

OCTOBER NEWS



It is hard to believe that the first month of our school year has already come and gone. Thank you for all of your help in making it a success! Read on to learn about some of the exciting things that we are doing and learning about in Grade 1!

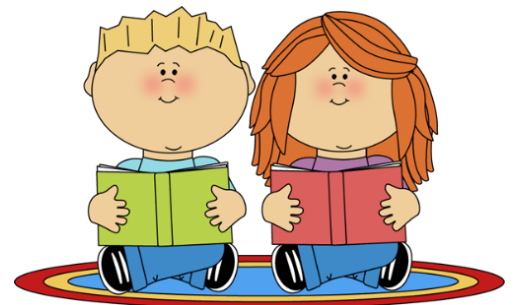
Home Reading Program

Our home reading program is now underway! Hopefully you and your child have been enjoying reading the books in their 'Just Right' book bag. Each child is permitted to take up to four books home each night that are at his or her reading level. Please note that the book bag should stay in your child's purple agenda folder when they are not being read as they use them for silent reading in the classroom as well.

Throughout the school year your child's books will increase in difficulty as they become more fluent in their reading and comprehension. Please take the time to read with your child for ten minutes every night, this will ensure their continued success. Your child is free to exchange their books whenever they would like but I suggest that at least one of the books be kept for several days. This gives your child a chance to feel successful in their reading as they become familiar books. Starting your reading with a familiar book can help to boost your child's confidence making them 'feel' like a reader.

If your child is a reluctant reader, give them small incentives such as 'you read a page, I read a page' or 'you read a book, I read a book'. Ask your child questions after you have read the book. Reading is not only about decoding the words on the page, but about understanding them as well.

If you have any questions about our home reading program, please do not hesitate to contact me. Happy reading!



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Sight Words



Our sight word program is well underway. Students were pretested prior to being sent home with a list of sight words. The words are organised according to frequency in text. Your child is required to get no less than 19/20 before they can move on to the next list. They should be able to recognize the word right away without having to take extra time decoding the word. This is because the reading of these words needs to be automatic so that reading can be fluent and not labour some for your child. We are currently testing the students on Wednesday mornings. Stay tuned for a list of fun learning games that you can do with your child to help them learn their sight words!

French Flashcards

Your child has also been coming home with French flashcards, currently they should have two sets; the color words and the classroom vocabulary. Please assist your child in cutting these out and practicing them. Students should be able to recognize the word and/or the picture that accompanies most words. This will help students with their understanding in the classroom as well as with their French reading and writing.

Animated Literacy

We continue to work on the alphabet using Animated Literacy. This modified version of the traditional program combines letters, sounds and actions to help children remember their letters and sounds. Children love to use it to play charades with letters or simple words. Simply act out each sound and have your child 'read' your actions!



Bulls eye!

Later on this week I will be sending home a copy of your child's first math test. Look for the bulls eye on the page to see how your child did. The shining red in the center

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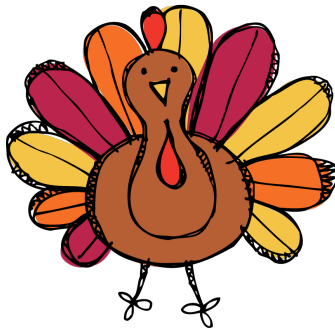
indicates that they achieved 4 and did an excellent job, the center without the shining rays indicates that they achieved a 3 and did a good job, the next ring indicates a 2 and the largest ring a 1.

We will be using this visual evaluation throughout the year in all subjects.

Thanksgiving Celebration and Service Project

Our Thanksgiving celebration will be held at Holy Family Parish on Wednesday, October 11th at 9:30am. Please be sure to return your child's permission slip for this outing, if you have not already done so. All parents and siblings are welcome to attend.

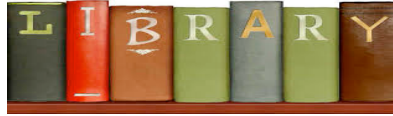
In conjunction with the celebration we are collecting food for the St. Albert Food Bank. If you wish to contribute please be sure to send in your donation by October 6th. Thank you for helping make someone's Thanksgiving a little bit brighter!



Color Play

On October 17th the grade one classes will be heading to the Art Gallery of Alberta to participate in a workshop entitled Colour Play, which is directly linked to our Science curriculum. While there, the students will have the opportunity to explore the world through color with multi-sensory and experimental colour exercises. The permission slip for this field trip is coming home today. Please sign and return it to school as soon as possible. Thank you!

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This week our library will be officially open for business. Your child will have the opportunity to select one French book and one English book to bring home for the week.

We are learning....

- To look for sounds we know in words
 - To stretch our words so that we can hear all of the sounds
- Simple reading strategies, like using the picture and the first sound of the word
- The letters of the alphabet using Animated Literacy in two languages, wow!
 - Weekly word wall words and how to use the word wall
 - To write on the line and with spaces in between our words
 - Color words, classroom words, numbers and fall vocabulary
- About making colors pale and darker as well as the words transparent and opaque
 - About the changing seasons
 - Numbers to 20
 - All about ourselves and belonging
 - About being responsible citizens in a digital world

Volunteers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who have already helped us in and out of the classroom. We couldn't do it without you!