

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!

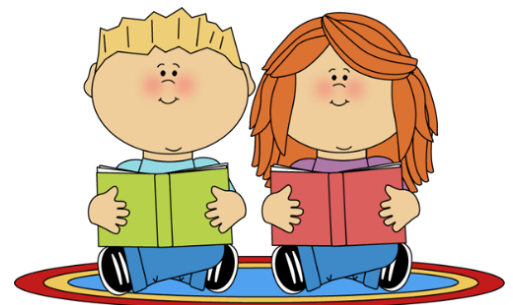
Home Reading Program

Our home reading program is now underway! Hopefully you and your child have been enjoying reading the books in their 'Just Right' book envelope. 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 red pochette 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 launching this week. Students will be 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 that 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 difficult for your child. Our classroom is divided into groups this year with some students being tested on Tuesdays, and others being tested on Thursdays.

French Flashcards

Your child has also been coming home with French flashcards, currently they should have the classroom vocabulary but color words are on their way tomorrow. 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!

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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 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.

Pattern Snack Day

On Thursday, October 4th, students will be celebrating the end of our patterning unit in math by having a pattern snack. They will be using their snacks to create and eat a variety of patterns. In order to successfully create a pattern snack, I ask that you send your child with 3-4 different small snacks. Some ideas are as follows;

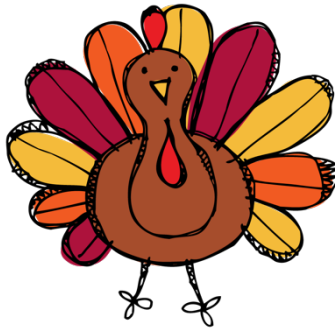
- Cheerios or other small cereal pieces
 - Small cut up pieces of cheese
 - Chocolate chips
- Gold fish, or other **small** crackers or pretzels
 - gummy lunch treats
- grapes, blueberries, or other small berries or pieces of fresh fruit
 - dried fruit such as raisins or craisins

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Thanksgiving Celebration and Service Project

Our Thanksgiving celebration will be held in the school gym this Thursday, October 4th at 11:00am. 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 3rd. Thank you for helping make someone's Thanksgiving a little bit brighter!



Creating Colour

On October 19th the grade one classes will be participating in an in-school workshop entitled *Creating Colour*, which is directly linked to our Science curriculum. During the session, the students will enter a world of colour and help Cam the Chameleon learn to do what chameleons do best- change colour! Through hands-on activities, students will explore colours, tints and shades so that they can help Cam. The permission slip for this field trip will be sent home later this week. Please sign and return it to school as soon as possible. Thank you.



Every Friday we will have the opportunity to visit our school library. The students will be encouraged to take two books, one in French and one in English that can be brought home. If there is no school on Friday, we keep our books for an additional week. We ask that the students return their books the day before their library

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day. So please return your child's books every Thursday on weeks that we have library.

Class Directory

Later this week I will be sending home a copy of our classroom directory that includes student names and phone numbers. If your child's name does not appear on the list, and you would like for him/her to be added, or if you spot an error, please let me know. Currently, I have inputted the home phone numbers that the school has on file for your child. If you would like a different number to be added to the list in lieu of or in addition to this number, please let me know by this Wednesday.

In Grade One 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, looking for chunks that we know and little words inside big words
- The letters of the alphabet using Animated Literacy in both languages
 - How to write modeled sentences in French
 - Weekly word wall words and how to use the word wall
 - To write on the line and with spaces in between our words
 - Colour words and classroom words
- About colours, we are currently in the exploration phase and are experimenting with the three primary colours; red, yellow and blue
 - All about the changes that happen during the fall season
 - About numbers to 20
 - All about ourselves and belonging
 - About being responsible citizens in a digital world

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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!