

Community Connections

August 24, 2021

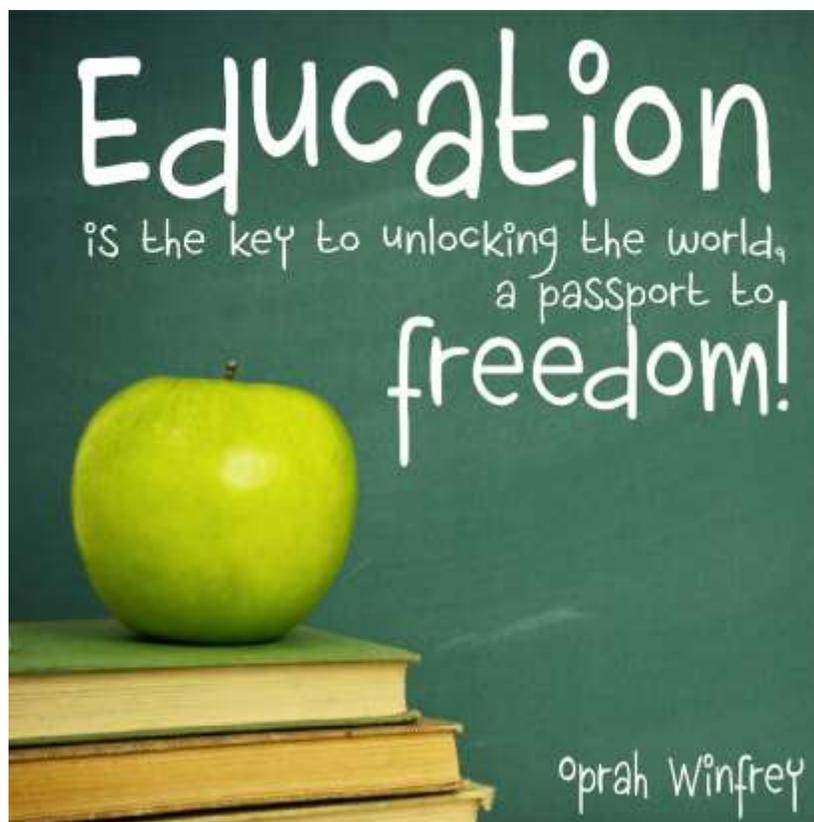


Good Morning:

Please feel free to pass this information on to anyone who might be interested.

You can find all of the past editions on Niagara Knowledge Exchange by [Clicking Here](#)

Also, please let us know if there is anything you have found that has inspired you and we will share in future newsletters



Spotlight: Back to School/Work and “Normal”

COVID-19: Health, safety and operational guidance for schools (2021-2022): [Click here](#) to read Ontario's guidance for schools, school boards and school authorities to operate during the 2021-2022 school year.

COVID-19: directives en matière de gestion, de sécurité et de santé pour les écoles (2021-2022): [Cliquez ici](#) pour lire les directives ontariennes que les écoles et les conseils et les administrations scolaires doivent respecter pour pouvoir fonctionner durant l'année scolaire 2021-2022.

Back to School under COVID: [click here](#) for tips for parents and caregivers from eMentalHealth.ca.

Retour à l'école sous COVID: [cliquez ici](#) pour des conseils pour les parents et les soignants de eSantéMentale.ca.

School Mental Health Backpack: Children's Mental Health Ontario recognizes that returning to school can be tough at the best of times but in the midst of a pandemic, it can be the worst of times. In an effort to make returning to school this year as smooth as possible, they have updated the

resources in their School Mental Health Backpack – check out all that the backpack offers by [clicking here](#)

Sac à dos de santé mentale: Alors que la rentrée scolaire est difficile pour la plupart des enfants et des jeunes au cours d'une année normale, cette année, nos enfants retournent à l'école en période de pandémie après une année de longues fermetures d'écoles en Ontario. Nous savons que les parents ont vécu un stress sans précédent et que beaucoup s'inquiètent pour le bien-être mental de leurs enfants. [Cliquez ici](#) pour Santé mentale pour enfants Ontario (SCHL) notre sac à dos sur la santé mentale en milieu scolaire. Nous voulons responsabiliser les familles qui se préoccupent de la santé mentale de leur enfant et vous aider à trouver d'autres soutiens en santé mentale si vous en avez besoin.

Back in the Classroom: Strategies for Teachers: [Click here](#) for some common worries you might be experiencing and suggestions on how to respond to them.

En classe: stratégies pour les enseignants: [Cliquez ici](#) pour quelques inquiétudes courantes que vous pourriez rencontrer et des suggestions pour y répondre.

12 Fun First Week of School Traditions: The start of school can be nerve-racking for kids during normal times. Add a whole new set of rules, face masks, hand sanitizer, socially distanced recess, or the complete absence of in-person interaction, and there's no question that your family's anxiety has the potential to outsize your kid's excitement. But all is not lost: With a little planning and creativity, it's easier than you think to infuse the first days with warmth and inspiration, thrills, and surprises. [Click here](#) and pick a few ideas (zero pressure to do them all!) and in no time, Week 1 will be done—and your kids will have had oh-so-much fun.

Check out these Local Activities and Resources:

Community Connections Newsletter Update: As we continue to move into our new normal, the frequency of the Community Connections newsletter will be adjusted to a monthly format with a new issue released on the second Tuesday of each month beginning September 14th". We are committed to continuing to virtually connect you to community resources and each other so please continue to send us your good news stories, upcoming events and information that helps all of us to better support the children, youth and families of Niagara.

Dental Bus on The Road Again: Niagara Region Public Health's mobile dental clinic is back on the road. The Dental Bus provides preventative dental services for children & youth 17 and under. [Click here](#) to find out when they will be in your community.

Funding Opportunities: The Niagara Community Foundation provides support to Niagara communities through various funding opportunities. There are two Grants with fall deadlines – The David S. Howes Fund and the Mini Gran. If you are a local not for profit or charity, these are funding opportunities worth investigating. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Local Organized Sports: many local organized sports organizations are gradually re-opening for team activities. If you are interested in exploring the organized sporting activities available in your area, check out the information provided by Niagara Families by [clicking here](#)

Amazing Race Niagara is a car rally, scavenger hunt & team competition that takes place on Sunday, September 12, 2021. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Go on a Storywalk: Add more fun and adventure to your walk by going on a Storywalk! A Storywalk is a book turned into panels that can be placed outside so that you can stroll along and read at the same time. There are stories in English and French as well as Indigenous stories and they can be borrowed through your local library. Be sure to allow for travel time, most of the Storywalks are stored at the Niagara Falls Library but can be delivered to your local branch, all free of charge! [Click here](#) to learn more and to view the available titles – you can use them at a child care, in your neighbourhood or at a birthday party – Storywalks can fit anywhere 😊

Activities and supports for you, your clients & families:

Activities for Babies & Toddlers: Active for Life recognizes that babies and toddlers need an early start in developing their motor skills. Get moving with these fun activities posted [here](#).

Activités pour bébé et tout-petit: Il est important que les bébés et les tout-petits commencent tôt à apprendre les habiletés motrices fondamentales. En faisant les activités ci-dessous (au bon moment), vous pouvez être certain que vos enfants développeront leur littératie physique. [Cliquez ici](#) pour les activités.

Elections & Democracy: With a federal election on the horizon, you might have questions about what an election is and how it all works in Canada. The website, Elections & Democracy has all of the information that you will need to answer questions, find classroom activities and even details on how to apply to work on Election Day. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Élections et démocratie: [Cliquez ici](#) pour une mine de ressources et d'outils éducatifs stimulants sur les élections fédérales et la démocratie.

September 8th – International Literacy Day: As identified by UNESCO, September 8th is International Literacy Day “to remind the public of the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights, and to advance the literacy agenda towards a more literate and sustainable society”. [Click here](#) to visit the UNESCO website.

8 septembre - Journée internationale de l'alphabétisation: 2021 examinera comment l'alphabétisation peut aider à construire une base solide pour un rétablissement centré sur l'être humain, en mettant en évidence les interactions entre l'alphabétisation et les compétences numériques dont les jeunes ont besoin et les adultes analphabètes. Il explorera également les facteurs qui rendent l'alphabétisation basée sur la technologie inclusive et utile, afin que personne ne soit laissé pour compte. [Cliquez ici](#) pour plus d'informations.

International Literacy Day Activities: Twinkl has a variety of free downloadable resources to help mark this day. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Executive Function Skills for Children: The Harvard Centre on the Developing Child has shared a guide that provides activities and games for adults to use to support children's executive function and self regulation skills. The guide is sorted by age ranges and is free to download. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Outdoor Workshops: Peterborough based Pathway to Stewardship & Kinship is a foundation for nurturing healthy and engaged children and youth. They offer lots of programming in their home area but also have a great series of pre-recorded workshops and tutorials for educators, parents and children to help everyone learn more about exploring the wonders in their own community. [Click here](#) to learn more

Pathways also has provided a wide variety of fun family outdoor activities for children of all ages. [Click here](#) to begin exploring these fun ideas

Stay up-to-date:

“Niagara Health reminds the community of the seriousness of COVID-19 and encourages everyone eligible to get fully vaccinated and to follow the directions of regional, provincial and federal healthcare experts.”

Niagara Region Community Resources: is working with the community to ensure residents are connected to resources, services, programs and support during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click Here](#)

Ontario's vaccine distribution implementation plan: [Click here](#) to learn about Ontario's vaccination program to help protect us against COVID-19.

Plan de mise en œuvre de la distribution des vaccins de l'Ontario: [Cliquez ici](#) et renseignez-vous sur le programme de vaccination de l'Ontario pour nous aider à nous protéger contre la COVID-19.

Niagara Region FAQ's: [Click here](#) if you have any additional questions about vaccines, booking appointments or general information about COVID-19.

Ontario Government Covid-19 Update Page: [Click Here](#) to get the latest case data and updates, learn how to protect yourself and others and get advice on what to do next if you think you might have COVID-19. (This site has the information available in many other languages.)

Mise à jour Covid-19 du gouvernement de l'Ontario: [Cliquez ici](#) pour obtenez les plus récentes données sur les cas et mises à jour, apprenez comment vous protéger et protéger les autres et obtenez des conseils sur la marche à suivre si vous craignez d'avoir contracté la COVID-19.

Health Canada Covid-19 Update Page: [Click here](#) to get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines and find resources for your families

Gouvernement du Canada - Maladie à coronavirus (COVID-19):
[Cliquez ici](#) pour les faits sur les vaccins contre la COVID-19 et Ressources de sensibilisation



The poster features a red vertical sidebar on the left with the Book Outlet logo and store information. The main area is a teal background with a white grid pattern, decorated with school supplies like pencils, paper clips, a ruler, and a pencil sharpener. The text is centered on the grid.

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** The Book Outlet (one of the primary donors of books for the bi-annual book distributions) has asked that this opportunity be shared with all of the Niagara book friends.*

Please feel free to share with any other educators that work with children in child care or school based settings.

We would like to apologize if you received multiple copies of this email. We are trying to reach out to as many early years educators and staff as possible. Please share with all of your staff, clients, families or anyone who is not on this email list.

Take Care and Stay Healthy

Karen & Sharon

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THIS IS OUR

SHOT