



Living,
CELEBRATING,
and Proclaiming
OUR FAITH

Grade One First Term Overview

Dear Parents:

Following is an overview of the learning topics that will take place in grade one this term. Please feel free to talk to me if there are any questions about the program or if you would like any extra ideas for helping your children this year.

In Religion, the school uses the "Christ Our Life" series. During term one we will work through units one and two. The topics include: Jesus is our friend, God is good, God is our Father, God our Father is Holy, God shares his life with us, God our Father speaks to us, We pray to God our Father, Jesus teaches us to pray to our Father, God promised a Savior, God chose Mary and Joseph, and Jesus our Savior was born in Bethlehem. Children are expected to know certain prayers during the first term as well. We will especially focus on the Sign of the Cross (with the words matching the correct hand movements) and the Morning Offering. The words to the Morning Offering prayer are as follows:

Oh my God, through Jesus' heart, I offer you this day, everything I do, my thoughts, my words, my work, my play, little acts and the prayers I say. God bless all and bless me too and let me often think of you the whole day through. Amen

In Reading, the children will be working on a series of four readers throughout the year. To begin the reading program your child must be able to recognize most of the upper and lower case letter names as well as have a basic knowledge of the beginning or initial consonant letter sounds (e.g. **bat, cat, dog, fan, go**, etc.). Most of the students will begin the reading program immediately. During reading lessons, the children will be taught sight words, letter sounds, and how to make and read rhyming words. Most children have already received the first set of sight word cards (if your child did not receive this package, its because they have already mastered these sight words). At home, go through all of the reading words with your child so that he/she learns to recognize these words automatically. Your child must also bring the reader home daily. Please have him/her read as much of the reader as possible. Daily practice will increase confidence in word recognition and fluency. During reading lessons many comprehension activities will also occur. Children will be reading to: find the main idea, find supporting details, sequence events, identify characters, settings, and feelings, make predictions, and find proof to support answers to questions. Remember to read aloud to your child every day

from books that are at a higher reading level and discuss with them the many interesting facts and ideas. The READATHON is a great opportunity to begin fostering good reading habits with your child/family.

The online reading app which was introduced in kindergarten, is still available this year to your child. This is provided for all students for HOME USE. This allows students to expand their sight vocabulary and provide them with an online library of amazing books at their reading level. They can read and record their oral reading. There is no cost for this app. The membership fee has been paid for by the school. If you choose not to use the app, a reading folder will still be provided for you to record the titles of stories your child is reading. Further information will be up coming.

In Writing, the students will work on their inventive spelling and emergent writing skills. The teacher will demonstrate and help the children sound out words to identify the individual sounds. Most of the writing for term one will be response writing based on their own feelings and experiences. At home, encourage your child to write simple lists or sentences. Help your child sound out words by clearly enunciating each individual sound.

For Spelling, the students will continue to work on the BUILDING SPELLING SKILLS PROGRAM (these words are phonetic words that follow specific rules). There are many Dolch word games on computer websites that can help your child learn to spell and read sight words.

In Math, we will begin with the topic of sorting and patterns. In this unit, we discuss what is different and the same. The children were expected to group objects according to common characteristics. They also extended, identified, described, created, and transformed patterns. The children are expected to be able to create patterns using two different attributes or characteristics (e.g. shape and colour). The next topic is number relationships. We will review recognizing, ordering and comparing the numbers to 20 (i.e. greater than and less than). As well, children will be expected to count out, estimate and build sets to 20. Accurate counting is sometimes difficult and practice can help to ensure success. We will also be developing the understanding of one more, one less, two more, and two less than a given number to 20. We will look at numbers to 10 in depth so that children can automatically recognize arrangements of objects for each number. The children will begin counting by 1's, 5's, and 10's to 100 and 2's to 20. Please practice these daily

at home.

In Science, we have begun exploring and learning about daily and seasonal changes. We will also begin to explore how plants and animals adapt and cope with seasonal changes. Within this theme, we will examine some activities carried out by the First Nations people during these seasons.

In Social Studies, we have discussed the roles, rights, and responsibilities that we have in the school setting and in our community. With our grade 6 buddies, we reviewed OUR 3RS (RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY AND REVERENCE). We will also learn about our local community and how the organization of our community meets our needs. This will include some discussion on natural and human-built features of the local environment.

Mr. Crozier is teaching the Physical Education lessons and Ms. W is the music teacher. The grade one students will be able to choose library books on Thursdays. Mrs. Radford will also be teaching us about books and enriching us with stories during our library time on Thursday afternoons. Please make sure that library books are carefully taken care of and returned to school on or before their due date so that new books can be chosen. Furthermore, we are fortunate to have Mr. Stocker teaching us A.D.S.T. once a week.

In grade one, the children will be working very hard to develop good work habits especially in terms of their ability to work quietly, quickly, thoroughly, neatly, and independently. The children must be recognized whenever possible for their effort, ability, potential, and growth. I feel very fortunate to be working with you and your children. Your support, help, and cooperation would be much appreciated and I look forward to working with all of you.

God bless your family and especially your children! I am blessed to be your child's teacher!

Mrs. Lucy McKenna