

Gainsborough Central Public School
JK News
November 2009
Mrs. Whitfield's Class



Dear Parents,

During the month of November, we will be learning about a variety of things. In language and science, we will start off the month discussing the fall season and changes that occur in the fall. We will be describing those changes during our fall walk and through songs, stories and chants. We will also be learning about how animals are getting ready for the winter with an emphasis on bats, squirrels, chipmunks, turtles and bears. We will conclude the month with learning about real bears and having fun with teddy bears. During our language periods, while continuing to learn more Jolly Phonics letters, we are talking about the concept of a word, which words begin with the same sound and clapping the syllables in words. As we hear stories read aloud, we are focussing on making connections to the stories being read aloud. In mathematics, we will be working on numbers to 5 at the beginning of the month. Later, we will be patterning, graphing and sorting objects and ordering objects by size. At the end of the month, we will expand our number unit to numbers to 10. We will have a special snack to learn about hibernation as well as a teddy bear picnic. In art, we will be making bats and wax paper leaves.

Thanks!

Thank you to Mrs. Greenwood, Mrs. Heaslip, Mrs. Krick and Mr. Moore for accompanying us on our trip to BryAnne Farms last month. We had a great time on the trip!

Thank you to the families of Kalli, Kayleigh, Mya, Madeline and Katie for our yummy Hallowe'en treats and drinks for our Hallowe'en festivities.

And last, but not least, thank you to all of the families who helped their child participate in the Hallowe'en festivities. The children were precious in their costumes. They also had a good time during the Harvest Hoot. (A correction regarding the money that was sent in for the Harvest Hoot. The contributions were sent to **Unicef** and the canned food is being sent to Community Care. Sorry about that error.)

Hot Lunches

Please note that with our schedule this month, the only day that our children attend school for hot lunches is Thursday, November 5th. Our children are not attending school on the remaining pizza and hot dog days this month, unfortunately.

Leaves

Please send in some beautiful Autumn leaves with your child on Monday, November 9th and Wednesday, November 11th. We will be using them for our Autumn leaves craft.

Teddy Bears

When we are learning about real bears, we will also be having some fun with teddy bears. Children may bring in a teddy bear from home beginning on Wednesday, November 11th. Teddy bears will remain at the school until November 26th. We promise to take good care of the bears!

School Newsletter

As Mrs. Siamro noted in the September school newsletter, in an effort to save paper our school newsletter is being posted on our website for those families with internet access. Only families requesting a paper copy will be receiving them. You can access our school and class newsletters on www.dsbn.edu.on.ca/schools, click on Gainsborough and follow the links to either our school newsletters or classroom newsletters.

MathJam

On Tuesday, November 10th at 9:30, there will be a performance at Gainsborough by MathJam. MathJam integrates math and music based on the story of the Wizard of Oz. Unfortunately, the only date they had available was on a day that our children do not attend school. However, Mrs. Siamro indicated that JK students are welcome to attend if they come **with a parent** as it is not their school day. Interested families should send in \$3 to help cover the cost of the performance by Monday, November 9th.

Kindergarten Reporting

The Junior Kindergarten reporting for term one involves having parents observe their child in the classroom setting and discuss their child's growth with the teacher directly after the observation. Please note that for term one there is not a written formal report for JK. Attached is a copy of the DSBN schedule for kindergarten reporting for the school year. I will be sending home invitations next week that will outline your day and time to come in to visit our classroom. If you cannot make your scheduled day, please call the school as soon as possible at 905-386-6223 and I will try to reschedule a time more convenient for you to observe your child at school. Observations for the Junior Kindergarten parents will occur during the last two weeks of November.

Toys

Some children have been bringing in toys from home. The children are asked to keep their toys at home as toys are prone to being lost and broken when they are brought to school. We have many centres in the room with a variety of activities for the children to all use. Toys are best left at home. Thank you.

Things to Practise

Some parents have been asking for things for them to work on with their child at home. If your child is able to write their name in the proper format (first letter capitalized, other letters lower case), can count to ten orally and recognises their colours, then perhaps you could help your child recognise the alphabet letters, upper and lower case. Also, developing your child's small motor coordination with activities such as play dough and using scissors and markers. Junior Kindergarten is also a great time to develop your child's oral language skills. Talk to your child as you experience new things. Ask them what they think about certain topics. This helps develop not only their oral language but also their ability to think and process language. Limit your child's television, computer and electronic games. We want our children to experience different opportunities to develop their thinking and learning.

I am enjoying teaching your children. They bring a smile to my face every day!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Whitfield