

Teacher's Corner

October was an exciting month, filled with fun and learning. 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. On activity night, we loved to have our story 'by pumpkin glow', so thanks for arranging some adult carving help! Thanks to Calgary Coop too, for donating the pumpkins.

That brings us to November: the month with no Fridays! 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.

Important dates for November:

- Nov.7 – Parent Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 2, 16, 30 – Music class with Mrs. K
- Nov. 24 – In-class presentation: Reptiles & Amphibians
- Nov. 24 & 25 – Parent/Teacher meetings*
- **Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25 – No school**
(*More info coming soon)



Farm to School Vegetable fundraiser

Thanks to your tremendous support, our school raised \$756, which will go directly towards providing special programming for your kids! More than 30 bundles were donated directly to the Food Bank.

Reminder about student absences

If your child is sick or will be missing school, please let us know as soon as possible. You can let Miss Destiny or Mrs. Brown know directly if it is planned absence. If your child is sick please call the school at [403-288-1050](tel:403-288-1050) and leave a message as email is not always checked in a timely manner. Thanks for your help with this.



Teacher's Corner continued...

In addition to the theme work, we are doing a series of music classes with Wendy Kondrat. 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. 24 or during the day on Nov. 25. Interviews and evaluations for junior kindergarten will take place in late January.

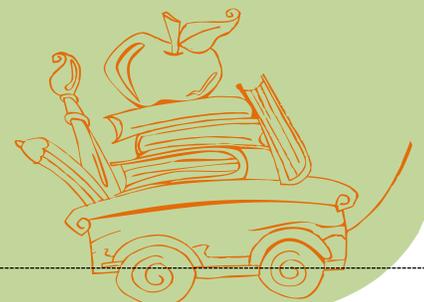
With the arrival of the cool and possibly snowy weather, it is important that your child come to school properly dressed for playing outside. We will be going outside throughout the winter as long as the temperature is above -15, so boots and snow pants should be worn daily. If there is good, soft snow, 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 and grandparents who have arranged 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 Lindsey, 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 to write up reports, there are no Friday school days 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 a good time to chat, or you can email me at any time.

- Clair



Parent/Teacher Meetings

Parent / Teacher meetings for Kindergarten students will take place the evening of November 24 and the morning of November 25. Information regarding these meetings and signing up for them will come home with Kindergarten students around November 15. Parent / Teacher meetings for Junior Kindergarten students will take place at the end of January.

Upcoming Raffle

We are really excited about our next fundraiser – a raffle of sports related items. First prize includes Flames tickets as well as a signed jersey and other items! Tickets will be \$5 each, and the prizes will be drawn at the Family Christmas celebration the evening of December 14th. We will be sending home booklets of raffle tickets to those families interested in selling to family and friends in mid-November. Stay tuned for more details!



Swimming & Skating Lessons

Students will be taking part in both skating and swimming lessons in the New Year. We rely on parent drivers to take children to and from lessons and to assist once there. Note that 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. Drivers able to assist us must have a Police Clearance in place if they will be taking other students, so please get that done as soon as possible.

Skating will take place on Wednesdays Jan 11, 18 and 25 and Feb 1 and 8. All children must have skates and a good fitting helmet.

Swimming will be Tuesdays and Thursdays April 4, 6, 11, 13, 18 and 20. Volunteers are needed in the change rooms; especially to help the boys change if there are any dads or grandpas out there that are able to help out!

We would like to send a great big thanks to past parent Debra Harland for the donation of several great building sets and paper products.



November 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Music Class Vegetables from fundraiser delivered	3	4 NO SCHOOL	5
6	7 Parent Council Meeting, 7 p.m.	8	9	10	11 NO SCHOOL	12
13	14	15	16 Music Class	17	18 NO SCHOOL	19
20	21	22	23	24 Amphibian & Reptile presentation Parent/teacher meetings	25 NO SCHOOL Parent/teacher meetings	26
27	28	29	30 Music Class			

Notes:

Class Information:

Time: 9 – 11:50 a.m.

Phone: 403-288-1050

Teacher: Clair Brown

Administrator: Catherine Spackman

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