



Gainsborough Central Public School
JK News
January 2010
Mrs. Whitfield's Class

Dear Parents,

I hope that you had a wonderful holiday with your family. We have been busy at work already this month. Here are some of the interesting activities planned for the month of January. In language, we will be focusing on what happens in the winter and responding to some stories that have a winter theme. The star reading strategy of "Ask a question" while you read/hear a story will be emphasized in order to help children develop how good readers actively read and listen to stories. We will also do some retelling while we act out Jan Brett's book, The Mitten. We have started journal writing this month. Our jolly phonics schedule has resumed and is indicated on the January calendar. Thank you for finding interesting show and tell items for our mystery bag show and tell! In mathematics, we will continue with our measurement unit, learning about temperature (hot/warm/cold) and weight (heavy/light) for the first two weeks. At the end of the month, we will begin our unit on two dimensional shapes (circle, oval, square, triangle, rectangle, diamond). In science, we will be conducting some experiments with snow. We will make predictions, ask some scientific questions and conduct our experiments. We will also read some non-fiction books about penguins as we question and learn about their habitat. At the end of the month, we will be discussing our families. In art, we are making snowmen and penguins and doing some colour mixing.

Journal Writing

In JK, children are beginning to understand how writing consists of words written down. When children are first writing, they are not aware of how many words they are saying as they tell a story to you. In order to help children begin to write on their own, the aspects of condensing our thoughts to a sentence and counting the words on our fingers to determine the words to be written down are some of the goals I have as children begin to express themselves in writing. Children's initial writing will be approximations of how they hear sounds in words as they learn about spelling. While our class is learning about different letter sounds and word wall words, an overemphasis on spelling as children are first writing tends to produce stilted writing and reluctant writers because they are afraid of making a mistake. We should be celebrating and encouraging the attempts that early writers make.

Thank You!

Thank you to Brooklyn, Cameron G. and Tom's families for the delicious treats for our Christmas party. Thanks also go to Cameron K. and David's families for sending in our drinks. The children always enjoy our seasonal celebrations!

Thank you also to the twelve families who contributed to our group gift to raise funds for children in third world countries! We raised \$87 for World Vision which was used to purchase 2 hens and a rooster (\$55) and warm clothing for 25 children (\$35). I sent in the order over the Christmas holidays.

Kindergarten Open House

Registration for all **new** kindergarten students for the fall of 2010 begins in February. This is for new students who will be 4 (JK) or 5 (SK) this calendar year. All of the schools in the District School Board of Niagara are hosting a kindergarten open house on Thursday, February 4th, 2010 from 4:00-6:00. If you know of a child in our area who is turning 4 or 5 this year and are not currently registered at a school, please invite them to our open house. (Our children do not need to register again at the school. The open house and registration is for new students only.)

Welcome

Beginning on January 18th, Brittany Hunter will be working every afternoon, Monday through Thursday, with our class and Mrs. Bogucki's class until April 23rd. Brittany is in her first year at Niagara College in their Early Childhood Education Programme. We welcome her to our kindergarten classes! (April Arthur will be working with Mrs. Hall's kindergarten class.)

Family Picture

Our unit on family is beginning later this month. I am asking for a family picture from each child to be sent in. We promise to be careful with these photos which will be returned, but please do not send in your most special pictures as we will be taping them onto a page! Please send in a family photo by Monday, January 25th.

Thank you for your support of your child's education!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Whitfield

