

January

Welcome back!

I hope you had a great break from school!

We're ready to get back into routine here in Grade One. You'll see our new calendar for January is ready to go. Be sure to check it out in your child's agenda!

Here are a few highlights for January:

- We're starting Measurement in Math! Our goal is to use non-standard measuring tools to measure things around the room. We'll be using marshmallows, centicubes and our own hands and feet. It's a very active unit to get us back into the swing of things here at school. I'll also be assessing how we write down our measurements. Are our numerals nice and neat? Going the right way? Awesome!
- We'll be starting a new Science Unit.....and it's a good one! Structures! We'll be planning, building, exploring and travelling the world to look at famous structures!
- We'll continue with our Guided Reading during our Language time with a special focus on identifying the setting, characters and beginning, middle and end of what we are reading.
- We'll start the month off with a writing refresher and then jump into some funny visual writing prompts that will get our pencils working!
- We'll also squeeze in a fun Readers Theatre reading script to practice group work, drama and reading. I can't wait!

It's Report Card time for me at school. Lots of assessments happening! I'm happy to remind parents that our goal in Grade One is always to do our best! It's a frustrating task for me to attach grades to 6 year olds – but I have to. I take A LOT into consideration when marking – not just paper and pencil tasks! We do lots of hands-on activities, conferences, and class discussions! The flip-side comes into play as well. If a child earns an awesome mark on a test – it's not the only grade that I consider for the entire unit mark.

If a student is meeting Grade One expectations on a **consistent and independent** basis – they will earn a 'B' on their report card. If a child earns a 'C' on the provincial report card it means that they are almost meeting

expectations! Please, please, please, know that a 'C' is an okay spot to be in Reading and Writing in Term 1 of Grade One!! Please approach me if you (or your child) are feeling anxious about report cards. I will try and help!

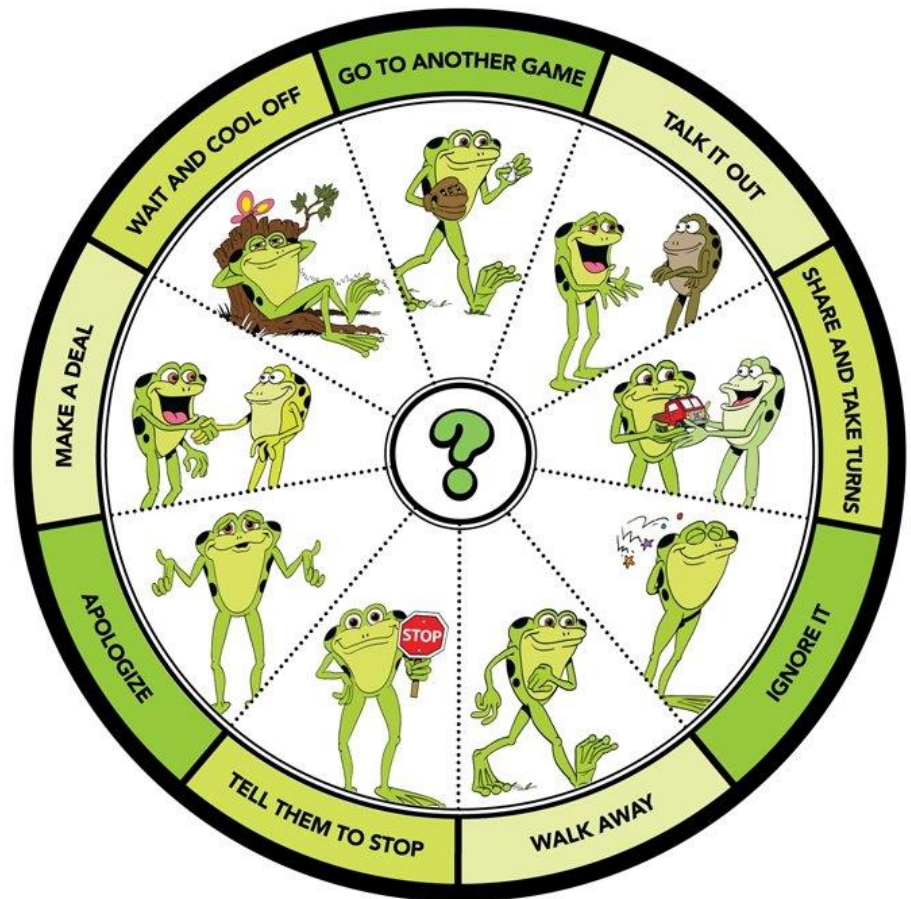
What can you do at home?

*Ask your child if they need to restock any of their desk supplies. (glue sticks, pencils, etc.)

*Talk about Kelso's choices at home to help your child get comfortable with using them at school too. (They help with sibling small problems, too!)

We have been teaching how to use Kelso to deal with small problems at school.

We are also encouraging students to stop doing something if they are asked to by a friend to show respect and be courteous. (i.e. Stop bumping into me, stop whistling at work time, stop saying rude things at lunch.....etc.)



Reminders for January:

- Students are in charge of zipping up and getting outdoor gear on independently.
- Feel free to pack extra socks and mitts in backpacks. It gets soggy quite quickly here at school.
- Check the agenda every day! Please initial the box when you do. Thanks. We will begin drawing for stickers every morning.
- Ms. Sabatino and I both request a pair of indoor shoes to be kept here at school.
- Reading folders will begin again this week or next. Thanks for your patience.

Happy New Year! Mrs. Metcalfe ☺