



November News

The month of November is already upon us. We have done so much learning already and are looking forward to many more learning opportunities this coming month! Read on to find out what's going on in 1A.

What's Up With Reading

Successful readers have a lot of different tools in their tool belts! We have been working on filling our belts this year. Here is what we have learned so far...



Sight Words

These are the 'glue' that holds our reading together. Sight word lists are made up of the most commonly found words in text and they are organized in order of frequency. It is for this reason that students must be able to read through the

lists without hesitation before moving on. When students know these words well they are able to build a strong foundation as readers. Please remember that even if your child has passed certain words that reviewing them periodically is key to ensure retention.

Animated Literacy

When unknown words come their way students are armed with their knowledge of the letters and letter sounds. We have also been learning all about combo sounds. These are letters that when stuck together make a completely new sound. If sight words are our glue than Animated Literacy is the tape measure that helps us to carefully measure our words and plan where to go next. Check out the combos below!

Combo Sound	Key Word	Action
ay/ai	Yay!	Put your hands in the air like you are cheering.
ir/ur/er	turn	Point your finger in the air and turn it around in a circle.
ing	ding	Pretend to ring a doorbell.
oo	Like in the words look and book.	Pretend that you have been winded and clutch your stomach.

sh	shiver	Wrap your hands around your body and shiver.
th	throw	Pretend to throw a ball.
ch	chop	Make a chopping motion with your hand.
ar	arrrr like a pirate	Swing your arm like a pirate.
aw	awww like something is cute	Clasp your hands together and make big goo goo eyes.
or	or like the sound a seal makes	Clap your hands together like a seal.

We have not yet introduced all of these sounds but we are well on our way to adding them all to our list of tools.

Reading rules

These are our building plans, they help us where Animated Literacy cannot, with tricky words.

The magic 'e' rule teaches us that a magic e can bump the other vowel and make it say its name, like in the words 'make' and 'name'

We also learned that when two vowels go walking, the first one does the talking like in the words 'soap' and read'

Then there are always the jail words that just can't seem to follow the rules.

AND when all else fails use

Reading Strategies

These are the life lines to help students when they are stuck in a reading rut. Try to resist the temptation to give your child the word and instead guide them by suggesting a specific strategy like the ones listed below.

- Sound it out
- Look for word families
- Look for small words in bigger words
- Look for letter combos or magic E's
- Try flipping the vowel to say either its long or short sound
- Skip the word and read on, but remember to go back and re read
- Ask yourself what would make sense
- Point to an unknown word and make the first sound

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20

Number Sense

Since the beginning of the year, we have been working hard in class on developing a deeper understanding of our numbers from 1-10. At this point, your child should be able to recognize all the numbers (even when presented out of order) and be able to represent them concretely, symbolically and pictorially. Your child should also be able to accurately count sets and put the numbers in order.

This week we have been playing some games in class to practice the concept of 1 or 2 more and 1 or 2 less. The goal is for your child to be able to automatically say the number that is 1 or 2 more or 1 or 2 less than a given number between 0 and 10, without having to recount. If you're finding that your child is having difficulty with this concept and would like to practice some more at home, please let me know and I will send you some games and activities that you can do.

Later this month we will begin practicing our numbers to 20. I will send home some new flashcards for your child to practice that can be added to those that you already have. The students should eventually be able to do all the same things as listed above, but with the larger numbers.



Hands on Science!

Our colour unit has almost come to a close and with that comes the promise of new learning, my favorite!

Our next unit will focus on the five senses. Later this month we will be welcoming an instructor from Hands On Science into our classroom for a variety of hands-on activities that will help us to learn through touching, seeing, smelling, listening, even tasting! Although we will not be leaving the school, permission will be required for your child to join in. Please keep your eyes out for the permission slip which will be coming home soon.



Rooney and Punyi

On Friday, November 16th, the grade one classes will be going on a field trip to the St. Albert Public Library to see the Rooney and Punyi Reading Show. More information about this field trip can be found on the permission slip, which will be send home soon.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

This year's ceremony will take place on Thursday, November 8th at 10:45am in the school gymnasium. All are welcome to attend. Please consider sending in a donation for the poppy campaign.