

## October Newsletter

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that it is already the beginning of October! September flew by so quickly. We have had a great start to the school year and have a wonderful group of children in our class. I am looking forward to a great year of learning and fun!

### Homework

Homework begins next week! All the necessary information (e.g., passwords, email addresses) are stapled to this newsletter. **Please take these laminated cards and leave them at home.** The homework will be shared with your child electronically. Please follow the procedure on the [Homework page](#) of the classroom website: [www.nihmey.class.weebly.com](http://www.nihmey.class.weebly.com). We will have our first WWW test on **Thursday October 5th** because Friday is a PD day, but will continue to do them weekly on Fridays unless otherwise noted. I ask that your child please type the homework themselves (if able) as this is an EQAO (provincial testing) year and it is going to be digital. Their homework is a great place for them to practise their typing skills!

### Boomerang Lunches

I will continue to ask the children to bring home any packaging and recyclables. The children can ask me for a Ziplock bag if they need one to bring home their containers in. They are doing an amazing job with this and I thank you once again for your help with this process!

### Learning Commons

Our Learning Commons Day is **every second Thursday beginning today, September 28th**. Please have the children return their books the **Monday** of the week of our Learning Commons day. These dates are placed on the class calendar which you can find under ["Calendar"](#) on the [class website](#). If the dates happen to change, you will be notified by me through your child's agenda and on Twitter.

### Headphones

Please send in a pair of headphones to school with your child to use throughout the school year. We will be using them frequently with our Chromebooks.

### Gym

We are scheduled to go to the gym on **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. Thank you for sending them in shoes that they can run in. We have been making sure to stretch before our physical activities and cool down after. We have started to play Soccer-Baseball and the kiddos really seem to be enjoying it.

### Shoes

Please ensure that your child comes to school with an **indoor and outdoor** pair of shoes.

### Family Photo

If you could please send in a family photo to add to our Faith Table wall it would be greatly appreciated.

### Learning Skills

For the Progress Report, which goes home in early November, the two learning skills that we will focus on are **Responsibility and Organization**. The expectations for these skills will be discussed in class. Below are the expectations that these skills entail. If you could talk about them with your child and have your child tell you how they feel they are doing, that would be most helpful.

#### Responsibility:

- I line up quietly when the bell rings.
- I do not take or touch things that do not belong to me unless I have asked to use them.
- I take care of my things and the class.
- I keep my space clean and organized.
- I admit when I have done something wrong.
- I stay on task even when the teacher isn't looking.
- I do what I am supposed to do when I am supposed to do it.
- I look at what everybody else is doing if I am unsure of the given direction or task.
- I speak politely to my classmates and teachers.
- I know what to do when I need help.
- I come to class prepared with everything I need for the day.
- I complete and submit homework assignments on time.
- I am respectful when there is a guest teacher.

### Organization:

- I use the resources around the room to help me with my work (e.g., word wall, anchor charts, dictionaries).
- I keep my desk and cubby area tidy and can find the things I need easily.
- I put things away and hang things up without reminders.
- I make sure I have the tools and supplies I need for the day (e.g., pencil, eraser, coloured pencils).
- I bring things home and back to school on time (e.g., library books, homework, things to be signed).
- I manage my time well to ensure that I am not rushing, but that I complete my tasks in the allotted time frames.

### Math

The strand in Math that we have been covering throughout September and that we are just finishing up is **Patterns and Relationships**. The expectations for this strand are the following:

- identify and describe repeating elements and operations in a variety of patterns, including patterns found in real-life contexts
- create and translate patterns that have repeating elements, movements, or operations using various representations, including shapes, numbers, and tables of values
- determine pattern rules and use them to extend patterns, make and justify predictions, and identify missing elements in patterns that have repeating elements, movements, or operations
- create and describe patterns to illustrate relationships among whole numbers up to 1000

We will be moving on to one of our **Number Sense** strands next. The expectations for this strand are the following:

- count to 1000, including by 50s, 100s, and 200s, using a variety of tools and strategies
- use mental math strategies, including estimation, to add and subtract whole numbers that add up to no more than 1000, and explain the strategies used
- represent and solve problems involving the addition and subtraction of whole numbers that add up to no more than 1000, using various tools and algorithms

There will not be any formal tests in Math. I have been observing the kids in class to see how they are doing and will continue to assess their knowledge through observations and "check-ins" (tests).

## Language

We have been discussing sentence writing and what makes a complex (big Grade Three sentence). We have worked a lot on connecting the two smaller sentences together using a linking word (e.g., because, and, but etc.). Please practise writing sentences at home with your child using proper grammar, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation.

Our focus right now in writing is **Recount** paragraphs.

The criteria that the children are expected to use in their Recount writing pieces are as follows:

- Title**
- Opening sentence: WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW**
- Sequence (Order Words): First, Next, Then, After that, Finally**
- Closing Sentence: a feeling or emotion**
- Capital Letters**
- Proper Punctuation: periods (.), question marks (?), exclamation marks (!)**
- Good detailed sentences using LINKING WORDS (but, because, and, or)**
- Sentences make sense**
- Adjectives using your 5 senses:**
- Written in Past Tense**
- Neat Handwriting and good spelling**

For reading, we will be focusing on strategies that help us to better comprehend what we are reading such as **fix-up strategies (e.g. slowing down, using context clues, making connections)** and **visualizing (the ability to create a picture of what we are reading about, in our head)**. A big focus for reading this year is displaying comprehension through answers to questions about the text, **in writing**. The children will learn to ensure that they have given enough detail from the text and enough of their own ideas to support their answers and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of what the given text is about.

The Language curriculum has changed this year and phonics has become a focus. We have been touching on phonics daily in our Language classes.

## Religion

We continue to discuss and complete activities with regard to **Samaritans on the Digital Road** - This program is done throughout the board at every grade level to engage students in learning about participating in the digital world in a proactive, responsible and compassionate manner. We will continue to talk about being a good citizen/neighbour, treating others like Jesus would and to participate in SEL activities to promote positive mental health. We also participated in activities with regard to two very special days: **Orange Shirt Day** and **Terry Fox/Crazy Sock Day**.

### Science

We have begun with our **Forces Causing Movement** unit. The children will have a formal Science test at the end of the unit. More information will be sent home before the test along with a study guide.

I want to thank you all for your support thus far. Thank you for sending in all of the necessary supplies! These past few years have been like no other and it really helps to know that I have a great team of parents supporting me. Thank you as well for ensuring your children come to school prepared for the day with all of the necessary materials and tools. Please don't hesitate to contact me through your child's agenda if you have any questions and please continue to peek at our class website daily as I am usually very active with the Twitter feed. Thank you for a great start to a great year!

Have a fantastic Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,  
Julie Nihmey

