



January News

1A

What's On This Month

January 11th- Hot Lunch

January 15th- skating

January 22nd- skating

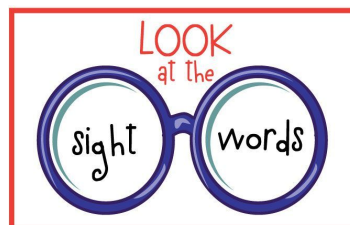
January 23rd 6-7pm- Helping my Child
To Read Session

January 25th- PD day NO school

Dear 1A families,

It is hard to believe that we are already beginning a new year together. I hope that your holidays were filled with family, friends and wonderful memories made with your children. Here are a few important notes about the coming month.

Mme Fry



Sight Words

Sight word testing will resume this week, so please continue to practice regularly with your child. I would encourage you to go back and practice words from previous lists as well to ensure that your child still recognize all of the words. If you find that your child has forgotten many of the words from previous lists, it would be wise to go back and focus on those words, before continuing with the new lists.

Remember, the first few lists are the most important as they are the most commonly used words in text.

We will continue to maintain the same schedule wherein half of the class will be tested on Tuesday and the last half of the class, on Thursday. If you are available on Tuesday mornings and would like to join our sight word team, please let me know.



French

This month we will be working on clothing and winter vocabulary. The clothing flashcards will be sent home shortly and the winter ones will follow. At this point in the year your child should be recognizing the picture and also starting to read the words. To help your child begin sounding out their French words I have included a list of French sounds that we have been practicing in class, as well as a small guide to aid in pronunciation.

ou- like the 'oo' of school

ch- like the 'sh' sound in English

é/er/ez- like the 'ay' in the word day

au/eau- like the 'oa' in the word boat

oi- like the 'wa' in the word water

The following two sounds are considered nasal vowels, which do not have an English equivalent. The closest equivalent would be the sound in the suggested word, if said with your nose plugged.

on- like the 'on' in don't

an/en- like the 'an' in want



Math

Before Christmas break, we began our addition and subtraction unit (up to 12). We have been focusing on breaking down the numbers, but mainly, students are learning to truly understand the concept of part-part-whole. The basis of addition and subtraction is knowing that parts make up a whole and that a whole can be broken into parts. These ideas are known as composing and decomposing. This concept helps move your child past seeing 8 as just 8 objects and helping them see it as 7 and 1, 6 and 2, and so on. This is incredibly important so that your child can easily decompose larger numbers to make equations easier. For example: $27+9$ can be seen as $28+8$ or $30+6$, each of these is a simpler equation to solve than $27+9$.

Here are a couple of ways to help build this part-part-whole skill at home:

1. When giving your child snacks, give it to them in two piles. Instead of giving them all 5 crackers, give them 2 and then 3 off to the side and say "You get two and three, how many do you have?"
2. Play Cover Up. This can also be done when eating a snack. Have them count how many they have and then cover some up with your hand and see if they can tell you how many you covered up. For example, if they have 5 crackers, after they count them, cover up 2 with your hand and say "You had 5, now you have three out here and the rest are in my hand. How many are in my hand?"

You can also reinforce these concepts at home by having your child tell Math stories, such as the ones listed below. You can then ask your child to show you how to solve the question using manipulatives or even a drawing.

There are 4 boys playing outside; 6 girls come to join them. How many children are there now?

There are 12 children playing at the park; five decide to leave. How many children are left at the park?

Book Envelopes

Students will continue to bring home their 'Just Right' book bags from now until the end of the year. Please be aware that they will soon be choosing both English and French books to bring home. Some of these books will be made in class and can be kept at home once it has been practiced. Your child should be able to read these independently. These books contain many of the vocabulary and sight words that we have been practicing in class and they are perfect for beginning French readers!



Information Session: Helping my Child Read

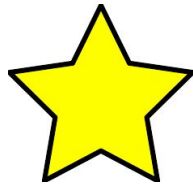
On Wednesday, January 23rd, from 6:00-7:00 pm, the grade one teachers will be presenting an information session about how you can help your child with his or her reading. The session will be held in one of the grade one classrooms. We hope to give you information that will help you guide your child at home as he or she makes their way through the reading world. Unfortunately, this is a one time session, so if you have any questions or concerns. Please make your best effort to attend. We ask that you confirm your attendance by sending a note in the agenda or a quick email, as soon as possible. Thank you!



Skating

This month, all of the students from K-6 will have the chance to go skating at Willoughby Park Rink. The grade one classes will be going twice, January 15th and 22nd. For additional information regarding this field trip, please see the permission

form that was sent home before Christmas break. Please note that we will require several volunteers for this trip, so please be sure to indicate whether or not you can help out. Volunteers are not required to skate but are welcome to do so if they would like.



Star of the Week

We will soon be beginning our Star of the Week program. Each student will have the opportunity to be Star of the Week before the end of the school year. When your child is chosen, they will receive a special sheet, which is to be completed at home. This sheet will be presented and hung in the class during your child's week.

You will be notified in advance so that your child has time to work on his or her presentation. When your child presents they are welcome to bring a show and share item of their choice and their favorite book to share with the class. If they would like to have the book read to class, please ensure that it is a reasonable length, otherwise they can tell about their favorite book.

