

ST. JAMES SCHOOL

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October



Grade 4/5 NEWS

October 1, 2009

Dear Parents,

Wow! Where did September go? The students had a very busy month at school! We had a lot of fun participating in the educational centers at the Seaforth Fall Fair. The Grade 4/5 students led our opening school mass. They all did a FANTASTIC job! I was very proud of them! We also had an awesome trip to Morrison Dam yesterday. Although the weather was a bit cold and wet, we had a lot of fun! Special thanks to our parent volunteers who accompanied us!

The students are now into the routine of writing homework, upcoming assignments and tests, and upcoming events into their planner. Please continue to check and initial their planner every night. Also, any tests, permissions forms, etc. that need your signature will be in the front of your child's planner. Please return to school the next day. Thanks for your cooperation!

*****If you would like to continue to receive a PAPER COPY of this newsletter, the "Grade 4/5 NEWS," please let me know by writing a note in your child's planner. The "Grade 4/5 NEWS" is available online on the St. James website.**

Happy October!

Denise Nolan

Religion

In religion, we will continue to deepen the experience of faith in the Lord. This deepening of faith in our lives and in the life of the Church is an action of the Holy Spirit. As a class we will:

- ★ reflect on what it means to be a family where stories and traditions are passed on;
- ★ through story and Scripture, discover why the church preserves and shares with us the treasure of the Scriptures
- ★ experience the handing on of the Good News

The students will also be participating in the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Any non-perishable food items that you are able to donate to this worthy cause would be very much appreciated!!

Mathematics

We will be completing Unit 1: Patterns in Math next week. Then, we will be working on Chapter 2: Numeration and Chapter 3: Data Management.

In Grade 4, your child will be working with numbers to 10,000. Relationships among numbers will be emphasized as the students compare and order numbers, explore number patterns, and develop number sense. Your child will also work with play money as students estimate, count, and write money amounts up to \$50. *I encourage your child to practice counting out money at home.* We will also begin Chapter 3: Data Management. In this chapter, your child will learn about various ways to



collect and organize data, read and interpret tables, charts and graphs. Some at-home activities to support your child's learning of numbers and data management are:

- ◆ Your child could look through store flyers and count out the bills and coins needed to purchase various items
- ◆ Your child can relate numbers of distances between places he/she has been or has heard about
- ◆ 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.



In Grade 5, your child will be exploring decimal numbers and whole numbers from 0.01 to 100,000. Students will represent numbers using materials such as place value blocks and metre sticks. They will learn to compare and order numbers and will explore the use of numbers greater than 10,000 in everyday situations, such as sports events and city populations. Your child will also be estimating and counting money to \$1000.00. *I encourage your child to practice counting out money at home.* We will also begin a unit on Data Management. In this unit, your child will learn about mean and mode, and how to create surveys, charts, tables, and a variety of graphs. The students will be asked to collect data in an organized way as well as to interpret, display, and analyze the results. Some at-home activities to support your child's learning of numbers and data management are:

- ◆ Your child can read and write numbers found in newspapers or magazines that are between 1,000 and 100,000.
- ◆ Your child can look for examples of rounding on the television, radio newscasts, or weather reports
- ◆ Your child can look through sales flyers or catalogues for 10 items to purchase, then make a list of the items in order from least expensive to most expensive.
- ◆ You and your child can search a variety of newspapers, magazines, or informational texts for examples of graphs. Discuss together the type of graph and why it is or is not the best type to be used to display those specific results. Also look at the range and choice of scale used, the validity of the graph results, and the interpretation of the results.

Language

In the reading workshop, we will begin learning how to use visualization as a comprehension strategy. When the students are reading, they should be visualizing what is happening in the story to help them understand the story. When your child is reading they should have a picture in their head that would reflect what is happening in the story. In the evening, while your child is reading, ask them what they are picturing in their head. These pictures are helping them to comprehend the text.

Please encourage your child to read approximately 15 minutes each night from some reading material (novel, picture book, newspaper, magazine, etc.). It is also a good idea to ask your child to tell you what they read to ensure they are understanding the text. We have reviewed in class what an "easy," "just right," and "challenging" texts are. The students should be attempting to read "just right" texts.

In the writing workshop, we have reviewed when to use capital letters and punctuation. We have also learned how to use the dictionary to help with spelling. If you could encourage your child to use capital letters, correct punctuation and spelling at home, that would be very helpful. I hope you enjoyed reading their "The Best Part of Me" and "Summer Postcard" at the Open House as much as I did! The Summer Postcards have been put into a class book, so the students are able to read what each other did during the summer.



We will begin a series of writing workshops on "How to Write a Paragraph." The students will have the opportunity to use what they learn about paragraph writing and transfer it into writing opportunities in the classroom. We will also be focusing on the writing strategy of building a main idea. Building a good main idea is the first step in creating an effective, interesting piece of writing.

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

Social Studies

At the end of October, we will continue with our study of Canadian Government.

Science

We will begin our unit on the Human Body. The focus of this unit is on the human body's various systems and the care of each system. Student will investigate these systems, explore ways to maintain them through proper nutrition and exercise, and relate this knowledge to technological and lifestyle consideration, such as medical advances and media influences. A science word wall will be available to the students on our science / social studies board as there is extensive vocabulary in this unit.




Physical Education and Health

In phys ed, we will continue our unit on soccer. The students will continue to learn how to dribble, pass, and shoot a soccer ball using proper movement skills.

In health, we will continue to discuss Personal Safety and Injury Prevention.



Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Time
October 8	Terry Fox Run	p.m.
October 9	Thanksgiving Mass, Wear red and white to support United Way!	9:15
October 12	Happy Thanksgiving!	
October 13	SMILE :) Picture Day	
October 30	Halloween celebrations - wear black and orange (more details will follow as well!)	
October 31	Happy Halloween! Have fun trick or treating! Be safe!	



Discovery Corner

Check out these cool websites:

- ★ www.kidshealth.org
Students can enter "For Kids" and find articles on "Staying Healthy," "How the body Works," "Staying Safe," and much more. This website has a lot of fun features and interactive activities.
- ★ <http://www.mathk8.nelson.com>
This is a great website for the students to check out. The activities are directly related to the math activities that we do at school.



