



# November Newsletter



Time is flying! It is hard to believe that two months have passed in the school year already! We continue to enjoy getting to know the families of students and look forward to on-going communication.

## Curriculum Focus

During the month of November, we will continue with the *Jolly Phonics* programme. Please continue to work with your child at home (finding letters on cereal boxes, or in favourite story books). We will carry on learning the accompanying jingles and playing games to reinforce the letter sound relationship. If you need or want any more ideas on how to support you child's learning at home, please contact me. We will also continue to learn our, "Words of the Week." (Lightning words). Sight words are words that often appear in emergent readers and can sometimes be difficult to phonetically sound out. The goal is to know these words "by sight" (without sounding out) to support reading fluency.

Over the course of the month, we will be focusing on two new themes, *Weather and Water*. In math, we will be focusing on number sense (value of numbers, quantity: more, less, same, recognition of numbers).

Our primary grades are working on MAKE CONNECTIONS and Activating our Schema when you read stories. What does this mean: good readers use their personal experiences, knowledge of the world and previously read books to help them understand what they are reading. Encourage your child to think about: what the book reminds them of; what the book is the same as; what they have once done, and what the makes them think of.

In Science, we will be starting hands on experiments with water (e.g., sink/float).

With the weather changing rapidly and winter knocking on our doorstep, we are also focusing on independence with regards to students getting dressed and undressed in outdoor clothing. Class time is very valuable and we hope to minimize the amount of time spent in the cloakroom. It would be ***extremely helpful*** if students practised putting on and taking off their winter clothing, ***doing up zippers*** independently, as well as, correcting sleeves that have been turned inside-out. Also, as more and more snow pants, mittens and toques arrive at school, it is essential that all garments sent to school are **labeled** with the child's name to alleviate confusion and tears! Thank you for your cooperation.

**Illness:** If your child shows flu-like symptoms of fever and cough plus one or more of the following: sore throat, muscle aches, tiredness, headache, and possibly vomiting or diarrhea they must stay home and not attend school until the fever is gone for 24 hours, without fever-reducing medication. This is extremely important in kindergarten as children at this age do not always use proper hygiene and germs spread very quickly.

**Litterless Snack/Lunch:** EVERY TUESDAY will be litterless day. This means NO garbage! Please send food and drinks in reusable containers that can be brought back home.

**Hands off Policy:** We have been focusing on, "Hands are for helping, not hurting" in our classrooms. We have noticed that some children are still having difficulties keeping their hands to themselves. Please discuss with your child about the importance of keeping their hands to themselves (e.g., no pushing, hitting, taking toys from others, etc.).

## **Here are some important dates to note in the month of November:**

November 2nd - Picture retakes (am)

November 7<sup>th</sup> - Jack Grunsky Concert

November 11<sup>th</sup> - Remembrance Day assembly 11:10am

## **Operation Christmas Child**

Operation Christmas Child ("the Shoebox Campaign") is underway and our class has decided to collect items for a child age 10-14. Operation Christmas Child allows our students to help other children in less fortunate countries. By contributing to our class shoebox the students allow a child, somewhere else in the world, to receive a "shoebox" full of hope and items (like a Christmas present) that they otherwise would never have. A small donation to our class shoebox would be greatly appreciated. A list of appropriate items and the age group and gender came home with your child, as each box is class specific. Monetary donations are also welcome and will go towards purchasing extra items for the boxes or helping pay for the shipping cost of each box. If your family would like to create a complete shoebox on its own and send it in that is welcome as well, just send me a note if you need a shoebox to put the items in. Shoeboxes are available if you would like one for your family from Mrs. Vande Kraats. Items and completed shoeboxes need to be sent to the school by **Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>** so that the boxes can be packed and ready for pick up the following week.

*Thank you to everyone who supports the no candy/chocolate at school. As stated in the October newsletter,* "The school food and beverage policy requires us to promote healthier food choices in the school. Please do your part to send in **HEALTHY** snacks and lunches, for example: fresh fruit and veggies, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, yogurt, granola bars (not covered in chocolate), etc. Most importantly, we are a **NUT FREE** school!!!! Please check labels carefully."

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

*Mrs. Haney*

***Character Trait: Responsibility***