

The Cobra Compass

Caistor Central Public School
1794 Caistor Centre Rd, Caistor Centre L0R 1E0
<https://caistor.dsbns.org>



DECEMBER
2023

Principal Message

Whether you are celebrating Christmas, Chanukah, Khushali, Kwanzaa, or another special event this holiday season, the staff at Caistor Central wishes you a safe and joyous time with your family. What is truly wonderful about this time of year, are the common bonds we share, regardless of our beliefs. The family values, sense of belonging, acts of kindness and helping others, is what we have in common. Don't forget that there are many simple gifts to give, like a smile, a helpful hand, or a random act of kindness. **On behalf of the staff at Caistor Central, we wish you a holiday season filled with joy, peace and good health!**



We are very grateful that you have entrusted your children to our care. At Caistor Central, we believe that every child can achieve to a high standard. We believe that good character and good citizenship are integral components of academic achievement and success in life. We believe that parents and teachers, working together, can achieve great things for children. We are very proud of the positive climate in our school and are committed to working together for even greater student success.

As we prepare for the winter season, there is an opportunity for us to reach out to the community by way of a Seasonal Food Drive with Community Care. Please join our challenge! All in good fun, we are teaming up with Gainsborough to challenge Smithville School to see who can collect as many items as possible for those in need.

To celebrate Caistor Central students and staff reaching donation targets we'll do fun challenges that will bring laughter and smiles to everyone! Students are welcome to drop off non-perishable food items to their class collection bins between Monday December 4th and Friday December 8th. If a child finds it difficult to carry an item on the bus, we will accept your drop-off donations at the door. Please be sure to label the bag with your child's name and class!

We look forward to a wonderful holiday season together.
Mrs. T. Chilcott



December is Universal Human Rights Month

- Food Drive Begins.....Dec. 4
- Bodhi Day.....Dec. 8
- Hanukkah.....Dec. 8
- Food Drive Ends.....Dec. 8
- Khushali.....Dec. 13
- Posadas Navidenas.....Dec. 16
- Holiday Colours Day.....Dec. 18
- Holiday Headgear Day.....Dec. 19
- Ugly Holiday Sweater Day...Dec. 20
- Holiday Celebration Day....Dec. 21
- Twas the Day Before Holidays
- Pajama Day.....Dec.22
- Christmas Day.....Dec. 25
- Kwanzaa.....Dec. 26
- Welcome Back.....Jan. 8



Winter Wonderland Sip & Sing – December 20th at 6:00 to 7:15pm

We are celebrating the season with a Winter Wonderland Sip & Sing event! Come and enjoy a hot cup of cocoa, enjoy your child's class performance, take in the art show, browse the bake sale, make a take-away batch of reindeer food or bring your own paper rolls (1 to 6 of them) to create a holiday craft decoration! Don't forget to bring your favourite holiday mugs and dress in holiday cheer!

Doors will open at 5:45pm. A schedule of class performances (and details about preparations) will be sent out shortly. Families, parents and children, will enjoy the evening's offerings together. Parents should drop their children off in the "green room" 5 minutes before the start of their class special and then make their way to the theatre area to find a seat. Children should be picked up by parents immediately after their performance.

Holiday Bake Sale Fundraiser

The community Holiday Bake Sale in the evening is a time when you can also purchase some goodies for holiday get-togethers! Bake sale items will be available in fully wrapped singles, six packs, dozens, cakes and loaves. Caistor has a strong history and tradition of care and creativity at the holiday bake sale! Don't miss out. **The bake sale will be open from 6:00pm to 7:00pm.**



We encourage parents to support this initiative by baking treats and sending them in on the morning of Wednesday December 20th. Thank you so much for your support! Note: All baked goods must be nut free and fully wrapped in cello bags, boxes or tins.

While we cannot guarantee a nut free school environment, we work diligently to minimize risk to individuals with allergies. **We require that all baked goods coming into the school be baked without nuts or peanuts. However, we cannot guarantee that these baked goods are nut free or have been made in a nut-free environment.**



Here are the amazing basket themes we are collecting for each class. Please consider sending in a new donation to contribute to a class basket by December 8th. Thank you for your support!

| Class | Basket Theme |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Ms. Misener & Mrs MacPherson | Cozy Reading Bundle |
| Mrs. Killins & Ms. Soutos | Baking! |
| Mrs. Donders (Gr 1) | Family Game Night |
| Mrs. Sohi (Gr 1/2) | Coffee, Tea and Latte! |
| Mrs. Bleich (Gr 2/3) | Chocolate! |
| Mrs. Vandriel & Mrs. Gamble (Gr 3/4) | Family Movie Night |
| Mrs. Dosa (Gr 4/5) | Snow Day Survival Kit |
| Mrs. Whitfield (Gr 5) | Arts and Crafts |
| Mr. Nawrocki (Gr 6/7) | Pamper Me - Family Spa Day |
| Mr. Wellman (Gr 7/8) | Candy Galore! |

How to Purchase Basket Raffle Tickets!

Raffle baskets will be on display in the foyer starting December 12th.

Basket Raffle tickets can be purchased through School Cash Online from December 11th to 18th:
\$1 per ticket, 6 for \$5, 20 for \$10, 50 for \$20

A duplicate set of tickets will be sent home with students in a sealed and labeled envelope with a one- to two-day turnaround (same as Servery). Parents should keep one full set for proof of ticket numbers and then the duplicates can be put into the draw.

Parents wishing their children to enter tickets into the draw themselves during the week, can send tickets back to school with their children anytime that week.

The office will make sure that all tickets are sent home by December 19th.

Tickets can also be purchased on the night of December 20th between 5:45 pm and 6:45 pm. The Basket Raffle will close at 7:00 pm sharp.

Celebrating Our Students – Way to Go!

| Class | Student of the Month Award | Character Trait Award Courage |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| K1 Misener & MacPherson-Easey | Alivia M. | Nate H. |
| K2 Killins & Soutos | Octavia C. | Alix H., Gage G. |
| 1 Donders | Mason M. | Tessa L. |
| 1/2 Sohi | Lucy M. | Jordyn C. |
| 2/3 Bleich | Elena S. | Calvin C. |
| 3/4 VanDriel & Gamble | Freddie A. | Khloe S., Leia K. |
| 4/5 Dosa | Eva B. | Nava R. |
| 5 Whitfield | Jakob R. | Gerrot T. |
| 6/7 Nawrocki | Lynnah F., Grace M. | Jax D. |
| 7/8 Wellman | Odin K. | Evy Y. |
| PRIMARY ROBOTICS WINNERS | | |
| 1 st tie: Regan/Lendrick and Abby/Alexandra 2 nd – Theo/Jase 3 rd – Elena/Leah | | |

Be Responsible in December - "I am responsible for my thoughts, words and actions. I am accountable for my choices. I admit my mistakes and work to correct them. People can depend on me to honour my commitments. I demonstrate active citizenship.

Education Foundation Niagara - Teacher Tribute

Are you looking to show your appreciation to your child's teacher or school staff member but not sure how to do that during this time? Please consider making a donation in honour of someone through the [EFN Tribute Gift Campaign](#). Your gift makes an immediate impact on the lives of DSBN students - whether it's through helping with basic necessities, through providing scholarships, or by enhancing their learning environment. To learn more about EFN, please visit their website at efnniagara.dsbnschools.org.

Dressing for the Weather & Playground Closure

As colder winter weather approaches, please be aware that children are expected to be dressed appropriately for the weather conditions every day. Coats, hats, boots and mittens/gloves are already necessary for your child to enjoy the outdoor fitness breaks and gym classes. Students that are well enough to be at school are expected to be outside with their friends during fitness breaks as indoor supervision is not available.

As the temperature drops to zero degrees, there is risk of wet, frozen and slippery playground surfaces. Students bundled in winter clothing also do not have adequate grip on structures. For these reasons, playground spaces are not deemed safe for use and are closed during winter months.

School Advisory Council

Our third School Advisory Council Meeting was held on November 28th. Thank you to all the parents that attended our meeting. All School Advisory Council meeting agendas and minutes will be posted on the [Caistor Central Website](#) once they are approved. Our schedule of meetings for the 2023-2024 school year is as follows:

- January 23, 2024 @ 6:00pm
- March 26, 2024 @ 6:00pm
- May 28, 2024 @ 6:00pm

New members are always welcome to join and meeting may be added if the need arises.

Special Lunch Days

While we have Pizza Days every week on a Tuesday, our special lunches are only offered twice each month, on the first and third Thursday of the month as below. Keep these dates on your fridge as a reminder.

- December 7 – Domino's Pasta
- December 21 – Pita Pit

Poinsettia Sale & Pick-Up

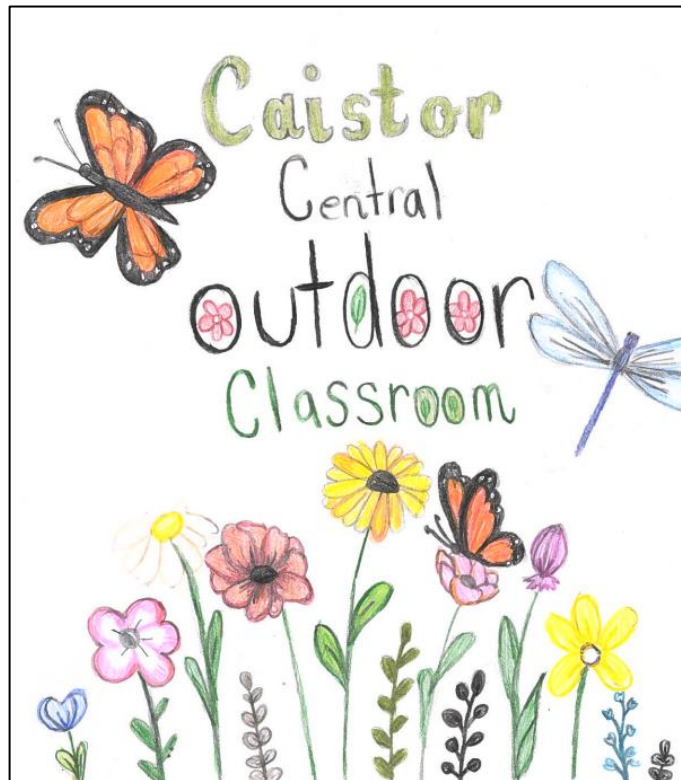
Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Poinsettia Sale Fundraiser! Poinsettias will arrive at the school Wednesday, December 6th, with prompt pick up (starting at 10:00 am) required. We ask all parents to pickup the flowers so they do not get damaged on the bus.

Coaches and Clubs Corner

| Activity | Day & Time | Coach / Club Leader |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Intermediate Robotics Club | Meet during lunch breaks | Mrs. Gamble |
| Intermediate Volleyball | Tournament on December 1 | Mr. Wellman – Girls Mrs. Whitfield – Boys |
| Junior Tripleball | Games on Monday/Wednesday | Mrs. Sohi – Girls Mrs. Dosa - Boys |
| Eco Club | Meet on Tuesday at breaks | Mrs. Killins, Mrs. Whitfield and Mrs. LeBlanc |

Eco Club & Caistor's Outdoor Classroom Sign

As you know, in October we launched our Outdoor Classroom Sign Design Contest! All students were invited to submit designs to be considered for our new sign installment. Congratulations to Paisley LeBlanc, whose design was selected! We look forward to “unveiling” the sign in the spring.



December Spirit Days!

Dec 18 - Holiday Colours Day! (red & green, white & blue, gold and silver, etc)
Dec 19 - Holiday Headgear Day!
Dec 20 - Ugly Holiday Sweater Day!
Dec 21 - Holiday Celebration Day! Dress in anything that shows how you celebrate!
Dec 22 - 'Twas the Night Before Holidays Pajama Day!

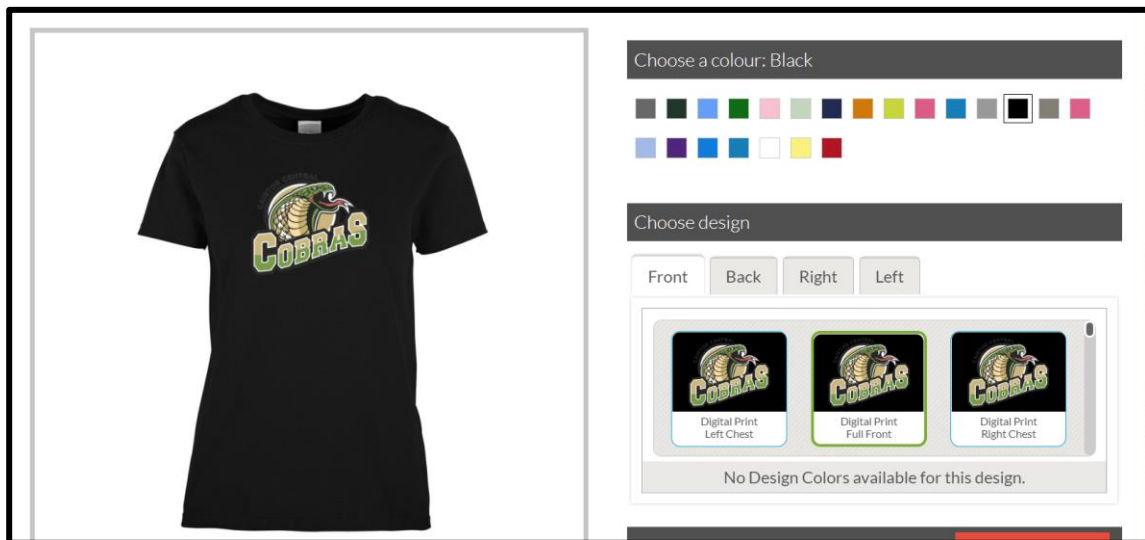
School Bus Safety Presentations

On December 14th, all students will be participating in School Bus Safety Presentations. In partnership with Niagara Student Transportation Services, our school board and the Ministry of Education, Intertrain is offering their annual school bus rider safety programs.

Cobra Spirit Wear! Order Away!

Spirit wear is always available for order! Official Cobra colours are dark green. There are lots of items to choose from – Ts, hoodies, hats and toques, bags, jackets and more! You can [order here!](#) Note that you can select the size and location of the Cobra logo and add text for an additional fee.

You can also find an updates ordering link on our school website!



Inclement Weather Procedures

There are times in Niagara when weather conditions are so poor that we must cancel student transportation, and/or close schools to preserve the safety of students and staff. The decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools is not taken lightly; a variety of factors are considered when making this choice. To learn more about how these decisions are made, please go to <https://www.dsbn.org/inclementweather>.

Transportation Cancellations:

Information about transportation delays and cancellations are posted to <https://portal.nsts.ca/Cancellations.aspx>. When transportation is cancelled, every effort is made to communicate the decision by 6:00 am on the day of the cancellation. There are times when transportation is cancelled, but schools remain open. If, on those days you feel it is best for your child to stay home, please report your child's absence <https://dsbn.org/safearrival/> so we can make sure they are safe at home.

School Closures:

When the decision to close schools is made, it refers to all schools. Every effort will be made to share school closure information before 6:00 am on the day of the school closure. You will find it on dsbn.org, all school websites, DSBN social media, and local media share the news widely as well.

DSBN eFlyers

Many community events and activities are posted on the DSBN eFlyers website. I encourage you to take a look, on occasion, to ensure you do not miss any community events that might be of interest to you or your family. To view the eFlyers, please follow the simple instructions:

1. Log onto our website: www.dsbn.org
2. Click on "Community" tab
3. Click on "eFlyer Request" and you may browse through the 'Recent eFlyers' to find offerings from a variety of community organizations.

DSBN Social Worker Available

Do you have questions about your child's mental health and well-being, such as anxiety, behaviour or self-harm? Do you need support in accessing supports in the community? Do you need advice for setting goals to help with regular school attendance? Do you have any questions or looking for support regarding a certain aspect of parenting?

If these are some questions you've been asking yourself, please speak with your child's teacher or Mrs. Chilcott. Katelyn Turk is a DSBN Social Worker that works with families in West Lincoln schools, including Caistor Central, to provide an additional layer of support to help our students and families achieve success. She is an invaluable member of our Caistor Central team and is looking forward to connecting with families.

Niagara Ice Dogs Family Night in February!

We have an upcoming Caistor Central Family Game Night on February 4th! Come out for a pre-skate and then cheer the Ice Dogs on in the Caistor Central Cobras' section! Hold the date! The Ice Dogs will be making a visit to Caistor Central on January 23rd for a pep rally! More details will follow about ticket purchase through School Cash Online.

