

# January News in Grade 1-2

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday with a little rest and relaxation. I was so happy to come back and see these beautiful smiling faces again. We have lots of exciting things happening in our room this month. Thanks to one student's amazing donation, we will be hatching real underwater prehistoric sea creatures!

Now is a great time to replenish your child's school supplies. Glue sticks, pencils, markers etc are usually running low this time of year. I have refilled our class supplies with these, but many kids enjoy using their own materials.

## **The curriculum this month..... (please see note in agendas about our spelling program)**

In Language: We will be working on some reading comprehension strategies that help us to better understand what we are reading. Children will be having lots of individual reading conferences with me to assess where they are at now and examine how I can help them individually with reading skills. In Oral and Visual Communication, we will be exploring listening comprehension skills and working on sentence fluency in writing.

In Math, the kids will continue to measure various objects (grade 2's using centimetres and metres) and begin a new unit on 3D geometry and properties of 3D shapes.

In Science, Grade ones will be learning about Structures with Mrs. Metcalfe across the hall! They will check out what makes a structure stable and learn about some cool structures around the world. Grade two kids will be learning about movement and simple machines in grade two. Students will explore the pulley, levers, wheel and axle, inclined plane, and the screw. At the end of this unit we will be designing our own simple machine toys using found materials from home and school. (Your child will pick what they want to make and use cardboard etc to create the project at school).

Grade 2 students can start saving the following items to send in when your child brings you a list of materials for their project (we won't have room to store them until its time for projects later this month so please hold onto them until then): toilet paper and paper towel rolls, yoghurt cups, egg cartons, cereal and tissue boxes. Anyone who has old toy cars that your child no longer plays with would be welcome as a donation to our classroom please! We are going to explore different levels on the inclined plane by building ramps and seeing how far cars can go with different elevations and different surfaces.

Report cards are fast approaching! Feel free to send me a note if you would like to discuss your child's progress this term. I am always happy to meet. Remember, reading goals for the end of the year are as follows:

Grade 1- Level J by the end of the year

Grade 2- Level M by the end of the year (don't worry if your child is not there yet, we all learn at a different pace. This is the goal we are working for, but it may take more time for some children to get to this point)