

October 2011

# THE CONNAUGHT CHRONICLE



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## GROWING SUCCESS: ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

The primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning.

The following seven fundamental principles lay the foundation for rich and challenging practice. When these principles are fully understood and observed by all teachers, they will guide the collection of meaningful information that will help inform instructional decisions, promote student engagement, and improve student learning.

### THE SEVEN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

To ensure that assessment, evaluation, and reporting are valid and reliable, and that they lead to the improvement of learning for all students, teacher use practices and procedures that:

- are fair, transparent, and equitable for all students;
- support all students, including those with special education needs, those who are learning the language of instruction (English or French), and those who are First Nation, Métis, or Inuit;
- are carefully planned to relate to the curriculum expectations and learning goals and, as much as possible, to the interests, learning styles and preferences, needs and experiences of all students;
- are communicated clearly to students and parents at the beginning of the

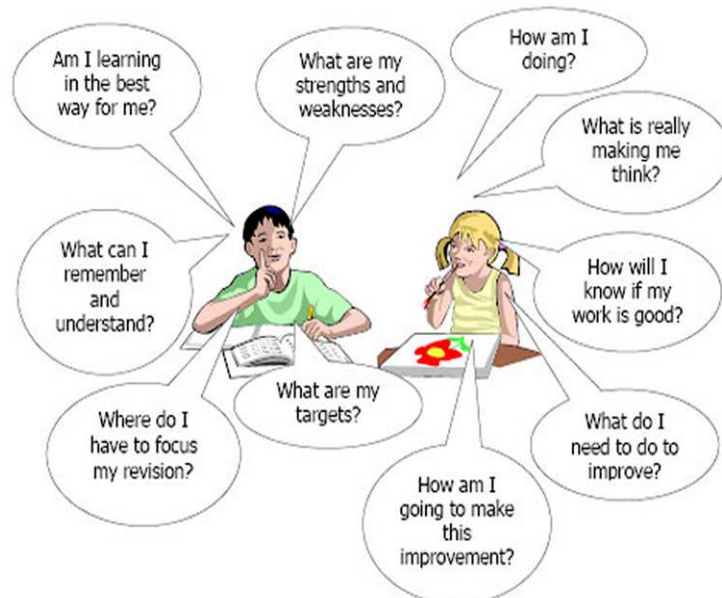
school year or course and at other appropriate points throughout the school year or course;

- are ongoing, varied in nature, and administered over a period of time to provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate the full range of their learning;
- provide ongoing descriptive feedback that is clear, specific, meaningful, and timely to support improved learning and achievement;
- develop students' self-assessment skills to enable them to assess their own learning, set specific goals, and plan next steps for their learning.

(Ontario Ministry of Education, *Growing Success*, p.6)

We know that parents have an important role to play in supporting student learning. Studies show that students perform better in school if their parents or guardians are involved in their education. This is the basis for the principle that students and parents should be kept fully informed about the student's progress. Our schools have procedures in place to ensure that parents are aware of the expectations for their child in the various grades.

At any time throughout the year, parents/guardians are invited to communicate with the school about their child's progress and achievement.





## REPORTING PERIODS

### Grades 1 – 6

**Progress Report:** November 15, 2011

**Term 1 Report:** February 9, 2012

**Term 2 Report:** June 27, 2012

### Kindergarten

**SK Progress Report:** November 15, 2011

**JK parent observation & follow up:**  
November and December 2011

**JK/SK Progress Report:** February 9, 2012

**JK/SK Report Cards:** June 27, 2012

## EQAO ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

Last May/June, students in grades 3 and 6 (currently in grades 4 and 7) participated in the provincial assessment of learning (Primary and Junior Divisions) in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. All students at Connaught who were eligible to participate in the assessments did so. Those who have been identified as exceptional were supported through the use of accommodations, like computer technology and scribing. Please note the following:

There are many different ways of measuring student success. The EQAO assessment is just one of them. The most authentic and meaningful assessments are those carried out on a daily basis by teachers.

**Education Quality and Accountability Office**



Technology has opened limitless possibilities for all students at the DSBN, engaging them by activating a variety of learning styles, and encouraging them to make connections to curriculum in significant ways.

Today, we teach math using a problem-solving approach where students learn by doing and investigating. Teachers contextualize math into students' everyday lives, which they find relevant and engaging.

**We are very pleased to report that Connaught students did very well on these assessments.** We believe that this was due to our focused school growth goals and tireless teacher efforts. We continue to examine last year's results to assist us to set our focus for this school year.



## TERRY FOX RUN

Once again, Connaught was one of thousands of schools across Canada that celebrated the spirit and legacy of Terry Fox during our annual walk/run as part of Terry Fox National School Run Day. As Terry brought together a nation to join the fight against cancer, our run/walk brought together our staff, students, families and community members in celebrating this great Canadian and continuing this fun and inspirational tradition. **Donations can continue to be made at the office until Friday October 7th when all monies raised will be sent to the Terry Fox Foundation on behalf of Connaught School.**

Thanks Mr. French for all of your hard work and organization!

## PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE AND KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE

Now that our students are familiar with our school and know how to get to their classrooms, please help promote their independence by allowing students to walk to their classrooms by themselves. **For safety reasons, it is essential that we are aware of every adult in the building. Every non-staff member adult in the building during school hours must wear a visitor's pass, as per our school safety plan.** Please drop off and pick up your child outside. If you would like to see your child's teacher, please call to make an appointment. If you are volunteering during the day (which we truly appreciate), please sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's pass.

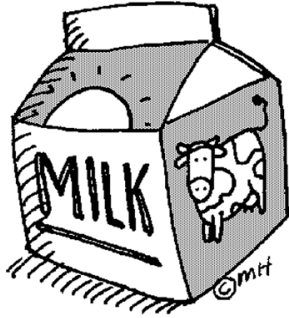
## LATES AND ABSENCES

When a student is late, he/she **must report** to the office prior to going to the classroom to get a "late slip" to present to the teacher. If you know your child will be late please contact the office. This will save a phone call from Mrs. Nardangeli to ensure your child's safety. If your child is ill, please be sure to notify the office prior to 9:00 a.m. We have an answering machine available for your convenience, if you need to phone in the evening or early morning. **If your child is absent and we do not receive a call, Mrs. Nardangeli, our secretary, will contact you in order to ensure that your child is safe.**



## MILK PROGRAM

The Connaught office will be offering milk/chocolate milk each day. Students can purchase sheets of fifteen tickets at the office for \$12.00. What a great way to ensure that your children are getting their daily dose of calcium!



## YOUNGEST AND ONLY/EMAIL IN NOVEMBER

Starting in October, monthly newsletters will go home to only those students who are the youngest or the only child in their families. If you wish to have the newsletter emailed to you we will be setting that up to begin in November. Please send an email to our school email address [con@dsbn.org](mailto:con@dsbn.org) and request to be added to the newsletter email list! Note: You can also access the Connaught Chronicle via our school website (click Newsletter in the Navigation bar at the top of the home page at <http://connaught.dsb.org>).



## CHARACTER TRAIT FOR OCTOBER

The character trait we will focus on in October is **Responsibility**.



## PARENT LENDING LIBRARY

Thanks to a Ministry grant we received we have a large assortment of reading materials that parents can sign out. Topics consist of materials on: helping children with homework, discipline, literacy, Math, Special Education, and bullying. These materials are located outside the office however may be moving them into the library. If you wish to have a look at the resources and sign out a book or video please stop by the office and we would be pleased to show you where the resources are and how to sign them out.

## CROSSCOUNTRY

Connaught's BIGGEST and best team is off and running ..... literally. The Connaught Cougar Cross Country Team has begun their season of two races and is looking forward to some great results from our enthusiastic team. Runners will compete in two regional races and hopefully we'll have a few athletes qualify for the DSBN Championship Meet. Athletes have also been invited to an Invitational Meet at Wheatley Private School. An update of our Team results will be available in next month's newsletter. Team members are: Sarah Gowan, Tristan Cockell, Madalyn Wright, Austyn Babineau, Ziah Dixon, Joseph Upper, Alise Labrador, Lucas Switzer, Breanna Smith, Jillian Seburn, Josue Benitez, Hannah Bennett, Danylo Nyforovskyy, Krysta Groat, Zachary Everard, Chenoor Irlandost, Owen Lachapelle, Mackenzie Irwin, C. J. Bartlett, Stella Urquhart, Romeo Godoy, Molly Rosts, Keesha Sabate, Tara Groat, Selena Bednarz, Ethan Lachapelle, Nick Santarelli, Abidin Say

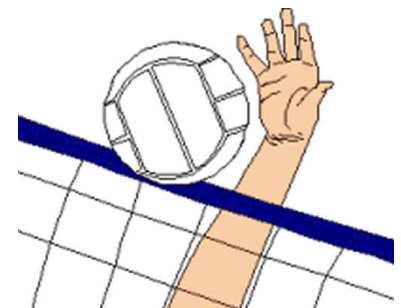
## INTERMEDIATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

The Intermediate Girls Volleyball Team is looking forward to an exciting season of play beginning the first week of October. Coaches Quinlan and French believe they have assembled a very committed and capable team. The regular season extends into November and is then followed by playoffs. A full season report (hopefully announcing another championship) will be available in the December newsletter. The team is made up of Yasmin, Sooma, Gina, Jessica, Allysa, Emily, Brooklyn, Dahlia, and Alicia.



## INTERMEDIATE BOYS VOLLEYBALL

The intermediate boys volleyball team is gearing up to take the court in early October. Coaches Nesbitt and Young are looking forward to a fantastic season from this tremendous group of athletes. Team members include: Riley Kostuk, Ethan LaChapelle, Johnny Couture, Tyriq Stubbs, Symphorien Ilunga, Jacob Stirtzinger, Nick McCallum, and Nick Santarelli.





## JUNIOR SOCCER

The Connaught Junior soccer team is having another successful season in 2011. The Cougars are currently in fourth place in the league with a record of 3 wins, 2 defeats and pressing for a playoff position. Standout players so far this year are Nicole Collicutt, Breanna Smith, Zach Everard and Josh Ferguson. A special get well message to our goal keeper, Devon Easton, who unfortunately got injured and will not be able to finish the season with the team. Good luck Cougars.

Members of the team are:

Valeria Al Tamiranda, Alisha Tucker, Taylor Vandoorn, Alexis Burse, Ziah Dixon, Breanna Smith, Nicole Collicutt, Molly Rosts, Riley Picard, Taimur Azam, William Stark, Owen Lachapelle, Jonnathan Dubon, Yamil Al Tamiranda, Zach Everard, Devon Easton, Nathan Boisvert and Josh Ferguson.

*Mr. Devlin & Mr. Horton*

## BECAUSE I AM A GIRL

On Friday, September 23rd, Connaught went pink to support girls' human rights around the world. The grade six class hosted a pink treat stand with delicious donated treats, candies, and pink power crystal necklaces. Together with the money raised at the Meet the Teacher BBQ, over \$160 has been raised to help health, education and nutrition programs for girls around the world. Thank you Connaught!

**Because I  
am a GIRL**

## CRAFTER'S WORKSHOP

Crafter's Workshop is back this year with fun seasonal crafts. The Workshop gives students an opportunity to spend their breaks creating amazing, personalized crafts, for a nominal fee. Students from grades 1-8 are invited to attend; permission forms with details will be out by mid-October. Our first craft of the year will be a spooky Hallowe'en creation!



## HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Some pointers to keep the trick or treaters safe.

- Children under nine years of age should go out with an adult or responsible older child.
- Be sure your child stops at all curbs, looks left, right and left again to check for traffic. Remind children to cross at crosswalks, street corners or intersections. It is important they walk on the sidewalk, or walk facing the traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Bright coloured costumes make your child easier to see. You can use reflective tape on a costume to make your child more visible. Face paint instead of a mask helps them to see well. Have your child carry a flashlight.
- When they get home, check all of their treats carefully. Throw out any treats that aren't wrapped, if the wrapping is torn or loose, or if the wrapper has a hole. Remember that small treats can cause your child to choke.
- You might want to offer an alternative to sugar based treats. Stickers or multicoloured pencils can be a nice surprise in place of, or in addition to, traditional treats.

Ontario Early Years Centres  
A Place For Parents And Their Children.



Centres de la petite enfance  
Un endroit pour les parents et leurs enfants.

## ONTARIO EARLY YEARS PROGRAM AT CONNAUGHT

The first six years of a child's life are so important! As a parent, you are your child's most important teacher. The experiences children have in the first six years of life affect behaviour, learning and health for the rest of their lives. It is important to talk, listen and play with your child every day – it is never too early or too late to make a difference.

**The Ontario Early Years Program is a NEW FREE program for children 0-6 years with parent or caregiver.** When you visit the program, you and your child can

- explore our fun play materials with your child—blocks, puppets, storybooks, puzzles, games, cars, trucks, dramatic play and much more
- meet and talk to with other parents and children in a fun, safe environment
- experiment with our creative art supplies
- participate in games and activities to help your child with learning ABCs, Number knowledge AND OTHER SCHOOL READINESS SKILLS
- find out the answers to your parenting questions or learn about different resources in your community that can assist you and your child

**The Ontario Early Years Program takes place at Connaught on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon.** For more information please call 905-938-9392 or for information on other programs and locations visit: [www.ymcaofniagara.org](http://www.ymcaofniagara.org)