  

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Grade 1N

Happy New Year! I hope that you had an opportunity to spend time with friends and family, enjoy the holiday season with good food, and reflect back on the accomplishments and challenges of 2016.

We have used this first week back to re-establish routines and expectations. Our growth and progress from the first part of the year has been noted and celebrated. Now we set new goals so that we may continue on our learning journey. We welcome a new student, Michael Cabato, to our classroom!

**Curriculum Update:**

Language Arts

1. Animated Literacy: we will be working on short and long vowels. We will continue working on our alphabet sound friends; learning the character, the action, the song, and the name and sound of the letter. If your child has not mastered the letters and sounds, extra activities will continue to be sent home.
2. Printing Program: we will be focusing on correct formation and size of letters. It is most important that children start at the top down when printing. Put a note in the Communication book, if you would like a printing practice booklet to take home for extra practice.
3. Home Reading: your child will home library books that can be added to the monthly reading sheet, as well as a short leveled reading book to work on more independently. Don’t forget to record the name of these books, so that your child does not miss out on the reading prizes.
4. Sight Word Testing: please work on the set of sight words that come home each Tuesday –thank you to Alicia Huniak, Tanya Silverthorn, Marjorie Ogundiya for helping with testing this month!
5. Spelling: you should have noticed a spelling duotang coming home with weekly spelling words. Each week there will be 5 new words. The goal is for each child to learn to spell these high frequency words in isolation and then transfer that knowledge into their writing. Please be sure to send back the duotang on Friday.
6. Journal Writing: we continue to work on sentence writing as we share our stories and ideas in our journal. Using a writing checklist helps us noticed a capital letter at the beginning of each sentence, finger spaces between the words, and end punctuation (! ? .)
7. Speaking: we will start ‘Star Student’ to help build skills and confidence speaking in front of small groups and the whole class.

Math

We are working on numbers to 100. Your child should be able to count by 1 to 100 and print numerals to 100. If you notice number reversals, please provide a correct example of the number and ask your child to look closely at which way it goes and have your child fix theirs. Please practice skip counting by 2 up to 20, counting by 5 to 100, counting by 10 to 100, and counting backwards from 20 – 0.

Religion

We continue our Advent journey with the story of the Three Wise Men, discuss the Holy Family, and learn about their flight into Egypt to escape the persecution of King Herod. Then begins many stories about the life of Jesus… starting with Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, the Wedding at Cana, the Good Samaritan, Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand, and Jesus Heals a Leper. **Please send in a photo of your child’s baptism that can stay at school and be glued for a writing project.**

Social Studies

We discuss and model in our daily interactions how to be responsible classroom citizens and how to show respect for others. We will take a fieldtrip to the Strathcona Wilderness Center on February 7 that enhances Social Studies. We will also spend time outdoors learning to snowshoe. See the volunteer sign up info.

Science

We have completed a pre-test for our Colour Unit. Now we focus on these concepts and vocabulary: primary and secondary colours, mixing colours, natural and manmade things, shades and tints of colour, transparent and opaque, and the colours of the rainbow (ROY G BIV). There is a Colour Mixing Centers day planned for January 20 in the morning. We would appreciate 6 volunteers to help at the various centers. See the volunteer sign up info.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Star Student   **

In January, February and March each child will have a special day to be the “Star Student”. This is an opportunity for children to develop public speaking skills and help us get to know each child a little better. When it is their turn, 2 items from home can be brought in to share with the class. Please do NOT send in fragile items that could be broken or ‘priceless’ items that are too special to replace. Items will come into the class for the day. Your child will also share the “All Aboard Poster” that they completed at the start of the year. See the attached calendar for each assigned day.

**Home Reading Program **

It is wonderful to hear how the children are progressing in their reading/literacy! We have no more RL books (feel free to visit the public library for these kinds of books), so now the Home Reading program will change to leveled books that the child can read to you. You will notice a letter A – M on the top right hand corner of the book that tells you the ‘reading level’. Sit with your child and assist them as they sound out words, use sight words, think of word family (rhyming words), look for little words inside a longer word, look for chunks, etc. Ask comprehension questions after the book is finished. Record the title of this book on the Monthly Reading sheet and send back the book back to school each day to exchange. Your child will read this same book the next day with a partner! Rereading helps develop fluency (make smooth and expressive readers).

**Colour Days **

As a part of our Science Colour Unit we will focus on the primary (red, yellow, blue) and secondary (orange, green purple) colours. On the following assigned Fridays your child is encouraged to dress in the special colour and bring 1 item from home to demonstrate the same colour.

January 13 – RED

January 20 – YELLOW

January 27 – BLUE

February 3 – Favourite Secondary Colour (pick orange, green or purple)

**Alien In-Line Skating     **

During the week of January 23 – 27 the whole school will have a chance to try inline skating. An orange note went home this past Friday with all the details… each child will get to try inline (roller skating). Grade 1N has been assigned Monday, January 23 from 11:00-12:15, Tuesday, January 24 from 1:20 – 2:15, and Wednesday, January 25 from 1:20 – 2:15 to skate in the gym. Experts will teach the kids how to use the equipment and safety rules when skating. We will need 2 volunteers at each session to help put on skates, helmets, and safety equipment. Please email if you are available to help☺

**Calling All Volunteers  **

We have number of enhanced learning activities in January and February that require extra adult hands: skating, cooking, colour mixing centers, Wilderness Center fieldtrip, Valentine’s Day party and 100 Days of School. Action packed FUN! These days are added to the attached calendars. Please email, write a note in the Communication book or call if you are available to help us out!

Friday, January 20 – Science Colour Mixing Centers 8:45 – 12:15. We need 6 volunteers to run the stations. Dress to make a mess!

Monday, January 23 – Inline Skating 11:00 – 12:15

Tuesday, January 24 – Inline Skating 1:20 – 2:30

Wednesday, January 25 - Inline Skating 1:20 – 2:30

Friday, January 27 - Cooking blueberry muffins 8:45 – 12:00. Thank you to Marta and Lindsay who have signed up for this. We could use one more helper, if possible.

Tuesday, February 7 – Outdoors Fieldtrip to the Strathcona Wilderness Center to enhance our Social Studies program and also try snowshoeing. Please pack a lunch and water bottle for yourself and be prepared for outdoor weather. We need 4 or 5 volunteers for this day.

Tuesday, February 14 – Valentine’s Day party 1:15 – 3:15. We would like 2 volunteers to help out for the afternoon.

Thursday, February 16 – 100 Days of School 1:15 – 3:15. We would like 2 volunteers for this afternoon as well.

Thank you to Christine Barrie who helps out Monday afternoons with various projects! And also, Alicia Huniak, Tanya Silverthorn, and Marjorie Ogundiya who are coming in to do the Sight Word Testing on Tuesdays in January! We appreciate everyone’s time and energy. ☺

**Report Cards:**

**There is a new district wide report card being used this year. It is a digital report card and no paper copies will be sent home.**

Report cards will be available to access via the parent portal on Powerschool on February 3.

You will have access to view and to print a copy for your records, if you so wish. Any parents who still need to log in and update forms/paperwork in Powerschool must contact Mrs. Roberts in the office on Monday, January 16th. You will need a username and password.

If accessing a computer is a concern, you can come to the school and Mrs. Roberts will assist you. Without this prior log in, you will be unable to see the report card.

** General Info and Reminders: **

\*Wednesday is library day each week. We now sign out 3 books!

\*Send back the yellow Spelling duotang on Friday or the last day of the week if Friday is a PD day.

\*Continue to read and initial in the Communication Book nightly.

\*Check the dates and let Mrs. Noel know if you can volunteer with us (Grandparents or other adults are welcome!!!)

\*Continue to read with/to your child each evening –record anything that is printed text onto the January sheet! For example library books, books from home, and leveled books can all be written on the monthly Reading Sheet. If you are reading a chapter book with your child, then record the title on the first day and simply tell which chapters you read on each line of the sheet.

\*Dress of the weather – hat, mitts, scarf or neck warmer, and ski pants

\*Send or wear ski pants everyday!!!! –A number of children are coming to school without ski pants. We will go outside when the weather is -20 Celsius or warmer!

\*Send a hoodie or sweater each day because the class can be cool

\*Ask your child if they need new crayons –some families are keeping the second pack of crayons at home until needed

Thank you for all your support,

Kathy Noel