

Grade Two News- November 2018

In Language Arts: Students continue to focus on reading and writing, incorporating spelling, word work and Daily 5 reading strategies into their daily practice. We have started using Raz-kids, a website that allows students to read interesting books at their level. Whether you prefer paper books or e-books, research tells us that in order for children to improve their reading, they need books at their level. This allows them to practice their strategies and not spend the entire time sounding out and decoding unknown words. Your child has learned a specific method and you can ask them how to pick a "good fit" book. We also ask that parents are reading at home 15-20 minutes a night. This is an essential part of your child's reading program as they need practice time each day. This should be a fun time with your child and not a fight. If they are fatigued, read to them, or use a reading site like Raz-kids, as listening to reading is also important for developing readers!

In Math: Students are continuing to explore the variety of ways to represent numbers (ten frames, place value, tally marks, expanded form). Extra practice on one of our 'helpful sites' for math, on our grade 2 webpage <http://pesgrade2.weebly.com/> will enhance your child's numeracy skills. Practice counting coins will also help your child understand skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s.

In Science: (Mrs. Abt) The students have enjoyed participating in many hands-on activities as we investigate the properties of water and other liquids. We are using some pretty impressive science vocabulary such as: viscosity, density, surface tension, and dissolving as we learn about how the behavior of molecules creates different types of matter. In November we will wrap up our liquids topic and move right into Buoyancy and Boats; this is another very popular unit because at the end, each student will design and build a mini boat and test it out. I will be asking students to bring some recycled materials for their boat building. More information will be sent home later in the month.

In Social: (Mrs. Wessner) Students are continuing to learn about Inuit culture and traditions. I hope your child was able to share their 'soapstone' carving of a polar bear. We will be learning about the natural resources and jobs in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

In Physical Education: (Mrs. Johansen) In October we have been practicing our throwing and catching skills with lots of games. We just started handling a ball with our feet for dribbling, trapping, passing and shooting. In November we will continue with more games that practice more ball handling skills such as dribbling, passing and shooting with our hands.

We will plan to go outside for gym every Wednesday, even on cold days! Please be sure that your child is dressed for the weather!

Long weekend

Don't forget that there is NO SCHOOL Nov. 12 and 13 due to an in-lieu day for parent teacher interviews and Remembrance day holiday on Nov. 11



Student Involved Portfolio Conferences

Student Involved Portfolio Conferences will be held on November 29 from 3:30 - 7:00 pm. These Portfolio Conferences are an opportunity for your child to share their learning experiences at school with you. Students will lead parents/caregivers through their **electronic portfolio on Freshgrade** or their **binder student portfolio**. Classroom teachers will be present to facilitate the evening but it will be your child leading you through the night. There will be other families in attendance during the conferences. Hope to see you there!



Our Grade 2 Blog

You can access our grade level blog/webpage at the following domain: <http://pesgrade2.weebly.com/>

The link can also be found on each of our 'staff pages' on the Ponoka Elementary School website. Please bookmark the page and check the website frequently. All monthly newsletters will be posted on the website.



Ask your child about some of their reading strategies:

Check for understanding
Does it look right/ sound right/ make sense?
Use beginning and ending sounds
Look at the pictures - does it make sense?
Look for interesting and unusual words

Scholastic Orders- Christmas

December book orders will be sent home later this month. Book orders and money will be due back in early Dec. so they can be shipped and distributed before Christmas. If you're buying books as Christmas presents please let your homeroom teacher know and we will find a way to get them to you without your child knowing!

Raz Kids



We have started exploring a site called Raz Kids (www.raz-kids.com) and it is an excellent site for children. Children can go on either at school or at home and listen to books that are at their own reading level. You can even download the Raz Kids app to make it even more accessible! Kids can have the stories read to them OR read the stories themselves. **Please ask your child's morning home room teacher if you require further information regarding Raz kids.**

Computers

We are very impressed with how well most of the Grade Two kids have been working during computer time. Students are using the computer during a variety of classes (Math, Social, LA, Science). As a class we will be working on Digital Literacy and Citizenship (internet safety: never give out personal information to strangers, not talking mean to others, telling an adult if you feel scared, nervous, etc) but you may wish to discuss this at home too. Media Smarts is a great link (<http://mediasmarts.ca/digital-media-literacy/educational-games>) that has more information and educational games for students to play surrounding digital literacy/citizenship.



November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 School Council Food Fundraiser pick up at 3:30 pm	6 Fall picture retakes	7	8 Remembrance Day Assembly 9 am 	9 District wide PD day	10
	11	12 No School Remembrance Day Holiday	13 No School In lieu day for parent teacher interviews	14	15	16 Hot dog lunch orders due
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 School council 6:30 pm	27	28 Hot dog hot lunch	29 Nov. assembly 2:00 pm Portfolio Conferences 3:30 - 7:00	30 No School (Staff Collaboration Day)