

The Mustang Minute

December 20th, 2024

From the Office

Well the snow came just in time for the Winter Holidays! This week has been full of spirit days—PJs, cozy outfits, hats, scarves, and mismatched socks. A big thank you to the School Council for organizing such fun activities for us!

Our DSBN Writes Club had an amazing day at their conference - a wonderful opportunity to share a love of writing, connect with fellow enthusiasts, and meet new friends and authors. A huge thank you to Delta Bingo for providing transportation to the event.



Our Grade 3 classes wrapped up their Swim to Survive sessions this week. Many tired but happy students returned, now equipped with valuable water safety knowledge and skills they can use if needed.

This week, students have been working hard to show the Grinch the meaning of kindness. It looks like our Mustangs taught him a lot! I think the Grinch now understands what it means to Do Your Best & Do What's Right. Great job, Mustangs!

We're also busy planning our Winter Wonderland event, which will be happening on January 22. We can't wait to see you there!

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

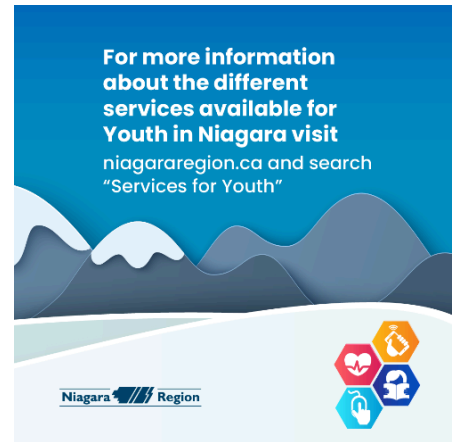
February is Kindergarten Registration Month in DSBN! Families with children turning four in 2025 are invited to visit www.dsbn.org/kindergarten/ to learn more about Kindergarten programming and online registration. Families can also contact our school office to book a time for in-person registration.

We look forward to hosting our new students and their parents/guardians at an Open House on May 15th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Further details about the Open House will be emailed directly to registered families in late April. If you live in Thundering Heights area—please register at your current homeschool (James Morden or Kate S. Durdan). Both schools will keep track of the registration for the new school. Please help us spread the word with friends and neighbours!

HOLIDAY EXPECTATIONS

The holidays may be a difficult time for your child. A change in routine and different holiday expectations can be stressful and isolating. Here are some tips and resources to share with your child throughout the holiday season:

1. **Validate Feelings:** Let your child know it's okay not to feel happy during the holidays. Their thoughts and emotions are valid. Encourage open conversations about any concerns.
2. **Find Quiet Relief:** When things get overwhelming, suggest to your child that they find a quiet place to take a break. This can help alleviate anxious feelings.
3. **Explore Support:** Help your child discover available support services and guide them in accessing what they believe will be most beneficial.



For more information about the different services available for Youth in Niagara visit <https://www.niagararegion.ca/health/schools/youth-services.aspx>

REMINDERS

Lost and Found- Items donated.

Kiss and Drop off Lane- To keep this lane moving efficiently, please make sure your child(ren) are ready to exit the car quickly and that adults stay in the vehicle so traffic can continue moving. We thank all our Mustangs for using the crosswalks and being safe during drop-off! Please don't park in the drive-through lane at the end of the day as it blocks traffic, and prevents people from pulling out of their parking spots.

Class Celebrations- We ask that treats for birthdays/celebrations be saved for at-home parties. Please don't send anything to share with the class. When classes are having a celebration (Movie Day) staff will notify families if any treats would be helpful!

ATTENDANCE and SAFE ARRIVAL

To ensure the safety of our Mustangs, please report student absences promptly. Key points:

You can report or schedule absences in three ways:

1. Call toll-free before bell time: 1-866-606-5567
2. Log in at: [SchoolMessenger Web Portal](#)
3. Download the SchoolMessenger app for smartphones and tablets.

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE [School Cash Online](#)

Why Sign Up? Convenience: No more searching through backpacks for forms or carrying exact change. **Efficiency:** Simplifies organization for teachers and office staff.

How to Register:

1. **Visit Our School Website:** Click on the "School Cash Online" icon.
2. **Register:** It takes just five minutes.
3. **Explore:** Find more information, registration links, and support on the site.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

December	Days of Significance - Giving and Building Community
Dec. 23 - Jan 3	Winter Break
January	Days of Significance - Overcoming Obstacles- Disrupting Racism & Prejudice
Jan. 6	Welcome Back
Jan. 7	DSBN Academy registration opens
Jan. 13	Pizza Day
Jan. 14	Westlane Open House 6 to 8
Jan. 17	PD Day- no school for students
Jan. 20-23	Scholastic Book Fair (late night January 22)
Jan. 22	Winter Wonderland- more info to follow!
Jan. 27	Sub Day

KEEP IN TOUCH!!!

James Morden Website: <https://jamesmorden.dsbm.org/>

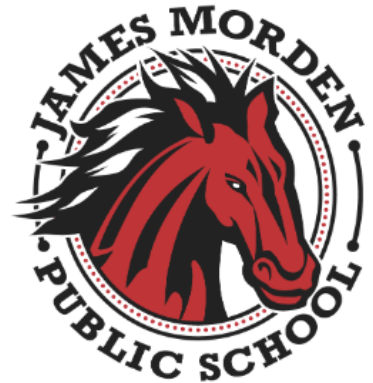
Mustang Minute- every Friday afternoon

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Follow us on Instagram- @jamesmordenschool



And Mustangs, remember to always,

*DO YOUR BEST & DO WHAT'S
RIGHT*

Mrs. A Morocco
Principal

Mr. M. McMurray
Vice-Principal

Strong Heart, Strong Mind, Strong Community

HAPPY
Holidays!