

November 2011



Hello Parents and Guardians!

October has flown by and we are now into our third month of *Grade One!* The students have been working very hard at becoming responsible and respectful members of the class. I am happy to see that most students remember to hand in their spelling homework and home reading assignments. Thank you for your support with this.

Over the last month or so, I have been making an extra effort to encourage the children to solve their conflicts in a calm, respectful manner. Instead of immediately "telling" on their classmates, I'd like them to gain some independence by talking it out with the other person first. It is so important that we always remind them of the *Golden Rule*: treat others the way you would want to be treated. Thank you for reviewing this with your child!

Looking forward to another enjoyable and productive month!
Ms. Anna Clarke



Just a reminder...

Now that the weather is getting colder, all students should be bringing a coat to school! Thank you!

On November 28, I have invited *High Touch High Tech* into our classroom for an in-class field trip. They offer excellent, hands-on workshops where the kids participate in a variety of science experiments. The workshop is called "Weather or Not" and ties in nicely with our science curriculum. The cost is \$7.00 per person. I will be sending a form home in your child's student planner. Please remember to enclose the money in an envelope! Thanks very much!

Reading and Spelling

Our Home Reading and Spelling program is now underway. The expectation is that your child will spend approximately 5 minutes each night practicing their spelling words. Additionally, students will take home a book appropriate to their reading level every night. My hope is that students will develop their sight word vocabulary and fluency, but most important will develop their love for reading. Please remember to record each book in the Home Reading Log! This should be handed into me each time they've read and recorded 25 books.

Mathematics

In November, we will begin to work with numbers 1 - 100, identifying the number that comes before and after, as well as counting by 10's from any given number (ex. 38, 48, 58 etc...) Please try to point out numbers to your child on a daily basis (i.e. your address, price tags, street numbers, or phone numbers.) There are many ways that you can engage your child in simple, fun math problems. You can turn everyday events into math stories. For example: "There are 8 slices of bread left in the bag. If you take 2 slices out to make a sandwich, how many are left?" Then create a "number sentence" to show that mathematics has taken place (i.e. $8 - 2 = 6$) This is a great way to reinforce what we're learning at school.

Religion

This month the students have been practicing the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Angel of God prayers. The students have learnt that the saints are the "heroes" of the Catholic Church and have learnt a bit about the life story of Saint Patrick and his call to service. We are also continuing with the Christ Our Life program.