tobacco product on school property, including in a vehicle, is \$305.

Children are especially vulnerable to the dangers of second-hand smoke and the enforcement of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act on school properties is done in the best interest of the child, to protect them from the dangers of second-hand smoke.

For more information please contact Ottawa Public Health at 613-580-6744 to speak with a public health nurse or visit [ottawa.ca/health](http://ottawa.ca/health). Thank you for your co-operation.