

Kindergarten News

“Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn.”

~ O. Fred Donaldson



October 2014

Important Dates:

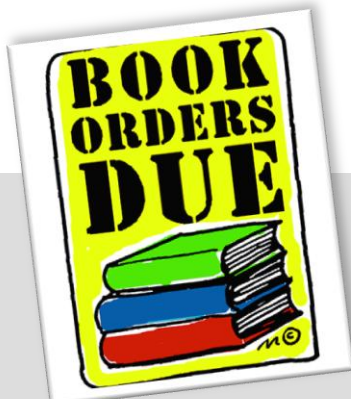
- October 22nd Scholastic book orders due
- October 27th P.A. Day (no school)
- October 30th Rocket Rally @ 11:10 am
Character Trait:
Responsibility
- October 31st Halloween Class Parade

Outdoor Play

As the weather is changing please send your child with appropriate clothing. In addition to daily recess play, we will also be exploring our environment during our Nature Walks (usually on Day 4) as well as some morning outdoor play (Day 3 and Day 4). We will line up, take attendance, and then children will be dismissed to explore in the Kindergarten pen. Soon we will be outside exploring in the snow!

In order for the children to enjoy themselves outside it is very important that your child is dressed for the weather. Layers are great so the children can take off a layer if they get hot while playing. Putting your child's name on their clothing, shoes, boots etc. helps us get the correct clothing home to you, don't forget there are 27 sets of everything in the class this year!

Bringing the classroom outdoors allows students to learn about our environment and nature first hand!



Scholastic Book Orders

Thank you to all who ordered books in September. We were able to purchase a few extra books for our reading corner. October Scholastic orders will be due on **Friday, October 22nd**. Please make cheques payable to Scholastic Canada Ltd.



Home-School Connections

Getting Dressed:

With winter around the corner, children will be wearing more layers and clothing. Getting dressed for recess in a smaller space with several children can be an overwhelming experience. We will be teaching children to keep hats and mitts inside their coat sleeves so they won't get lost. Any wet mitts will be placed on the coat shelf to dry. We have also been working on zipping up coats and getting dressed independently. You can help your child by continuing to practice putting on coats and boots by themselves and zipping up sweaters and jackets.

Cold & Flu Season:

Kindergarten classrooms can get germ-filled very quickly, which can cause many children to pick up colds, the flu and other viruses. Please think about the following areas of hygiene, as we are approaching cold and flu season:

- ❖ Please keep sick children at home (including those who have had **vomiting, diarrhea or fever** within the previous **24 hours**)
- ❖ Please review proper hand washing techniques with your child (soap and water!)

- ❖ Please practise washroom routines (wipe, flush, wash hands with soap and water)
- ❖ Please review sneezing, coughing (into the elbow/tissue), how to wipe/blow your nose (and then wash hands).

We will continue to remind all children to follow these important tips to help keep everyone healthy! Let's work together to have a healthy learning environment for all.

We are accepting any tissue box donation you would like to make to the class.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

Student Council is holding a spirit day on October 31st. Students are invited to wear their Halloween costumes or the colours black and orange. We will have a parade on the first floor of the school, visiting classrooms, to share our costumes with other primary classes. Costumes that are hard to put on and take off will make it difficult for your child to use the bathroom and could lead to wet clothing.



The junior/intermediate students who belong to the group, *Be the Change*, are organizing a food drive called "**We Scare Hunger**". Each class is accepting non-perishable food items. The class who collects the most donations will win a prize! The winning classes from each division (primary, junior, intermediate) will be announced at our Rocket Rally on October 30th.

CURRICULUM CORNER

Personal & Social Development

“The personal and social development of young children lays the social and cognitive groundwork that fosters a love for school, engages the children in the process of learning, and supports future success in school and in life.” (The Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program; Pg.50)

We have started our year learning how to navigate the busy social world of Kindergarten. Meeting new friends, treating others with kindness and respect, playing and sharing with others, exploring interests and solving problems are daily realities in your child’s life at school. For some children, these skills can be overwhelming, unfamiliar, and even a bit scary. To help everyone feel safe, welcomed and supported, the children have been learning about themselves, their interests and ways that make them special and unique. This term we will explore topics such as:

- Respect
- Friendships: how to treat our friends
- How to solve simple problems
- Manners



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Math

We have been learning how to sort objects into groups that are the same. We are learning that we can sort objects by colour, size, shape and type. We are learning to use ‘math talk’ to explain our thinking. For example “I put all the circles in this pile because they are the same size” or “I put all the purple buttons in this pile because they are the same colour”. We will continue to sort things that are the same throughout the year. At home, you can ask your child to help you sort the kitchen dishes, utensils (except the knives!) and even their laundry! Next, we will be looking at graphs and learning how to read a simple bar and picture graph. We will use language such as “more”, “same” and “less” to help us describe the graph data.

Language

We have gotten off to a busy start in our language block! We have been learning about letter names and the sounds that they make. We have also been learning new sight words such as “I”, “see” and “the”. Each week, we will focus on learning new sight words and continue to learn about letter sounds to help us on our learning journey to reading! Children have been excited to learn how to spell their name. We use magnetic letters, letter tiles and our classroom SMART Board to help students learn the letters of their name. Some of our students are even starting to write their name! To help with letter formations, we are teaching our students special rhymes. For example, when writing the letter ‘a’ we say “around the apple, down the leaf”. If you’re interested in letter writing with your child at home please let me know and I can send the rhymes home for you to practice with your child.

Science

We have been learning about fall changes and the characteristics of fall. Students will be able to demonstrate their awareness of their natural environment during exploration times and on our nature walks. Ms. Barron brought in various fall vegetables such as a squash and a gourd. We talked about what we saw and felt and we made “I think” predictions of what each vegetable looked like inside. Some of our students were surprised to see and feel the inside of each vegetable after Ms. Barron cut open each one. Next, we will learn about animals in the fall.

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