

Grade 2/3 - Newsflash



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's almost impossible to believe that this week has brought us into October... We have been so busy in grade two/three and the children have been working, growing and consistently showing me what incredible students they are! I am so fortunate to work with them all!

The fall season is upon us, and as such, it is important that you send your child to school dressed for the weather. Please also remember to wait outside of the school or at the front doors for your child at the end of the day as we are working hard on establishing routine and fostering independence.

LANGUAGE ARTS

We continue to focus on reading comprehension in Language Arts, and the Daily 6 program is rolling along! Part of my reading program also includes a reading activity called "Story Circles". This reading activity has students reading at their independent Balanced Literacy level. After reading a picture book or chapter in a novel, students complete an organizer that focuses on developing reading comprehension. Currently, we have been working on "making connections" to the various texts we read. As such, we will have 6 choices during our reading time as opposed to 5.

During our reading periods, students now have a choice between "Read to Self" and "Story Circles". They are reading and working independently at this time which means I now have the opportunity to move around the room and read 1 on 1 with students. This is a great opportunity for me to hear their fluency, and make notes on reading strategies that might benefit each student.

As this month progresses, I will be introducing the last four options in our Daily 6 program—Read to Someone, Work on Writing, Word Work and Listen to Reading. Read to Someone is an opportunity for students to partake in shared reading with a partner. Work on Writing allows students to write about any topic they wish in any way they wish. Word Work is an opportunity for students to work on Word Wall Words independently using a variety of materials. Listen to Reading is a great opportunity for kids to hear fluent reading and experience books that may be outside of their current reading ability. Both of these are favorites in the Daily 6 program!

As part of our school's Balanced Literacy program, this month we will also begin guided reading groups during Daily 6 time, and I am excited to work with the kids in smaller groups! Raz-Kids will also be up and running later this week, please watch your child's agenda for further updates. We are also working on our writing, and our focus continues to be paragraphs and description. The students have created several pieces of wonderful writing. They have written about their classmates as well as their treasured objects!

MATH

In grade two, we are continuing to look at number sense to 100. We have been working on skip counting, ordinal numbers and odd/even numbers. Students should be practicing skip counting forwards and backwards by 1, 2, 5, and 10 at home from any starting point from 0–100. (eg. 68, 66, 64, 62, 60...). We will also be working on skip counting with money and estimating to 100.

In grade three, we are continuing to look at number sense to 1000, but are now learning how to skip count by 3, 4, 5, 10, 25 and 100. This is a particular challenge because in grade 3, we do this using 3 digit numbers. We will also look at skip counting with money, and with estimating to 1000.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The grade two's have been busy learning about the geography, weather and climate of their three communities of study. It was so neat to look up the weather in Iqaluit last week!

The grade three's are continuing to work on their unit on mapping and geographical thinking. Later this month we will begin learning about quality of life in our four countries of study—Tunisia, Peru, Ukraine, and India.

SCIENCE

The grade two's have been busy experimenting with a variety of liquids. Examining the smell, colour and feel of various liquids, as well as how quickly or slowly they flow. This unit will wrap up this month, so keep an eye out for the unit review and a unit test date!

The grade three's are continuing with their Science unit on Rocks & Minerals. We have been busy learning about the layers of the earth, the three main types of rocks, as well as, examining the properties of various rock and mineral samples. This unit will wrap up this month, so keep an eye out for the unit review and a unit test date!

READ-IN WEEK

- Our first big reading event begins on October 7th as Elk Island Public School Division celebrates Reading Week. Our theme at James Mowat is "Juicy Books with Bite!"
- We would like to invite family members to join us as guest readers next week. If you would like to join us in the classroom, please bring your favourite book. If you are interested in coming in to read, please send me a note in your child's agenda beforehand.

THANKSGIVING & SHARING SOUP

On Friday, October 11th, we will celebrate Thanksgiving by making Sharing Soup. I am asking each child to bring **one** vegetable to add to our soup. Please send **one** vegetable that has been **washed, peeled, and cut up**. If you would like to send a vegetable like corn or peas, send a **one cup portion**. The soup is always very interesting! **The one veggie I will ask you not to send are potatoes as I will supply those. I will also be adding some noodles to the soup.** Please ask your child which vegetable they would like to bring and include them in the vegetable preparation. As a "green" initiative, please also send a bowl and spoon with your child. The soup is not intended to replace their lunch, so **please still send their lunch as usual.**

SCARECROW CRAFT

For an upcoming art project and writing activity we will be creating our very own miniature scarecrows! We will be starting this project next week on **Tuesday, October 8th**. We will be needing bits of old material for shirts, vests, hats, and pants, as well as, yarn and buttons for hair and eyes. If you could please send any of these items, or any other items your child might

like to use to create their scarecrow, please send them in a name labelled large ziplock bag on or before Tuesday, October 8th.

Attached is our classroom calendar for October that highlights upcoming events for this month. The newsletter and calendar for October can also be found on my eTeacher page.

I think that's everything... Once again, thank-you for EVERYTHING you are doing to support our learning!

Mrs. Kuzryk

