

JANUARY NEWS FROM GRADE 3/4

Welcome back!

The time has come to resume the school year after the holiday break.

Here is a list of the activities that the Grade 3/4 class we will doing in the coming weeks:

- “student of the week” starting January 14 , 2008.
- personal narrative entitled, “My Favorite Hobby”
- “show and tell”, about a favorite hobby
- homemade musical instruments
- newspaper articles describing an unusual occurrence in one’s life
- investigating sources of light
- radio play
- reader’s theatre

Social Studies

The students are working on a project using the internet to study Canada’s physical regions, forest regions and major lakes and rivers. The students may work on this project at home if they wish, however, they will have class time to complete the project.

The students have received outline (see attached) for this project. The due date for this project is February 13, 2008.

MUSIC

The students will have the opportunity to make a homemade instrument of their choice. They will choose the instrument they wish to build. I will provide them with a materials list and step by step instructions.

The instruments are due on February 4, 2008. An outline is attached to this letter to provide a checklist to follow.

The instrument must have the capability to play three different notes.

We are presently investigating note names, and locations on the staff and will conclude this unit next week.

Mr. Hands’ Language Group

The students are completing posters and postcards that reflect a visual image and its message. The students will be taking home these postcards to share with family members.

As a family, you will be asked to make a postcard that highlights feeling of family, through the use of photos, images or hand drawn pictures.

We have spent the past few weeks practicing letter writing.

I have been in contact with another teacher in Fort Frances about having our two classes becoming pen pals.

We will send off our letters to our pen pals in Fort Frances early next week.

Mrs. Kellar's Literacy Group

During the month of January, the students will "cozy up" to a wide variety of books. Each reader will complete a reading inventory in order to identify their favorite types of books, and will be provided with opportunities to explore different genres during independent reading. The students will continue to make text to self, text to text, and text to world connections with the books they read. They will discuss these connections during book talks and reading conferences. In writing, the students will begin the month by writing, revising, and publishing a piece entitled "My New Year's Resolutions." They will continue to explore procedural writing. The students will be encouraged to ask questions before, during and after reading, and will record topics that they may want to write about in their "I Wonder Notebooks."

The students will continue to develop oral language skills as they apply their understanding of the skills required for procedural writing as they are introduced to barrier games. In this activity, one child must provide simple, detailed, oral instructions that another child can follow while behind a barrier. A good example of a traditional barrier game is the old favorite, "Battleship."

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Beginning on January 14, 2008, we will be having a student of the week. You will find your child's name listed below along with their week.

Students are asked to bring in items to display on a bulletin board for Monday. Wednesday will be a day for the student to choose their favorite book to read to the class and to share a piece of their writing with the class. Thursday, the student of the week will talk about themselves as we watch their autobiographical slideshow.

If you have any questions about what to bring in, please feel free to call the school. I can be contacted at (807) 486-3329.

January	14 Joey Angus 21 Jana Black 28 Ryan Bodnar	April	07 Kennedy Nelson 14 Caitlinn Rittau 22 Dylan Sadewasser 28 Cassidy Smith
February	04 Dawson Caul 11 Tea Chartrand 19 Jacon Empey 25 Jaymee Fiset	May	05 Damon Smith 12 Isaac Smith 20 Jeffrey Smith 26 Joelle Smith
March	03 Robyn French 17 Bethany Harrison 25 Cole Kowalski	June	02 Ross Steele 09 16

M A T H E M A T I C S

The students in the 3/4 class have started a mathematical unit on multiplication and division. The children will be developing strategies for multiplying and dividing with whole numbers. They will practice using the strategies they learn in a variety of different activities throughout the unit. Here are some of those activities;

- Skip counting
- Recalling basic multiplication and division facts
- Multiplying a 2-digit number by a 1-digit number
- Posing and solving problems using multiplication and division

Here is an activity that you can do at home with your child.

MULTIPLICATION CHALLENGE

- Remove the jokers and face cards from a deck of cards.
- Shuffle the cards. Divide them into two equal piles.
- Keep 1 pile and give the other to your child.
- Each player turns over two cards and multiplies the numbers on the cards. An Ace is worth 1. The player with the greatest answer (product) takes the cards.
- Continue playing until one player runs out of cards.
- You can use the same game to practice adding too!

Canada's Provinces, Territories and Regions

Grade 4 Report

In this report, students will be exploring Canada through the inquiry process. They are asked to do the following:

1. Name and describe the various physical regions found in Canada (e.g. Canadian Shield). Mr. Hands will provide a map. Complete by January 9, 2008.
2. Identify on a map the Great Lakes and other major bodies of water and waterways found in Canada (Mr. Hands will provide a map). Complete by January 16, 2008.
3. Identify the chief natural resources of each province and territory. Complete by January 23, 2008.
4. Describe a variety of exchanges that might occur among the communities and regions of Ontario with the rest of Canada (e.g., wild rice from Kenora to salmon from Vancouver). Complete by February 6, 2008.
5. Label and colour the various ecozones and forest zones of Canada. Mr. Hands will provide a map. Complete by February 13, 2008.

DUE DATE: February 20, 2008

The checklist organizes the project for the students to have a section of the project completed each week. This will encourage the students to be organized.

MUSIC

The students will have the opportunity to make a home-made instrument of their choice. The instrument must have the capability to play three different notes.

They will choose the instrument they wish to build. I will provide them with a materials list and step by step instructions.

The instruments are due on February 11, 2008. Below is an outline the students should follow to have their project completed on time.

1. Pick out instruments and receive handout of materials needed. Complete by January 11, 2008.
2. Materials brought to school to work on at school. Completed by January 18, 2008.
3. Start working on the instrument at school on January 21, 2008.
4. Continue working on instrument on January 28, 2008.
5. Finish up instrument on February 4, 2008.
6. **Instruments due. Start presentation and demonstrations of instruments to the class starting February 11, 2008.**
7. Finish presentations and demonstrations of instruments on February 25, 2008.