

# The Latest News

*From Grade 7 and 8*

FIRST EDITION

OCTOBER, 2009

Welcome to the first 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

This past month we focused on understanding who we are and how do we fit into our many communities? We are shaped by communities, and in order to understand any community we need to know its story. God calls us to live in and participate in communities. How do we interact and participate in the Christian community? What is its story? As well, we have discovered the role of saints and their importance in our lives. This month we will be exploring the role of the Church and we will investigate All Saints and Souls Day.

## SECTION 2 HISTORY

In term 1, the grade 7 students are exploring New France. Why did people immigrate to New France and what was the role of the government? As a summative task, using technology, the students are completing a 10 slide presentation on the Life in New France.

In term 1, the grade 8 students are focusing on Confederation. So far we have set the stage, explored the Pacific Coast, gold rush and investigated the Métis and Rupert's Land and presently we are looking at the Atlantic Colonies. As a summative task, the students will become newspaper reporters covering Confederation. They have been

assigned to cover the front page and will explore a variety of issues depending on the colony in which they live.

### **SECTION 3 MATH**

Both grades are completing Patterns and Relationships. As you know, each student completed a Prime which evaluates their strengths in number sense. Our next unit will be Chapter 1, and I anticipate that to start in the second week of October. This will cover topics such as factoring.

### **SECTION 4 LANGUAGE**

The last month was spent getting to know the students and readers, writers and communicators. Each Wednesday and Thursday is spent on learning and implementing a specific writing or reading strategy. The other days focus on Nelson Literacy which often allows the students to transfer their learning in other subject areas.

### **SECTION 5 ART/PHYS. ED**

To date the students have completed two tasks in art. The first was I Spy Art (which allowed the students to create a picture that contained a hidden object.) The second task was to allow me to assess student's ability to demonstrate balance, shading, color scheme, overlap and depth by way of sphere drawing. In Physical Education, we have completed on group cooperation and soccer. This month we will focus on volleyball and flag football as well as indoor games.

### **SECTION 6 SCIENCE**

We are exploring Matter and Material this term, as a combined class. Through drama, demonstrations, and hands-on investigations, students will be introduced to the particle theory. 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. Place and Location were explored last month and Movement, Region and Environment will be explored in October. How many advantages and disadvantages can you come up with for GPS, Absolute and Relative Location? In term 1 the grade 8's are looking at Patterns in Human Geography. What type of settlement do you live in? Clustered, linear or scattered? What encourages/discourages population growth?

## 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/>*