



# The 1A News

May 2016

## Field Trip

Next week, we will be headed to the John Walter Museum in Edmonton to learn all about the past. This field trip is directly related to what we are learning about in Social Studies. The students will be bringing history to life by participating in hands-on activities including churning their own butter, baking scones on a wood burning stove, candle dipping and making their own wool-based keepsake!

We are still in need of another volunteer or two, so if you are able to make it please let me know!



## Dear parents

With only two months left of school, the year will soon be coming to a close, but we still have a lot left to do!  
Read on to hear about our busy month of May.

## Mental Math

We are currently refocusing on addition and subtraction. While earlier in the year we worked on numbers to 12, we will now be adding and subtracting to 20.

While most students have a good understanding of how to add and subtract, many still rely on the use of manipulatives. While we continue to encourage supports for students that include the use of manipulatives, we would also like for them to develop the use of mental math strategies. These will help to make students more efficient when executing math problems in the years to come.

Mental math is the ability to calculate in one's head without the use of fingers or manipulatives.

Read on for a list of strategies that will help your child 'hone' their mental math skills.

## Strategies

- 1. Counting On and Counting Back-** Students are able to count on or back from the largest number to get the answer. Ex:  $7+3$  students start at 7 and count forward 8,9,10 for addition, or conversely backwards 6,5,4, for subtraction. Knowing that the last number said is the answer.
- 2. Using Doubles-** Students should be able to add together their doubles with relative ease. Ex:  $2+2=4$  They can then use this knowledge to solve near doubles questions such as  $2+3=5$  as 3 is one more than two.
- 3. Making 10-** Since 10 is a number that students find easy to work with, they often find that making 10 helps them, especially with the number 9. Simply borrow 1 from the other number! Ex:  $9+8$  is the same as  $10+7$
- 4. Use Addition to Help Subtract-** Students often find addition easier so if they know well that



## Spelling City

If you haven't yet checked out this awesome website, it may be the time! With most of our students working on spelling, this could be an excellent tool to add to your 'toolbox' of learning strategies.

Simply input the words (we recommend working on only ten words at a time) and watch as Spelling City uses them to create online spelling games. If you use the link on my website, many of the lists are already inputted.

I would additionally like to thank all of the parents who have donated their time this year to help with our sight word a spelling program. Our program would not be a success without you!