

Grade One News- December 2015

In Language:

Our classes continue to work very hard on letter, digraph and diphthong sounds during whole group learning. In the month of November we learned about z, w, ng, v, oo (short and long sounds as in book and moon), y, x, ch, sh and th. Students are also learning to retell stories in the correct order. We are continuing to learn tricky words (sight words) each month. In December we will be learning but, they, did, with, went, will, had and let. Again it is imperative for your child to recognize these words by sight as they often don't follow our rules and are the most frequent words used in reading and writing. There is a "flash card" set of words on our classroom blog. You can access it at www.pesgradel.weebly.com or by scanning the QR code:



Please continue to make Home Reading a part of your nightly routine. Home reading is an excellent way to practice your child's reading abilities. Please listen to your child read 10-15 minutes a night or read to them for 10 - 15 minutes.

"Reading aloud is widely recognized as the single most important activity leading to language development. Among other things, reading aloud builds word-sound awareness in children, a potent predictor of reading success."

In Math:

We have studied the numbers 0-10 throughout the last few months. We have also been working on identifying numbers 1 more and 1 less than a given number. Late in November we introduced 2 more with the kids. Our classes have also been talking about addition and what it means to add. We looked at different strategies to solve math equations including using your fingers, a number line, drawing a picture, using manipulatives and memorizing a fact. The classes have also started trying to recall addition facts to 5 as this is a year end outcome. Throughout December we will be introducing numbers 11 and 12 as well as continuing to work on simple addition. Students will also be working on 2 less and learning about subtraction. During calendar time, classes have been continuing to work on counting by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's as well as backwards from 20.

In Science (Miss Larsen):

We have been working VERY hard on our unit "Creating Colour". We spent November mixing the primary colours together to create secondary colours. Your child should be able to describe how to make orange, purple and green. We also discovered what happens when we add white and black to a colour (it turns lighter/darker). Late in the month we did felt pen chromatography and discovered that black can be separated into many different colours. In the month of December we will be learning about transparent and opaque and testing out what paint will adhere to.

In Social (Mrs. Rarick):

Our class had our very first Roots of Empathy Baby Visit on Nov. 24th - 26th. We will be continuing with our unit My World: Home, School and Community. We will be focusing on "My World". Throughout the unit we will explore what it means to belong to a group. We will examine Earth, our country, province, community, school and family.

In DPA/PE (Miss Longjohn):

All classes have been continuing to work on their tossing and catching skills but with a ball now. We have been tossing in stationary positions as well as moving while catching. We have been tossing to partner's and targets for a variety of different challenges. We will continue to do some tossing and catching however add in some aerobic movement activities during the month of December.

Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert will be happening on Thursday, December 17, 2015. We will be performing as a grade level.

Grades 1, 3 and 5 will be performing from 12:30pm-1:30pm in the gym.

Grades 2, 4 and 6 will be performing from 2pm-3pm. Hope to see you there!



Winter weather has arrived!

At our recent professional development session, a professor from the University of Lethbridge shared her research findings about the importance of frequent physical activity AND fresh outdoor air. We feel it is necessary for the children to get outside during the day, and so unless the temperature is below -20, we do go outside for recesses. Therefore, the children need to be properly dressed to be outdoors. This includes warm winter boots, ski pants, a heavy coat, toque, and mittens. Please help your son/daughter prepare for the weather by checking that they have the right clothes each day. It is also helpful if clothing is labelled as it is often left behind and students are not recognizing what is theirs.

Christmas Gifts

Christmas is fast approaching. Traditionally this time of year revolves around gift giving, including to the teachers. While we truly value this token of appreciation, we are all EXTREMELY fortunate to have our needs and wants taken care of so this year we are asking that you refrain from sending in gifts. As an alternative you can choose to send in an item for the food bank. We will use this opportunity to talk with the students about giving back to our community and the concept of volunteerism. On the last day of school we will drop off the items as a donation on behalf of our Grade One classes. Thank you very much!

Skating

Our physical education program emphasizes active living, with a focus on physical activity that is valued and integrated into daily life. That being said the Grade 1 teachers would like to use the alternative environment- Ponoka's outdoor rink to go skating a few times in February. Incorporating the outdoor rink shows the children they are able to be active outside of a gymnasium. We will send home notices and consents closer to the date's we are thinking of.



Birthdays

Madison O. (3rd)
Mahikan (15th)
Cole (15th)
Katerine (25th)

Winter Break

Don't forget that there is NO SCHOOL from Sat. Dec. 19- Sun. Jan. 3.

Fun Games to Practice Sight Words at Home

Sight words are one of the first ways your child begins reading. As a parent, I first thought that memorizing words isn't really what reading is all about! But now that my second child is in kindergarten, I understand that these sight words help build confidence and the beginning understanding of how words are formed, sound and work.

As a parent, it's extremely important for you to practice sight words at home. Sight words are one of the essential skills your child will need for reading success. And while practicing sight words with your child at home will make a big difference, it should also be a fun experience! (To learn more about why sight words are important for your child, read this [article from Education.com.](#))

FUN GAMES TO PRACTICE SIGHT WORDS AT HOME

Paper Plate Toss: Write sight words on paper plates. Use them like frisbees to throw after reading the word. Add in some additional fun by adding a target.

Flashlight Words: Turn off the lights. Tape words on the wall or ceiling. Use the flashlight to shine on the word, then have your child read it.

Go Fish: With a duplicate set of word cards play "Go Fish." You can easily make your own cards out of index cards.

Stepping Stones: Place the word cards on the floor, making a fun stream going across the room. Have your child walk over the stream. As they step onto the stepping stone (word), have them say the word before they move on to get to the other side of the stream.

Tic-Tac-Toe: Write words in the tic-tac-toe spaces. Take turns selecting a space to read. If read correctly, an X or O is placed on the space until someone wins.

Word-O: This is played just like BINGO. Fill in a card with the words that you are working on. Call out the words and mark the spaces. The first one with a card covered calls out the word "WORDO!"

Word Hunt: Look for target words in books or in the newspaper. If using the newspaper your child can highlight or circle the words that she finds.

Word Jump: Write the sight words onto the driveway. Call out a word. Have your child jump their way to the sight word.

SNAP: You put the sight words you want them to practice on flash cards and put the flash cards into a jar. Also, you write the word SNAP on a few flash cards and put them in to the jar. The kids can play in partners or in a groups of 3 or 4 with siblings. They take turns pulling a card out of the jar. If they can say the word on the card automatically with no struggle, they get to keep the card. If they struggle, they have to put it back. If they pull out one of the cards that says SNAP, they have to put all of the card they've drawn back. The first person to 5 cards (or 10) wins!

Stair Chase: Place two sight word cards on each stair. Let them pick one sight word on the way up, saying the word and picking up the card when they get it correctly. Have them practice the other sight words on the way down.

Coin Toss: Put words on the floor. Children take turns tossing a coin onto a word and saying the word. If they get the word correctly, they keep the coin. If you like, first to 10 coins wins. Or see if they can collect all of the coins.

Concentration: Create two sets of word cards. Place the word cards face down. Have your child turn over two cards, trying to make a match. Continue until all of the words are matched.

Play who am I? Lay out the word cards. Then give the child clues to what the selected word is. For example, if the word was "red," you could say - I rhyme with bed. I had three letters. I end with the letter D. Have the child locate the word.

Chalk Writing: Go outside and practice writing the sight words with chalk on the sidewalk.

Beat the Clock: See how many times your child can write a word in one minute. Or see how many flash cards your child can read in one minute.

Words You Can Eat: Write your words in whipped cream, peanut butter, carrots or anything you can eat.

Who has more? Flash words cards to your child. If they read the word within 5 second, they get to keep the card. If not, you keep the card. If the child has more cards than you at the end, they win.

Salt Tray: Grab a tray or baking sheet with edges. Pour in salt. Write the word in salt. When your child says it correctly, they get to erase the word.

MORE FUN WAYS TO PRACTICE SIGHT WORDS: WRITE THEM OUT

Having your child recite sight words isn't the only way to have them practice sight words. Having them write them out in fun ways helps them learn the spelling, too. You can make words using:

- Playdough
- Stencils
- Wiki sticks
- Alphabet stamps
- Scrabble tiles
- Magnetic letters
- Legos
- Popsicle Sticks
- Salt on a Tray
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Sticks (in sand or dirt)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
but they did with		1	2 Boston Pizza Hot Lunch	3	4 No School PD Day	5
6 went will had let	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Christmas Concert	18 PJ Day Wear your PJs to school	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	See you on Mon. Jan. 4, 2016	

Name: _____