January Grade 3/4 Newsletter

Happy 2020!!!! I hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas break and are now feeling rejuvenated and ready to get back into routine as we begin this new year. This month brings about the opportunity for us all to set goals for ourselves for the upcoming year. We will look back at 2019 to see what we are thankful for and then look forward to 2020 setting both academic and personal goals that we are hoping to achieve.

This month we have lots of exciting activities taking place both inside and outside of the classroom. Please see below for specific dates and activities that we will be participating in. More information will follow (e.g. note, permission form) as we get closer to the date.

For the next few months (January until March) we are going to focus on a math problem of the week for our weekly home assignment in lieu of the home reading program that took place during first term. Grade 4 students will be assigned a Problem of the Week from the University of Waterloo at the grade 3/4 level, whereas the grade 3 students will be assigned multiple choice EQAO practice questions to revisit and review concepts that have already been taught earlier this year. We will begin this program next week back. Activities will be assigned on Monday and are to be returned by Thursday each week. This will give us an opportunity to consolidate the learning on Friday. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress as we begin 2020 please do not hesitate to contact me at any point so that we can work together to ensure your child's success.

Yours in Education,
Mrs. Karen Vitalis

January Dates to Remember

* January 6th - Welcome back!!!!!!!
* January 9th - Pizza Day
* January 14th - STEM at 1:25
* January 16th - Hotdog Day
* January 20th - PA DAY
* January 23rd - Boston Pizza Hot Lunch, STEM at 1:25
* January 30th - LaBottega Hot Lunch
* February 7th (Term 1 Report Cards go home)

Learning Skills - Organization, Responsibility, Independent Worker, Collaboration

This month we are going to continue to review and discuss the four learning skills that we have focused on at this point in the school year. Students continue to work on following established classroom rules and routines as we begin to learn new content specific to the grade that your child is in. It is important to remember that we are constantly building upon skills that we have reviewed and previously learned this year and will begin to learn some new content that will be introduced this upcoming term as we move further into the school year.

We continue to discuss the importance of maintaining a positive learning environment where all students are able to learn to the best of their abilities. Minimizing distractions during lessons, and independent seat work, are very important in order for us all to work collaboratively to produce a successful learning environment. I will continue to monitor this expectation and will contact you if your child is having difficulties demonstrating this expectation in the new year so that we can all work together to help see improvements in these learning habits moving forward.

Problem of the Week

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, students will be assigned a problem of the week related to what we are currently (grade 4) or previously learned (grade 3) each Monday. Students are to complete the activity/activities by Thursday each week so that we can consolidate the learning on Friday.

Numeracy Corner

Our focus this month in numeracy will be on multiplication. We will examine the different meanings of multiplication (repeated addition, skip counting, arrays) to help us develop efficient strategies to recall our facts to 7 x 7 (grade 3) and 10 x 10 (grade 4). Students will have opportunities to practice their facts during daily number talks that will focus on a number of different properties associated with this order of operation (e.g. communitive property - if I know 6 x 5 then I know 5 x 6 and distributive property 7 x 5 is the same as 5 x 5 and 2 x 5 (2 more groups of 5).

Literacy Nook

Reading - This month we will be using the Nelson Literacy to help supplement our science and social studies program. Students will be reading a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts related to this subject areas.

Writing - This month we will turn our attention to narrative writing. We will focus on the plot (beginning, middle, and end) as well as the setting (when and where the story takes place) characters, and problem.

This year we have learned about nouns and verbs. We will move onto adjectives this month and attempt to incorporate this form of grammar into our daily work as much as possible to help add more detail to our written work.

Happy Birthday to …

Haylee, Holly and William