



*We await the coming of Christ with expectant joy this
Advent.*

Grade 3 December 2019

Dear Parents,

December has arrived and the students have been busy preparing for the second week of our Advent Assembly (along with Grade 5), our Christmas concert; 'No Wonder' and working hard to complete class work and seasonal activities.

December is a very exciting month, as we await the coming of Christ as well as all of the celebrations over the Christmas break. In the midst of this excitement, it is important to maintain good work habits (both in class and at home). Therefore, all homework needs to be completed, signed and submitted on time, as per usual.

Field trip in January!

Grade 3 will be going on a field trip on **Thursday January 16th 2020 to the Museum of Anthropology** as part of our Socials unit on local indigenous cultures. We will engage in a guided tour and interactive workshop entitled; 'The Tree of Life'. More information on this field trip along with permission slips will be sent home in the coming week!

Curriculum focus for the month of December.

Religion: Advent, The Jesse Tree (reflective responses in prayer journal), the Liturgical calendar (colours, symbols and scriptural references), preparation for confession and Advent Assembly (Week 2 with Grade 5).

English Language Arts:

Reading: Continue to develop fluency and expression. I would encourage students to continue to read for 15 minutes each day over the holidays.

Reading Power: Develop **The Power to Visualize:** Using brain pockets and 'picture words' from a text to connect more meaningfully to reading material. This reading power is strongly

related to *The Power to Connect*.

Writing: Climbing stories and Elements of story. Paragraph writing and opinion writing. Seasonal writing activities/creative writing.

Word study: Long 'o' and 'u', plurals y-ies.

Math: Developing **word problem solving skills** (integrated with Growth Mindset).

Identifying and implementing the steps in solving single and multi-step word problems: 1. Identify 'clue' words' 2. Draw a picture of your solution 3. Explain your solution in words 4. Show your solution as an equation 5. Share your solution with a partner and explain an alternative way to solve to problems.

Introduction to **multiplication** (*using equal groups, arrays, repeated addition and skip counting to help them to understand this concept*). While understanding multiplication and identifying uses of such a process in their daily life is important, I also strongly recommend that each student begins to memorise their multiplication tables to 10 over the course of this month.

Science: Landforms in the local environment. Students will use our 'maker space' (S.T.E.A.M) sessions to plan a model of a landform, representing key features. Students will create this model in early January.

Socials: Local Indigenous cultures: First Nations of British Columbia: Names of major First Nations groups, Aboriginal place names in BC, exploring the worldview (collection of values) of First Nations through Indigenous stories and legends (connect to local landforms and animals).

French: *Je Vous Salue, Marie* (Hail Mary), *Silent Night* in French.

Career Education: Students will be learning about '**Growth Mindset**' in class and how it positively impacts our way of approaching challenges, influencing our academic and social/emotional success. A letter will be sent home once a week explaining the concepts covered. This letter will provide discussion prompts to help you to engage in short interactive tasks to deepen understanding.

Art: Seasonal art activities (Jesse Tree, manger scene, winter art).

ADST: S.T.E.A.M sessions: Christmas challenge and planning for Landform construction.

Important dates to note:

Friday December 6th: Second Advent assembly (Grade 3 and 5) at 1pm in the gym.

Wednesday December 11th: Christmas concert dress rehearsal.

Thursday December 12th: Christmas concert: 1pm matinee performance and 7pm evening performance.

Friday December 13th: Late start. Students begin school at 10.30am. Third Advent Assembly at 1pm in the gym.

Confessions will take place during school time this week. The date and time is to be confirmed.

Wednesday/ Thursday December 18/19th: Class party (T'BC).

Friday December 21st: Fourth Advent Assembly. Early dismissal at 1pm!

I look forward to another month with Grade 3!

*Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and every
blessing for the New Year.*

Le meas (Respectfully),

Ms. Kinsella.

