



Grade 3 Newsletter November 2020

November is upon us as we begin our third month of school! 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 about resources on Google Classroom:

- ★ Please check the 'Resource' section on the classroom page of Google Classroom regularly as I will continue to upload new and useful anchor charts and material to support your child's learning.

A note about reading:

- ★ **Home Reading** must be completed every night of the week. This is the best way for students to develop their fluency.
- ★ 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:

- Saint 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; "Walk with Jesus, Our Living Hope" through learning about the lives of saints.

Reading:

- Developing fluency and expression through the use of 'good fit' books (IPICK).
- Continued review of decoding strategies.

Reading Power:

- '**The Power to Connect**' (Review *Text to self*, *Text to text* and introduce 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 (Informational Writing)**. Students will apply their knowledge of The Writing Process when writing paragraphs.
- Text structures: **Climbing stories**- Setting, Characters, Plot, Problem, Solution.
- **Word study**: Compound words, plurals ending -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.
- 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:

Complete Biodiversity unit:

- Paired research on The Coastal Temperate Rainforest and human threats to the environment (deforestation, pollution, climate change/global warming).
- Students will share inquiry investigative work and create a class 'action plan' based on research findings.

Socials: Symbols across Canada, Remembrance Day.

Career Education:

- S.M.A.R.T goal setting: Creating 'Specific' goals.
- Growth Mindset unit continued. Parent letters will continue to be sent home once a week to inform you of the concepts being explored.
- Self-assessment of independent work habits in class.
- Reflective writing based on the core competencies.

French: Autumn vocabulary, continue to review greetings, the weather.

Art: Remembrance Day art, Cold and warm colour art.

ADST: S.T.E.A.M challenges: Complete invention and present invention in pairs (an alternative way to get to the Grade 3 classroom from the parking lot!), 'Not a box' challenge.

Important dates to note:

November 10th: Remembrance Day Assembly for students in the school (virtual).

November 11th: Remembrance Day 2020. No school.

November 20th: Pro-D Day . No school.

November 30th : Celebration of student learning. This will be a video-based/Google slides presentation rather than an in-person presentation. More information will be given about this closer to the time. Please note that there is NO school on this day.

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

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

