

Save the Date!

Nov 9 – Library Field Trip

Nov 10 & 24– Music Class with Mrs K.

Nov 11, 13, 20 & 27 - No School

Nov 12 – In-class reptiles & amphibians presentation

Nov 12 – Farm to School fundraising payment due

Nov 25 – Farm to table delivery (volunteers needed!)

Nov 26, 27 – Parent/Teacher meetings: Kindergarten only



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Gabe

Volunteers Needed!

Farm to School Vegetable Fundraiser

We need *about 5 or 6 volunteers the morning of November 25* to receive the vegetables and help sort them. Please let Catherine know if you are able to assist for an hour or two.

In Class Volunteers

A sign-up calendar will be placed on the bulletin board outside of the classroom. Your child really values you coming into the class so please try to find time this school year to spend a morning (or more!) in the class.

Skating & Swimming Lessons

In the New Year, students will be taking part in both Skating and Swimming lessons. We rely on parent drivers to take children to and from lessons and to assist once there. If we do not get enough volunteer drivers, we will not be able to run these lessons and the kids will not benefit from these unique program experiences. **Please block off and advise Catherine if you or a family member can help with any part of:**

- ✓ Skating - Wednesdays Jan 13, 20, 27, Feb 3 and 10.
- ✓ Swimming – Tuesdays and Thursdays – March 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17.
 - Volunteers are also needed in the change rooms – are there any Dads or Grandpas that can make these dates to help the boys out?

Casino Update

A tremendous THANK YOU goes out to all of those families that recently worked at our Casino. It was a lot of long (and late) hours but we managed to provide volunteers to make the two days a success! We will find out our total share of proceeds sometime next February or March and we will let everyone know just how successful the two days were. Thanks again for making the time for this valuable fundraiser.



TEACHER'S CORNER



Friendships are being formed that will last for years. It is a great bunch of kids, with a lovely variety of talents.

Our themes for October were 'Fall' and 'Halloween'. We discussed the characteristics of fall, and the changes of the seasons. We found a lovely twisted tree to hug and climb while half the class did their "I Spy" game, using photos of natural things found nearby. The children have been practising writing their names and we have started to learn some sight words. The Halloween theme provided some playful chants, poems and songs - a great language experience for the children. In addition, we discussed imaginary tales and real events (fiction and non-fiction), and talked about ways to use our imaginations to make our own stories. Ask your child to read the poem in the pocket chart, and be encouraging even if it is done by rote. Such early reading experiences help your child understand the concepts of language in print, and familiarize him or her with the top to bottom, left to right flow of print. Some children are ready to sound out some of the words, and will recognize some words by sight. A special thank-you goes to parents who sent in special snacks to help make dress-up day a treat. We had great weather and a ton of fun on the pumpkin hunt at Butterfield Acres.

That brings us to November: the month with only one Friday! The themes for November will be Nutrition and Fairy Tales. Nutrition is always a good thing to consider when we are laden with Halloween treats. Fairy Tales is a super theme for encouraging imagination, dramatic play, puppetry, story-making, drama, and a broader experience of story forms. Kindergarten children will be writing their own "fractured fairy tale", where they take a familiar story and change it to make it their own. In addition to the theme work, we are doing a series of music classes with Wendy Kondrat (Mrs. K). She has years of experience in both music teaching and teaching young children. She will visit approximately every other week. The children love her already!



During November, we will continue the letter of the week program, each week taking a different letter and focusing on recognition, writing and sound. The new letter each week is introduced on Monday (Tuesday if Monday is a holiday) and show and tell items are brought Tuesday (Wednesday if Monday was a holiday.) See if your child can remember the letter on Monday night. You can check for yourself beside the classroom door to back them up, but they should start attending to the letter introduction and remembering the assignment. It's a good university level skill! November is

also report card month for kindergarten children.

Through-out the month I will be assessing skills to bring you an accurate account of their abilities to date. I look forward to meeting with parents of kindergarten kids at Parent/Teacher conferences on the evening of Nov. 26 or during the day on Nov. 27. Interviews and evaluations for junior kindergarten will take place in late January.

With the arrival of the cool and possibly snowy weather, it is important that your child come to school properly dressed for playing outside. We will be going outside throughout the winter as long as the temperature is above -15, so boots and snow pants should be worn daily. If there is good, soft snow, please send a helmet for use with our sleds. If you have a bike helmet not in use, it could be left at school, or hockey helmets are ideal. Make sure your child's NAME is in all of these items and in their boots and mittens.



Thank you for arriving punctually at 9:00, and saying goodbye near the mailboxes. This is a time for valuable practise in writing and letter recognition. Our chalkboard work is preparation for journal-writing later in the year, and in later grades, so it is good to keep it up consistently, and we appreciate having the story corner as calm as possible so we can focus.

Many thanks go to parents who have been able to arrange time to help in the classroom. Your assistance allows us to plan special projects in writing and art. It also frees me up to do more in-depth assessment and evaluation, which will be especially important this month. Best of all, it shows your child that you value learning and care about what they are doing. Please remember to arrive 10 minutes early on your first visit, and 5 minutes early on subsequent visits, so I can discuss the day's plans with you and still be free to greet the children as they arrive. If you would be interested in doing a special project, craft, story, or demo on your helper day, talk to me. Ideas should ideally be theme-related, and new ideas are always most welcome. Music enrichment, crafts, gym times, science demos, cultural traditions - all are interesting and enthusiastically received. Watch for an opportunity to help the parent who will be coordinating a gingerbread house project for December. She will need several parents for the job.



Please note, with Kindergarten Conferences, Parent Teacher Interviews, and Organizational Days, there are several Fridays off in November! Mark your calendar. It would not be fun for a child to show up and find no friends at school. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please call and let me know. I am usually at school for a while when the kids are gone, so that is the best time to chat.

- *Clair*



Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent / Teacher meetings for Kindergarten students will take place the evening of November 26 and the morning of November 27. Information regarding these meetings and signing up for them will come home with Kindergarten students around November 17. Parent / Teacher meetings for Junior Kindergarten students will take place at the end of January.

Fundraising



ALL PROCEEDS go to unique experiences for your child & we need your help!

In order to continue to provide unique experiences for your child, we need your help and support for our ongoing fundraising efforts. *Share the programs with friends, family and co-workers, and on your personal social media as well!* Below are current and upcoming campaigns:

Mabel's Labels

Parents – everything you send to our school must be labeled with your child's name on it and we have discovered a great way to make this extremely easy – AND raise a few dollars for the Kindergarten at the same time.

Mabel's Labels are a fantastic, personalized product that you can order online and in turn, the Kindergarten receives a portion of the sales. Our fundraising campaign will be active throughout the school year so please check out the following link to place your order: <http://campaigns.mabelslabels.com> - be sure to **select or mention in your email order that your order is supporting Dalhousie Community Kindergarten.**

Post-Holiday Bottle Drive

Your Parent Council has decided rather than having monthly bottle drives, that we will have one big bottle collection after the "Festive Season" in early January 2016. The date is yet to be determined but if you could **start setting your bottles aside (& ask friends/family to do the same!)** to be collected here at school, that would be appreciated. We will let everyone know the collection date as soon as it is set.

Farm to School Vegetable Fundraiser

Packages are coming home with students for our vegetable fundraiser. Our school partners with Farm to School for this great fundraiser in which you and your supporters can order vegetables for yourself and / or choose to donate vegetables to the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank while the school gets to keep half of the cash proceeds. Completed order forms and full payment are due back to Kindergarten on Thursday November 12 with a delivery date of Wednesday November 25.

HAPPY NOVEMBER – We will remember...



