

Community Connections

October 12, 2021



Good Morning:

Please send us anything you would like your peers and agencies to know about your program.

We are happy to be able to provide this and ask that you pass this information on to anyone who might be interested. Also, please let us know if there is anything you have found that has inspired you and we will share in future newsletters

You can find all of the past editions from our community partner Niagara Knowledge Exchange (NKE) by [Clicking Here](#)

Our next issue will be out November 9th



Spotlight: Get outside this Fall

Fall Virtual Field Trips: All of the signs of fall are popping up – the cool air, crisp apples, changing leaves – enjoy it all safely with a virtual Fall Field Trip! [Click here](#) to get started

Take me Outside Day – October 20: Getting outside is always a good idea but during the pandemic, getting outside and being part of nature has been an important part of maintaining good mental health. Plan an outside adventure on October 20th to celebrate “Take Me Outside Day” [click here](#) for inspiration!

Pumpkin Patches in Niagara: Tis the season to enjoy all things pumpkin! Get started by visiting a local pumpkin patch to select your own pumpkins and to enjoy some fun outdoor activities! A local travel blog titles “In Search of Sarah” lists all of the usual pumpkin locations plus a couple of new ones to explore such as The Good Earth Farm. [Click here](#) to learn more and to also find some great pumpkin recipes!

ParticipACTION: Why getting active outside is key to your physical & mental wellbeing: Given the uncertainties that the year 2020 brings us, we wanted to give the people of our beautiful country the opportunity to enjoy all the incredible benefits of physical activity, outdoor activity and activity with friends and family. [Click here](#) for more information on being active outside. [Click here](#) for ParticipACTION Blog

ParticipACTION: Pourquoi être actif à l'extérieur est essentiel à votre bien-être physique et mental: Chez ParticipACTION, nous sommes fiers d'un grand nombre de choses, et particulièrement de contribuer à garder les gens de tous âges et de toutes capacités heureux, en santé et actifs. [Cliquez ici](#) pour plus d'informations sur l'activité à l'extérieur. [Cliquez ici](#) pour Blogue ParticipACTION

Check out these Local Activities and Resources:

Fort Erie Transit: October 4th is the launch day for a new transit option for residents of Fort Erie and area. Fort Erie Transit will become an On-Demand Transit service. [Click here](#) to find out all of the details including cost, how to book a ride and inter-municipal connections.

Pathstone Back to School Prep Kit: The new school year is underway but for many the challenges of managing both school and the pandemic are ongoing, thankfully Pathstone is here to help. Pathstone Mental Health created a Back to School Pep Kit that offers advice, tips and connections to help support kids and families as they return to school. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Save the Date – November Book Distribution: First Book Canada and The Book Depot will once again be supporting the Niagara Book Distribution. The location has changed but the quality of books has not! The distribution will be held at the Open Arms Mission Warehouse on Forks Road the week of November 22nd. More details will follow when available – if you are interested in receiving books but not on the mailing list, please send in your email to karen.schmidt@niagararegion.ca. Everyone coming to pick up books will be invited to also bring along food donations to support Open Arms Mission.

Safari Niagara Dinosaurs LIVE! Drive Thru: Re-discover the era before time, with Jurassic dinosaurs from the comfort of your car! Plan your next visit for an unmatched Safari Niagara meets Jurassic Park experience October 16 to November 7. [Click here](#) to order your tickets.

Niagara Parks Power Station and Little Inventors Workshops: Niagara Parks' newest family attraction – the Power Station offers a safe, immersive family friendly experience that allows everyone to learn more about the history of hydro electricity and Niagara Falls. As part of the admission price, they also offer Little Inventors Workshops every weekend afternoon. To learn more, [click here](#)

Brock Internship Opportunities: Brock Bachelor of Education Students are looking for internship opportunities for the winter term. If you are an agency who would like additional supports or help with special projects, delivery of programming, online learning, etc. please consider hosting a Brock University ECE intern. For more information, please email dharwood@brocku.ca

FREE Fluoride Varnish for eligible Children in Niagara



Did you know...

Fluoride varnish can be used on infants from the time they get their first tooth.

niagararegion.ca/health
search "dental"

Niagara Region

Cavities are the single most common chronic disease in children. Cavities can cause pain and even prevent children from being able to eat, speak, sleep and learn properly.

Fluoride varnish is a protective coating that is painted on children's teeth to help reduce risk of cavities. In Niagara, fluoride varnish is offered **FREE** for children at all Public Health dental clinics (including mobile).

Benefits of Fluoride Varnish

- Helps protect teeth and reduce cavities
- Can be applied as soon as first tooth appears
- Quick and easy application
- Does not have a bad taste
- Works best if applied twice a year

To learn more about fluoride varnish, call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 or visit www.niagararegion.ca/health search "dental."

What's Happening for ECEs

GRIMSBY PUBLIC LIBRARY
www.grimsby.ca/library

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram icons

Fall 2021 Contact: Simone Saunders, ssaunders@grimsby.ca / 905-309-2061

October is International Dyslexia Month
Understanding Dyslexia and Reading Development
Thursday, October 21 / 7:00-8:00 pm via Zoom

Did you know that when dyslexia is identified, and appropriate intervention starts before the end of kindergarten, reading difficulties can be prevented or greatly minimized? Alicia Smith, President of the International Dyslexia Association Ontario, will discuss common myths about dyslexia, effective literacy instruction, and answer questions about how to support a child's reading development both at home and at school. Educators and caregivers are welcome to attend.

Free / Register: www.grimsby.ca/library

International **DYSLEXIA** Association Ontario

Learning to Read Book Kits to Borrow

Bob Books are decodable texts suitable for children with dyslexia and for young children learning to read.

Each kit contain 3 Bob Books, laminated activities, one washable marker, and a game. Look for them at the Library soon!

Kits created with funding from: International **DYSLEXIA** Association Ontario

Understanding Dyslexia Kits available across Niagara at your Local Library: The Grimsby Library will be hosting the virtual workshop and will be introducing their new decodable text books that help a child with dyslexia learn to read. Since they are part of the Niagara library collaborative, the reading kits will appear in the Niagara libraries' catalogues online and anyone can place a hold on them to have them brought to their local library to check out. For more information contact Simone Saunders, Children's Services Coordinator at ssaunders@grimsby.ca

What is the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)? NFP is a home visiting program for young, first-time mothers. The home visits are conducted by trained public health nurses that begin in pregnancy and continue until the child's second birthday.

Who can participate in the NFP program? - Participants in NFP must be under the age of 25, and less than 28 weeks gestation in their first pregnancy at the time of enrollment.

What is the referral process? - NFP is being offered in Niagara as a component of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program. For more information contact Niagara Parents 905-684-7555 or [click here](#) to learn more.



Celebrate Halloween with some of these fun ideas and places to visit:

- [All Hallow's Eve at Old Fort Erie](#)
- [Fort George Ghost Tours](#)
- [Niagara Falls Spooky Awards!](#)
- [Haunt Manor Niagara Falls](#)
- [Warner Ranch Pumpkin Farm](#)
- [Howells Pumpkin Farm](#)
- [No carve pumpkin ideas](#)
- [Decorer une citrouille pour halloween](#)
- [Face painting tutorials](#)
- [Des idées de maquillages pour toutes les occasions](#)
- [Halloween movies for kids](#)
- [Meilleurs films halloween pour enfants](#)
- [Cinnamon maple roasted pumpkin seeds recipe](#)
- [Graines de citrouille grillées](#)

Activities and supports for you, your clients & families:



Veteran's Week Learning Materials: The Government of Canada's "Our Veterans' Week" learning materials have been revised for 2021 and are now available for order. Get your free class packs of the "Take Time to Remember" activity booklet (ages 5-7), as well as youth newspapers "Tales of Animals in War" (ages 5-11) and the "Canada Remembers Times" (ages 12-18). Their popular Postcards for Peace, bookmarks and posters are also back, as is the on-line Veterans' Week teacher's guide. [Click here](#) to learn more and to place your order!

Remembrance Day Activities for Kids: Remembrance Day is a difficult subject to help kids to understand but it is important to remember. CBC Kids has some great tips, books and ideas that can help explain why it is important to observe Remembrance Day and to talk about all that it represents. Check out the site by [clicking here](#) and especially note that they still need more peace cranes!

Brightly Storytime: Autumn is a great time to snuggle up and read (really anytime is a great time to snuggle up and read) and Brightly Storytime is here to help. Their YouTube channel features fun storybooks and includes highlighted words so that kids can follow along. Follow [this link](#) to enjoy a perfect story for Halloween, “The Berenstain Bears and the Spooky Tree”. Be sure to also check out their other stories for more read along family fun.

Discover ways to improve your finances: Prosper Canada has introduced a new tool to help you discover ways to improve your finances. Trove offers options to “find simple, easy ways to improve your finances”. [Click here](#) to learn more

World Food Day: Mark your calendar and plan to celebrate World Food Day on October 16th! “The food you choose and the way you consume it affect our health and that of our planet. It has an impact on the way agri-food systems work.” [Click here](#) to learn more about food systems around the world and how your food choices can help or hurt our planet.

United Way Special Projects Fund: The United Way Special Project Fund has been expanded to provide all municipalities with the opportunity to apply for this one-time grant. The goal of this fund is to provide support for innovative projects on a short-term basis, to assist in emergency situations, support organizational capacity and/or for projects addressing emerging community needs. This funding is separate from United Way’s annual grants program. For more information including how to submit an application, [click here](#). Please note the deadline for submissions is November 1st.

Building Responsive Relationships Remotely: Harvard University’s Centre of the Developing Child released the results of their recent community conversations about building relationships remotely. [Click here](#) to read the summary as well as to access additional resources and information about this topic.

Take 15 minutes for you: The Canadian Mental Health Association recognizes that the pandemic has created challenges to everyone’s mental health. In an effort to help everyone to better manage these challenges, they have created a “Take 15 Minutes for You” series of activities – all free and all downloadable – [click here](#) to learn more.

Tree Tap Adventure: Tree Tap Adventure is a game for kids that lets them grow imaginary forests, helping their forest friends rebuild their homes, find food and play games. The game is fun to play but does have quite a bit of reading involved. The biggest bonus is that as imaginary forests are created, real trees are being planted! Be sure to check out the blog on their website, lots of good ideas to help kids learn more about the importance of nature and being outside which I guess is kind of ironic when it is also promoting a video game. [Click here](#) to begin planting trees.

Stay up-to-date:

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.

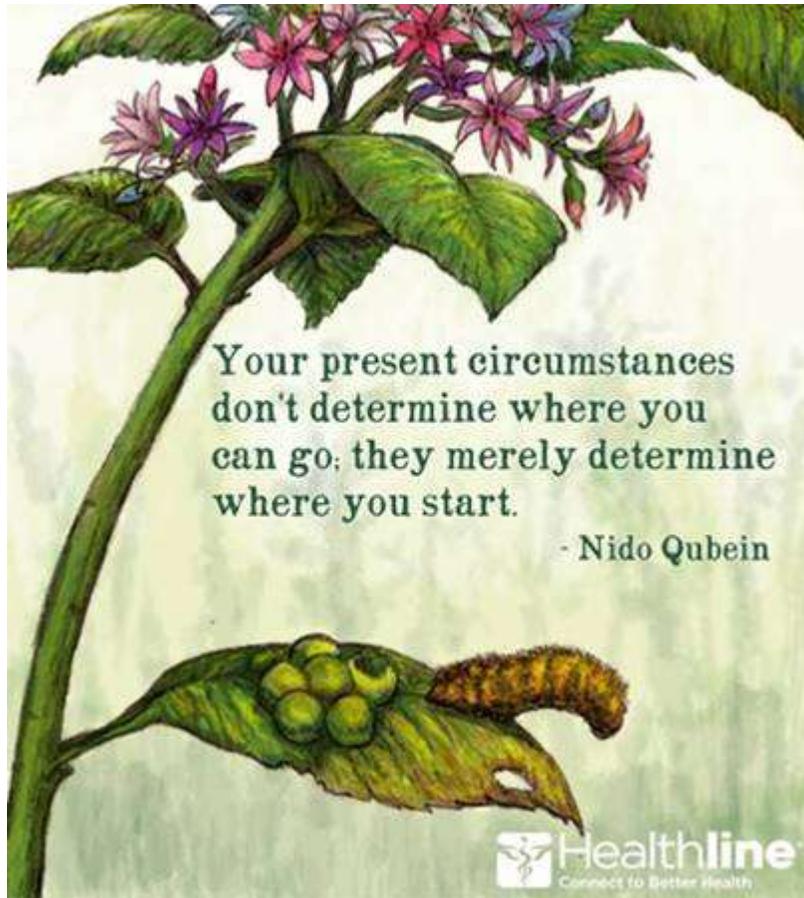
Niagara Region FAQ’s: [Click here](#) if you have any additional questions about vaccines, booking appointments or general information about COVID-19.

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



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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COVID-19 VACCINATIONS
**WALK-INS
WELCOME**
FIRST AND SECOND DOSES
ANYONE BORN IN 2009 OR EARLIER

niagararegion.ca/covid-vaccine

STICK IT TO COVID
#VaccinateNiagara