

Director's Highlights

March 2024



RECOGNITION FOR EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Joanne Mammoliti | **Administrative Secretary, Eastdale Secondary School**

Joanne Mammoliti is a dedicated Administrative Secretary who has worked at Eastdale Secondary School since 2012. During this time, she has gone above and beyond to support the students and staff, continuously looking for ways to create a warm and welcoming environment for all members of the community.

As the Administrative Secretary for the past 12 years, she has mentored and supported various office staff and her working skills and friendly nature have been a grounding force in a very busy office. Staff and students know that if they have a question or are in need of support, Joanne is always willing to help. She has also been an integral resource and support to the Admin staff as she has a strong grasp on what's happening at Eastdale and in the Welland community.

Despite a very busy role, Joanne arrives early most days to support the breakfast and lunch programs at Eastdale. She is often seen boiling eggs, thawing bread and cutting up fruit and veggies to help prepare healthy meals for our students. She is a proud Eagle and, as a result, often attends and supports extra-curricular activities including open houses and parent-teacher interview dates. Joanne is an exemplary and inspirational staff member who truly cares for the well-being of the entire Eastdale community. She regularly dedicates her time and energy to the school and is tremendously appreciated by her community.

Congratulations to Joanne on receiving the Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions Award, and a sincere thank you for everything you do at Eastdale!



Nicki Sullivan | **Attendance Secretary, E.L. Crossley Secondary School**

Often referred to as the "The Voice of Crossley," Nicki Sullivan has been supporting the staff, students, and community of E.L. Crossley for just over eleven years as the dedicated Attendance Secretary. Throughout her tenure, Nicki has consistently exhibited an unmatched level of dedication and compassion in her role, taking on any task presented to her and tirelessly working to ensure the seamless operation of the school's attendance system while cultivating a positive environment for students, parents, and the broader community.

What truly distinguishes Nicki is her ability to forge personal connections with everyone she encounters, whether it involves reaching out to students or contacting parents. For her, it's not merely about completing tasks; it's about making a genuine difference in the lives of those she supports. Her warm and welcoming demeanor, coupled with a perpetual smile and her Scottish charm, have made her an indispensable presence in the office, where she knows each student by name as soon as they step through the door.

Numerous parents and students have expressed their heartfelt gratitude, acknowledging Nicki as a driving force behind their commitment to attending school regularly. One parent credits Nicki as "the sole reason her son graduated high school," citing Nicki's accountability coupled with her compassionate encouragement. Nicki embodies the very essence of dedication and kindness that students and staff hold dear at Crossley. Her contributions extend well beyond the confines of her job description, making her an indispensable pillar of the community. We are immensely grateful for her unwavering commitment and compassionate spirit.

Thank you Nicki for your incredible work at E.L. Crossley, and congratulations on receiving the Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions Award!

March 2024

Students Take a Stand Against Bullying on Wear Anything Pink Day

Kindness creates culture of belonging at DSBN schools

On February 28, students and staff across the DSBN were decked out in pink attire to take a stand against bullying for Wear Anything Pink Day, which aims to underline the importance of creating a culture of belonging and kindness in our schools.

Grade 8 students at Senator Gibson Public School also participated in The Pink Shirt Project, a new initiative intended to empower youth to make positive change in their communities. Together with the school youth counsellor, Jenna Niceliu, students brainstormed project ideas and decided to focus on kindness - specifically, how kindness affects well-being and one's sense of belonging.

The students displayed great leadership skills in delivering a lesson on kindness to every class in the school. They also came up with the idea of creating a kindness wall made up of bricks designed by students to display what kindness means to them. All 502 students participated! The Grade 8s then created a mural in the school out of all the kindness bricks in an impressive display of unity and community values. Students and staff consistently stop at the kindness wall to observe, read and converse about the messages. It has connected students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 and shows that each individual is valued and that their voice is represented.



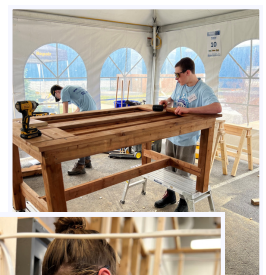
Secondary Students Show Off Tech Skills at 26th Annual Competition

Participation highlights strong tech programs in schools

Niagara College played host to the majority of challenges that took place on February 28th during the 26th annual DSBN Technological Skills Challenge. 350 students displayed their skills using industry standard equipment and software while participating in 30 unique challenges. Judging was completed by Niagara College and industry partners, who commented that our students are performing at a level comparable to post-secondary students.

We continue to build partnerships in our community with the Construction Skills challenges taking place at Castle Building and Design Centre in Fonthill. Materials and equipment were donated by Castle and Dewalt, and the judging was completed by the Carpenters Union (UBC Built Local 18) from Hamilton.

Ten DSBN medal winners will compete against nine other school boards in the Skills Ontario Regional Qualifying Competition taking place on Saturday, April 18th at Niagara College. From there, winners will join the rest of team DSBN heading to the Skills Ontario Competition taking place on May 7th at the Toronto Convention Centre. We will have a team of 40 students competing against the best of the best from across Ontario.



DSBN HIGHLIGHTS (con't)

Athletics at DSBN Back in Full Swing

Schools demonstrate strong participation and performance

Both Fall and Winter seasons saw participation numbers in elementary schools continue to grow with sports like Junior Rugby and Intermediate Basketball bursting with interest from schools. We also saw several great displays of individual and team success at our District Championship events in Cross Country, Volleyball and Basketball. Countless students set personal bests and many district records were challenged at the final meet in October. From a team perspective, 16 different schools were crowned district champions across various flights and divisions with some securing championships in both Volleyball and Basketball (Wellington Heights & Edith Cavell).

Success at Secondary has been equally as impressive with strong seasons from schools across the board. To date, DSBN teams have won 7 SOSSA Championships and 6 OFSAA Medals including an OFSAA Football Bowl Series Championship (A.N Myer). Individually, students have found success in Cross Country, Swimming and Wrestling with an additional 13 OFSAA Medals, including a Gold in the Women's 50m Backstroke Para Division. Congratulations to A.N Myer, Centennial, Eden, E.L Crossley, Sir Winston Churchill, and West Niagara on your provincial success!

As we wrap up our elementary winter season with Junior Basketball and Gymnastics, we are already looking ahead to the launch of our spring season for Elementary and Secondary the week of April 17th. With 12 different sports being offered between both panels, students will have plenty of opportunity to engage with extracurricular athletics.

A special thanks to all of the coaches and conveners who make these opportunities possible for students! Without your commitment and dedication, our students would not have access to the physical and mental health benefits that school sports can provide.



Save the Date for the DSBN Special Olympics

June 11, 2024

Planning is well underway for the 19th annual Special Olympics! This year's event will take place on June 11 at Welland Centennial Secondary School.

Thank you in advance to the fantastic team of volunteers, staff and members of the DSBN community who help organize this incredible event.



Photos above taken at the 2023 DSBN Special Olympics.

DSBN HIGHLIGHTS (con't)

Inaugural STEM Expo a Great Success *Elementary students put tech skills to the test*

On March 5th, 350 DSBN elementary students from 49 schools came together for the first DSBN STEM Expo. Teams of students participated in 8 unique Science, Technology, Engineering and Math challenges that ranged from building wind turbines and picnic tables to creating videos and presenting science fair projects.

Some of the participating students will be moving on to represent DSBN at the Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair and Skills Ontario! Check out this [video](#) to see some of the highlights!



DSBN HIGHLIGHTS (con't)

Students Shine on Stage at DramaFest *Schools impress with creativity and talent*

This year, the National Theatre School DramaFest was hosted by Welland Centennial Secondary School during the last week of February. Over the week, 12 plays wowed audiences and impressed the adjudicator with their creativity, talent and imaginative brilliance.

At the Gala for the Festival, many students, technicians, musicians and dancers were recognized for their outstanding work and their performances.

Congratulations to Welland Centennial, St. Catharines Collegiate and Governor Simcoe, whose plays were selected by the adjudicator to represent the DSBN at the South Niagara Region. Congratulations to all the talented participants and good luck to the schools moving on to Hamilton to perform at the South Regional Competition.



Eden Student Selected as Finalist for 2024 Loran Award

Felix Jeong recognized by Loran Scholars Foundation

I am very proud to share that Grade 12 Eden High School student Felix Jeong was recently named a Finalist for the 2024 Loran Award.

Felix was selected as one of 90 Finalists from a pool of over 5,000 applicants. He will receive a one-time \$6,000 Loran Finalist Award, usable at any Canadian university.

Funded by the Loran Scholars Foundation, this prestigious award identifies students with strong character and leadership skills, as well as a demonstrated commitment to service.

Felix regularly demonstrates his inclusive leadership style as this year's student council Prime Minister. He is also an inspiring role model for the students he tutors and coaches, as well as the members of the community who benefit from his ambition and desire to create positive change.

"I can't think of a more deserving individual to become a Loran Finalist," said Kelly Parlatore, Principal of Eden High School. "Felix's leadership skills and passion for change will propel him towards his next adventure and our school could not be prouder."

Felix was recently highlighted by the media and I encourage everyone to read more about his accomplishments in [this article](#) published locally.



←
Felix was invited to attend the March Board Meeting where he shared more about his rewarding experience as a Loran Award Finalist and as a student at the DSBN.