

Intermediate Newsletter

February 2012

Once again from the intermediate division, we would like to welcome you back after a long break. It is that time again, where students are back to the "grind stone" focusing on the many things leading up to their secondary education. We are almost halfway through the school year and many of us can't believe it. This is probably due to the fact that we, (students and teachers) are continually involved in many different areas that Jacob Beam has to offer.

Language Arts

During this block the students will continue their focus on the following areas of writing:

- Persuasive Writing
- Explanatory Writing
- Report Writing
- Narrative Writing

Throughout this next term, we will look at these different forms of writing in great detail. In each case we follow the same guidelines. We begin with one week of whole class instruction where each form of writing is explain and examined. Next, we turn our focus towards a smaller collaborative setting. This is an opportunity for the students to begin following the specific guidelines gained from the whole class lessons and work towards an independent assignment that will later follow. Lastly, each student is required to produce an individual assignment at the conclusion of the unit.

Along with these writing units, they are also involved in their very own personal reading program which is running very successfully. As well, we have continued with our Nelson Reading Program. This includes class discussions on the many issues surrounding our daily lives as well as the world around them. We are beginning to see an impact that this leaving on our students. Some of the discussions we have are well thought out and the students seem to offer more insight into their way of thinking. These books allow the students to make predictions, activate their schema, synthesize and evaluate different types of media. As well, our critical focus shifts away from the summarizing they have been doing to now examining how to make quality inferences. In this area, the children will receive numerous lessons on how to look for the small clues in pictures, text and novels, in order to make an educated judgement or statement about what the are reading.

Just a reminder to both parents and students about independent novels. Each student chooses their own novel to read throughout the day. It is important to remember to chose a novel most suited to their own reading level. This includes novels brought from home or here from our own library. Many reading activities stem from their novels so important to choose a novel that interests you.

Mathematics

Our focus in our Math program turns to many different areas. The following units shall be covered in our upcoming term.

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angles and Bisectors• Transformations of 2D shapes• Volume and Surface Area• Fractional Operations• Integers• Algebraic Expressions• Probability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measurement of circles• Angles and Triangles• Transformations• Integers• Fractional Operations• Probability

It is our belief that the students should be involved in questions and assignments that have a real life application. They will usually spend a day or two discovering and applying these new concepts and then a test/quiz or assignment will follow in the week(s) ahead where they can show what they have learned. The students can also expect homework 3 or 4 days a week in mathematics. The amount will depend on their ability to use the class time given to them.

Physical Education

With the start of a new term upon us, we have shifted our units to include both basketball and fitness. For basketball, the season is underway and many of the students who are on the school teams have another place to practice their skills. They also are able to help others develop further in their skill development.

The other class has been well underway with a health and fitness program. These classes are focused around lifestyle changes and suggestions one would follow to live a more healthy life. Both nutrition and exercise are the centre of these units. Afterwards, our units to follow include badminton, track and field and 3-pitch. It is important that each child comes to class prepared to work and puts forth a consistent effort during physical education.

Science

The remainder of the year will have the students examining 2 units. Currently, we are learning about cells and their environments. The unit examines the basic building blocks of life and how they perform many small everyday functions. Afterwards we will turn our focus towards examining fluids and their properties.

In science, it is important to remember a few small skills. It can be a difficult subject with many terms and concepts taught along the way. Therefore, working on asking questions when concepts become difficult as well as taking quality notes during class lessons are important factors to become successful in science.

Geography/History

We have concluded our studies in history and are shifting our focus to geography for the remainder of the year. Our first unit of study will be on The Five Themes of Geography. In this unit we will study Places and Movement along with Environmental Interaction. The students will be assigned several activities in which they will need to explain how we as humans can have a positive and negative effect on our world. Also how our decisions today can effect future generations. We will then study Physical Patterns and end off with Natural Resources. There will be a number of assignments along the way that will challenge each student to re-think about how they affect their world everyday.