

January in Grade 2 at Gainsborough School

Dear Parents and Guardians of Miss Rybiak's Grade 2 Class,

It is great to be with your children again and share in their learning. From the animated chats, it is easy to tell that most had a great holiday! It seems that there is nothing like this season seen through the eyes of a Grade 2 student to put life into perspective.

Most children experience great growth during the winter months of school and we're looking forward to completing Term 1 and beginning Term 2. The children's skills and confidence grow in leaps and bounds and everyone can take confidence from his or her success. This confidence, in turn, seems to inspire the children to take more of those important risks which are needed for academic growth.

January Theme

During the month of January, we continue to study liquids and solids. We understand that when we examine materials in the world around us, we become "aware of a wide variety of similarities and differences in the properties of those materials, including how they look, feel and change". We practise our "Safety First" rule because we can explain the meaning of international symbols which give us information on the safety of substances (i.e., the skull-and-crossbones symbol means that the substance is poisonous.) Ontario Science and Technology Curriculum for Grade 2.

Language: We practise retelling stories we read and stories read to us, restating a few interesting details in sequence we feel are important, helping us to understand the text and the author's intended message better. Through role play, we might choose to present the story through the point of view of a minor character in the story describing how that character might tell the story. To encourage the reading habit and continue to develop reading skills, time is set aside each day for reading books of our own choice and talking about these books by identifying who the characters are in the story, where the story takes place, the problem and solution in the story and the main idea and message this story shares with another story (i.e., text to text connections). We continue with our recounts in writing and using our prompts, we write explanations to our readers how a toy (i.e., robot) might work. We are looking for more details in our writing and "juicy" words (adjectives) to make our writing more interesting for ourselves and our readers. We will also prepare for the annual speech/ storytelling competition held at our school each year! Notice to follow!

Good Writers:

- talk and brainstorm ideas before they write (using our planner)
 - put proper punctuation at the end of sentences "."
 - sometimes use "?" and "!"
 - read over their work
 - begin to edit their work
 - use the prompts to guide us, word wall words correctly and our personal dictionaries
 - leave spaces between words
 - when we are unsure of a word, we say the word slowly, listen to the letter sounds and write the letters which make those sounds
 - remember how some words are spelled - word wall words- we practise these each and every week.
- * We will also practise printing the letters neatly and using lines appropriately.

Mathematics:

- 2 dimensional shapes
- position words (e.g., to the left, beside, between, in front of) to give directions.
- symmetry
- using non-standard and standard units of measurement to measure various lengths, widths, heights and distances around shapes and objects (perimeter) using centimetre-based measuring tools as 30 cm. rulers, measuring tapes and metre sticks
- when, why and how we measure things and the importance of standard units (i.e., centimetres, metres) to help us compare and talk about measurements. (i.e., longer than, shorter than, farther than)

Thank you for continuing with our home reading program and weekly math challenges which are so important.

Housekeeping: Thanks for providing your child with some of the tools he or she needs in class. The new pencil, hand held pencil sharpener, crayons and glue sticks are greatly treasured and useful. With the cold weather, your child could use an extra pair of socks and mitts tucked away in the backpack to use "just in case." Science comes to life with the transformation of liquids to solids as the rain becomes soft and fluffy snow! What fun!

It looks like another great month of learning in our classroom!

Sincerely,
Miss Rybiak