

# Community Connections – January 19, 2021

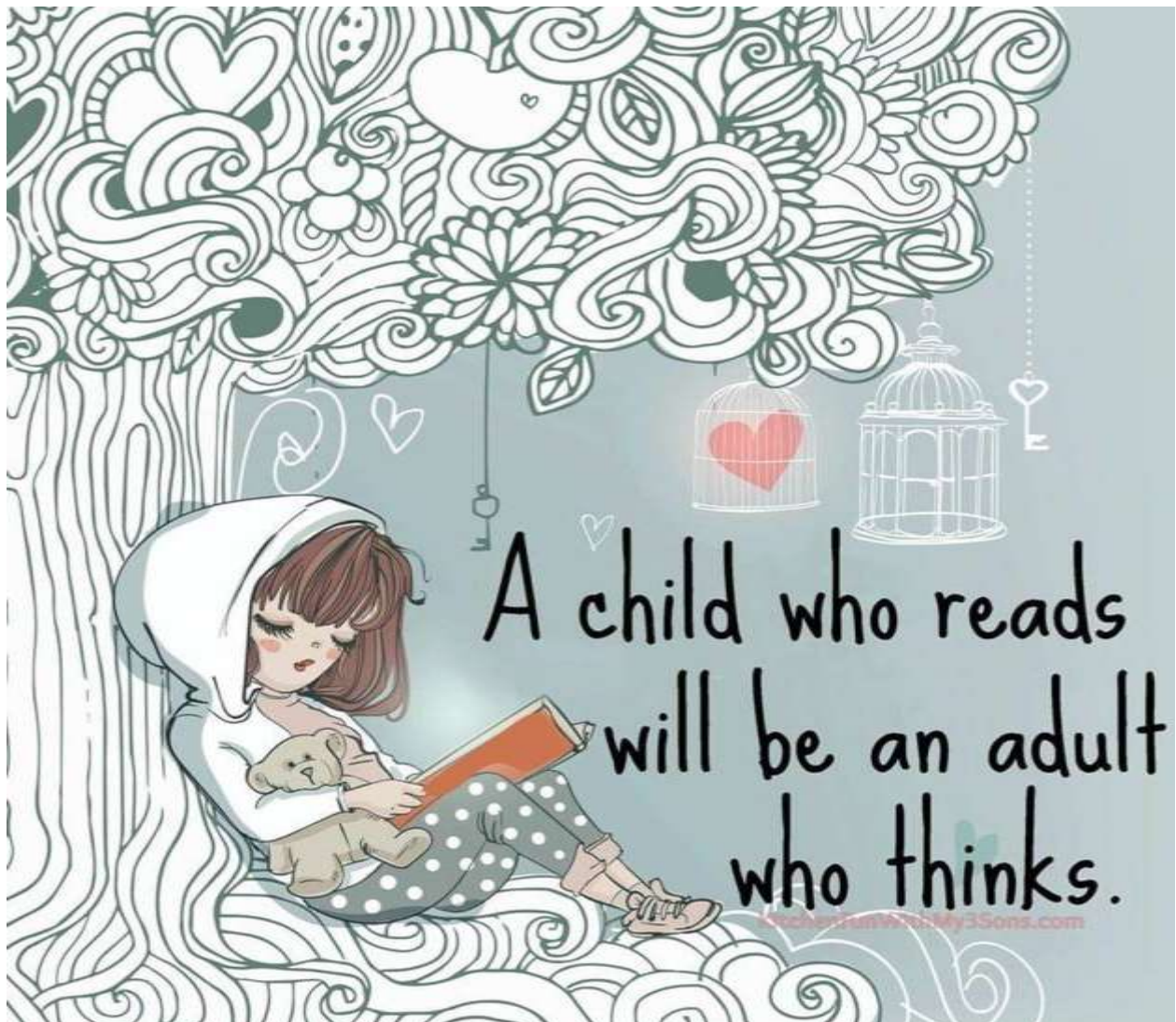


## Good Morning:

*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 theme: *Reading - Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader***

We loved this email from a teacher in inner-city Hamilton after one of our book distributions: “One student saw me bringing in a cart of books from my car yesterday. Today she and a friend came and asked if the books I brought in were for the library or were kids going to get another “surprise present” (with a wink) this winter. She told me that she’s read last year’s book twice and really loved it (insert melting heart here).” Reading with your child, or the children in your care is more important than ever during a pandemic. The quiet, special 1:1 time spent reading can be a wonderful way to spend this second lock down. Read on to learn more about how important reading is.

**Reading to Children: Why It’s So Important and How to Start:** Reading to your child — at any age — will boost their brain development, your bond, and so much more. And all it takes is a few books, motivation, and a little time. [Click here](#) to get started.

**14 bonnes raisons de lire des histoires aux enfants:** [Cliquez ici](#) pour apprendre pourquoi devriez-vous lire des histoires aux enfants dès leur petite enfance.

**Family Literacy Day – January 27<sup>th</sup>:** Join families across Canada on January 27<sup>th</sup> for Family Literacy Day, a day focused on raising awareness of the importance of reading and literacy. The theme for this year’s event is “Travel the World Together”. Check out the ABC Life Literacy website for more information on this year’s theme plus downloadable activity books, bookmarks and other ideas to celebrate this day. [Click here](#) to learn more.

**Journée de l'alphabétisation familiale - 27 janvier 2021 Voyager ensemble dans le monde:** La Journée de l'alphabétisation familiale a lieu tous les 27 janvier pour sensibiliser à l'importance de la lecture et de la participation à d'autres activités liées à la lecture et à l'écriture en famille. [Cliquez ici](#) pour une promotion gratuite et des ressources d'apprentissage pour toute personne intéressée à participer.

**You are your child’s first teacher.** With your support, your child will grow up to become an excellent reader with strong writing skills – and what a difference that will make when he or she enters college, university or the workforce one day! [Check out](#) this guide to help you support your child. All tips are based on Ontario’s curriculum and are connected with what your child is learning in school.

**Le premier éducateur de l'enfant est le parent.** Avec votre aide, votre enfant deviendra un excellent lecteur et acquerra de solides compétences en rédaction, ce qui fera toute la différence plus tard. Faire des activités quotidiennes avec lui en français sera la clé du succès. [Consultez ce](#) guide pour vous aider à soutenir l'apprentissage de votre enfant. Tous les conseils présentés sont basés sur le curriculum de l'Ontario et se rapportent à ce que votre enfant apprend à l'école.

**Access Your Local Library from Home:** Each library is offering a variety of virtual services so be sure to check out all that they have to offer, you don’t need to live in the community to enjoy their virtual services!

[Click Here](#) Fort Erie Public Library

[Click Here](#) Grimsby Public Library

[Click Here](#) Lincoln Public Library

[Click Here](#) **Niagara Falls Public Library**

[Click Here](#) **Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library**

[Click Here](#) **Pelham Public Library**

[Click Here](#) **Port Colborne Public Library**

[Click Here](#) **St Catharines Public Library**

[Click Here](#) **Thorold Public Library**

[Click Here](#) **Wainfleet Public Library**

[Click Here](#) **Welland Public Library**

[Click Here](#) **West Lincoln Public Library**

## Check out these Local Activities and Resources:

**Steps are in place at Pathstone to support the mental health needs of kids and families** in TWO WAYS + offer mental health support tools you can apply at home. More [details HERE](#) on how mental health services are being offered in Niagara through the State of Emergency. Their Crisis & Support Line remains open 24.7 at 1-800-263-4944 where you can speak with a counsellor about any problems, big or small.

**Mad Science Niagara - Virtual Science Clubs:** Extend your child's school learning with Mad Science®. [Click here](#) to find hands-on activities, watch spectacular demos, and get extension activities to continue learning at home.

**EarlyON Child & Family Centres:** Looking for new activities and resources for you and your young child (birth to age 6)? Then plan a virtual visit to an EarlyON Child & Family Centre! Although the physical locations remain closed, you can find the same quality programs and activities at their virtual sites! Visit them by [clicking here](#)

**YMCA at Home:** We will all be staying home for the next few weeks and thanks to the YMCA at Home you will be able to stay physically active, explore wellness practices and keep the kids busy with Camp activities. Explore all that they are offering on their YMCA at Home website by [clicking here](#).

**Walking Trails:** If you prefer your exercise outside then bundle up, stay socially distanced and explore the local walking trails. [Click here](#) to discover ones close to you. [Click here](#) to find a Winter Scavenger Hunt

## Activities and Supports for you, your clients and families:

**Get Support for Learners:** Learn about one-time funding being provided by the Ontario Government to support children, youth and students during the 2020-2021 school year. Find out if you are eligible and how to apply by [clicking here](#) the deadline to apply is February 8, 2021.

**TVO Learn:** [Click here](#) for impactful free resources for Students in Grade 1-8

**IDÉLLO – apprendre à la maison:** Pour aider les parents à appuyer l'apprentissage de leur enfant, ce site dédié propose des contenus vidéo accompagnés de questions de réflexion et de pensée critique pour les niveaux allant de la 1<sup>re</sup> à la 8<sup>e</sup> année.

**Winter Nature Study:** Winter can be one of the most enjoyable times of the year to get outside and see what's happening. [Click here](#) for a winter nature study resource list.

**Activités éducatives et ressources pour l'hiver:** [Cliquez ici](#) pour programmation sur le thème de l'hiver avec des activités éducatives; jeux, bricolages, coloriages, histoires, comptines, chansons, fiches d'activités imprimables.

**Winter-themed nature walks:** [Click here](#) for easy nature walk ideas for families and enjoy the great outdoors.

**Expériences scientifiques pour enfants:** [Cliquez ici](#) pour vous amuser à apprendre la science avec nos expériences scientifiques faciles à faire pour les enfants.

**Indoor Nature Activities for Winter:** Creative list of indoor nature activities for winter time. [Click here](#) for fun and simple ways for kids to stay entertained inside when they can't get outside.

**Activités de la pause hivernale pour la santé mentale:** Avec des activités limitées et des visites sociales pour les enfants de toute la province en ce moment, il n'est pas étonnant que nous entendions beaucoup de parents soucieux de garder les enfants occupés pendant les vacances d'hiver. [Cliquez ici](#) pour des idées.

**Winter STEM Activities:** Turn off the screens, and here to find fun science experiments.

**Winter Science Activities for Kids:** [Click here](#) to check out over 200 winter science activities for kids with ice, snow, and cold to do in your kitchen.

**See the Northern Lights:** The Delta College Planetarium is closed to the public during the pandemic but they are offering some fun opportunities virtually. On January 21<sup>st</sup> you can join their Facebook live stream event and See the Northern Lights, for details [click here](#) . Be sure to also check out their Astronomy page for fun at home activities, all free! [Click here](#) to visit the Astronomy page

## Stay up-to-date:

*"It is imperative that everyone in the community, including those vaccinated, continue to follow COVID-19 safety measures. During the current shutdown, all of us should stay home as much as possible, only heading out for essential purposes like grocery shopping, work or medical appointments. When we have to be outside of the home, we should keep 2 metres distance from everyone else, properly wear a mask over our mouth and nose when around others, and wash our hands often."*

*- Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health*



**Ontario's vaccine distribution implementation plan:** [Click here](#) to learn about Ontario's Vaccine Distribution Implementation Plan.

**Plan de mise en œuvre de la distribution des vaccins de l'Ontario:** [Cliquez ici](#) et en savoir plus sur le Plan de mise en œuvre de la distribution des vaccins de l'Ontario.

**Niagara Health:** The arrival of the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in the Niagara region is imminent. We are proud to work with our community partners to deliver the first doses of the vaccine in the Niagara region. [Click here](#) to learn more.

**Niagara Health:** L'arrivée des premières doses du vaccin contre la COVID-19 dans la région de Niagara est imminente. Nous sommes fiers de collaborer avec nos partenaires communautaires pour administrer les premières doses du vaccin dans la région de Niagara. [Cliquez ici](#) pour en savoir plus.

**COVID-19 response framework:** keeping Ontario safe and open: Read how we're keeping Ontario safe and open, including regional health measures and sector-specific public health and workplace safety measures. [Click Here](#)

**Cadre d'intervention pour la COVID-19 :** Garder l'Ontario en sécurité et ouvert: Apprenez comment nous gardons l'Ontario en sécurité et ouvert, notamment au moyen de mesures de santé régionales et de mesures de santé publique et de sécurité au travail propres à chaque secteur. [Cliquez ici](#)

**Jeunesse, J'écoute:** Nous sommes là pour toi pendant l'épidémie du COVID-19. [Cliquez ici](#) pour plus d'informations.

**Kids Help Phone:** [Click Here](#) to find child and youth related resources to help children cope with Covid-19.

**Sortez en toute sécurité durant COVID-19:** Vos actions comptent – faites des choix éclairés pour assurer votre sécurité et celle des autres. [Cliquez ici](#) ou [Télécharger en format PDF](#)

**Niagara Parents:** Parenting support and guidance plus specific pandemic resources [Click Here](#)

**Niagara Region Public Health Daily Covid-19 Updates:** [Click Here](#)

**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 Government Covid-19 Update Page:** [Click Here](#) (this site has the information available in many other languages)

**Mise à jour Covid-19 du gouvernement de l'Ontario:** [Cliquez ici](#)

**Health Canada Covid-19 Update Page:** [Click here](#)

**Gouvernement du Canada - Maladie à coronavirus (COVID-19):** [Cliquez ici](#)

# GRESSIDA COWELL'S

## Waterstones Children's Laureate Charter



Every child has  
the right to...

1. Read for the joy of it
2. Access NEW books in schools, libraries and bookshops
3. Have advice from a trained librarian or bookseller
4. Own their OWN book
5. See themselves reflected in a book
6. Be read aloud to
7. Have some choice in what they read
8. Be creative for at least fifteen minutes a week
9. See an author event at least ONCE
10. Have a planet to read on



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*

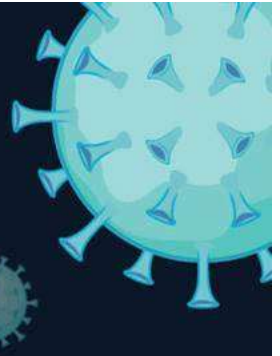
Children's Services  
Niagara Region  
PO Box 344  
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way  
Thorold, ON  
L2V 3Z3

[Karen.schmidt@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Karen.schmidt@niagararegion.ca)

[Sharon.milne@niagararegion.ca](mailto:Sharon.milne@niagararegion.ca)

# PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID

We need the **community's unwavering support** to keep the transmission of the virus down in the community.



**Wear a mask.**

**Maintain a physical distance of 6 feet  
(2 metres) from others.**

**Practice meticulous hand  
hygiene at all times.**