

# ST. JAMES SCHOOL

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## *Grade 4/5 NEWS*



November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

Dear Parents,

It's amazing to believe that another month has passed by in Grade 4/5! The students had a very busy month at school! We participated in the Terry Fox Run, enjoyed our first visit from Mr. and Mrs. Vanden Hengel for the Rosary Program, celebrated Thanksgiving Mass, had big smiles for picture day, celebrated a class mass with members of the community, built Haunted Houses, had some fun celebrating Halloween, and went on our second school trip of the year to the Seaforth Town Hall for Local Government. The students had the opportunity to meet the mayor of Huron East, Mr. Seili, as well as three councillors, Mr. McLachlan, Mr. Fisher, and Mr. Steffler. Thanks to all of the parents who accompanied us to the Town Hall!

Please continue to initial the planner every night. Thanks for all of your support! Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns.

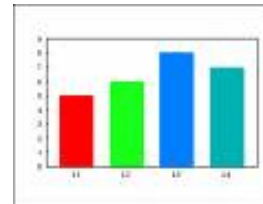
Happy November!!

Denise Nolan

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## Mathematics

In Grade 4, we will continue to work on Chapter 3: Data Management. The students will continue to learn various ways to collect and organize data, read and interpret tables, charts and graphs. We will also begin Chapter 4: Addition and Subtraction. Your child will learn to add two 4-digit numbers and to subtract a number from a 4-digit number. Your child will also learn how use mental calculation to add and subtract 2-digit numbers such as  $40 - 19$  and  $58 + 28$ . They will also use addition and subtraction to solve money problems such as comparing prices and making change. **Some at-home activities to support your child's learning of numbers and data are:**



- Your child can practice collecting and displaying data. One way to do this is by collecting data about the time spent on various activities during the week. Your child could also predict which activity takes up the most or least time. The data gathered can be displayed in a table, bar graph, or pictograph.
- Your child can examine advertising flyers for prices less than \$50. For example, they might determine what items can be purchased with \$40 and what change they can expect to receive.

In Grade 5, we will continue to work on Chapter 3: Data Management. The students will

continue to learn how to determine mean and mode, how to create surveys, charts, tables, and a variety of graphs. We will also begin Chapter 4: Addition and Subtraction. The students will explore strategies for adding and subtracting whole numbers and decimal numbers using mental arithmetic. They will also use estimation skills to check the accuracy of their computations. These are important skills, used almost everyday by adults, for your child to develop. **Some at-home activities to support your child's learning of numbers and data are:**

- You and your child can search a variety of newspapers, magazines, or informational texts for examples of graphs and discuss the type of graph and why it is or is not the best type to be used to display those specific results.
- Write 5 four digit addition and subtraction questions on a piece of paper. Calculate each result while your child estimates the answer mentally. Who is faster?
- Have your child find several items from a sales flyer that they could purchase if they \$100. Your child should then be able to find the total cost of the items and describe at least 3 different ways in which she or he could receive change for their purchases.



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## Language



The students are doing well using predicting and visualization to help them understand their reading. At home, you can ask your child to make a prediction before and during their reading. The students should be using illustrations, text features (title, subtitles), personal experiences, and schema (previous knowledge) to help them to make a good prediction. You can also ask your child what they are picturing in their head as they are reading.



In November, in the reading workshop, the students will be focusing summarizing what they read. In summarizing a text, the reader must combine meanings, identify important information, and **condense** the key messages into the main points that are worth noting and remembering.

Please continue to encourage you child to read 15 minutes each night of some reading material (novel, picture book, newspaper, magazine, etc.) Thanks!

During the month of October, the students wrote a mystery Halloween story. In the writing workshop in November, we will continue to work on paragraph writing. The students will be writing a "Stinky Story" where they will use descriptive language to explain the life of a milkshake traveling through the human body. This directly links with our science unit on the human body. Some helpful hints for at home writing:

**Paragraphs:** A paragraph is the unit of a larger piece of writing. The first sentence of a paragraph is the *topic sentence*. This sentence must be indented. The topic sentence must have a subject and a feeling or attitude. The *body sentences* add specific details to tell more about the topic. The *closing sentence* is the last sentence in the paragraph.

We will also be focusing on writing strong leads.

The students will continue to practice their cursive writing every day.

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## Social Studies

We will continue with our study of government in mid-November. We will be focusing on municipal government. The students will all be able to make excellent connections to this unit of study from our trip to the Town Hall during Local Government week.

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## Science

The students have begun their final assignments for the Human Body. Each child is in a group and will become an expert on a specific system of the body. The students have already created a 2-D model of their system and have their research complete for their posted. They will be assembling their 3-D model shortly. Your child may be asking to bring in some materials from home to contribute to their group when building the 3-D model. Presentations of the Human Body Final Assignment will take place the week of Nov. 9th.



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## Physical Education and Health



This month we will begin a unit on dance. The students will learn about various elements of dance such as body, space, time, energy, and relationship. We will also begin a unit on volleyball. Students will focus on developing their ball handling skills, movement patterns, forearm pass and underhand serve.

In health, we have been discussing healthy eating and how it affects the human body.

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## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time
November 6	School Mass	9:15 a.m.
November 11	Remembrance Day	
November 13	P.A. Day	



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## Discovery Corner

Check out these cool websites:

- ★ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>

This is a great interactive website for the students to practice their keyboarding skills. In Grade 4/5, we will be completing many assignments on the computer, so it is important that the students become efficient with their keyboarding skills.



