

The Latest News

From Grade 7 and 8

2ND EDITION

NOVEMBER, 2009

Welcome to the 2nd edition of The Latest News. This newsletter is brought to you by the students from Grade 7 and 8 and is meant to give you the latest and greatest news and information.

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SECTION 1 RELIGION

The theme in October was "We Believe in the Holy Church". We covered three important topics this month; the importance of belonging; how we are connected to the Christian community through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist; and how the community can take care of us when we feel "broken". As well, since Hallowe'en was this month we investigated the observances of All Saints and All Souls. On October 7, 2009 the class welcomed Mary Smith who is running the Rosary program for our class. She will return on November 5, 2009.

SECTION 2 HISTORY

The grade 7 students continued to work on their New France Project. During class we covered the role of the government, the economy, life on the seigneurie and the Church in New France. During the first week of November the students will be presenting their 10 slide presentation project. The grade 8's continued working on Confederation. Class discussions included the United Province of Canada and inside and outside of British North America. The grade 8's will also be presenting their newspaper project. After each unit the students have been given a study guide to refresh and prepare them for upcoming tests.

SECTION 3 MATH

This month the focus in math was on Number Sense and Numeration. Students learned about number relationships such as multiples, factors, divisibility, powers of numbers and square roots. Grade 8's also explored scientific notation. Because of the diverse class of calculators we also discovered that calculators can evaluate powers and square roots differently. During the month I often assigned an assessment question in which the students handed in to be marked. The rubrics will be included in the file folder that the students take home each month to show their parents.

SECTION 4 LANGUAGE

The students explored the importance of the interview. During the month we covered the topic, watched several examples and as a summative the students were to write and present an interview. The presentation has just nicely started and will continue in to the next week. To recognize Remembrance Day, the students were given a choice to remember by way of a poster, poetry or essay. The students have selected a nice variety of projects. We have continued to read *Among the Hidden* that has for many, made a variety of text to self, text to text and text to world connections. The students are encouraged to continue to read daily and complete two reading responses each week. During our Nelson Literacy time, the grade 7 students continue to explore the role of making connections with a variety of literature based on taking a stand. The grades 8's as well are working on writing and making better connections using global issue scenarios.

SECTION 5 ART/PHYS. ED

The students have explored consumerism as a result of the OTESHA presentation on October 5, 2009. Using grid art, the students are creating a billboard of visuals that impact our decisions as consumers. In Physical Education, we have worked on a variety of volleyball skills and outdoor activities when the weather has permitted.

SECTION 6 SCIENCE

We are continuing to explore Matter and Material this term, as a combined class. Through drama, demonstrations, and hands-on investigations, students will be introduced to viscosity, density and buoyancy. This will serve as the foundation for students' explanations and predictions on topics such as temperature, changes in matter, heat transfer and properties of fluids.

SECTION 7 GEOGRAPHY

In term 1 the grade 7's will be looking at the Five Themes of Geography. Continuing on the path of the five themes, movement, region and environment were the topics covered this month. Interaction will be the last theme... which means an upcoming test/project. Would a Tim Horton's survive in Seaforth? In grade 8, the students continued working on understanding the patterns in human geography. The last two topics will be land use and factors affecting urbanization. How would you design your own city?

Additional Information

The students will be involved in a project called Tomatosphere. This will allow the students an opportunity to experiment with tomato seeds that may have been exposed to varying conditions. This will further develop scientific method skills. See the website at <http://www.tomatosphere.org/>

We have submitted our results and interestingly enough the seeds that were exposed to mars like conditions all germinated starting 2 days faster and looked healthier. The students will now take the plants a step further and expose them to varying conditions.