



## Grade 3 Newsletter

November 2019

*November is upon us as we begin our third month of school! It was wonderful to get the opportunity to meet most of you during Open House last week. I hope that we remain in contact throughout the year in order to provide the best support for the students' learning. By now, students should be familiar with school and homework routines. The students are working towards being more responsible for their homework, assignments and organising their personal belongings. I thank you for your continued support in this important area of development.*

**A note on reading.**



**Home Reading** must be done every night of the week. This is the best way for students to develop their fluency. Students are responsible for recording what they read, including choosing three new or interesting words. Students should understand these new words recorded in the log and be able to explain them in their own words. This way, the students will feel more confident in using new vocabulary orally and in written work.

As comprehension is an essential part of reading, students should *understand* what they are reading. You might support them in this area by asking some simple comprehension questions throughout with such as: *What is happening in the story so far? What do you think will happen next? Why? Does this part of the story remind you of any other book you have read before? Does the way this character is feeling remind you of a time when you felt like this? Tell me about it. Describe your favourite character in this book? Are there any similarities between this character and you? Can you make a text to text or text to world connection? Etc....* These sort of questions prompt the students to think more deeply about the text and therefore engage more meaningfully in the reading process, making it a positive experience.

You might also like to practice 'buddy reading' with your child from time to time (you read a paragraph, modeling expression and fluency and then your child reads the following paragraph etc). This is not only a wonderful opportunity to bond with your child and understand what level they are at in their reading fluency, but it also shows your child that you, as an adult, value and enjoy reading. Research shows that children whose parents read at home for pleasure are more likely to be successful readers in the future than those whose parents do not. Research also shows that reading aloud, rather than simply talking to children, builds literacy and enriches language far more successfully. **Read, read, read!**



### Curriculum Focus for the month of November:

**Religion:** Saints project (and presentation), The Beatitudes, The Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy (linked to the inquiry question: 'How can I become a saint?'), Further exploration of our theme; 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' through learning about the lives of saints and reflecting upon the parables. Weekly Adoration in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel (10 minutes).

**Reading:** Developing fluency and expression through the use of 'good fit' books (IPICK).

#### Reading Power:

- **'The Power to Connect'** (Review Text to self, Text to text and Text to world connections).
- Introduce **'The Power to Visualize'** (using 'picture words' in a text to help create pictures in the mind, paying attention to the other senses like feelings, sounds, smells and tastes, connecting these to personal experiences to make reading material meaningful).

#### Writing:

- Introduction to **paragraph writing**.
- Text structures: **Climbing stories**- Setting, Characters, Plot, Problem, Solution.
- **Word study:** Compound words, plurals ending in -es, -ies, contractions (e.g. cannot= can't).

#### Math:

- **Daily skip counting:** Increasing and decreasing patterns in 2s, 5s, 10s to 200. Counting in 3s to 60 (increasing and decreasing), 4s to 80 (increasing and decreasing), 6s to 60.
- Review and daily practice of **mental math strategies** for addition and subtraction.
- **Numbers to 1000:** Addition of 3 digit numbers with regrouping, subtraction of 2 and 3 digit numbers with and without renaming.
- Introduction to **word problems** using these operations.

**Science:** Continue and complete Biodiversity unit with a focus on individual inquiry/research on a biome and about human threats to the environment (deforestation, pollution, climate change/global warming). Sharing inquiry investigative work and creating a class 'action plan' based on research findings.

**Socials:** Continue and complete unit on Diversity and Culture (values and worldview), Symbols

across Canada, Remembrance Day.

**Career Education:** S.M.A.R.T goal setting (continued), Introduction to *Growth Mindset*. Self-assessment of independent work habits in class.

**French:** Continue reviewing greetings/ salutations/basic vocabulary. Numbers 1-20, days of the week, parts of the body.

**Art:** Cold and warm colour art.

**ADST:** S.T.E.A.M challenges: Build a bridge challenge, Invention challenge.

### Important dates to note:

**November 1<sup>st</sup>:** All Saints' Day. School Mass at 8.15am.

**November 4<sup>th</sup>:** Begin saint inquiry projects in class.

**November 7<sup>th</sup>:** Remembrance Day Assembly in the school gym at 10.45am. All are welcome to attend.

**November 8<sup>th</sup>:** No school.

**November 11<sup>th</sup>:** Remembrance Day 2019. No school.

**November 12<sup>th</sup>:** Saint project presentations in class.

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Pro-D Day . No school.

**November 27<sup>th</sup> :** Term 1 school reports go home. Parents are reminded that they must physically collect this report from the class teacher at 2.30pm that day. Teachers are not permitted to give reports to anyone other than parents or guardians.

I would like to thank you for all your support so far this year and if you have any questions about your child's progress, please email me at [grainnekinsella@spev.ca](mailto:grainnekinsella@spev.ca)

Le gach dea-ghuí (With every blessing),  
Miss Kinsella.

