



February 2020



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Can you believe we are over half way through Grade 1? The students have made progress during this first half of the school year and, as always, your help and support has played a central role in their success.



We are working on our preparations for Speech Arts, which takes place on March 3. As you know, our class will be reciting There's Only One You by Kathryn Heling and Deborah Hembrook. Please continue to practice this at home with your child! Please also continue to practice individual poems, bible readings or prose recitation. Students should work on speaking loudly, clearly and with expression.



The students are working hard on the *I'm a Gift from God* program. Please continue to complete the parent lessons and return the book to school the following day! All activities should be coloured please.

Thank you for your continued support.

Reading and Spelling

As the children are growing as readers, it is now time to place a little bit more emphasis on reading comprehension. Often as beginning readers, children are so aware of reading the words accurately that they forget to take time and think about what they are reading. The "Check for Understanding" strategy asks children to stop periodically when they read and answer questions like: "Can you tell me what is happening in the story?" "Why do you think the character did that?" "How do you think this character is feeling right now? Why?" If they cannot answer the question, they should back up and re-read the text. Although it adds on a couple of minutes, it is an extremely important skill and beginning readers need lots of practice at this. The more chances they have to talk about what they have read, make personal connections to a story and/or predict what might happen next, the more proficient they will become at reading.

Mathematics

Measurement is another theme in math this month. Students will learn how to make comparisons between objects, order lengths of objects, compare areas of objects, practice the language of measurement (using words such as longer/shorter, as tall as, more/less, heavier/lighter,) compare capacities of containers and compare the masses of objects. We will also continue to review addition and subtraction.

Theme Work

We are still working our Science unit on Matter! The students will learn new matter vocabulary and do some experiments in the classroom. Next up, we will be learning about light and sound!