



Grade 3 Newsletter September 2020



Walk with Jesus, Our Living Hope.

Dear Parents,

We have begun our first week in school! The students are beginning to become more familiar with new classroom routines and expectations. As the year progresses, students are learning to become more responsible and independent. In order to achieve this, your support at home is greatly appreciated.

Below are a few reminders, which the students know, but are important for you to be aware of also:

Spelling words are given every Monday and posted on Google Classroom under 'Spelling'. From September 14th onwards, the children will either type their spelling sentences and submit them on Google Classroom or write their sentences in their spelling copy and upload a photo of their work for submission.

Students are asked to write a sentence using each word from the spelling list (12 words approximately, depending on the week and level of difficulty). This means a sentence per word. Sentences are due every **Thursday**, with a spelling test every Friday. I would advise the students to take 4 words each evening for sentence composition. This ensures accuracy and better quality of work, rather than rushing to complete all 12 sentences on a Wednesday night! Sentences should be numbered and the spelling word underlined in each. Students are asked to skip a line between each sentence to ensure neat presentation of work.

Home Reading is to be done daily (seven days a week) for 10-15 minutes.

Students will be using RazKids for home reading this year rather than taking books home for home reading. In class we have discussed the criteria for selecting a 'good fit' book. We made a list to help us in this selection:

Too difficult:

1. Too many of the words don't make sense- more than 4 or 5 words you can't read or don't understand on the first page.
2. Reading really slowly.
3. Getting tired and frustrated.

Too easy:

1. There are no new words on each page.
2. Going so fast it's hard to focus.
3. No effort, boring.

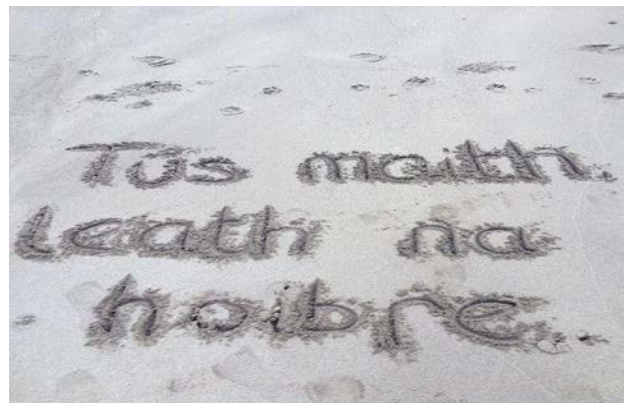
Just right:

1. There are about 2-3 new words per page.
2. Sucked into your book and don't want to stop!
3. Feels good. You are interested!

It would help if you reinforced this process when your child is selecting a book for reading. I will place them at a level that I think is appropriate in the early weeks of school on RazKids. This level will change as the year progresses and the students develop more fluency.

Math homework must always be completed for the following day. This will help to prepare students for the Math lesson the following day.

It is very important to help your child to establish a quiet and consistent homework routine. It will help them to develop their organisational, academic skills and the ability to complete tasks on their own and to a high standard. At this stage of the year, homework should not be taking any longer than 30 minutes to complete each evening. If your child is experiencing frustration or anxiety related to homework, please email me at grainnekinsella@spev.ca so we can make more suitable arrangements and put support in place.



'A good start is half the work' - Irish Proverb

Curriculum Focus for the month of September:

Religion:

- ★ Exploration of theme for 2020-2021: *Walk with Jesus, Our Living Hope through the parables and the introduction of 'The Daily Examen'*.
- ★ Exploring *Catholic Worldview*
- ★ God calls us to use our gifts
- ★ Review of prayers: Morning and Evening prayer, Grace Before and After Meals.

English Language Arts:

Reading:

- ★ Review Independent Reading habits (Tips for choosing a 'good fit' book).
- ★ Decoding strategies
- ★ Reading Power: An introduction and focus on *The Power to **Connect*** (Text to self, Text to text and Text to world connections)
- ★ Guided Reading in small groups

Writing:

- ★ The structure of a compound sentence
- ★ Writing Power: Introduce: 'Brain Pockets' (Memory Pocket, Fact Pocket, Imagination Pocket).
- ★ The Writing Process: **1.** Topic and Planning, **2.** Writing (Guided and Independent), **3.** Conferencing and Editing, **4.** Publishing and Sharing
- ★ Spelling: Short and long vowel sounds

Oral Language:

- ★ Emotional Regulation (Zones of Regulation) and daily check-ins.

Math:

- ★ Review of number facts (addition and subtraction)
- ★ Mental Math strategies (counting on, doubles, doubles plus one, making ten, front end addition)
- ★ Patterns (increasing, decreasing, pattern rules, patterns in the environment, music, art, movement, coding etc...)

Science:

- ★ Introduction to *The Inquiry Cycle*.
- ★ Biodiversity: the variety of different types of living things in an ecosystem
- ★ Characteristics of local plants, animals and fungi in the local environment

Socials:

- ★ '*Who am I?*' - Aspects of life shared by and common to peoples and cultures: family, work, education, values, systems of ethics and spirituality

Career Education:

- ★ Introduction to Goal-setting: What are my strengths and stretches? What is a goal?

S.M.A.R.T goals

- ★ Developing good work habits
- ★ Healthy eating (The Food Pyramid)

French: Greetings, Numbers 1-20, Days of the week

Art:

- ★ Visual elements: Focus on *line* (vertical, horizontal, diagonal, parallel lines), silhouette art, one-point perspective

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at grainnekinsella@spev.ca.

Thank you for your support,
Le gach dea-ghuí (Blessings),

Ms. Kinsella.